

Prince William County, Virginia

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## Brentsville Earns Underground Railroad Honor

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PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA . . . Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre was recently awarded the designation of being part of the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (UGRRNTF). This designation recognizes the role Brentsville played in the tragic experience of slavery, and assists in the interpretation of this part of Brentsville's and Prince William County's history. Many injustices of slavery occurred at Brentsville while it served as the County seat before the Civil War. The nomination recounted various stories about runaway slaves, the punishment or execution of slaves and court trials that involved enslaved African Americans.

The UGRRNTF is a National Park Service program to preserve and commemorate Underground Railroad history and to educate the public. It was mandated by Congress in 1998. Underground Railroad is defined as "resistance to enslavement through flight through the end of the Civil War" in order to give assistance to the runaway, the "freedom seeker." The program traces escapees from their starting points (plantations, industries, residences and ships) to their destinations.

Brentsville served as the County seat of Prince William County from 1822-1893 and was the political and social center of the County during that time. The Historic Centre consists of five historic structures on 24 acres of parkland. The site interprets the history of Brentsville and its role in local history. Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre is located at 12229 Bristow Rd., Bristow, VA 20136.

For a copy of the nomination or for more information, please visit <http://www.pwccgov.org/brentsville> or call 703-365-7895.

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