WINSTEAD CABINS

Compiled by members of Leadership Brentwood Class of 2008:

Renee Chevalier Randy Lee Todd Petrowski Amy Thomas Mike Womack

The attached information was compiled from the following sources:

- Log Cabin Information provided by T. Vance Little.
- National Register Properties, Williamson County, TN, © 1995; pages 69 & 82.
- Historic Resources of Williamson County.
- Little, Vance T. (January 24, 2007). Pleasant Hill Mansion among city's National Register Sites. *The Tennessean*.
- Williamson County Court documents, October 1822.
- Photos courtesy of City of Brentwood photographer unknown.

Log Cabins

The log house was not an American invention. It was used in Europe, particularly in Germany and Scandinavia centuries before America was discovered. Settlers from those areas brought the know-how to build log structures with them. The settlers arriving in Middle Tennessee found plenty of straight and tall poplar and chestnut trees. Building a log house was quick, easy, and cheap.

The chief characteristic of logs as a building material is their versatility. They can be used to build anything form a makeshift crib to a finely hewn log house designed to last for hundreds of years. It is not uncommon to find log homes in Switzerland and Scandinavia that are 300 to 400 years old. They will last indefinitely if they are kept dry.

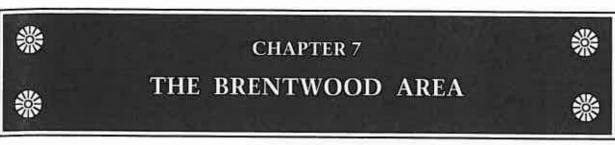
The basic unit of the Tennessee frontier log house was a single square room, usually 16 feet by 16 feet. It was called a single pen. It could be divided into two rooms, a kitchen and a living room with a sleeping loft upstairs. That became the hall and parlor style house.

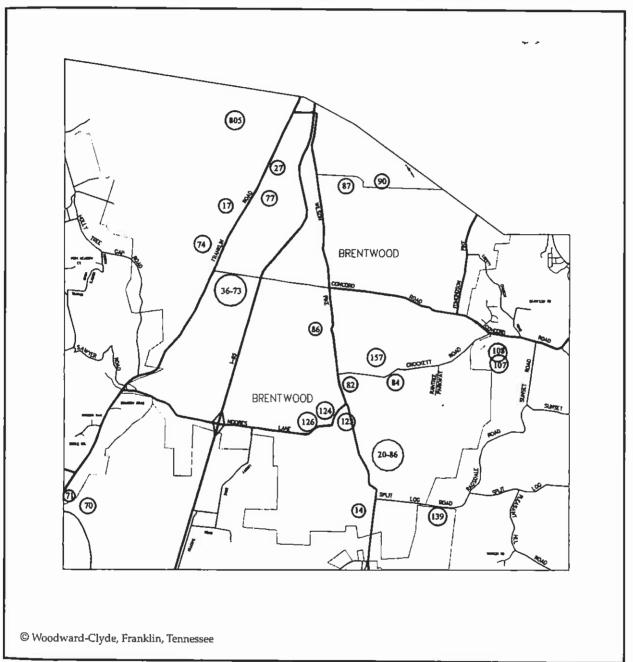
The basic unit could be repeated as often as resources permitted or a growing family required. Units could be placed side by side, on top of each other for an upstairs, or connected with a breeze way. The latter style became the most popular style on the Tennessee frontier. It was called the dog trot house. It developed into a typical southern mansion with two rooms up and down with a hall and ell.

The makeshift single pen log house was the first thing built by the pioneers. It furnished living quarters until something better could be built. It then became the kitchen, which was separate from the main house it was more likely to burn down and frequently did. Another makeshift kitchen could be built using the same fireplace.

The makeshift log house filled the needs of the pioneers because of their tendency to move on after they had worn out the soil, particularly where cotton and tobacco were grown. Many of the log houses were said to be designed to last until the soil ran out.

Then, on the other hand, there were log houses that were stout, durable and finely hewn which were built to be permanent structures. Such were the so-called Winstead Cabins, which is a gross misnomer. They were log houses extremely well built with fine wood work and stone work. The proof in their durability is the fact that they are still around.







JOHN M. WINSTEAD HOUSES

Common Name: Pleasant Hill

Concord Road

Brentwood, Tennessee

Owner: Anne M. Edmondson estate

Properties #107, #108

Winstead Houses: 19th-century log structure showing typical additive progression

The John Winstead residences are excellent examples of 19th-century Tennessee architecture. John Winstead, Sr. and his son, John M. Winstead, constructed two residences on property in the northeast section of Williamson County.

The Winstead family was one of the first to settle in this area of the county, arriving in 1799. Soon after acquiring property, John Winstead, Sr. constructed a single-pen log residence adjacent to Owl Creek. He later built a second log pen for his growing family and a log kitchen which no longer stands. The elder Winstead died in 1822, and his property was inherited by his son.

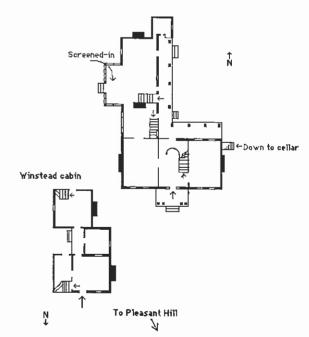
Around 1855, as the family's fortunes improved, Winstead began construction of his two-story brick residence. Instead of tearing down the earlier log residence and building on its site, he chose to build on a nearby hill, thus preserving for posterity the original log dwelling. This residence was completed in 1858 and is a fine example of an I-House with Greek Revival detailing.

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 confinued to be a prosperous farmer with holdings around 500 acres in the late 19th century. Winstead died in 1896, and his descendants still own the historic property.

The original log home consists of two singlepen cabins, ca. 1800 and 1820, which display half-dovetail notching, and rock slat and mud chinking. These were joined ca. 1870 with a frame addition. The addition of weatherboard siding over logs and enclosing the breezeway are typical additive progressions found in log buildings in Middle Tennessee.

The main facade of the 1858 brick I-House residence features a two-story portico with four square Doric motif columns. The main entrance has original double doors, single-light sidelights and a single-light transom with dentil molding.

Neither of the Winstead homes have been significantly altered and each retains its original setting and design on property known as Pleasant Hill. Both were listed with the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.



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	<u>Total:</u>	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

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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

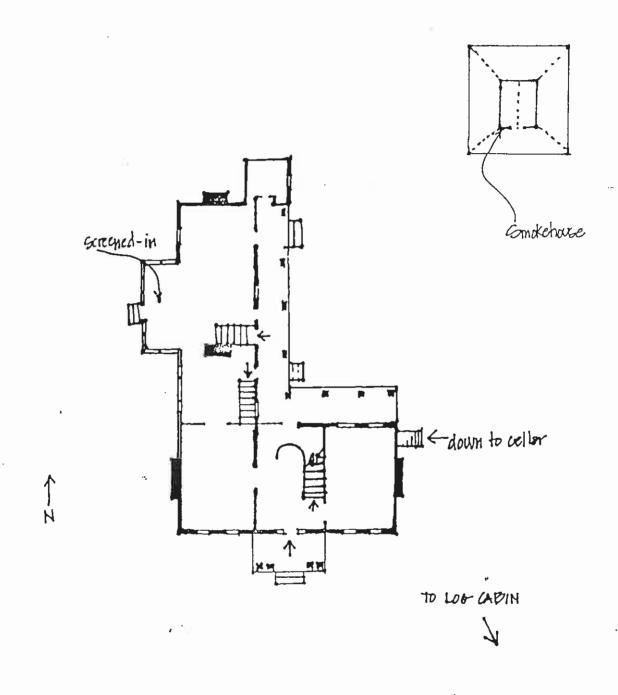
of whom fought in the Confederate army. After the war Winstead continued to be a prosperous farmer with holdings around 500 acres in the late 19th century. Winstead died in 1896 and his descendants continue to own the property. Both the log and brick residences have not been significantly altered and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

Acreage: 10.5 acres

<u>UTM References:</u> 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. FLEASANT HILL: THE LOG CADIN.

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Pleasant Hill Mansion among city's National Register sites

Tennessean, The (Nashville, TN) - January 24, 2007

Author: FREELANCE, T. VANCE LITTLE

I am the newly elected president of The Governors Club Property Owners Association. I am wondering if Pleasant Hill Mansion, the centerpiece of The Governors Club, is on the National Register, If so, what sort of regulations are we subject to and what are the consequences of being on the National Register? - Michael Briggs Yes, Pleasant Hill Mansion, the old residence in The Governors Club development, which was home to the Winstead and Edmondson families, is listed on the National Register. It is one of the 17 sites in Brentwood that are on the National Register.

The National Register is the nation's official list of historic sites deemed worthy of preservation. The program is a division of the National Park Service as a part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Its purpose is to identify, evaluate and protect historic and archaeological resources in the United States. Any site that has received National Register status must be at least 50 years old and must be deemed to represent a significant contribution to American history, archaeology, architecture or culture.

The clearinghouse for local National Register nominations is the Tennessee Historical Commission. The nomination must document the history of the site and its importance. Anyone may make a nomination. The Tennessee Historical Commission evaluates the nomination and passes it along to the National Park Service with its recommendation as to the site's qualification for National Register status.

National Register status is in no way related to historic zoning. It is purely honorary and affords little or no protection for the property. It simply says that the property is recognized as important to the community, state or nation. Private owners of the site may do with it whatever they please, including demolishing the property. Any protection for the property must come through county or city zoning ordinances.

On the other hand, National Register status may be required for certain federal or state tax considerations, such as qualifying for federal or state low-interest loans or grants to restore historic sites. Historic zoning and historic zoning overlays are purely local matters, the same as any other zoning consideration.

In addition, if federal money is to be used in a project that will impact a National Register site, special attention must be given to the project so as to do as little damage to the property as possible. Such is the case for the widening of Franklin Road on the drawing board as we speak. Special attention is being given to make sure the integrity of Isola Bella is not compromised by the project.

In 1988, the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, in conjunction with the Tennessee Historical Commission, did an exhaustive survey of historic sites in Williamson County to determine which were deemed to be worthy of National Register status. They compiled the nominations and applied for a blanket consideration for the sites. Pleasant Hill Mansion in The Governors Club development was one of the sites given National Register status in that blanket nomination.

Brentwood full of these sites

In addition to Pleasant Hill Mansion, National Register sites in Brentwood include: Boxwood Hall in the Meadowlake subdivision; Cottonport, the Frost family home place on Old Smyrna Road; Forge Seat, the old Crockett home located on Wilson Pike; Isola Bella, or the James Johnson home on Franklin Road; Mountyjew. the old Rozell home on Franklin Road; Maple Lawn on Moores Lane, built by Nathan Owen; and Oak Hall/Century Oak, the old Samuel Wilson home on Wilson Pike, now owned by a Wilson family descendant.

Other National Register sites in Brentwood are: Green Pastures, built by Porterfield Hadley, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Cal Turner, Owen Chapel Church of Christ on Franklin Road, completed in the 1860s; Mooreland, home of the ghost of Ruth Moore, built by the Moore family and located on Franklin Road; the Knox-Crockett House on Wikle Road, built by early Brentwood settler Andrew Crockett; Wildwood/Holtland on Crockett Road, built by the Holt family and owned by a Holt descendant; the Owen-Primm House on Moores Lane, owned by the Primm

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family; Ravenswood on Wilson Pike, built by James Hazard Wilson; Windy Hill, an old Sneed home on Old Smyrna Road; and the Boiling Spring Academy site on Moores Lane, owned by the city of Brentwood.

The last Brentwood home to be placed on the National Register was Twenty-Six Trees on Wilson Pike, owned by internationally recognized artist Paul Harmon.

Sites may be removed from the National Register if they have been moved from the original location or if they have been significantly altered. One such removal was the Cool Springs House. It was removed from the National Register when it was moved to Crockett Park from the CoolSprings Galleria area.

There may be other sites in Brentwood that have been overlooked that are eligible for the National Register. Or, indeed, we may have learned more about a particular structure than was previously known that would make it eligible for the National Register.

Also, the owner of a structure must give permission for his or her site to be considered for the National Register. Several significant sites in Brentwood fall into that category, such as Ash Lawn on Franklin Road. Another site that was approved for the National Register but the paperwork was never completed is Wood Park, or the Sayers home on Split Log Road. It is the old residence in the new John Weiland Homes Inc. development called Taramore.

If you have a question, e-mail Brentwood historian T. Vance Little at ttvlittle@aol.com or write to Learn Brentwood, c/o Brentwood Journal, 121 Second Ave. N., Franklin, 37064.

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Written 6 Nov. 1815, Probated October 1822 Williamson County, TN County Court

In the name of God amen

I John Winstead of the County of Williamson & State of Tennessee remembering the mortality of my body & knowing that I must according to the Course of nature, Shortly Depart this life & being of sound & disposing mind & memory Do make and ordain this my last will & testament in manner & form following viz

Item first. my will & desire is that all my just debts be paid

Item second. I leave to my loving wife Polly Winstead during her life or widowhood one negro man named David & one negro woman named Esther(?) and her increase and after her Death or marry these negros to be Equely Devided between my Daughter Patcey Winstead & Betcey Winstead & Matthew Winstead & Polley Winstead.

Item third. I leave to my son William Winstead one negro man named Will & one horse Bridle and Sadle to him and his heirs for Ever

Item forth. I leave my Son Samuel Winstead one negro boy named Emanuel and one bridle and sadle to him and his heirs for Ever

Item fifth. I leave to my Son John Matthew Winstead one negro Boy named Ben and one horse bridle and sadle to him and his heirs for Ever.

Item Six. I leave to my Daughter Susanah Chitwood one Bed and Saddle and Bureau

Item Seventh. I leave to my Daughter Patcey Winstead one negro Gall named Chaney and her in Crease & one Bed and furniture to her and her heirs for Ever

Item Eight. I leave to my Daughter Betsey Winstead one negro Gall named Judah her in Crease and one bed and furniture to her and her heirs forever.

named Easter and her in Crease & one bed and furniture to her and her heirs for Ever

Item. I leave to my loving wife Polley Winstead During her life or widowhood all my land and the Remaining part of the stock and household furniture for her to raise and School my little Children

Lastly I hereby nominate and apoint my wife Polley Winstead and my Brother Samuel Winstead and my father William Winstead my Executors to this my last will & testament hereby Revoking all other wills & testaments her to fore By me maid, in witness where of I have here unto set my hand & seal this 6th Day of November in the year of our Lord 1815.

John Winstead (signed)

Test

William Winstead Jurat
William Winstead Jurat
Lacey Ann Winstead (her x mark)

Polly Winstead Executor
Williamson County, Tennessee County Court

A true Inventory of all the property goods and chattels of John Winstead Dec'd.

Two Cupboards, one with a sash door, one desk and bookcase, one beaureau, one clothe chest, one Sugar Chest, Three fall leaf Tables, one square table, four beds steads and furniture, Two looking glasses, one set of gilted china one set of Coffee cups and Saucers, Two Dozen plates, Three dishes, one covered dish, Two large pitchers, One Glass pitcher one dozen custard cups, one ream and castor, Six glass tumblers, one china sugar dish, Two large earthen Bowls, one china cream mug, Three china cups, one large Turine, one dozen silver tea spoons, Six Silver table spoons, one silver soup spoon, one silver creme spoon, one set of knives and forks, one decanter, one Gallon bottle, four Stone Jars, one stone pitcher, one teaboard, Tow brass candlesticks, one candlestand, one snuffer tray and snuffer, Three puter Basons, one dozen puter plates, one dozen chairs, one armed chair, Two cotton wheels, one flax wheel, one loom, Thre Kettles, Two Pots, Three Ovens and lids, one tea Kettle, one brass skillet, one Iron skillet and lid, Two Iron potracks, Tow flat Irons, Two washing Tubs, Two pails, Two piggins, one churn, one pair of Waffle Tongs, nine head of Horses, twenty head of Cattle, Fifty large Hogs, Eight Sows and fifty two Shoats, Thirty five sheap,

Fetched forward

The half of one Waggon, Two still and twenty Tubs, Two bearshare plows, Two Shovel plows, Two gopher plows, Five axes, One Cross Cut saw, One hand Saw, Four Weeding Hoes, Tow Iron Wedges, One grubing hoe, one set of Waggon gears, Three Clevises and Single Trees, one hundred gallons of brandy, Twenty gallons of apple brandy. Ten negroes to wit David, William, Manuel, Ben, Peggy, Chainy, Judy(?), Esther, Sarah.

Polly Winstead (her x mark)







