

HOLTLAND

HOLT HEIRS
C/O CHARLES WITHERSPOON

9305 CROCKETT ROAD
BRENTWOOD, TN 37027

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

Title: Historic Resources of Williamson County

Historic Name: Holt, Thomas, House (WM-84)

Common Name: Holtland

Classification: Building

Owner: Holt Heirs, c/o Charles Witherspoon, Route # 1, Crockett Road, Brentwood, TN 37027

Location: On Crockett Road, one-half mile east of Wilson Pike.

<u>Contributing:</u>		<u>Non-Contributing:</u>	
Buildings	1	Buildings	0
Structures	1	Structures	0
Sites	0	Sites	0
<u>Total:</u>	2	<u>Total:</u>	0

Description:

The Thomas Holt House, Holtland, is a remarkably unaltered two-story brick, central hall plan residence with Greek Revival detailing. On the main (north) facade is an original two-story pedimented portico with square Doric motif columns. On the second story of the portico is a balcony with square balusters and porch ceilings have square coffering. The main entrance has the original frame double doors with two-light sidelights with frame lower panels and a two-light transom. Over the sidelights are single lights. Rectangular frame panels are in the surround. Dividing the door and sidelights are Doric motif pilasters and the surround has architrave molding. The windows are original six-over-six sash and have frame sills and wood lintels with square corner blocks.

The main facade of the house is composed of stretcher bond while the side and rear facades are six-course common bond. The house has exterior end brick chimneys, a stone foundation and gable, metal standing seam roof. At the rear of the house is an original two-story brick ell and a series of connected outbuildings which are all joined to the main residence. These outbuildings include a two-story brick kitchen with two-over-two and six-over-six sash windows and wood lintels with corner blocks. The house and the kitchen are connected by a ca.1880-90 one-story frame enclosure with a four panel door and four-over-four sash windows. South of the kitchen is a ca.1900 frame, one-story addition which connects the kitchen with an original log smokehouse. The log smokehouse has half-dovetail notching, rock slat and mud chinking and an original door. This facade of the ell has a one-story ca.1910 porch with simple square posts and a similar porch is located on the west facade of the ell.

The interior has original architrave molding around doors and windows. The original folding double doors exist on the first story along with original staircase and mantles. The staircase has round newel posts and balusters and the mantles are of Greek Revival design with architrave molding. At the rear of the residence is a ca. 1900 one-story frame shed which is not connected to the

HOLTLAND

Holtland is located some five miles southeast of Brentwood, on Crockett Road. It stands serenely among its sheltering trees and overlooks the rolling farmlands surrounding it. It is a three story house, with tall columns. The huge foundation stones, the massive timbers, the cedar flooring of the porches, the time mellowed bricks used in its construction are all products of the plantation. The high ceilinged twin parlors across the front and the bedrooms above them have matching huge fireplaces with hand carved mantels. There is another large fireplace in the "old" kitchen and from this room steep steps lead down to the dim, cool, brick floored, summer dining room, with still another fireplace. This room is unused now but during the Civil War it was here that the valuables were hidden and where the family took refuge when the fighting came to close. Much of the furniture was brought by boat from New Orleans to the home in its early years. It remains furnished in lovely and interesting antiques.

Holtland was built "about 1835" as a summer home by Thomas and Julia Herbert Holt. He was a wealthy, Louisiana cotton planter and the family traveled back and fourth by carriage. In later years it became a year round residence.

The 1,200 acre plantation had its own cotton gin and saw mill, run by horse and ox power. There was a church on the place for the negroes, which was also used as a school. It has in later years been moved down close to Crockett Road and services are still held there. It is known both as Holt Chapel and Edmondson Chapel. The woolen mill in Brentwood during the late 1800's (on the strip of land between the present railroad cut and Wilson Pike, just south of Church Street) was run by Thomas Holt's son, Lewis Herbert Holt, who was often called "Teet" Holt.

Thomas Holt's second marriage was to Mary Oglesby, of North Carolina. She was a widow with a son Monty, who was not to popular with the servants, since he was not in the army, as were the Holt boys and they felt he was shirking his duty. They delighted in yelling, "here come the Yankees!" and seeing Monty scurry for cover.

John Page Holt, son of Lewis Herbert and Elmira Page Holt, still farms much of the original land. However, he and his wife, O'Delle Kelly of Waco, Texas, live in a modern home between the "Big House" and Crockett Road. Mr. Holt's nephew, Charles Witherspoon, Jr., makes his home with them. Mr. Witherspoon teaches at Woodbine School, in Nashville and he has been organist at Brentwood Methodist Church for 24 years.

For the past several years Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hall (Mrs. Hall is Mrs. Holt's niece, the former Cherry Kelly) and their children, John Martin, Patti, David, Stephen and Benjamin, made their home at Holtland. However, business holdings have just recently called them back to Norfolk, Virginia to live.

Very pleasant among the memories of this lovely old home is the gracious hospitality of the daughters of Lewis and Elmira Holt, Miss Margaret, Miss Rose, and Miss Kate (Mrs. Charles Witherspoon, Sr.) who, assisted by Mrs. John Holt, opened their doors to many activities of the community. Perhaps the fondest memory of all is of the annual halloween party of the Brentwood Sunday School, which they hosted until the attendance became to large. These parties were long anticipated and long remembered.

Another son of Lewis and Elmira Holt, Will, had his home on Concord Road, between Wilson and Edmondson Pikes. The original burned in 1939 and was replaced by a modern frame one which is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Huddelston.

Wildwood To Rouse Herself For Annual Pilgrimage

By MILDRED MILAM MURPHY

Like a serene old lady rousing herself from silent reveries of pre-Civil War days only long enough to disclose to some visitor tales of a glorious past is Wildwood, located on Carpenter Road, just off Wilson Road, five miles from Brentwood.

This gracious residence with its perfect antebellum atmosphere will be one of five Brentwood homes open April 27 during the sixth annual Pilgrimage sponsored by the Nashville Chapter, Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities. Pilgrimage dates are April 26 and April 27, with 22 of the city's most historical and beautiful homes, gardens and

churches featured in the two-day program.

Wildwood, situated atop a picturesque knoll on a 1,500-acre farm, was built 122 years ago as a summer residence by a wealthy Louisiana cotton planter, Thomas Holt.

Four generations of this family, residing at Wildwood, have zealously preserved her original atmosphere of the traditional Southern plantation. Today's occupants are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Witherspoon and his son, Charles Witherspoon Jr., who is a grandson of the late Lewis Herbert Holt and a great grandson of Wildwood's builder.

Pilgrimage visitors, approaching the house through giant gate posts and up a gently winding drive once traveled by carriages, will find themselves transported into a nostalgic outmoded era when owners of extensive Southern lands,

with their ladies, reigned like feudallistic lords.

Characterizing Wildwood's frontal elevation is a majestic, columned porch with an upper gallery. The house was constructed of rosy bricks made on the plantation by Holt's slaves.

Cedar Floors

The original cedar floors of the front veranda and two, extensive, L-shaped side porches are still in evidence.

Inside, the floor plan is unusually intriguing. Gracious twin parlors, each with its separate mantel, flank the entrance hall. The majority of Wildwood's furnishings are the original pieces brought back from New Orleans by the Holt family on various trips to that city. Outstanding are twin love seats, a giant mahogany piano,

handsome gold leaf mirrors and a wide selection of imported figurines.

To the rear of the entranceway is another hall from which rises the winding stairway to the house's three upper levels. On the second floor is an oversized bedroom, known at one time in Wildwood's history as "the dormitory" because it served as quarters for three, beauteous Holt sisters.

On the next level are two more bedrooms, both furnished with quaint and lovely pieces dating back to the house's construction and including handsome canopied beds, infants' cribs and trundles.

In Wildwood's kitchen, now utilized as a dining room, may be seen the original stone fireplace where all the plantation's cooking was done. Outside the kitchen stands a mammoth basin hand-carved from granite, where the slaves washed before meals.

In the floor of the kitchen is an entranceway to a secret basement room where the Holt family hid its silver and other valuables during the Civil War. Legend describes this hideaway as living quarters in perilous days following the Battle of Franklin when fighting raged about Wildwood.

Also located in the old kitchen

are the stairs leading to the overseers' quarters, now converted into a study by the junior Witherspoon.

Particularly noteworthy are Wildwood's majestic mantels hand-carved from one original design. All millwork is solid walnut, hand-hewn on the place. The plantation's acreage, one farmed by 200 slaves, is still under cultivation by Witherspoon, who raises tobacco, wheat, barley, oats and sheep.

Headquarters for the APTA Pilgrimage is Belle Meade Mansion, Harding Road at Leake Avenue. Phone CY 7-5588 or go by there for further information, programs and tickets.



—Staff Photo by Don Foster

Wildwood — a serene old lady rouses herself from reveries.

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This document was rewritten from a newspaper article written in approximately 1962. The article was very difficult to read. A copy of original article may be found in the **Historic Brentwood Historic Homes** book.

HOLTLAND

Holtland is located on Crockett Road, five miles southeast of Brentwood. The house is sheltered by trees surrounding it. Holtland overlooks the rolling farmlands surrounding the house.

The house was built around "1835" as a summer home by Thomas and Julia Herbert Holt. Mr. Holt was a wealthy Louisiana cotton planter.

Holtland was a 1,200 acre plantation. The plantation had a cotton gin and a saw mill powered by ox or horse.

There was a church on the plantation that the negroes went to. It was used as a school during the day. The church has been moved down close to Crockett Road. Services are still conducted there. It is known as Holt Chapel and also Edmondson Chapel.

There was a woolen mill in Brentwood during the late 1800's on a strip of land between the present railroad cut and Wilson Pike. It was run by Thomas Holt's son Lewis Herbert Holt who was often called "Leet" Holt.

John Page Holt, son of Lewis Holt and Elima Page Holt still farm much of the original land. John and his wife O'Dollo Kelly, of Waco, Texas, live in a more modern house between Holtland and Crockett Road

Mr. and Mrs. Hall inherited Holtland. Mrs. Hall is Mrs. Holt's niece. Mr. and Mrs. Hall and their children made Holtland their home. Several years later Mr. Hall's business drew him and his family back to Norfolk, Virginia to live.

WILDWOOD TO ROUSE HERSELF FOR ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

By: Mildred Milam Murphy

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Also located in the old kitchen are the stairs leading to the overseers' quarters now converted into a study by the junior Witherspoon.

Thomas Holt residence, at Brentwood, TN

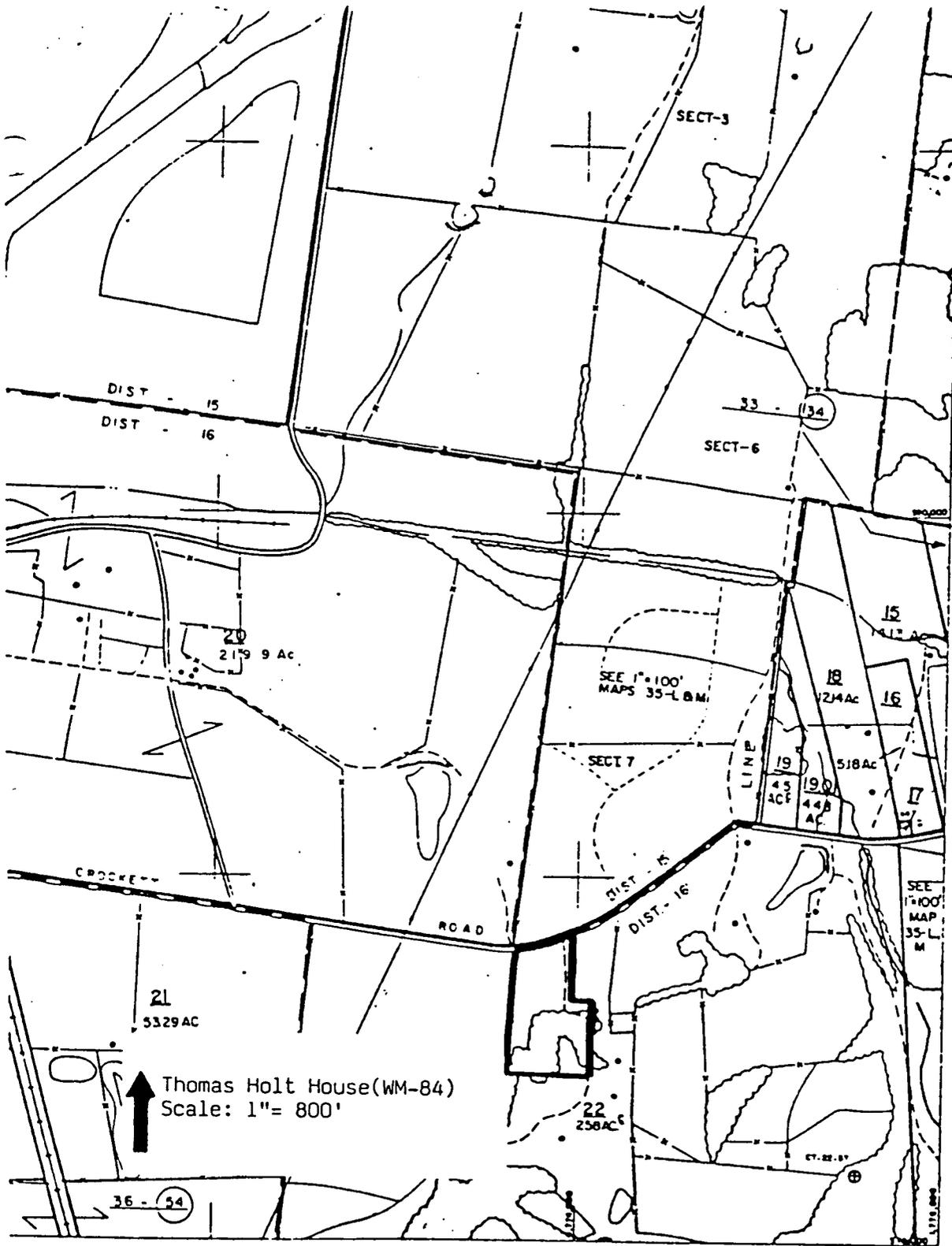
Entering the house from front, the person goes into a large hall or middle parlor with large parlors on either side. The middle hall is unheated but massive fireplaces with walnut mantles are in each side of the parlor and large gold leaf antique mirrors over each mantle. The side parlors are completely furnished with antiques (horse hair) sofas, marble top tables, chairs, lamps, crystal candelabra and hand painted pictures to fit in with the "Gone With the Wind" setting. The middle hall had a beautiful rose wood (square) piano, a massive grandfather clock and a chair. There were beautiful vases and bric-a-brac through out.

Going into another hall from the front was a stairway half way up and to the left was a girl's bedroom with two large antique walnut beds, numerous chairs, large wardrobe and marble top chest with mirrors; again beautiful lamps and glass ware were in evidence. Going up another flight of stairs and to the right were two more massive bedrooms overlooking the front of the house. One was furnished with a large canopy four poster with trundle bed. A massive floor to ceiling mirror framed with walnut, wash stand with marble top, chairs and a smaller single bed. The hallway between these had a walnut hand-made wood box chairs, etc. The second bedroom upstairs was furnished in a very unusual canopy bed, apparently of oak or maple with the matching pieces in same wood. These rooms both had large fireplaces and the floors were covered with hand woven rugs.

The back hall where the stairs went up had a beautiful red hanging lamp, a sofa and some chairs. Leading off this hall was a bed room, apparently the only one downstairs, furnished with a large double antique bed and a (youth bed, up to about 12 years) in walnut.

The original dining room was furnished in sitting room furniture, all beautiful antiques. Going out of this room (original dining room) onto back porch and to the kitchen which was completely away from the other part of the house.

From the back porch one could go down steps to the cellar consisting of two rooms, well lighted with windows dug from outside. A fireplace with a walnut mantle was down there with a brick floor, it was used sometimes in very hot weather as a dining room. The kitchen had a huge fireplace with hanging pots and pans.



Thomas Holt House (WM-84)
Scale: 1" = 800'

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04
08

- REVISIONS -	
1/79	144,87
2/3-81	11
12/9/83	12
10.8.89	19
12/9/04	20

WILLIAMSON CO TENN.		MAP NO
MIDDLE GRAND DIVISION		35
SCALE 1"=800'	DISTRICT	
DATE OF FILING MAY, 1900		
DATE COMPLETED NOV, 1900		



**Home built by Thomas Holt in 1834
son of John and Isabel Holt,
Herbert Holt was born here in 1844,
so was his son, John Page Holt in 1890**

**It was built on land joining his father's land on the North, being on
the headwaters of the Little Harpeth River near Brentwood,
Williamson County, TN.**

main house. Also on the west facade of the ell is an original stone kneading platform. The house sits on a farm off Crockett Road and retains its original site and setting.

Period of Significance: ca. 1840; ca. 1880; ca. 1900

Area of Significance: Architecture

Criterion: C

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance:

The Thomas Holt House is a notable example of a brick central passage plan residence with Greek Revival detailing. The house is unusually intact and displays its original interior and exterior detailing. At the rear of the house are several notable brick and log outbuildings which also are in excellent condition. The house sits on a rural lot and retains its original site and setting.

Thomas Holt was born in 1802 and was the son of early landowner, John Holt. John Holt constructed a log residence on this site in the early 1800s but this home was removed when his son, Thomas Holt began construction of this two-story brick residence ca. 1840. Upon completion the house was a good example of a two-story central plan residence with Greek Revival detailing. By 1850, Holt had amassed property worth \$20,000. In 1859, he is listed as owning 682 acres and 14 slaves which was a sizeable plantation for this period in the county. Holt continued to occupy the house until his death in 1876, and the house has remained in the possession of the Holt family to the present.

The Thomas Holt House is notable as a fine example of a central hall plan ante-bellum brick residence. It is especially noteworthy for its intact condition and retention of original outbuildings. No other home in the county retains this series of connected outbuildings at the rear of the structure. The interior and exterior of the residence have not been altered since ca. 1900 and its original plan and design remain evident.

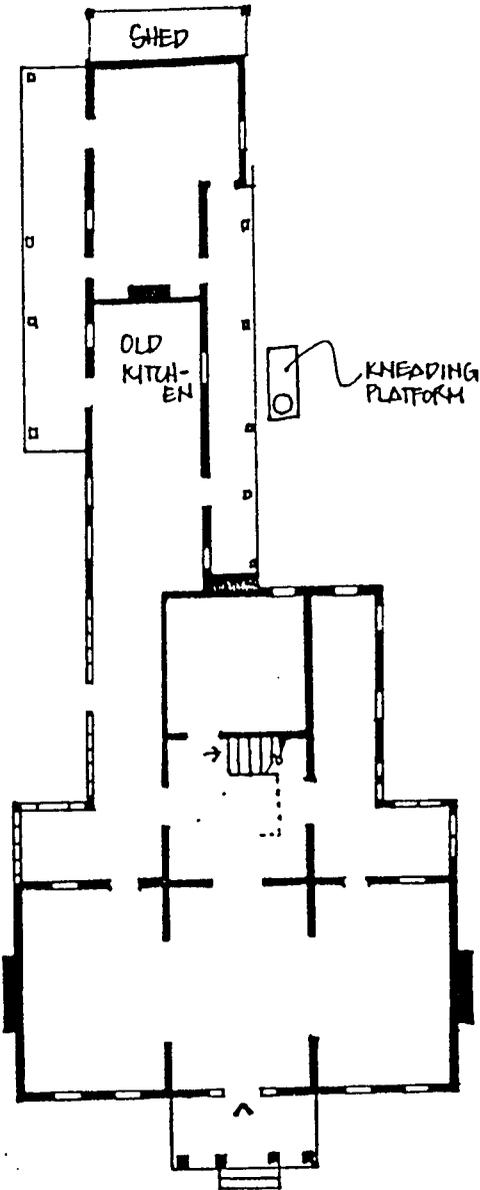
Acreage: 6.4 acres

UTM References: Franklin Quad/16/521280/3981000

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification: The boundary of the Thomas Holt House is illustrated on accompanying Williamson County tax map # 35, lot 22. The boundary is drawn to include the house and adjacent outbuilding and exclude modern outbuildings to the east and south. The boundary is defined by fences on the west and south, by a driveway on the east and on the north by Crockett Road. The boundary includes sufficient property to protect the historical setting of the site.

Supplemental Bibliographical References: Historic Williamson County, Bowman.

#04 THOMAS HOLT HOUSE



SHED

TO
CROCKETT ROAD



* NOT TO SCALE

HOLT LAND

Upon the arrival of a new family in Williamson County, it was the custom in those early years to build a makeshift log cabin for their use until they could find the time or the money, or both, to build a more elaborate permanent dwelling. When John Holt and his wife arrived in the county in the early 1800's, they were like all the other immigrants whose first matter of business was to construct some kind of shelter from the elements. Accordingly John Holt built a traditional log house on part of his recently acquired tract of land in the Mill Creek-Nolensville region.

John's son, Thomas, years later built his house closer to the old road which ran from Wilson Pike to Nolensville and which is known today as Crockett Road. Finally, around 1840, Thomas razed his earlier house, and on the same site built the present structure known as Holtland.

Today Holtland displays a basic Georgian design with a two-story Greek Revival portico. Thick brick walls rise from locally cut limestone foundations to give the house obvious strength. Limestone lintels adorn the windows, thus making the walls even more secure. Inside chimneys flank each end of the large house, and a series of additions in the rear of the building provides extra space from that found in the original unit.

Holtland is designed in traditional pioneer fashion. Large parlors with high ceilings open off a large hall with a staircase leading to the second floor, which is arranged much like the first. The chimneys allow fireplaces to be present in both downstairs and both upstairs rooms.

As customary with so many Williamson County homes built during the period from the first settlement to the War Between the States, the bricks used in building Holtland's imposing edifice were fired on the premises. All of the wood for the floors, mantels, and other inside trim was cut locally as well. Solid walnut doors and blinds adorn Holtland's facade. Craftsmen whose names have become lost in history took great pains to handcarve each mantelpiece. The collection of all of these features, among others, add up to an attractive, well-designed antebellum masterpiece.

A lot of time has passed since Thomas Holt built this home for his wife and children. But the surroundings have not changed a great deal since that time, and fortunately for posterity, Holtland, maintained by Mr. and Mrs. John Holt, has not changed a great deal either.

The log exterior has been framed over and porches added, but the general structure is the same. The logs, secured with the dove-tail and 'rider and saddle' notches and further tightened with cedar pegs, are perfectly sound. Two of the log houses are still in the yard and until recently all of the buildings had the original hand drawn cedar shingles which were eighteen inches long. The old stone chimneys were built by brothers, each of whom used his own style of masonry accounting for the dissimilarities in their construction.

Sherwood Green and his family, from covered wagon days to the Space age, sleep in the cemetery in the shadow of this house he carved from the wilderness.

The Jordon-Williams House

This fine old house on Rocky Fork Road east of Nolensville was originally the home of Edward Jackson Jordon (1815-1893), the son of Wilshire Jordon of Virginia and Mildred Hyde whose father was Hartwell Blount Hyde, Sr.

In 1835, Edward J. Jordon married Adeline Jones (1820-1899) who was of the James Green Jones family. Among the thirteen children of Edward J. and Adeline Jordon was a daughter Elizabeth (1844-1922) who married Tom G. Williams (1839-1919). They continued to make their home here for many years. A cemetery near the house contains the bodies of members of the Jordon and Williams connections.

Yellow poplar logs from which the timbers were cut for the house were so large it took six mules to snake them out of the woods. Some had to be split before they could be moved, but because of their immense size not many trees were needed.

For the convenience of the house servants in its early days a "granny cabin" was built almost touching the back of the house and remains until the present time. In an excellent state of preservation, the house stayed in family hands until recently when it was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Barton Laws.



Jordon-Williams house on Rocky Fork Road

Holtland

An aura of the past lingers so palpably about this house a visitor has the feeling time has halted for a century in its relentless roll. It is hard to believe that the noise and rush of traffic is only a short distance away.

This is the third home built by members of the Holt family on their large tract of land. The first, a log cabin, was built on the back of the place nearer Nolensville by the original owners, John (1761-1841) and Isabella Hardeman Holt (1769*-1852). Nothing remains at that site save the foundation of the house and the old cemetery.

One of their twelve children, Thomas Holt (1802-1876), built his home north of the old house but it was torn away when the present structure was erected around 1840 just south of Crockett Road off Wilson Pike. Thomas Holt married Rosa Herbert (1805-1853), the daughter of Nathaniel and Judith Herbert. There were six children: Judy, William Thomas, Mary Pauline, Louisira Perkins, John Page, and Louis Herbert, all of whom married into families prominent in their own right.



Third house built at Holtland

The wood in this beautiful house was cut from its own acres, and the bricks were made on the place. The doors are solid walnut two inches thick with the blinds being of the same fine wood. The mantels are handcarved and quite handsome. During the War Between the States the home was frequently raided by Yankee soldiers. The family saved their meat by prying up the floor boards and hiding it under the house. During the war years considerable financial loss through theft and destruction of property was sustained; a claim was presented to the Federal government, but no payment for damages was ever received.

Of the Holt place Mrs. Octavia Zollicoffer Bond, in her "Family Chronicle", stated that Margaret Ann Wilson, the sister of James Hazard and Samuel D. Wilson, married John Page, a splendid citizen of Williamson County near Triune, May 11, 1830. Their daughter, Almira, married

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 visible. 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

HOLT LAND

The Holt family came to Brentwood in the early 1800's and built a log house on their plantation. In the 1850's Holtland was built to replace that structure by Thomas Holt and his wife Judith Herbert Holt. Many of the furnishings in the house were brought up the Mississippi River from New Orleans when the home was completed. The Holt Plantation was one of the largest in the Brentwood area. Prior to the Civil War, over 100 slaves were employed there. They had their own church, which is still in existence and is known as Edmondson Chapel. At it's height the plantation had it's own cotton gin, grist mill and saw mill.

BRENTWOOD BROCHURE