PLEASANT HILL

ANNE MARY EDMONDSON

CONCORD ROAD, 1 MILE WEST OF EDMONDSON PIKE
BRENTWOOD, TN 37027

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

Title: Historic Resources of Williamson County

Historic Name: Winstead, John M., Houses (WM-107) (WM-108)
Common Name: Pleasant Hill

Classification: Building

Owner: Anne Mary Edmondson, Route # 1, Brentwood, TN

Location: On Concord Road one mile east of Edmondson Pike.

Contributing:		Non-Contributing:	
Buildings	3	Buildings	0
Structures	3	Structures	0
Sites	0	Sites	0
Total:	6	Total:	0

Description:

Before the Civil War, John Winstead Sr. and his son, John M. Winstead, constructed two residences on his property in the northeast section of the county. The first of these was a log residence constructed ca. 1800 adjacent to Owl Creek. Later as the family's fortunes improved he constructed a two-story brick residence on a nearby hill ca. 1858.

The original log residence consists of two single pen log cabins built ca.1800 and ca. 1820 and joined by a ca.1870 frame addition. The south pen appears to have been built first and has a limestone chimney, ca.1880 weatherboard siding, half-dovetail notching, ca.1880 panel doors, and a ca.1800 Federal influenced mantle. Between the logs are original diagonal rock slats and mud chinking. Leading to the loft are corner stairs and the house has a gable metal standing seam roof.

The north pen is similar in construction with half dovetail notching, wood slat and mud chinking, ca.1880 weatherboard, and ca.1820-30 pegged door of four panels. The windows are ca.1910 nine-over-four sash. Adjacent to the house are three ca.1900 frame sheds. The cabin rests in a valley facing Owl Creek to the south and retains its original site and setting.

Winstead's brick residence constructed ca. 1858 is a two-story Greek Revival influenced central passage plan I-House. On the main (south) facade is a two-story portico with four square Doric motif columns. The pediment has a dentilled cornice. On the second story of the portico is a balcony and lattice railing. The main entrance has original double doors of two panel frame, single-light sidelights with frame lower panels and dentil molding, and a single-light transom with dentil molding. Doric pilasters divide the door and the sidelights.

The windows are original six-over-six sash with wood sills, lintels, and square corner blocks. The house retains many of the original pegged shutters. The main facade of the house was constructed in stretcher bond while the other facades

are six-course common bond. The house rests on a stone foundation with large basement windows. At the roofline is dentil molding. The house was built in a central passage ell plan with a two-story brick rear ell. On the west facade of the ell is a small one-story ca.1920, shed roof enclosed porch. The doors in the ell are original two panel frame. In the ell of the house is the original one-story porch with Doric motif columns. At the north rear facade of the ell is a shed roof ca.1940 frame addition. The interior was not accessible but has original moldings and staircase according to the owner.

To the north of the residence is a ca.1840 log smokehouse with one-half dove tail notching, diagonal rock slat and mud chinking, and large logs with adze marks. It has added ca.1900 frame drive-through sheds. Also to the north of the house are several modern farm buildings which are excluded from the boundary. The house sits on a large farm south of Concord Road and retains its original site and setting.

Period of Significance: ca. 1800, ca.1820, ca.1840, ca.1858, ca.1870, ca. 1880, ca.1900.
Area of Significance: Architecture

Criterion: C

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance:

The John M. Winstead Residences are notable examples of 19th century architecture. The original log residence and its additions are good examples of early 19th century single pen log construction. The addition of weatherboard siding and breezeway enclosures are typical additive progressions found in log buildings. The Winstead log residence is one of the most intact and well preserved of similar residences surveyed in the county. The two-story brick residence is a notable example of a central passage plan ante-bellum brick house with Greek Revival influences. It has not been significantly altered and retains its original detailing, site and setting.

The Winstead family was one of the first to settle in this area of the county, arriving in 1799. John Winstead Sr. constructed a single pen log residence soon after acquiring the property and later built a second log pen for their growing family and a log kitchen which no longer stands. In 1820 the elder Winstead was listed as owning a sizeable estate and 10 slaves. He died in 1822 and his property was inherited by his son John M. Winstead. John M. Winstead was born in 1807 and married Nancy Whitfield in 1827. By 1850 his worth was listed at $15,000 of real estate and $1,000 of personal property.

Around 1855, Winstead began construction of his two-story brick residence. Instead of tearing down the earlier log residences and building on their site he chose to build on a nearby hill. This residence was completed ca. 1858 and was a fine example of a central passage plan I-House with Greek Revival detailing. Winstead's wealth was illustrated on the 1859 tax list and he is shown as owning 450 acres and 11 slaves. His worth in 1860 was listed at $12,000 of real estate and $12,000 of personal property.

Winstead and his wife had a large family of three daughters and nine sons, five

of whom fought in the Confederate army. After the war Winstead continued to be a prosperous farmer with holdings around 500 acres in the late 19th century. Winstead died in 1896 and his descendants continue to own the property. Both the log and brick residences have not been significantly altered and retain their original setting and design.

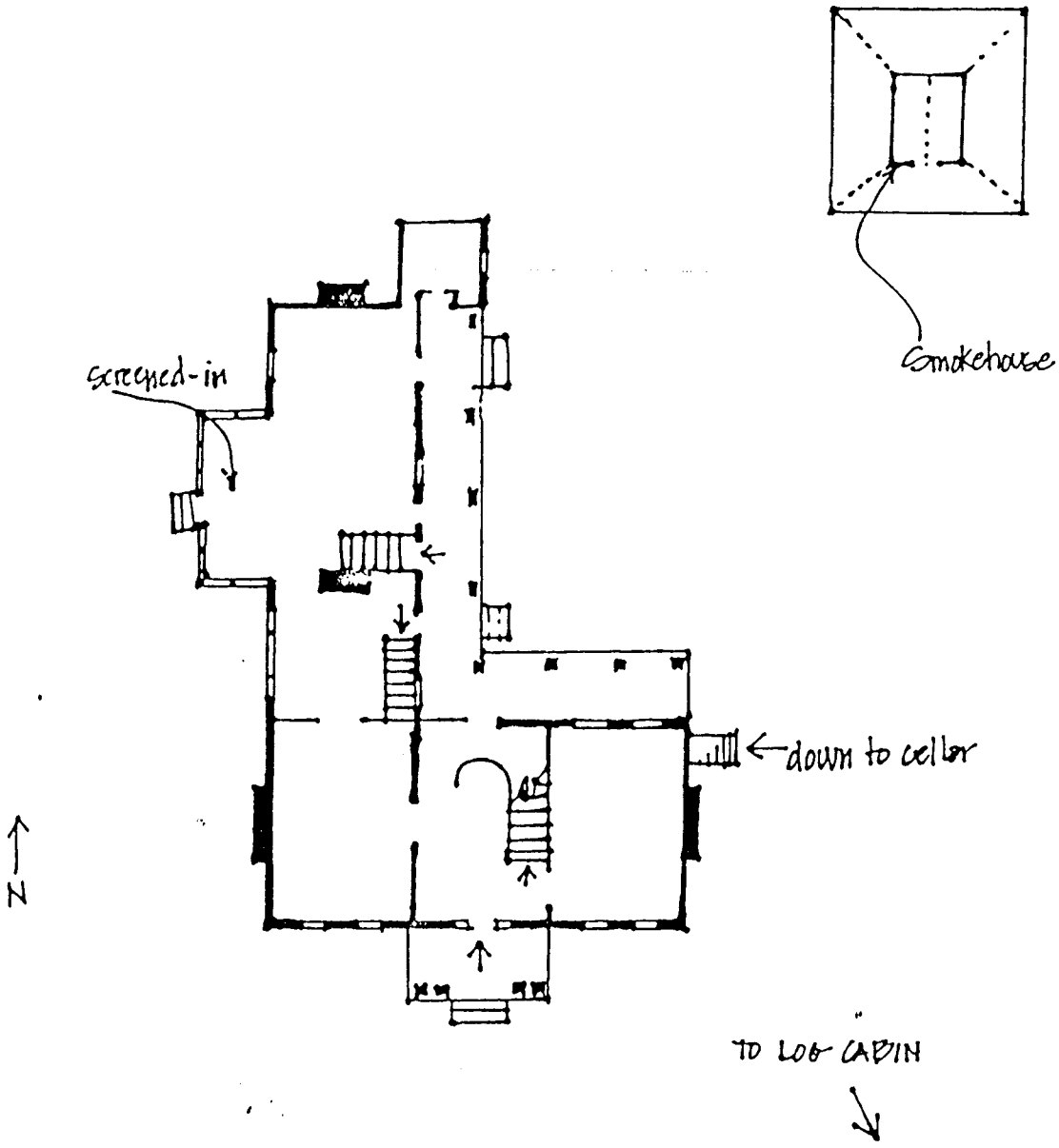
Acreage: 10.5 acres

UTM References: Nolensville Quad/A. 16/523190/3981600 B. 16/523090/3981600 C. 16/523910/3981460 D. 16/524040/3981450 E. 16/524220/3981460 F. 16/524060/3981300 G. 16/524220/3981320.

Verbal Boundary and Justification: The boundary for the John M. Winstead residences is illustrated on accompanying Williamson County tax map # 34, lot 65. The boundary is drawn to include both residences, adjacent historic outbuildings and open fields and woods between the two residences. The boundary is defined on all sides by fence lines which enclose the property. The boundary is drawn to exclude modern outbuildings to the north. The boundary includes sufficient property to protect the historical setting of the site.

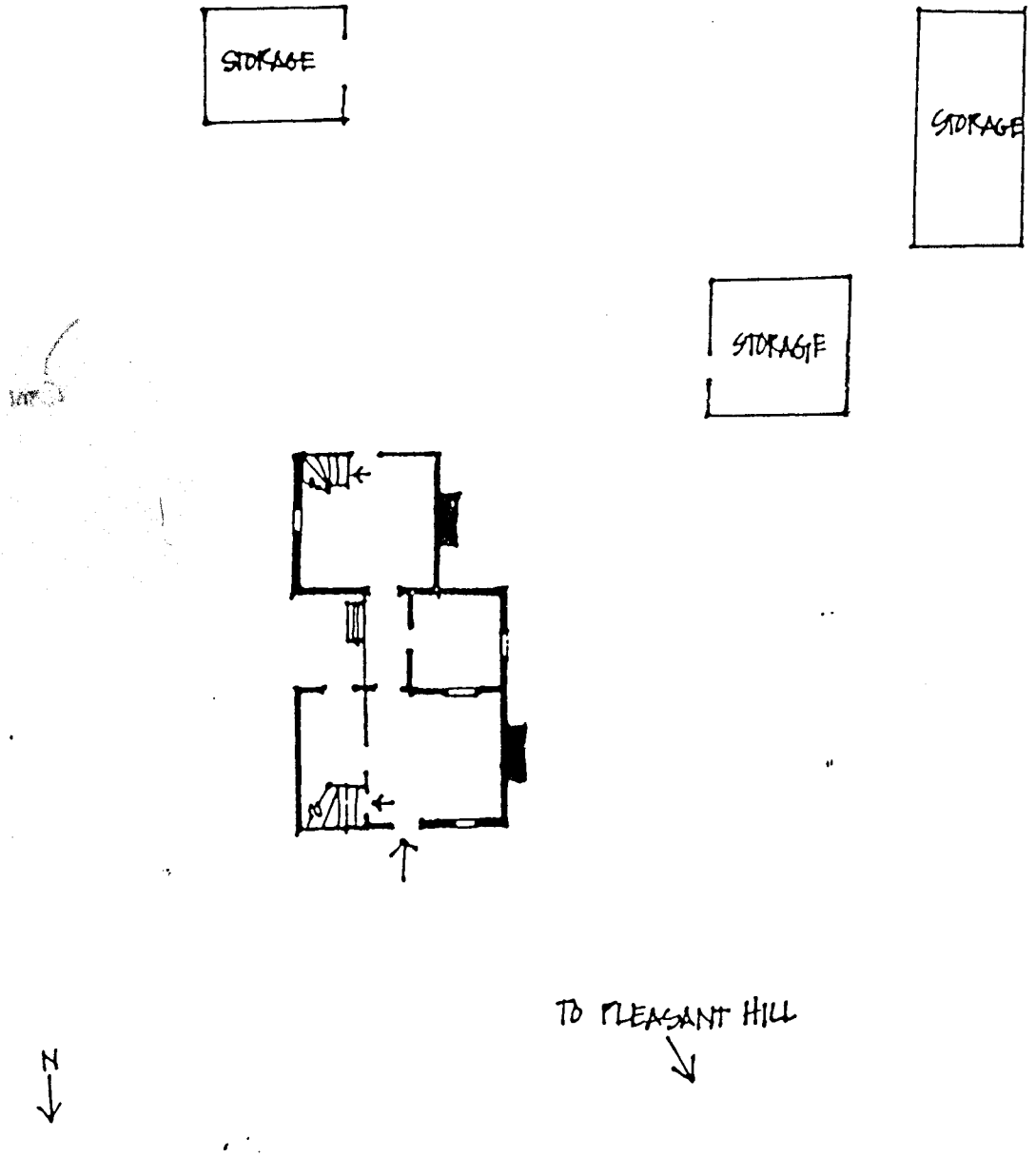
Supplemental Bibliographical References: Historic Williamson County, Bowman.

JOHN M. WINSTEAD HOUSES
* 107 JOHN WINSTEAD HOUSE — PLEASANT HILL



* NOT TO SCALE

JOHN M. WINSTEAD HOUSES
#100 JOHN WINSTEAD HOUSE at PLEASANT HILL : the LOG CABIN.



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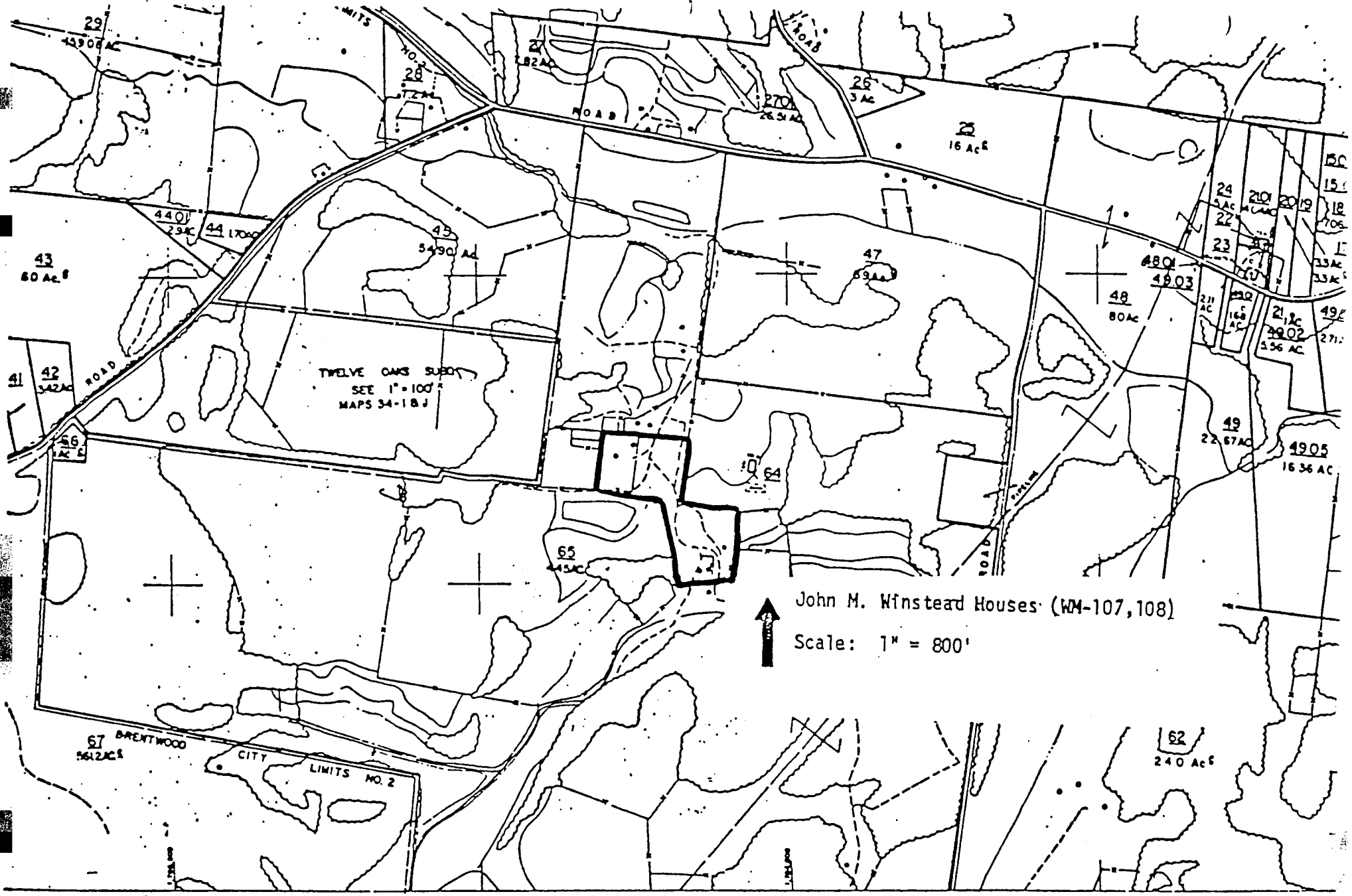

TWELVE OAKS SUBD.
SEE 1" = 100'
MAPS 34-18 J
BRENTWOOD CITY LIMITS NO. 2
ROAD
John M. Winstead Houses (WM-107,108)
Scale: 1" = 800'

Herbert Holt "who inherited from his parents a handsome home a few miles from Brentwood, which is one of the few places in Middle Tennessee which has apparently undergone no change through the chances of war and ravages of time. The sweet old tree-embowered, shrub-scented home has been kept as near as possible like it was sixty years ago by the Holt children. There are no anachronisms to spoil the harmony of the picture and interrupt the dream of 'a day that is done' when one is so fortunate as to visit its owners. Even the negroes on the place are the same (or their children) who worked for the grandparents. And the sick old pensioners among them are daily comforted, as in antebellum times with tempting food direct from the hands of the young mistresses."

Of course, this passage was written many, many years ago, but strangely enough the spirit of the place so ably captured by Mrs. Bond even yet lingers. It remains unspoiled and aloof in a chaotic world. It is still in the family owned today by Charles Witherspoon and Mr. and Mrs. John Holt, who count among their family treasures a spoon made from the silver buckles awarded John Holt for services rendered in the struggle for American Independence.

* The date 1789 was mistakenly carved on Isabella Hardeman Holt's tombstone.

Pleasant Hill

Coming upon this cluster of pioneer buildings unexpectedly one has the strange feeling that smoke will curl from the stone chimneys, the bang of a loom and a woman's song will come from the house, and that a frontiersman in deerskins will step from the woods with game in his hand and a long gun in the crook of his arm. It is one of the most charming and beautifully preserved pictures in all of Williamson County's rich tapestry of history.

It was the Winstead homestead of generations ago when they first came here from Northumberland County, Virginia, and settled on Mill Creek between Brentwood and Nolensville in 1799. It continued their home until a majestic brick house, tree-embowered and white-columned, was constructed on higher ground to the north between 1855-58.

John Matthews Winstead was born in the old log cabin to pioneer parents on March 9, 1807. When he was twenty years old he married Nancy Whitfield (1811-1885), the daughter of Harrison Whitfield (1783-1864), and to this union were born three daughters and nine sons, five of whom were soldiers in the Confederate army.

An old brown ledger found on a closet shelf some years ago revealed that Colonel John M. Winstead and his family moved in the brick house in the spring of 1858. It was, and is, one of the county's most beautiful and elegant ante-bellum homes with its long shady ell and stately pillars. It was built to face south toward the old Nolensville-Franklin road, the bed of which is still visable. After that pike was abandoned the entrance to the place was changed to Concord Road.

Random notes in the old ledger record that "in the year

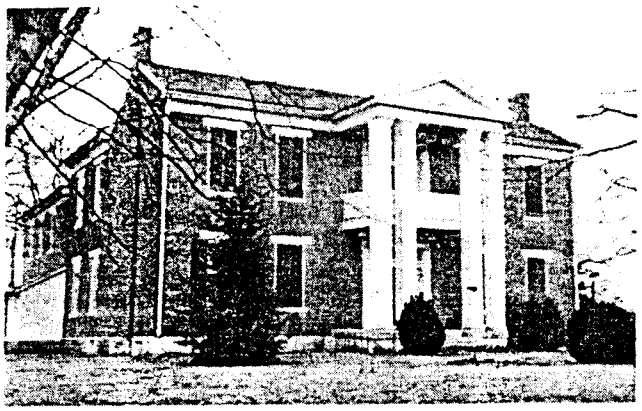
A. Early Winstead log home

1881 came the locust, also the comet, Eclipse of the moon and sun. Death of a president." (James A Garfield was assassinated that year.) Someone made note that in 1900 it rained the whole month of June "pretty near all the time."

Colonel Winstead died in 1896 and the children moved away over the years: but the old place drew them back like a lodestone for many a sentimental journey. They liked to walk over the familiar fields where they had cradled wheat in the fierce summer sun and down to the spring where the cold water flowed swiftly from beneath an overhanging rock. They always made a quiet visit to the family cemetery near the house where parents, grandparents, other relatives, and their best loved servants rest.

Winstead relatives still make occasional pilgrimages to the ancestral home. The place, in an excellent state of preservation, is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Edmondson and continues in the family since Mr. Edmondson's grandfather was Col. John M. Winstead's first cousin.

In a descendant's home portraits of John and Nancy Winstead, the builders of Pleasant Hill, gaze serenely from gold frames, their gentle faces reflecting refinement and character and an inner peace that comes with knowing life's work has been well done.



B. Pleasant Hill, home of Colonel John Matthews Winstead