

## VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

76-308 File no. Negative no(s). 5179

SURVEY FORM

Bradley School House Historic name

County/Town/City Prince William County

Street address or route number 9209 Brentsville Rd., Brentsville, Va. USGS Quad Independent Hill Date or period c1872

Original owner Trustees of Manassas Sch. DistArchitect/builder/craftsmen

Original use Public Free School

Present owner Patrick Bradley & Patricia/ Present owner address c/o Robert Givson

P. O. Box 1587 Present use Resid. Athens, Ga. 30603

Acreage 1.04 acres.

Holland Source of name

Common name

Source of date Deed; architectural evidence.

Stories 1 story

Foundation and wall const'n Stone & brick foundation,

frame wall construction.

Roof type Metal-covered gable roof.

State condition of structure and environs Building and grounds are in fair condition.

State potential threats to structure Lack of maintenance. 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.)

This small, frame, one-story weatherboarded structure is built in the style of a typical one-room schoolhouse. There is a one-story, shed-roofed, open porch spanning the front or south facade. The main structure is three bays long. There is a 12'x16' addition to the rear.

There is a 12'x12' frame-built shed south of the old school building.

Directly across Bradley Forest Road (formerly Sinclair Mill Road) is a small, late 19th century frame church, constructed on land also given by Mr. & Mrs. Jones.

Interior inspected?

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

In 1871, Thomas and Martha Jones donated 1 acre of their land at the junction of the Brentsville Road and the proposed Sinclair Mill Road to John D. Leachman, John H. Butler, and George C. Round, School Trustees of the School District of Manassas, for the purpose of erecting there a public free school (for whites). According to the deed, the School Trustees were to build a fence between the schoolhouse lot and Jones' land. The school was to have the use of a spring in the adjacent lot.

The Public School System was established in Virginia in 1869. The County's first school superintendent was William Willis Thornton, a resident of the Brentsville area in which Bradley School is located. Bradley was propably one of the first schools to be built under the new law. It is one of the few remaining one-room schools in the County.

During the 1930s, the County School Board began to replace the old one and two-room schools with a central system. In 1936, the Bradley School property was sold to Mrs. Hannah Florence Limstrong O'Callaghan, who purchased the property at auction for \$200.00. In 1978, Mrs. O'Callaghan died, leaving the property to her grandchildren, the present owners.

Sources and bibliography
Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)
W.P.A., Writers Project, Prince William, the Story of Its People and Its Places (c1941, 1964),
pp. 64-67.

Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.) Deeds, plat in Prince William County Courthouse.

Names and addresses of persons interviewed E. R. Conner, III, Manassas Museum.





