



SURVEY FORM

Historic name Brownsville Common name Broadlawn; Folly Castle
 County/Town/City Prince William County
 Street address or route number 7249 Pageland Lane, Gainesville, Va.
 GS Quad Gainesville Date or period c1899 (an earlier foundation)
 Original owner George N. Brown, William M. Lewis Architect/builder/craftsmen
 Original use Residence
 Present owner Maxriott Corp. Source of name
 Present owner address 5161 River Rd., Source of date Architectural evidence; local histories.
Washington, D. C. 20016 Stories 2 stories
 Present use Residence Foundation and wall const'n Stone foundation; frame wall
 Acreage c86 acres construction.

Roof type Metal-covered hip roof.

Present condition of structure and environs House and grounds are in good condition.

State potential threats to structure
 State any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes ___ no ___

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

The main house is a hip-roofed, five-bays long frame structure with a giant portico across two-thirds of the front, a two-story screened porch across the rear, and two massive brick end chimneys. The double pent chimney on the southwest end measures 9 feet across and may be part of the earlier, burned Brown house. That chimney allegedly contained bricks imported from England and had pent windows at both the first and second levels. The single chimney at the house's opposite end has two corner fireplaces on each floor. There is a low, gable-roofed, frame-constructed addition on the northeast end containing the kitchen and utility room. The whole exterior is clad with wide wooden siding, painted white. The great portico is supported by large square columns and has a stone floor and steps. There is a moulded cornice and a roofline. The 8/8 sliding sash windows are surrounded by wide box trim and are shuttered. The shutters are both the paneled and louvered kind. The eight-panel, moulded-panel front door (reproduction?) has a heavy brass box lock and is surmounted by an elliptical fan light arch. The shutters contain four panes each. The open-string single-flight stair rises opposite the front entrance. It has a heavy, turned, walnut newel with a flattened knob finial; a mahogany rail having a flattened circular profile; and slender, turned balusters.* Beneath the stair there is paneling. The hall has a moulded chairrail, baseboards, and crown moulding. There are french doors from the hall to the living room and dining room on either side.

The floors throughout are of medium-width to wide yellow pine. The door and window trim have wide architrave moulding. The interior doors are six-panel reproduction doors with mortice locks and brass knobs. (Continued next page)

Note: Rail has unused baluster bores and may have been reused.

Interior inspected? Yes

Historical significance (Chain of title; individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

Broadlawn is also known as Brownsville and Folly Castle. The latter was a nickname applied by a disapproving relative of the mid-19th century owners, the William Lewis family. The present house is reportedly a late 19th or early 20th century dwelling built in part on the foundations, and using at least one of the old stone chimneys, of an earlier house which burned in 1899.

The historic boundaries of the property are part of Mann Page III's share of Robert "King" Carter's Bull Run Tract, and part of a tract of 255 acres granted on Young's Branch (Bull Lick Run) to John Young. According to one source, in 1769, Young sold to George N. Brown 230 acres of his grant, and in 1787 Mann Page III sold to Brown 222 adjoining acres. It is believed that Brown built a 1 1/2-story house on the property. In 1818, Bernard Hooe bought the property from the Browns, and the estate after Hooe's death was included with Hazel Plain to the east. In 1835, William M. Lewis purchased the property from William H. Fowle and enlarged the then-existing house on the property, supposed to have been built by George N. Brown.

The house was located between the lines of the Union and Confederate forces during the Second Battle of Manassas. As were most of the houses in this area, Broadlawn was used as a hospital after both battles of Manassas.

In 1864 [?], the property was purchased by John T. or [J. Thomas] Leachman, a son-in-law of William Lewis. Upon Leachman's death in 1915, the property was sold to J. E. Coverstone, who owned it at least until 1936-37, though he rented it. (Continued next page)

CONTINUATION SHEET
BROWNSVILLE

Architectural Description (continued)

The mantel in the dining room has a moulded shelf with bed mouldings, and dentils, supported by plain jambs, and having a plain frieze, and a rectangular surround framed with architrave trim. The hearth and firebox are brick. The dining room has moulded chairrail similar to that in the hall and a crown moulding. The living room, which measures 26½ feet by 27 feet, may actually once have been divided into two rooms, as the present tenant claims. The mantel has an ornately shaped and moulded shelf, bed mouldings, a garlanded frieze, fluted jambs, and an architrave surround. This room has a crown moulding but no chairrail. Behind the dining room is a small study having a mantel similar to that in the dining room.

The basement contains remnants of earlier red sandstone foundations, while the more recently-built foundation walls are built of gray stone and cement.

The grounds surrounding the house contain several old trees, including some large magnolias and hollies; an apparently old pear tree; and some boxwoods. The barn beside the house was probably built in the early 20th century. Behind the house is a frame barn converted from a carriage house.

The house rests on a slight rise on the west side of Pageland Lane, overlooking I-66. The property, once the new acreage for the expanded Manassas Battlefield Park is added, will almost abut the Park. This property was proposed for creation of a theme park in about 1975 by its owners, Marriott Corp., but plans were abandoned as a result of local public resistance to the plan. The property is now for sale.

Historical Significance (continued)

In 1885, the French artist Louis [or Leopold] Kowalsky, while painting the renowned "Panorama of the Second Battle of Bull Run," stayed at Brownsville for about 6 months. Kowalsky also painted the picture of Brownsville which appears in R. J. Ratcliffe's This Was Prince William. Engravings exist of the famous panorama; and the original painting was on view for many years in a building located at 15th and Ohio Streets, in Washington, D. C., but the present whereabouts of the painting are unknown.

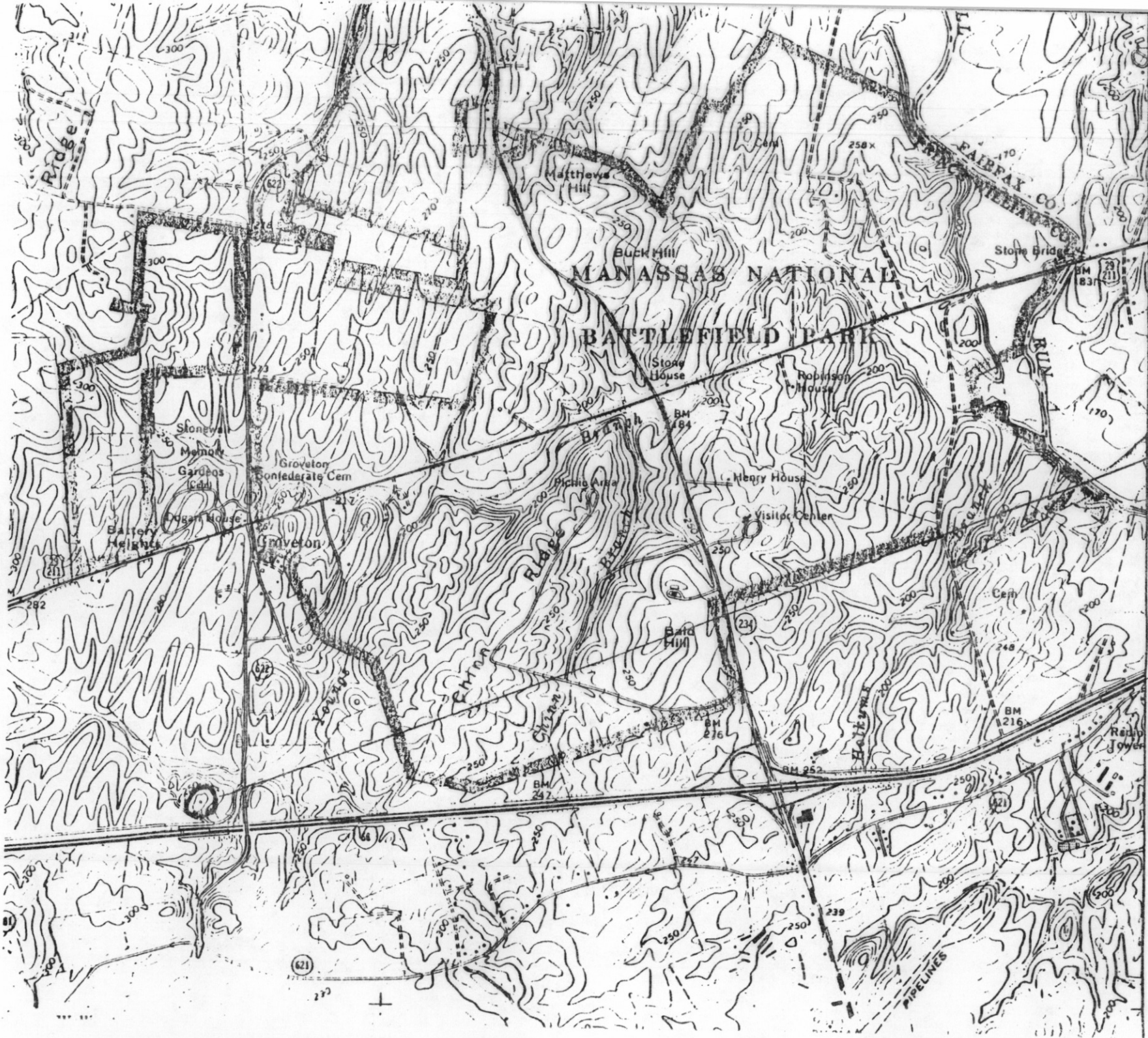
In 1899, fire destroyed all but the foundation and chimney(s) of the house at Broadlawn, or Brownsville, built by Brown and enlarged by Lewis. The replacement house appears to have been built along the same plan of the earlier Lewis house, which was described as having a high-ceilinged central hall plan with porches both back and front. At the time the house was burned, according to the WPA report, it had 15 rooms, including the basement.

According to the same report, there was 1936 an old pear tree on the property, said to have been imported with several others from England by Mr. Brown. It is not known whether the pear tree in the yard is the same tree.

In 1936, there was a family cemetery on the property containing a number of graves of the Brown family, having no inscribed stones but only fieldstone markers, reportedly in an open field. This cemetery may have been destroyed. In the years after the Civil War it was reportedly surrounded by trees and shrubs.

The present owners purchased the property in about 1973, intending to create there an amusement park, and had the zoning changed to commercial. In 1977, probably as a result of local opposition to Marriott's proposal, the County Board of Supervisors rezoned the property from commercial to agricultural, thus preventing the building of the controversial theme park.

The property is now being offered for sale.



50'
4301
CENTREVILLE 4 MI.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 28 MI.
(MANASSAS)
556 1 IV SW
3.5 MI. TO U.S. 29 & 211
16 MI. TO INTERSTATE 495
47'30"

BROADLAWN
76-216
(AKA Brownsville)

Gaineville
Quad.

References and bibliography

Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.) WPA, Writers Program, Prince William, The History of Its People and Its Places (c1941), p.165. Hanson, Joseph Mills, Bull Run Remembers, pp. 162-164, 82. Ratcliffe, R.J., This Was Prince William (c1948), p. 121.

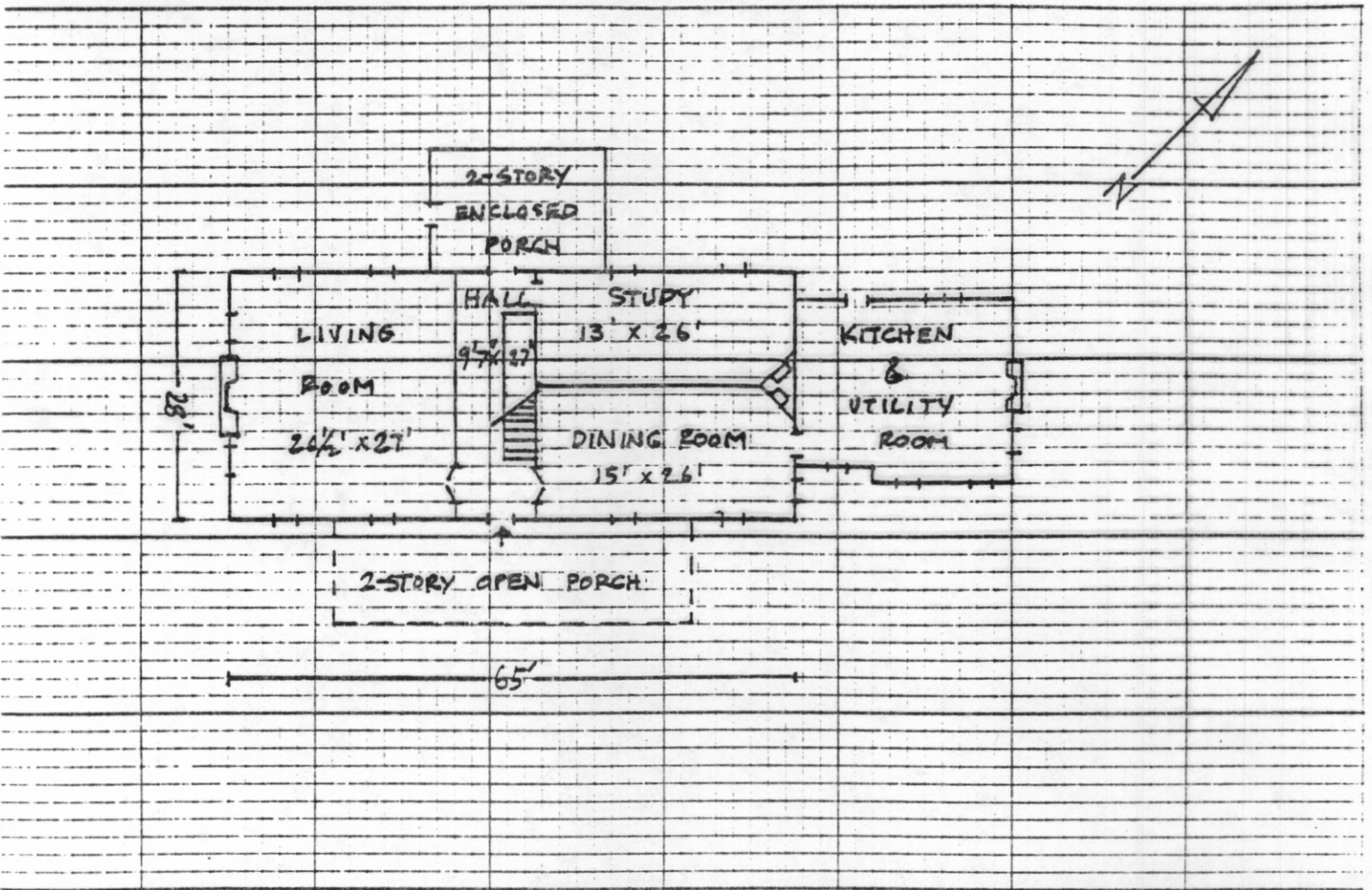
Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

See Map of the Battlefield of Manassas, plate III, map 2, in Official Civil War Atlas. See engraving of panorama in Battlefield Park Museum.

Names and addresses of persons interviewed

Mrs. Joan Jones, tenant.

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)



Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)

