

# Ravenswood Fact Sheet

**Property** Ravenswood was built on the west side of Wilson Pike in 1825 by James Hazard Wilson II, and named for Sam Houston whom the Cherokees affectionately called “the Raven”. Houston was the best man at the wedding ceremony of Wilson and his bride Emeline in 1821.

James Hazard Wilson II (1800-1869), a millionaire with vast holdings all over the South, settled at an early date along the old Wilson Pike. In addition to Ravenswood, Wilson built Oak Hall, now known as Century Oak, and Harpeth which was later renamed Inglehame for two of his sons.

Ravenswood is nominated under National Register criteria B and C for its historical and architectural significance to Williamson County. Architecturally, Ravenswood is an outstanding and unique example of Federal period architecture in Williamson County and Middle Tennessee.

The house is constructed with extremely fine craftsmanship unusual for a Federal period house. The exterior of the home features hand-hewn limestone foundation blocks and stone quoins on the façade corners and around the central entranceway. The structure combines features that usually characterize the Federal or Greek Revival styles in Tennessee.

The interior’s original staircases, doors, moldings, mantles, and floors remain intact and in good condition. The central hall spiral staircase and two marble mantles are extremely fine interior examples of craftsmanship.

Boxwoods and large hardwood trees are found on the spacious grounds of Ravenswood. The original springhouse, built of limestone and covered with ivy, can be seen on the front lawn of the home. Significant outbuildings include the original detached brick kitchen/servants quarters and two brick slave houses. The remarkably unaltered kitchen is two-stories, gable-roofed and has a large gable end brick chimney. The two slave houses, with little alteration, are one and a half story with a gable end chimney, a single-leaf door on the south side and a rectangular window on the north side of each.

**Location** 1825 Wilson Pike  
(south of Ravenwood High School, past Split Log Road)  
Brentwood, Tennessee 37027

**Owners** The Smith family has owned the property since 1961. Reese, Steve and Mark, the three sons of Reese and Marcella Smith and current owners, grew up at Ravenswood.

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