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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE	INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW T TYPE ALL ENTRIES (
1 NAME				
HISTORIC	🕻 Cedar Grove (John Hit	e Bowman House)		
AND/OR COMMON	Windy Hill (Hunter Ho	use)		
2 LOCATIO	N			
STREET & NUMBER	R.R. #1 6 00	to Prove of	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	СТ
STATE	Oak Grove	VICINITY OF CODE	COUNTY	CODE
OTATE	Kentucky	021	Christian	047
3 CLASSIFIC	CATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	XAGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
\mathbf{X} BUILDING(S)	\mathbf{X} private	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
$oxdot{ extit{LSTRUCTURE}}{ extit{X}}$ site	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	XPRIVATE RESIDENCE
	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTEDNO	INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	TRANSPORTATIONOTHER:
A OWNER O	F PROPERTY			
NAME	IINOIENII			
NAIVIE	Mr. and Mrs. Hugh F	. Hunter		
STREET & NUMBER	R.R. #1	:		
CITY, TOWN	Oak Grove x	VICINITY OF	state Ken t ucky	7
TOCATIO			Renuck	/
	N OF LEGAL DESCR	IFIION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS	S,ETC. Christian County	Courthouse		
STREET & NUMBER	South Main Stree	et		
CITY, TOWN	Hopkinsville		state Kentucky	7
6 REPRESEN	NTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
TITLE	Survey of Historic Site	es in Kentucky (Supp	lement)	
DATE	1974	federal X_{0}	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Kentucky Heritage Cor	nmission		
CITY, TOWN	Frankfort		STATE Kentucky	

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

X EXCELLENT

__FAIR

__DETERIORATED

__RUINS

CHECK ONE

XUNALTERED __ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X.ORIGINAL SITE

__MOVED DATE____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Windy Hill Farm, originally known as "Cedar Grove," is located almost on the boundary line that separates Kentucky and Tennessee, a few miles east of the present Fort Campbell Military Reservation. The house is situated on a high hill overlooking the west fork of Red River as it descends southward into Tennessee; the winding course of the river surrounds the house on three sides. Below the house on the river is the site of an old grist mill which was known by the different names of its owners as the years passed. The mill was still standing around 1900 but has since been destroyed (only a portion of the rock retaining wall of the mill-pond remains). The well-placed position of this house, facing south, gives it a commanding view in a beautiful scenic and rural setting. The front lawn is still shaded by large maples, cedars, pecans, and honey locusts which were planted around 1882.

The house is a large two-and-a-half-story brick structure of standard vernacular Greek Revival type. There seems to have been a two-story one-bay porch in the center of the five-bay front, but it has been replaced by a slightly wider single-story porch with square plers and a graceful pierced balustrade. There was an intervening late Victorian one-story three-bay porch, probably built for the Logans, with decorative spandrels and railings reused or copied for the present upper balustrade.* The cornice, which returns before the corners of the facade, also seems to have been simplified. The basic concept of the design appears always to have been austere, however, as the lintels and sills of the six-over-six-pane sash windows are set flat into the wall. The fourteen-inch-thick brick walls of the foundation are flush with the common bond brick walls above, and the basement openings have similar lintels. The front entrance is also plain, with square plasters separating the door with its transom from the sidelights. At present there is a large chimney at the west end of the main block and two smaller ones on the east side set flush with the wall, two attic windows between in the gable.

The house is laid out on the standard central hall plan, with the wide hall reflected by the spacing of the openings on the facade. There are four large, high-ceilinged rooms on each floor of the main block, with a large and a smaller room on the third floor. The former is said to have been used as a ballroom during the warmer months of the year, the latter sometimes as a schoolroom.

The parlor (least affected during the house's period of neglect, because least used) was to the right of the hall; the dining room, with its built-in cupboards flanking the fireplace, behind. Beyond the dining room to the northeast is the brick kitchen, originally separated from the house by an open ''dog trot,'' now enclosed.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	old XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X _1800-1899	Xcommerce	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1853-1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Bowman/Daniel Umbenhour

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cedar Grove, known now as Windy Hill because of its magnificant but exposed location high on a hill within a bend of the West Fork of the Red River just north of the Tennessee border, was built by John Hite Bowman in the mid-1850s on the site of an earlier house. Originally settled by a Virginian, Dr. Edward Rumsey, who also erected a grist mill on the river below, the property was acquired by Bowman in 1853. A prominent farmer and businessman, Bowman constructed a large brick house laid out in the traditional manner dating back to the late 18th-century Georgian period. The more up-to-date Greek Revival quality of the residence is mainly revealed by the severe simplicity of details throughout, and by the generous proportions; it remains one of the few big ante-bellum brick houses in western Kentucky. During the later 19th century, the place was a center for social activity in the surrounding area during the ownership of the prominent Barker-Logan family. After a period of neglect in the early 20th century, the house and farm have been restored since World War II to an exemplary condition.

The earliest recorded owner of the land where 'Windy Hill' now stands was Dr. Edward Rumsey (1765-1823) who came to this area from Botetourt County, Virginia, about 1792. While still a young man, Rumsey acquired many land grant acres along the Red and Little rivers and their contributory streams. It is believed that Dr. Edward Rumsey and Simon French were friends and came West about the same time. (French also came from Virginia and built a four-room, two-story brick house near Rumsey's property. The French House is still standing. The present owner, Mrs. J.C. Askew, Sr., has carefully restored it, added to it and now uses it for a guest house.) In addition to being a physician, Edward Rumsey also must have possessed some ability as an architect because he was a designer of the second courthouse which served Christian County from 1806 to 1836.

Dr. Edward Rumsey's brother, James Rumsey, was a famous early inventor and competitor of John Fitch. Each of these men, unknown to the other, worked on the same idea — the application of steam as a means of locomotion for boats. Both exhibited their plans to General George Washington in 1784. A violent dispute arose between the two inventors as to which was the first pioneer in this endeavor. The first steamboat demonstration by

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Cherry, Thomas New Y Hunter, Mary Le Meacham, Charle	Crittenden, and A York: D.C. Heat e. "Windy Hill."	arndt M. Stich h and Co., 1 ' Christoph istory of Chr	ekles. The Store 1940. , 1972. eistian County	, Kentucky, Fro	Boston and m Oxcart to Airplan (continued)	
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	STATES AND COUNTIES			STATE OR COUNTY BO	 	
STATE		CODE	COUNTY		CODE	
11 FORM PRI	EPARED BY				:	
NAME/TITLE Γ	r. Calvin Jones,	Historian		WEL		
ORGANIZATION K	entucky Heritage	Commission		DATE June 1976		
STREET & NUMBER	04 Bridge Street			TELEPHONE (5020564	-3741	
CITY OR TOWN	rankfort			STATE Kentucky		
12 STATE HI	STORIC PRESE	ERVATION	OFFICER (CERTIFICATI	ON	
	THE EVALUATED SIG					
	ONAL	STATE		LOCAL		
hereby nominate the criteria and procedu	ate Historic Preservation s property for inclusion i es set forth by the Nation	n the National Re				
	istania Dragovyst	ion Officer	w. /M	DATE ///	14/19	
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Cedar Grove (John Hite Bowman House)

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All interior woodwork is of the plain Greek Revival type. The house relies for its effect primarily on ample proportions, clear cut lines, and fine craftsmanship (although it is interesting that Flemish-bond construction was not used even on the main south facade, possibly an indication that elements of Rumsey's house were reused).

The present owners have restored the house as far as possible, adding modern conveniences only where necessary. The property is very well-maintained.

Two additional structures are still standing on the property. The first is a wooden smokehouse, which is still in use, probably built by the Logans during the 1880s to replace the earlier Rumsey brick smokehouse. The second is a tobacco barn, also probably built by the Logans during the 1880s, which is located in the east field.

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James Rumsey was made in 1787 on the Potomac River near Antietam, Maryland. Both Rumsey and Fitch were unsuccessful in convincing the public of the practical use of their methods, however, and both later retired to Kentucky. The honor of recognition for this achievement was later awarded to Robert Fulton in 1808 so he has generally received the chief credit as the first inventor of the steamboat.

It is also interesting to note that the first person to be hanged in Christian County, Kentucky, was a black servant girl who was the property of Dr. Rumsey. Her name is not known but her punishment in 1812 resulted from negligence. Left to nurse a fretful child, she administered a dose of laudanum which resulted in the child's death.

The original Edward Rumsey residence was built on exactly the same site as the present home, "Windy Hill," which was formerly called "Cedar Grove." In addition to his house, Dr. Rumsey also built the first mill here, but his rather substantial house burned during the late 1840s. The old Rumsey burying ground still exists, a tree-shaded, peaceful plot above the pond which contains the graves of several infant children of Dr. Rumsey and his wife, Mariamne. Rumsey is also buried there, in addition to his wife's father, Joseph Gills, who died at the age of 87 in 1819. Rumsey's wife is not buried there because she remarried after his death and moved elsewhere.

Little is known of the intervening ownerships between that of Dr. Rumsey and another gentleman from Virginia, John Hite Bowman, except that the latter bought the farm from a Samuel Gordon. Bowman and several relatives, including a cousin, John Bryan Bowman, who founded another distinguished family line, came to Kentucky about the same time. After buying several farms, John Hite Bowman finally chose to settle on the old Rumsey estate and in 1852 or 1853 he purchased the farm, mill, and house site.

Bowman soon built an eight-room, three-story brick house in the new Greek Revival style. He named it after his former home in Virginia, Cedar Grove, which still stands near Strasburg in Shenandoah County. He probably bought his farm because of Gordon's Flour Mill, which was located on the bank of big West Fork Creek, just below and within sight of the house. He was a good businessman and his mill was very successful.

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Cedar Grove (John Hite Bowman House)

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The bricks for the fourteen-inch thick walls of this house were fired by slave labor on the place. It is said that Bowman brought a master builder from Virginia, a Dutchman (or probably German) named Daniel Umbenhour, to help to plan and oversee its construction. While residing in the area Umbenhour also supervised the building of other former local landmarks including the old Lunderman home which burned some years ago and the double covered bridge with arches that spanned Little West Fork Creek at Durrett's Ringgold Mill, recently torn down.

Bowman's original bills concerning the construction of the house have survived. The total cost of the house, principally materials because it was built by slave labor, was \$3,500. Cost of papering the house was \$44. Among the Bowman papers in his family's possession are receipts for orders of interesting items for his house: handmade mantels, stairways, balustrades, architraves, doors and cupboards — also one for imported gold wallpaper 'with velvet border.' A careful record keeper, he nevertheless somehow failed to record the exact years the house was built, but from pieced-together information it has been pretty well established that construction began about 1853 and was completed about 1855. This house then became his home. He lived there from 1855 through the Civil War period and until his death in 1878 at the age of eighty.

The Bowman burying ground is right beside the old Rumsey plot. Enclosed by an ornamental iron fence it contains several handsome old monuments marking, among others, the graves of John Bowman (1798-1878); his wife, Mary P. Bowman (1807-1862); and their only son, George Bowman (1840-1861), a young Confederate soldier who was killed early in the Civil War.

John Hite Bowman was a colorful character. He was a successful businessman who often shipped large orders of fine flour from his mill via Trices Landing (in New Providence, Tennessee, now Clarksville) down the Cumberland, Ohio, and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans. He was married twice and had two sets of children. During the Civil War Union troops occupied his home on at least one occasion. A rusty bayonet is still deeply imbedded in one of the large maple trees in the front yard.

An interesting story about Bowman has come down to us from that occasion. Bowman was quite elderly by that time and a widowed daughter was living with him. He was bitter over the loss of his only son in the Southern army, and his daughter nervously watched his growing resentment when the unwelcome enemy who occupied the upstairs' bedrooms, daily ordered Bowman's cook to prepare whatever scarce food they desired

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for their meals from the farm, garden, or smokehouse. Fearful of what the old man might rashly do or say, she constantly warned him that their safety depended on compliance with their enemies' wishes. One night a noise in his adjoining bedroom awakened her. Opening the door she saw her aged father standing on a chair trying to remove an old sword from its place over the mantle. The old sword had belonged to his father, Isaac Bowman, who had used it during the Revolutionary War. The agitated old gentleman readily admitted that he intended to slip upstairs and kill the hated Yankee intruders while they slept. With difficulty his terrified daughter managed to dissuade him from so rash an act which, if attempted, could certainly have brought swift calamity not only upon themselves but probably on the entire community.

Another story from Civil War times concerns the death of Phyllis, the loyal black cook of the Bowmans. She was killed in the outside brick kitchen which is still attached to the main house by a covered porch or "dog trot." One of her daughters was being courted by a runaway slave from the Charles Barker farm a few miles away. Phyllis was bitterly opposed to this and forbade the renegade boy to see the girl again. On Christmas Eve night in 1864 as she rocked one of the grandchildren to sleep before the hugh wood fireplace in the kitchen, the young Negro boy crept to a back window and fired a shot which killed the aging and beloved Phyllis. Whether the assassin was caught and punished is not known. Probably in those lawless days he was never seen or heard from again.

Bowman also played an important role in the construction and maintenance of a local Christian church (Disciples of Christ) in the community. This church was built in the 1840s as the result of a controversy with the Salem Baptist Church which still exists and flourishes several miles away. Originally, during the early years of the 19th century, the Salem Church building was owned jointly by the Baptists and the Disciples, and both congregations held services there on alternate Sundays. The dissension developed over a doctrinal question concerning the efficacy of prayer. Bowman and the other Disciples, charged with heresy by the Baptists, denounced the accusation and demanded an apology. As a result of this disagreement, the Disciples decided to construct a new church building which would be owned and used solely by them. It is somewhat ironic to note that the two acres of land on which the new church was built was donated by a local "infidel" named Garret Meriwether who lived across the road on his farm "Cabin Row" where he is buried. Mr. Meriwether, a scholarly and benevolent gentleman, also gave the new church its Greek name, "Euergesia," which means a "happy or

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pleasing gift." This church, which became an interesting local landmark, no longer stands. It was still a very important part of the community after the Civil War, but by the turn of the twentieth century the congregation had diminished and gradually dispersed. During his lifetime John Bowman served the church well both as an elder and as treasurer, a role in which he became actively involved in the finances connected with the construction of the new church building.

As a result of his Southern sympathies, the end of the war found Bowman deeply in debt, a plight typical of large landowners throughout the South. Not long after his death his 500-acre farm was sold in 1881 by auction at the courthouse door in Hopkins-ville, Kentucky, for a \$5,000 indebtedness. The farm was bought by a neighbor, Mr. Chiles T. Barker, many of whose descendants still live on nearby farms.

Chiles Barker was an extensive landowner and gentleman farmer. On his nearby estate, "Glen Burnie," he reared twelve children, eleven of whom reached maturity. Their father's ambition was to leave each of them at least five hundred acres of land through inheritance and it is said that he attained this goal and more. Immediately after Barker's purchase of "Cedar Grove" his son, Peter, lived there and ran the mill and the farm for a few years until he and his sister, Mrs. Sallie Barker Logan, agreed to swap places —hers being nearby.

After the Logans and their large family took possession of the farm it became famous for its hospitality. Mrs. Logan was a talented musician who enjoyed playing for hours on her square piano which sat in the wide central hall while her children and their guests danced. Many young men from miles around rode horseback to barn dances held in the newly-built tobacco barn which still stands in the east field, but has long since been assigned to more prosaic uses.

Mr. Logan died before his youngest child, Will, was born. After reaching maturity, Professor Will Logan served as principal of the Trenton schools nearby in Christian County for many years and several of his sisters also became teachers, sometimes conducting school at home on the third floor, attended by neighboring children. When Mrs. Logan died after a long illness, the farm had to be sold for a division among the heirs.

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"Cedar Grove" then passed into the ownership of Franklin Rives, a busy Hopkins-ville lawyer, later state senator and county judge. During these years of absentee ownership the farm seems to have functioned primarily as a camping, hunting, and fishing preserve for its owner and his many sportsmen friends. It was farmed negligently by tenants and the whole property deteriorated.

In 1939 the farm was bought by its present owners and occupants, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh F. Hunter.

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Perrin, William Henry, ed. <u>County of Christian, Kentucky: Historical and Biographical</u>. Chicago and Louisville: F.A. Battey Publishing Co., 1884; reprinted in 1972 by Modern Pre-binding Corporation, Portland, Indiana.

