

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 24 1977

DATE ENTERED AUG 12 1977

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

Vinewood (Benjamin B. Groom Farm)

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4 mi NE of Winchester on US 60

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Winchester

VICINITY OF

06

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Clark

CODE

049

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Henry C. Besuden

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Mt. Sterling Pike

CITY, TOWN

Winchester

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clark County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Winchester

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Situated on State Route 60 east of Winchester, Kentucky, Vinewood is a two-story brick Italianate villa that is distinguished by a Tuscan tower on its southeast corner. The apparent complexity of the massing and fenestration of Vinewood assume a comprehensible order when the building is described as a symmetrical three-bay, double-pile house which encloses in plan four rooms around an L-shaped stair hall. To this basic traditional form, retained by a provincial interpreter of Italianate architecture, were added the tower, an octagonal bay, porches and auxiliary masses which melt into the strongly irregular, organic sense that the house projects. Vinewood is fortunate to have survived today in excellent and near-original condition.

The house is constructed of Flemish bond brickwork on the south, or principal facade, and of five-course American bond on all other facades. Functioning as additional emphasis for the entrance facade, rusticated sandstone faces the raised basement. Additionally, sandstone moldings are used for the sill line courses, beltcourses, and lintels on the south wall. On all other facades, advanced and painted courses of brick provide the horizontal punctuation of the sill lines and beltcourses, while wooden lintels suffice over the doors and windows. All cornice lines of Vinewood are heavily emphasized with wood moldings and brackets, and with intermediate panels of recessed brick. The bracket designs range from the exaggerated cymas which are used on the south cornice and around the central pediment to the stiffly-stylized triangles which finish the less-scrutinized cornice line of the tower.

There are three porches at Vinewood, all of which are original. Shading the three bays of the principal facade, the bracketed front porch tends to emphasize the conservative symmetrical core of Vinewood. The porte-cochere on the east wall is supported by austere brick piers and is almost devoid of decoration. Finally, the two-story recessed porch within the northwest corner of the house completes the near-square of the Vinewood double pile.

The complex roof structure, a combination of gables and hips, retains the original slate shingles. The four principal chimneys^s serving the four rooms of the main double pile, are each constructed of three individual stacks which are engaged at the base and cap. Located on the north slope of the tower roof is a fifth set of engaged stacks. Functional single stacks are located on the lesser kitchen pile, which projects from the plane of the north facade.

All windows have their original six-over-six elongated double-hung sash. The main entrance is emphasized by a heavily molded surround of the period and with stock

(continued)

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 checked="" 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 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 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 c. 1861

BUILDER/ARCHITECT attributed to Major Thomas Lewinski

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on the eastern rim of the Bluegrass, Vinewood originally presided over one of the large stockfarms for which the region is so famous. Clark County in particular was noted in the nineteenth century for its fine cattle herds, for the importing and developing of the Shorthorn breed which, after considerable debate and controversy, came to be accepted as the variety most suitable for the area. Benjamin Groom, for whom Vinewood was built, was one of those engaged in the breeding of the popular Shorthorn. The house survives as an excellent provincial but sensitive interpretation of Italianate domestic architecture.

The design of Vinewood has been persuasively attributed by Bettye Lee Mastin to Major Thomas Lewinski, prominent mid-19th-century Lexington architect, largely on the basis of similarities to White Hall (The Cassius Marcellus Clay House; listed on the National Register March 11, 1971), near Richmond, south of Winchester. Although the composition is an unusual one, with symmetrical blocks arranged asymmetrically, it effectively crowns the elevated site. The house has exceptional craftsmanship, both inside and out, particularly the fine brickwork and unusual amount of fine-grained stone trim. Lavish interior woodwork, dramatic spaces, and colored glass panels contribute to the distinction of the house, which is set among rolling fields with interesting nearby outbuildings.

The history of Kentucky as a producer of blooded cattle has its origin in England and the advances made there during the 18th century in the breeding of cattle which promoted building up of fine herds (Rice, p. 35). The first significant importing of English cattle to the United States was by General H. D. Gough of Maryland in 1783. One of the purchasers of one of Gough's stock was Matthew Patton, also of Maryland, who emigrated to Clark County, Kentucky, in 1790, bringing selected cows with him. The first Kentucky breeder to import English cattle was Lewis Sanders in 1817. (For more information see "Grass Hills," in Carroll County placed on the National Register August 22, 1975.) The Patton stock, along with the Shorthorn, Longhorn, and Hereford importations by Sanders, Henry Clay and others, laid the basis for an improved cattle industry in the Bluegrass (Rice, p. 38).

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Jessamine, and Woodford Counties, Kentucky.
Philadelphia: D. G. Beers & Co., 1877, p. 32.

Collins, Lewis and Richard. History of Kentucky. Volume II. Louisville: John P. Morton & Co., 1874, pp. 129-130.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 | 752420²¹⁰ | 4213210⁴²⁰
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] | [] | []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Nominated area includes the approach to the house, house site and the coach house 20 yards to the northeast.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gloria Mills, Historian and Camille Wells, Architectural Historian WEL

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

December 1976

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

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

Clared W. Melton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

1/14/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Charles [Signature]*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/12/77
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8.11.77

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Vinewood (Benjamin B. Groom Farm)

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

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Italianate double doors. The most unusual opening of the house are the four sets of paired Italianate windows which make the Tuscan tower at Vinewood such an exceptional stylistic asset. Each pair of arched windows is separated by a Corinthian pilaster which balances a circular window. This entire group is surmounted by a molded sandstone arch.

The interior details of Vinewood share the common feature of large and elongated scale. Excepting the mahogany staircase, all of the interior woodwork is painted and grained. All interior doors are six-panel, raised-panel; the two top panels of all the doors on the first floor hold original stained glass. The central hallway is divided at the turn of the L by an elaborately-carved decorative arch which is also painted and grained. In the parlor, the southwest room of the double pile, the octagonal bay is set off by a pair of fluted Corinthian columns. The outstanding feature of the Vinewood interior is the quadruple-run, open-string staircase of deeply carved mahogany with an elaborate octagonal newel post. The stairwell is lit by an original stained-glass skylight.

All mantels are of the Italianate period. Those on the main floor are marble, while those in secondary rooms are iron cast in the same arched design.

Surviving as the only original outbuilding at Vinewood is the three-bay brick carriage house which, with its wooden lintels and advanced central bay, echoes the principal three bays and central pediment of the south facade of the residence itself. The arched center window on the second floor is original, but the two arched doorways on the ground level appear to be later alterations.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The years after 1817 witnessed careful experimentation by central Kentucky cattle raisers to determine which breeds were best for the area. By 1821, however, Shorthorns proved the unanimous choice. Importations continued throughout the first half of the 19th century, contributing heavily to making Kentucky a supply center of fine cattle for other southern and western states. States one writer on the period:

On the eve of the Civil War, Kentucky was a leader in the importation and improvement of fine cattle, particularly the Shorthorn Durham. This position... was achieved in a somewhat spasmodic manner, but by 1860 there was a feeling that the cattle produced in Kentucky were hard to surpass, not only in the United States, but in England as well. The foundations which were laid in the antebellum years were important in giving to Kentucky the high place which she held in the beef and dairy industries" (Rice, p. 47).

One of Clark County's most widely known breeders of the Shorthorn cattle during the mid-1800s was Colonel Benjamin B. Groom, whose success in the cattle business can be seen in the large 19-room Victorian mansion he built for himself around 1861 at the center of his farm. Groom encountered financial difficulties after the Civil War, however, and during the panic of 1875 was forced to sell the farm to the Prewitt family. Groom subsequently moved to Texas where he became the manager of the Franklyn Land Cattle Company. The town of Groomtown, Texas, is said to have been named for him.

In the late 19th century, the 632-acre farm came into the possession of the Besuden family, who in the twentieth century became well-known as breeders of Southdown sheep. The present owner continues in that tradition.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

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November 1971, p. 4.

Lancaster, Clay. Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass. Lexington: University
of Kentucky Press, 1961, p. 132.

Mastin, Bettye Lee. "Henry Besuden: A Legend in His Own Day." (Lexington)
Herald-Leader, December 5, 1971, p. 102.

Rice, Otis K. "Importations of Cattle Into Kentucky, 1785-1860." Register of the
Kentucky Historical Society, Volume 49 (1951), pp. 35-47.

Troutman, Richard Laverne. "Stock Raising in the Ante Bellum Bluegrass." The
Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, Volume 55 (1957), pp. 15-28.



M.D.H.

3

STRODES VALLEY
Stock Farm
T. Goff Jr.
387 a

PLEASANT HILL
Stock Farm
E.P. Bean
367 a

Stock Farm
250 a
T.J. Snyder
S & G Mill

GLENDALE
Stock Farm
Mrs. A.W. Bean
411 a

J.H. Bean
Stock Farm
184 a

Stock Farm
J.D. Guy
1185 a

D.A. Gay
Stock Farm
Sulphur Well

HIGHLAND
COTTAGE
Stock Farm
800 a

BELLEFONTE
C. Swift
Stock Farm
1050 a

Stock Farm
Mrs. S.A. Sudduth
135 a

Stock Farm
J.E. Sudduth
303 a

STONER FARM
W.R. Sphar
625 a

MAPLE COTTAGE
Stock Farm
H. Hunt
315 a

Stock Farm
W.R. Sphar
700 a

VINEWOOD
Stock Farm
B.B. Groom
1050 a

DEER LAWN
Stock Farm
D.W. Miller
675 a

SPRING HILL
Stock Farm
W.L. Sudduth
64 a

Stock Farm
H.E. Judy
450 a

SKINNERS MILLS
Stock Farm
H.B. Groom
240 a

Stock Farm
I.N. Wynn
355 a

OAKRIDGE
Stock Farm
J.W. Bean
404 a

Stock Farm
H.F. Judy
212 a

SUNNY SI
Stock Farm
Mrs. I.C. Skinner
250 a

ATHLONE
Stock Farm
Mrs. Robinson
84 a

WILKINSON
Stock Farm
Mrs. Hart
100 a

CAVE HILL
Stock Farm
C.B. Ecton
500 a

Stock Farm
P.L. Skinner
175 a

Stock Farm
J.W. Wills
89 a

WILKINSON
Stock Farm
J.T. Hart
89 a

LITTLE
Mrs. Perkins
1615

Stock Farm
Mrs. E. Ramsey
350

Stock Farm
J.M. Tanner
1597

WILKINSON
Stock Farm
J.W. Hart
89 a

CLARK
E. Watts
1615

Stock Farm
Mrs. E. Ramsey
350

Stock Farm
J. Looklane
1597

WILKINSON
Stock Farm
J.W. Hart
89 a

CLARK
J.M. Tanner
1615

Stock Farm
Mrs. E. Ramsey
350

Stock Farm
J. Aldridge
1597

WILKINSON
Stock Farm
J.W. Hart
89 a

CLARK
Mrs. Franklin
1615

Stock Farm
Mrs. E. Ramsey
350

Stock Farm
D. Ecton
1597

WILKINSON
Stock Farm
J.W. Hart
89 a

CLARK
Mrs. Cooper
1615

Stock Farm
Mrs. E. Ramsey
350

Vinewood (Benjamin B. Groom Farm)
Winchester vicinity
Clark County
Kentucky

Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette,
Jessamine and Woodford Counties,
Kentucky. Philadelphia: D. G.
Beers and Co., 1877.

1 1/4" = 1 mile

Map 2. Vinewood underlined in
red.

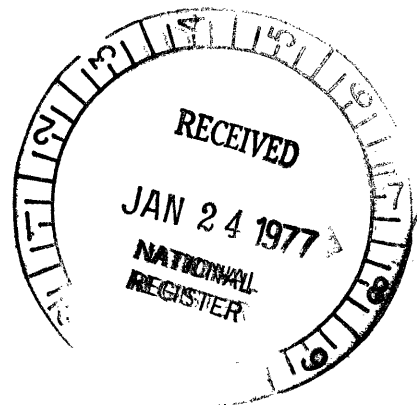
JAN 24 1977

AUG 12 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



"VINKWOOD"—HOME OF J. H. BESUDEN, FOUR MILES NORTHEAST OF WINCHESTER.



Vinewood (Benjamin B. Groom
Farm)
Winchester vicinity
Clark County, Kentucky

JAN 24 1977

From Hand-Book of Clark County
and the City of Winchester, Kentucky
by W. M. Beckner, Chicago: The
Arkansaw Traveler Publishing Co.,
1889, later published with the

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Photo 1.

AUG 12 1977

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