

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | JUN 6 1979 |
| DATE ENTERED | AUG 9 1979 |

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bowman Houses (Abraham Bowman, Jr. House, Bowman Cabin, Woolfolk House, Helm Place)
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

W of Lexington on

STREET & NUMBER

Bowman's Mill Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Lexington

VICINITY OF

6

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Kentucky

021

Fayette

067

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theme | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

See continuation sheet.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Lexington

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bowman's Mill Pike is located about one and one-half miles southwest of Lexington, Kentucky, just off Harrodsburg Road (Highway 68). The road runs along South Elkhorn Creek, an area which saw many early Kentucky settlements. At present, this rural district remains a pristine pastoral setting, unaffected by Lexington's expansion.

The four Bowman structures are located along Bowman's Mill Pike. Each is visible from the road and on a slight rise to afford the best view of the lush countryside.

Traveling northwest from Harrodsburg Road, Helm Place (listed on the National Register August 3, 1978) is the first structure to command attention. This impressive Greek Revival house was built by a member of the Bowman family, either Colonel Abraham or his son George H. Bowman. The residence, originally known as Cedar Hall, sits on a hill overlooking the South Elkhorn and gives one the impression of a Greek Temple.

Approximately one-quarter mile from Helm Place, is the Woolfolk House and the Bowman Cabin. The cabin, a single-pen log structure with half-dovetail notching, is situated behind the main house and faces southeast. There is a step-shouldered stone chimney on the south side and the exterior stair to the loft on the opposite end. The significant details of half-dovetail joinings of the logs and the outside staircase date this building in the late 1780's. The half-dovetail joining was characteristic of other log houses in this part of the state. The log house is also unique in that it contained a stone basement, which, in effect, created a three-story building (see photos).

The Woolfolk House, which faces northeast, is a two-story Federal brick house constructed between 1814 and 1820. A circa 1890, two-bay addition on the front and a Greek Revival porch alter the structure's original appearance. Built as a six-bay, L-shaped, single-pen structure, the major alterations occurred around the turn of the century. The original design was unusual in that the facade had two main doors. Each opened into a separate room. In the 1940's a Victorian cupola was removed and an ornate bay window was replaced with a fan light doorway. The Flemish bond brick pattern was used on the original facade; common bond elsewhere. The structure's foundation consists of cut and rough faced stone (see photos).

The ell which includes the dining room and kitchen, was originally one-story with the second floor and the gallery added later. Round wedge-shaped piers with a bannistered railing support the gallery. A similar pier sustains the roof, sheltering the door to the drawing room (see photos).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1790's, 1814-1820, 1811-1818 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the earliest areas of settlement in Kentucky and the beginnings of the city of Lexington are associated with the creek known as the Elkhorn. One particular family that was to figure prominently in the development of the county and the state was the Bowmans. They came first to the banks of the South Fork of the Elkhorn and played a significant role in the growth of the area. Architecturally, their houses display features typical of the period, containing exceptional woodwork, including chair railing, mantles, door and window trim.

There were four Bowman brothers that came to Kentucky from Virginia during the late 1700's. Colonel Abraham Bowman (1749-1837) purchased 8,000 acres of land southwest of Lexington, on the South Elkhorn in 1781. He had been commander of the 8th Virginia Regiment in the War of Independence, and was a representative from Fayette County under the first state constitution. In addition to his farming activities, Colonel Bowman also operated a mill which he constructed in an area near the location of the present Woolfolk House. The two-story, stone mill was destroyed during the early 1900's.

The first known structure connected with Abraham Bowman and his family, is a single-pen log structure¹. It is thought that this is where Colonel Bowman first settled after coming to Kentucky. Bowman and his wife, Sarah Henry Bryan, and their seven children, lived for a time near what was then known as the South Elkhorn Farm. The present structure on this farm, later renamed Helm Place, was built around the time of Abraham Bowman's death in 1837 (listed on the National Register of Historic Places, August 3, 1978).

Approximately one mile from Helm Place, sits the house of Colonel Bowman's son, Abraham Bowman, Jr. built around 1818. Abraham Jr. received this tract of land, which totaled approximately 327 acres, from his father. He married Nancy B. Gatewood in 1811, and the building of the Federal style house probably was initiated soon after. In 1904 the farm was owned by E. Corrigan, to whom the construction of the stone tower is attributed.

Sally Bowman, another child of Colonel Bowman, married Sowyel Woolfolk in 1814 and they built their home near the site of the stone mill. Constructed between 1814 and 1820, this structure is also basically Federal in style. Sowyel Woolfolk was an early member of the South Elkhorn Christian Church. The group which founded the church under Reverend Lewis Craig came to Kentucky in 1781 from Spottsylvania, Virginia. The Bowmans were also members of the church congregation and gave the land on which the church structure was built.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Lancaster, Clay. Antebellum Houses of the Bluegrass. Lexington, Kentucky. 1961.
- Wayland, John W. The Bowmans-A Pioneering Family in Virginia, Kentucky, and the Northwest. Staunton, Virginia.
- Information received of or supplemented by the owner.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Woolfolk House, 15 acres. Abraham Bowman Jr., House 9 acres.

QUADRANGLE NAME Lexington West

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| A | 1 6 | 7 1 0 6 2 0 | 4 2 1 0 0 8 0 | B | 1 6 | 7 1 0 7 4 0 | 4 2 1 0 0 2 0 |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | 1 6 | 7 1 0 8 2 0 | 4 2 0 9 8 8 0 | D | 1 6 | 7 1 0 7 6 0 | 4 2 0 9 7 4 0 |
| E | 1 6 | 7 1 0 5 4 0 | 4 2 1 0 0 0 0 | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Abraham Bowman Jr., House Beginning at a point A approximately 75 feet from the north corner of the main house, the boundary runs southeast approximately 500 feet to point B. The line turn south-southeast approximately 600 feet to point C on Bowman's Mill Road. The boundary line between point C and D (see Cont sheet)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jayne Henderson

April 1979

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

(502) 564-3741

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Edward W. Hunter

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 5-30-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol Shull

DATE 8-9-79

ATTEST: *Shirley J. Smith*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE Aug 7 79

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Bowman Houses

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

Abraham Bowman Jr. House

Mr. & Mrs. John A. Bell
1718 Alexandria Drive
Lexington, Kentucky

Woolfolk House, Bowman Cabin

Mr. & Mrs. Laban Jackson
2730 Bowman's Mill Road
Lexington, Kentucky

Helm Place (Previously listed on the National Register)

Mr. & Mrs. Joe H. Murphy, Jr.
Bowman's Mill Road
Lexington, Kentucky

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Bowman Houses

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The interior woodwork in the Woolfolk House includes ash floors and chair railing throughout (with the exceptions of additions). The original openings have six-panel doors, reeded door frames, bull's-eye corner blocks and paneled jambs. All mantelpieces are original (see photos).

In addition to the Bowman Cabin, other dependancies include a two-story brick smokehouse with diaperwork trim, and a double-pen barn of squared walnut logs with a breezeway between.

The boundary is drawn to include the house and outbuildings and surrounding acreage sufficient to define the visual and agricultural qualities for which the site is being nominated. The creek, because of its historic association with the house, serves as the western boundary. The line then follows fencing to the east and the Bowman's Mill Road to the north comprising the "yard" of the house and extends to the south (rear) to include the outbuildings.

The Abraham Bowman, Jr. House, approximately one-half mile north of the Woolfolk House, sits on a slight hill and faces southeast. Constructed between 1811 and 1818, the house is a two-story, five-bay structure, perhaps originally similar in form to the Woolfolk House. The ell is graduated from two to one story and has a brick addition in the angle. Three shed-style porches, one on the facade and one on each side of the ell, are also later additions.

Utilizing a square central-hall plan, the interior of the house is unaltered. The woodwork is walnut and all the floors are ash. The molding around the door and window openings include reeded frames, bull's-eye corner blocks, paneled doors and jambs. The mantelpiece in the parlor has a large square opening with broken shelf, paneled end blocks above two fluted colonettes, a paneled center tablet floating above the moldings and layered high relief moldings between the frieze and shelf (see photos).

Two outbuildings are included in the nomination. A castellated stone water tower, situated about one hundred feet to the right of the main house, was built between 1902 and 1909. Another structure, thought to have been a carriage house, is located to the left and rear of the house. It has been remodeled for use as a guest house (see photos).

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Bowman Houses

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

The boundary is drawn to include the house, water tower and the surrounding land which is important to the visual setting and the agricultural nature of the nomination. The boundary follows fencing to the rear and sides of the house and extends to Bowman's Mill Road, all of which presently comprises the "yard" of the farm.

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Bowman Houses

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Each of these structures is basically Federal in style. While many of the architectural details are reproductive of East Coast styles many Kentucky builders showed a flair and exuberance of craftsmanship, which produced many unique interior features. For example, it is surmised that one builder may have been responsible for building both of the brick homes yet, each has very distinct mantelpieces. They show a simplicity that is typical of the Federal style, and still, the addition of reeded insets, beading, paneled blocks and plinth bases, makes each unique. There are similarities and differences in the homes much like the families who lived in them.

¹ This structure is located behind the Woolfolk House, (see Fa-305).

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Bowman Houses

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Abraham Bowman Jr., House

runs along Bowman's Mill Road southwest, approximately 500 feet. At point D the line turns northwest approximately 1,100 feet to point E. The closing boundary line runs northeast approximately 300 feet back to point A.

The Woolfolk House

Beginning at point a on Bowman's Mill Road the boundary runs southeast along Bowman's Mill Rd. approx 800'. The line then turns southwest approximately 1,000 feet to point c. It turns northwest approximately 600 feet to point d. The closing boundary runs northeast along a fork of Elkhorn Creek back to point a.

Additional UTM References

a/16/711000/4208880

b/16/711160/4208780

c/16/711000/4208560

d/16/710880/4208640

Bowman Houses
(Woolfolk House)
Fayette County
Kentucky

AUG 9 1979

Jayne C. Henderson
Kentucky Heritage Commission
Frankfort, Kentucky
May, 1979

- A. Woolfolk House
- B. Bowman Cabin
- C. double pen log barn
- D. smoke house

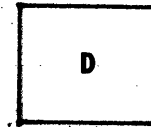
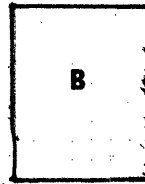
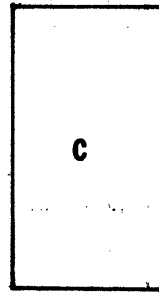


Diagram 1
Not to scale JUN 6 1979

