



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-295
Negative no(s). 4921

SURVEY FORM

Historic name Brentsville Union Church	Common name AKA Brentsville Pentecostal Church
County/Town/City Brentsville, Prince William County	
Street address or route number vic. 12249 Bristow Road, Bristow, VA 22013	

USGS Quad Nokesville	Date or period c1875
Original owner Trustees of Brentsville Union Church	Architect/builder/craftsmen
Original use Church	Church
Present owner Trustees of Pentecostal Church	Source of name
Present owner address Unknown-see P.W.C. Park	Source of date Architectural evidence
Authority, 12249 Bristow Road	Stories 1 story
Present use Not in use	Foundation and wall const'n stone foundation; frame walls.
Acreage c.5 acre	Roof type Metal-covered gable roof.

State condition of structure and environs **Building and grounds in poor condition.**

State potential threats to structure **Neglect, lack of maintenance, vandalism.**

Note 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.)

Brentsville Union, Pentecostal, Church is located on a 50' x 50' part of the "old tavern lot," a 3-acre parcel set aside when the town of Brentsville was laid out in 1820.

The 22' x 34' wooden frame church rests on a stone foundation. It is covered in 5 1/2-inch lap weatherboards previously painted white, and has a moulded cornice, a plain wide frieze, cornerboards, and gable returns. Atop the roof is a frame-built gable roofed-belfry having bracketed corners but possibly having lost some of its ornamentation. The large 2/2 sliding sash windows across the front and along each side have bracketed hoods and are flanked by green-painted shutters. The front entrance likewise has a moulded, bracketed cornice, or hood on brackets. The double door has two moulded panels per door, the upper panel with a circular arch. There is a three-light overhead above the door. The door has mortice locks, a metal knob and metal faceplate.

Inside is a large, high-ceilinged room with plaster walls painted blue-green and wide, plain, box trim with a single bead, painted brown. Four drop light fixtures hang from the ceiling. There is a hole in the east wall for a stovepipe. The wide baseboards show the former locations of the pews which have all been removed. Some, if not all, (14 total) of the brown-painted, crudely-made, simply-decorated pews are piled onto the 8 1/2-foot wide platform at the rear. The remains of an old, 3-foot-high, 14-foot-long moulded rail with a square, moulded post and turned balusters are stored at the front of the church. The floors are rather wide tongue-and-groove pine, needing some repair. The plaster walls are cracked as is the ceiling. Some of the floor joists may be damaged. Some of the window panes are missing.

This is one of the most interesting late-19th century churches in Prince William County: It has most of the early architectural and exterior decorative features intact. It is located

Interior inspected? **Yes.** (Continued)

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

The history of the founding of this church parallels the history of the original tract from which the town of Brentsville was formed. Brentsville is situated on the eastern corner of a 30,000-acre tract granted in 1686-87 by England's James II to George Brent, Richard Foote, Robert Bristow, and Nicholas Hayward. The grant was designated as a religious haven for people of all faiths. Brentsville Union Church, established almost 300 years after the Brent Town tract was granted, was founded as a church to be used by different religious denominations.

In 1871, George M. Goodwin sold to the trustees* of Union Church in Brentsville the 50'x50'

Brentsville Union, Pentecostal, Church is located on a 3-acre parcel of the lot," a 3-acre parcel set aside when the town of Brentsville was laid out in 1820.

The 22' x 34' wooden frame church rests on a stone foundation. It is covered in 5½-inch lap weatherboards previously painted white, and has a moulded cornice, a plain wide frieze, cornerboards, and gable returns. Atop the roof is a frame-built gable roofed-belfry having bracketed corners but possibly having lost some of its ornamentation. The large 2/2 sliding sash windows across the front and along each side have bracketed hoods and are flanked by green-painted shutters. The front entrance likewise has a moulded, bracketed cornice, or hood on brackets. The double door has two moulded panels per door, the upper panel with a circular arch. There is a three-light overhead above the door. The door has mortice locks, a metal knob and metal faceplate.

Inside is a large, high-ceilinged room with plaster walls painted blue-green and wide, plain, box trim with a single bead, painted brown. Four drop light fixtures hang from the ceiling. There is a hole in the east wall for a stovepipe. The wide baseboards show the former locations of the pews which have all been removed. Some, if not all, (14 total) of the brown-painted, crudely-made, simply-decorated pews are piled onto the 8½-foot wide platform at the rear. The remains of an old, 3-foot-high, 14-foot-long moulded rail with a square, moulded post and turned balusters are stored at the front of the church. The floors are rather wide tongue-and-groove pine, needing some repair. The plaster walls are cracked as is the ceiling. Some of the floor joists may be damaged. Some of the window panes are missing.

This is one of the most interesting late-19th century churches in Prince William County: It has most of the early architectural and exterior decorative features intact. It is located

(Continued)

Interior inspected? Yes.

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

The history of the founding of this church parallels the history of the original tract from which the town of Brentsville was formed. Brentsville is situated on the eastern corner of a 30,000-acre tract granted in 1686-87 by England's James II to George Brent, Richard Foote, Robert Bristow, and Nicholas Hayward. The grant was designated as a religious haven for people of all faiths. Brentsville Union Church, established almost 300 years after the Brent Town tract was granted, was founded as a church to be used by different religious denominations.

In 1871, George M. Goodwin sold to the trustees* of Union Church in Brentsville the 50'x50 part of the old tavern lot for the erection of a church "for the use of the Congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church south, the Presbyterian Episcopalian, the New and both branches of the old school Baptist Churches, worshipping at Brentsville." (Deed ref. book 48, p. 472, Prince William County Courthouse.)

* Trustees of the Brentsville Union Church were Aylett Nicol, Austin B. Weedon, A.M. Herschey, James F. Clarke, J.B. Reid, and George W. Saxsmith.

ARCHITECTURE (Cont.)

BRENTSVILLE UNION CHURCH
(Cont.)

in a town that also retains much of its historical and aesthetic qualities. The Park Authority is in the process of acquiring the church for inclusion in its historical recreational area.

The grounds need some work, and the building should be made weather and vandal-safe.

Sources and bibliography

Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)

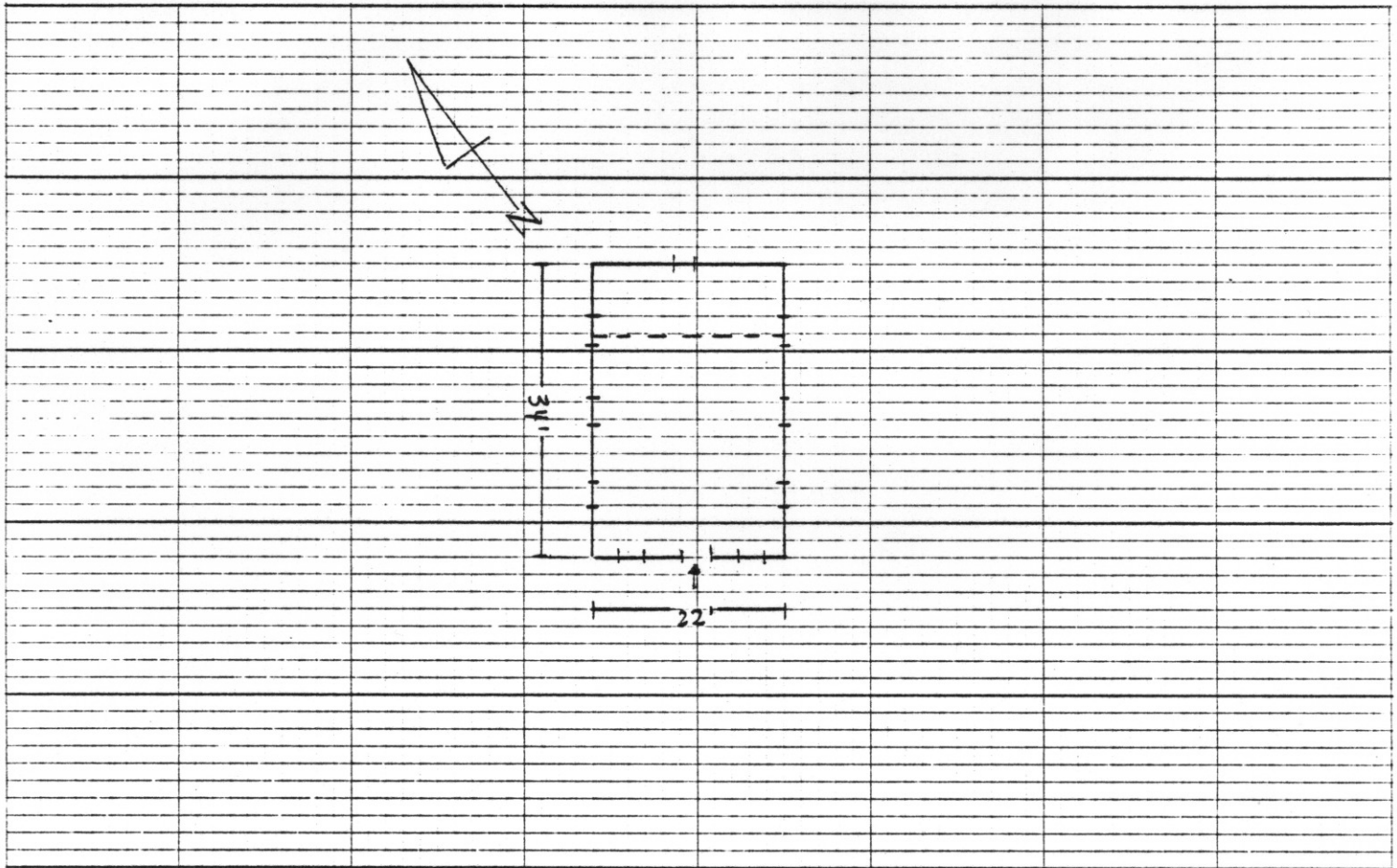
Ratcliffe, R.J., This Was Prince William (c1978), pp. 73-74.

W.P.A., Writer's Project, Prince William, the Story of Its People and Its Places (c1941), pp. 16-22; 112-114.

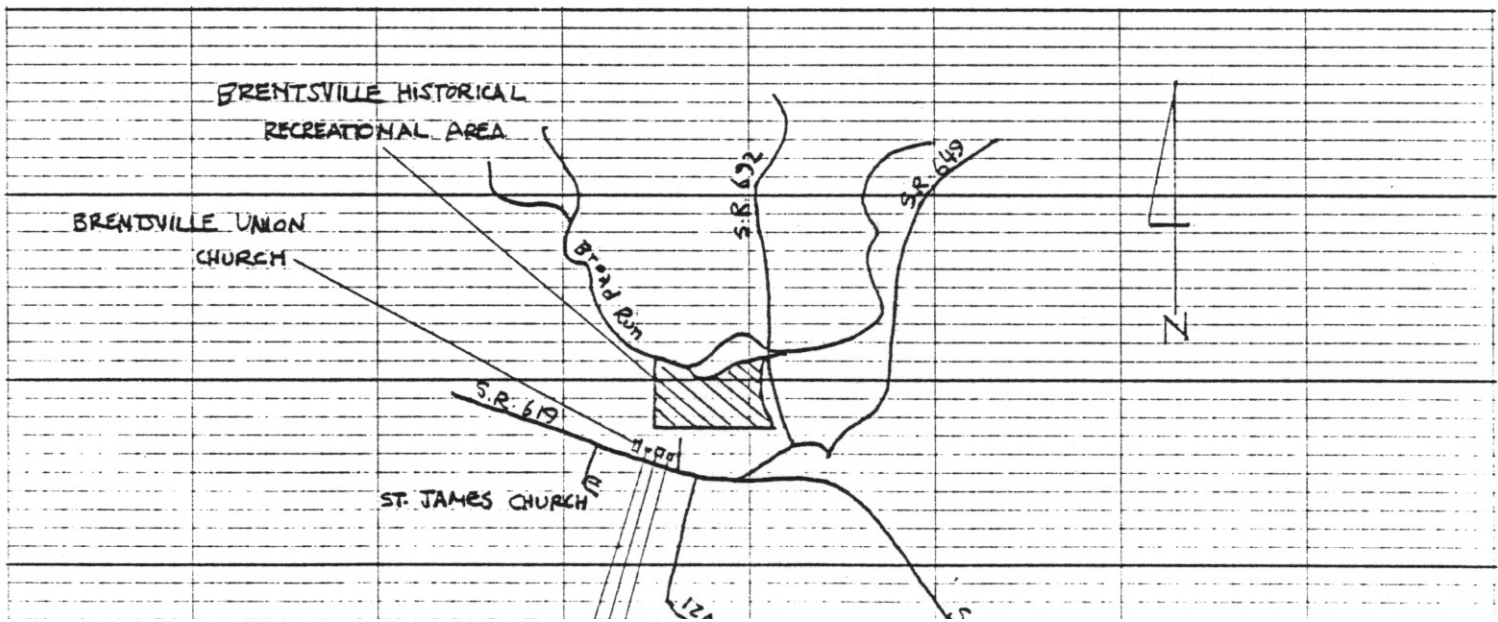
Deed Ref. - Deed book 48, p. 472, in Prince William County Courthouse.

Names and addresses of persons interviewed

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

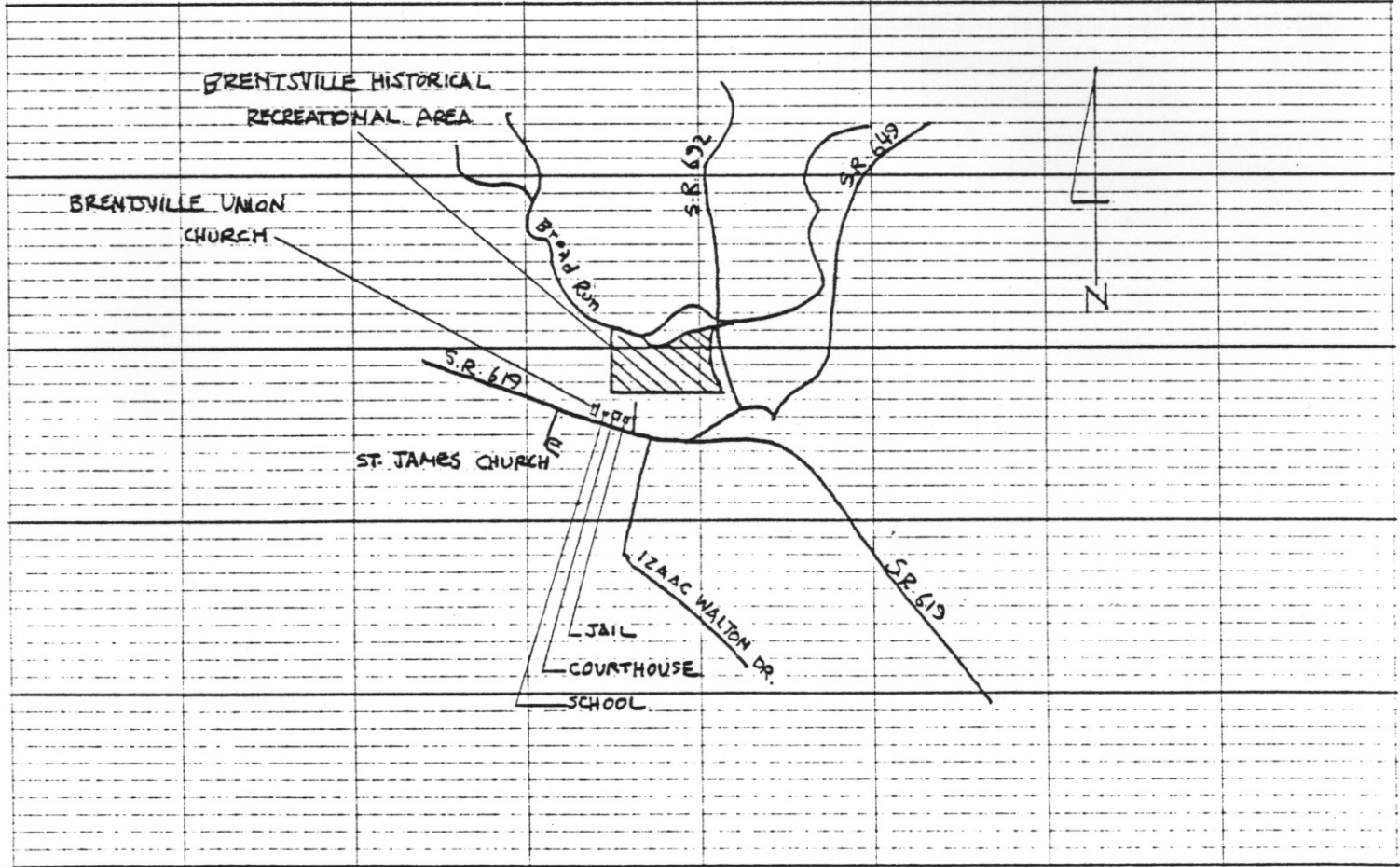


Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



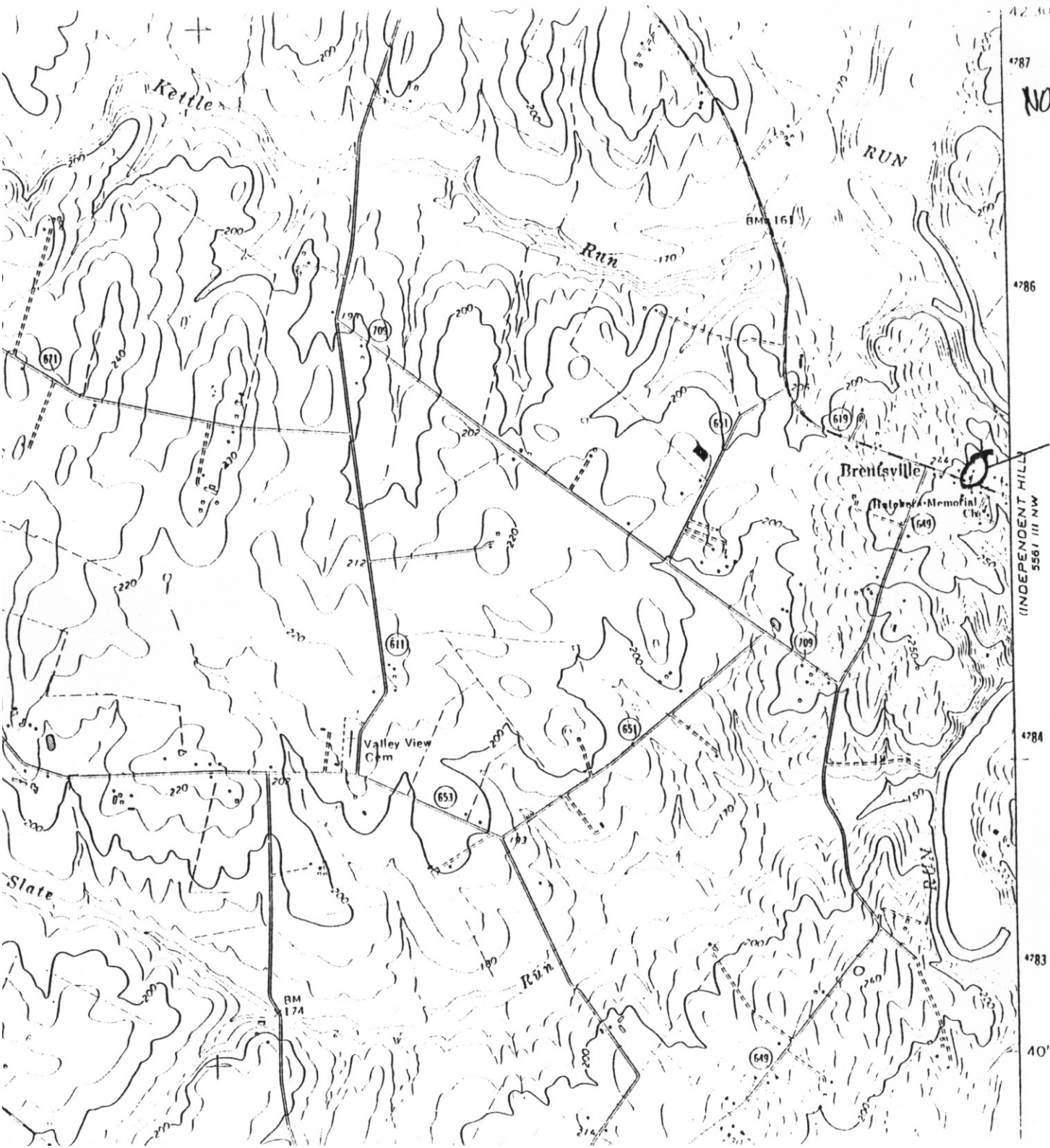
22'

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



Name, address and title of recorder **Frances Jones, Architectural**
Historian - Surveyor, NWDC

Date **JUN** 1980



42.30

4287

4286

4284

4283

40'

INDEPENDENT HILL
5561 III NW

NOKESVILLE
QUAD,

BRENTSVILLE
UNION CHURCH

76-295

