



VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-278
Negative no(s). 4371

SURVEY FORM

Historic name Brentsville Schoolhouse Common name Schoolhouse in Brentsville
County/Town/City Brentsville, Prince William County
Street address or route number vic. 1 Bristow Road, Bristow, VA 22013
USGS Quad Nokesville Date or period c1910
Original owner Prince William County School Architect/builder/craftsmen
Original use School Board?
Present owner Prince William County Park Source of name
Present owner address 1 Bristow Authority Source of date Architectural evidence
Bristow, VA 22013 Rd. Stories 1 story
Present use Recreation center, conference Foundation and wall const'n Brick foundation; frame walls
Acreage included in Courthouse room
acreage. Roof type Metal-covered gable roof. Shed-roof addition

State condition of structure and environs Building and grounds in good condition.

State potential threats to structure
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 is a one-room schoolhouse with 4"-lap weatherboard exterior, plain trim, exposed rafters, deep eaves, and cornerboards. There is a hood on brackets sheltering the front entrance, a 5-panel 20th century door with a 3-light overhead. There is a one-story shed-roofed addition across the rear of the schoolhouse, probably constructed in the 1960's. Five large $\frac{6}{6}$ sliding sash windows on the front light the classroom.

Inside there is a classroom complete with blackboards to the left of the side passage. Behind the lobby is a cloak room which has been converted to a kitchen. There are two work-rooms or offices and two restrooms in the recent addition.

The ceiling of the old school is pressed tin. The electric lights are fluorescent now, but fixtures for the old, hanging lights still exist. An air conditioning and heating unit has been installed in a partitioned-off section on the classroom's east wall. The floors are narrow tongue and groove maple. The walls are covered with plaster and wallboard. There is waist-high wainscotting (matchboard) in the foyer and classroom, while the wainscotting in the former cloakroom is chest high. An entrance to the new addition has been made on the north wall of the classroom. Here it is possible to see where the wainscotting was cut, and the sill, door, and trim are new. The interior doors, except for the utility room and the above-mentioned are 5-panel doors similar to the front door. The interior trim is plain box trim with rounded edges. All woodwork inside is painted light green.

Interior inspected? Yes.

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

There are so few one-room and two-room country schoolhouses left in Prince William County that this one, which is in very good condition and has the potential for being used and maintained, deserves some recognition. Some of the old schoolhouses have been converted to residences; ^{1/} others have been abandoned and are rapidly deteriorating. ^{2/} One has been converted to a nursery and garden center (Catharpin). Red School in Greenwich, a converted residence, burned in 1979. Buckhall School, the oldest public school existing in the County, is a community center.

rafters, deep eaves, and cornerboards. There is a hood on brackets sheltering the front entrance, a 5-panel 20th century door with a 3-light overhead. There is a one-story shed-roofed addition across the rear of the schoolhouse, probably constructed in the 1960's. Five large ⁶/₆ sliding sash windows on the front light the classroom.

Inside there is a classroom complete with blackboards to the left of the side passage. Behind the lobby is a cloak room which has been converted to a kitchen. There are two work-rooms or offices and two restrooms in the recent addition.

The ceiling of the old school is pressed tin. The electric lights are fluorescent now, but fixtures for the old, hanging lights still exist. An air conditioning and heating unit has been installed in a partitioned-off section on the classroom's east wall. The floors are narrow tongue and groove maple. The walls are covered with plaster and wallboard. There is waist-high wainscotting (matchboard) in the foyer and classroom, while the wainscotting in the former cloakroom is chest high. An entrance to the new addition has been made on the north wall of the classroom. Here it is possible to see where the wainscotting was cut, and the sill, door, and trim are new. The interior doors, except for the utility room and the above-mentioned are 5-panel doors similar to the front door. The interior trim is plain box trim with rounded edges. All woodwork inside is painted light green.

Interior inspected? Yes.

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

There are so few one-room and two-room country schoolhouses left in Prince William County that this one, which is in very good condition and has the potential for being used and maintained, deserves some recognition. Some of the old schoolhouses have been converted to residences; ¹/ others have been abandoned and are rapidly deteriorating. ²/ One has been converted to a nursery and garden center (Catharpin). Red School in Greenwich, a converted residence, burned in 1979. Buckhall School, the oldest public school existing in the County, is a community center.

Most of the country schools were built recently enough for county residents still living to have attended them, or taught in them. Preserving this part of the County's recent history would mean a great deal to its older residents, and frequently is enlightening to youngsters to see how their grandparents grew up.

Brentsville Schoolhouse, located beside the Brentsville Courthouse on the public square, was turned over to the Prince William County Park Authority in 1979. It is included in the 3-acre courthouse parcel, along with the jail. Behind the schoolhouse is the Brentsville Historical Recreational Area's ballfield. The Park Authority uses the building as a meeting place. The rear addition's classrooms are for classroom (arts and crafts) use.

See Survey Sheet for Brentsville Courthouse 76-21 and Brentsville Jail 76-231 for more

1. Groveton, North Fork, Waterfall, Hickory Grove.

related history.

2. Purcell, Fairview.

Sources and bibliography

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

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

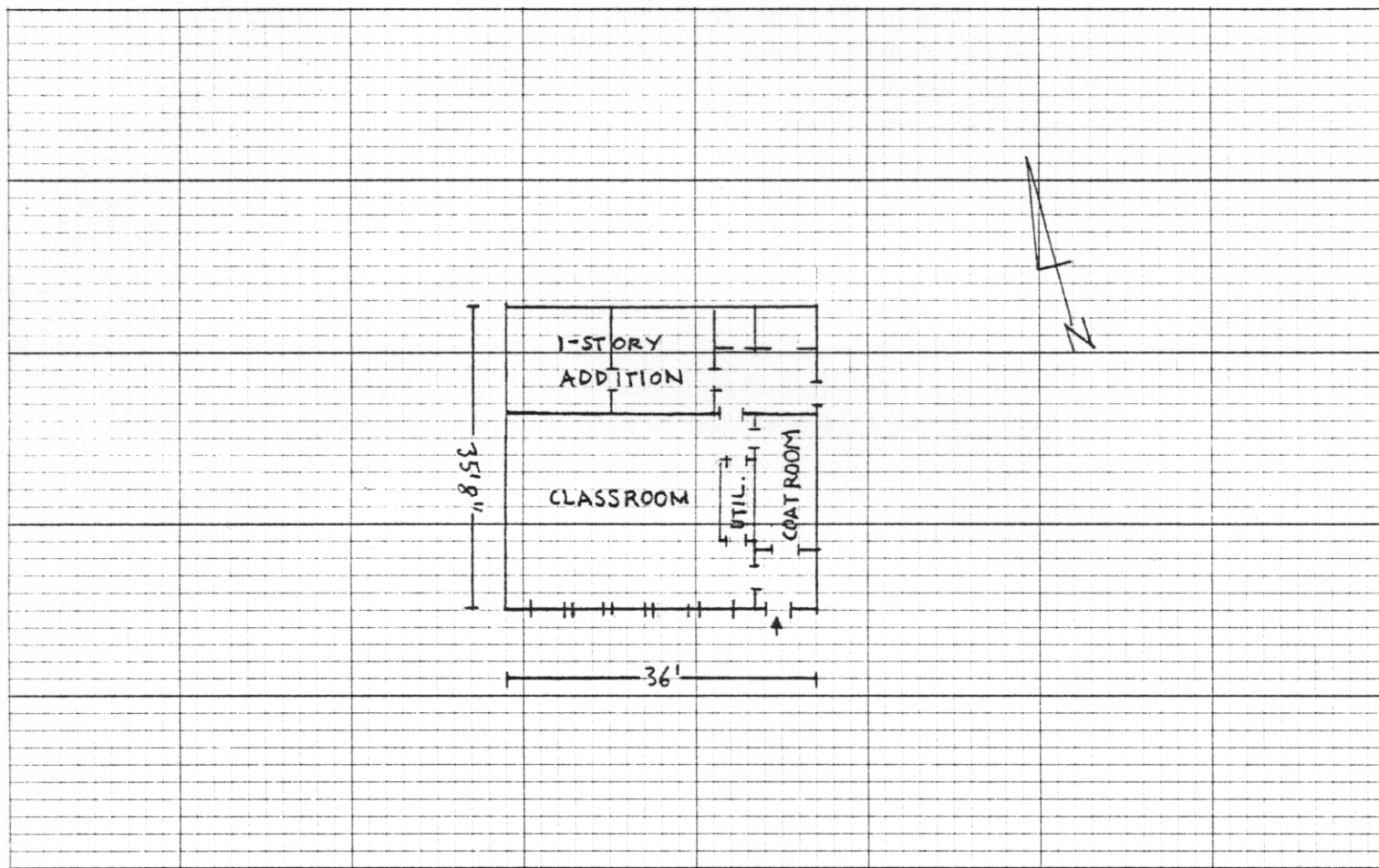
W.P.A., Writer's Project, Prince William, the Story of Its People and Its Places (c1941), pp. 64-

Primary sources (Manuscript, documentary or graphic materials, give location) 67; pp. 112-114.

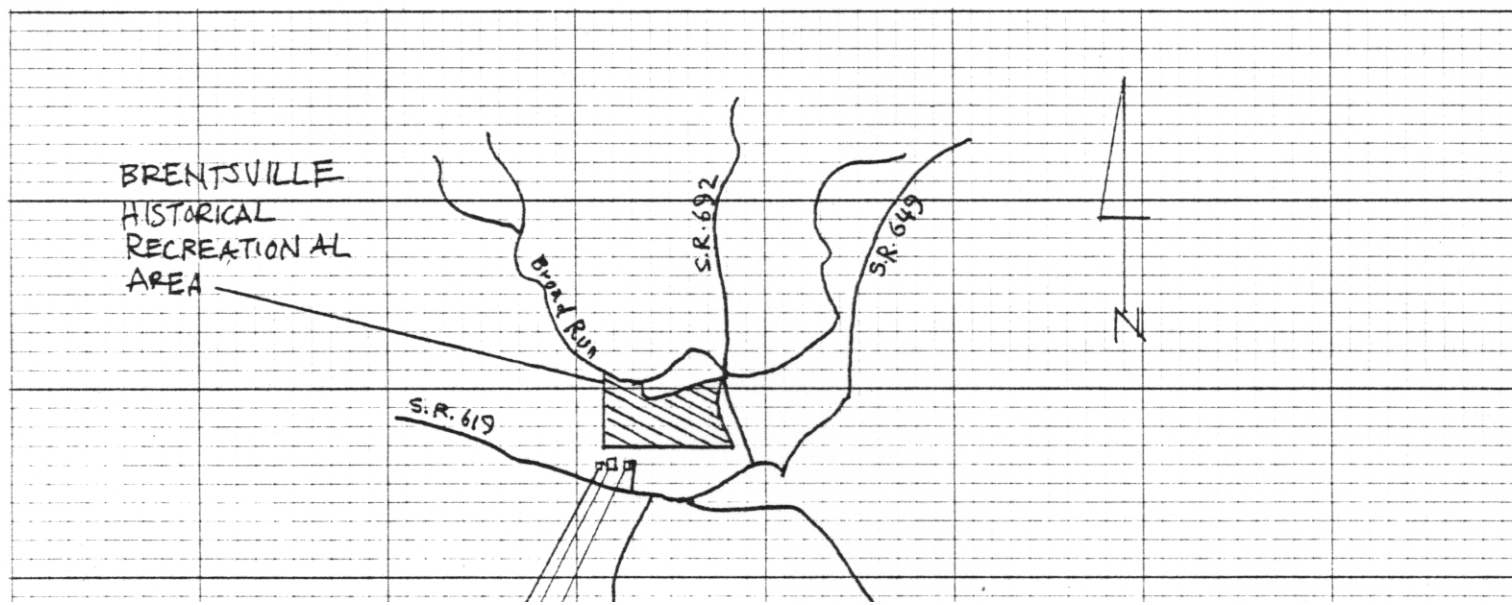
Peters, R. Worth, History of the Public Schools in Prince William County, M.A. Thesis, 1939, in Prince William Library.

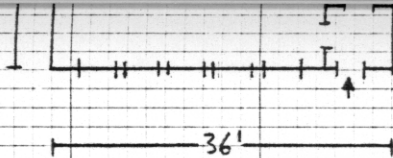
Names and addresses of persons interviewed Mr. Shoemaker in Brentsville may have some additional information on this building. E.R. Conner, III, Manassas Museum.

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

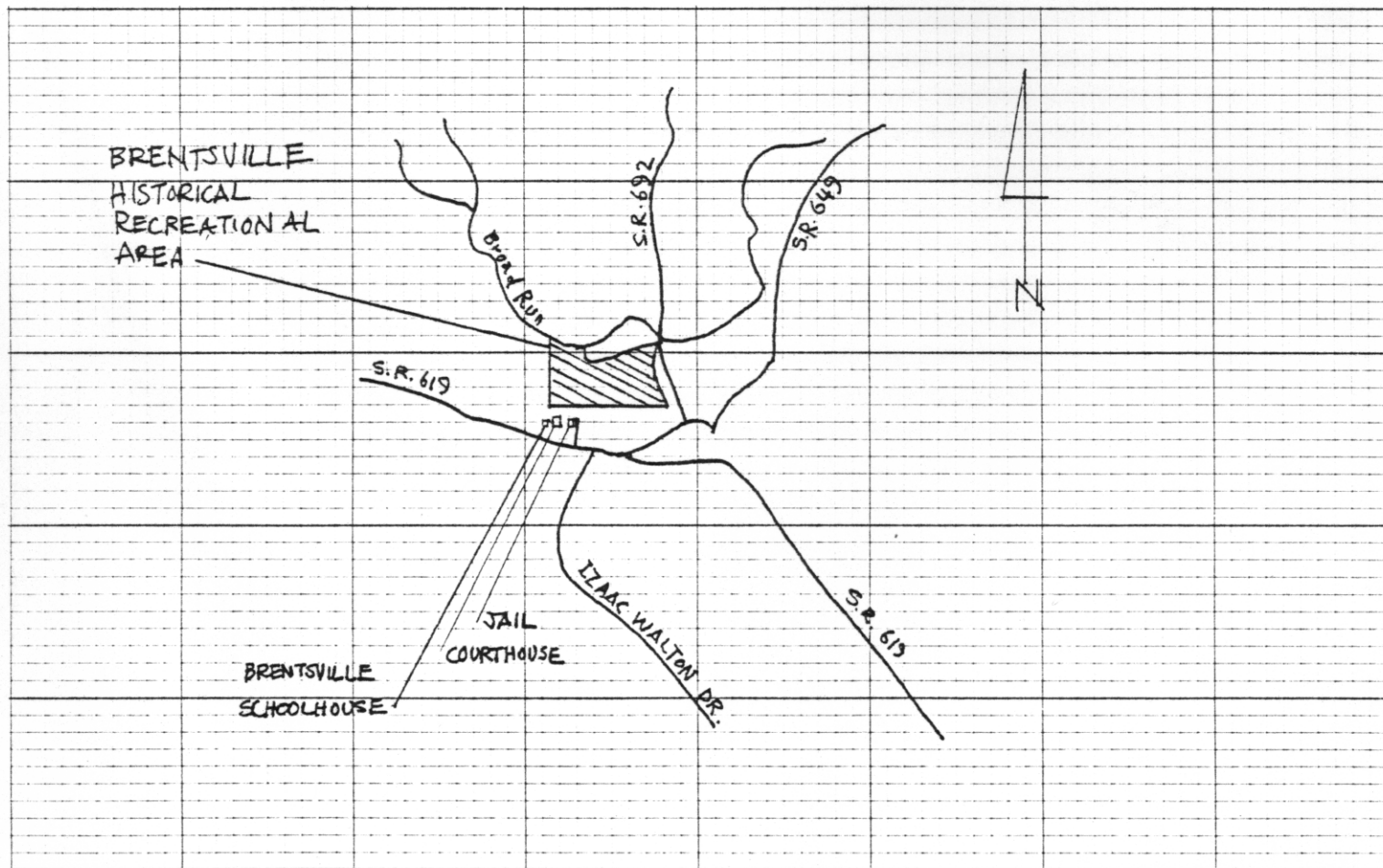


Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)





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



Name, address and title of recorder **Frances Jones, Architectural**
Historian - Supervisor, NYFDL

Date **JUN** 1980



42'30"
4287 NOKESVILLE Q.

BRENTSVILLE
SCHOOLHOUSE
76-278

INDEPENDENT HILL
5561 III NW

4284

4283

40'

