



**VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

File no.	76-64
Negative no(s).	4926

SURVEY FORM

Historic name	Buckhall School	Common name	Buckhall Civic Center
County/Town/City	Prince William County		
Street address or route number	7601 Old David Ford Rd., Manassas, Va. 22110		
USGS Quad	Independent Hill	Date or period	c1865 with later addition.
Original owner	Prince William County	Architect/builder/craftsmen	
Original use	School	Source of name	
Present owner	Hallie Cornwell Kemper	Source of date	Architectural evidence; present owner.
Present owner address	7517 Old David Ford Rd. Manassas, Va. 22110	Stories	1 story
Present use	Civic Center	Foundation and wall const'n	Stone foundation; frame walls.
Acreage	1 1/3 acres (Included in store parcel)	Roof type	Composition shingle-covered gable roof.
State condition of structure and environs Building in good condition; grounds could be improved.			
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.)

Buckhall School is a high, one-story frame-constructed, weatherboard-clad structure built in two parts, each having a gable roof. The larger section containing the present front entrance in the gable end measures 20' x 24'. This section previously had a pair of entrances on the front end, the present front door on the left and a formerly corresponding door on the right which was at one time widened and fitted with a batten door but is now blocked. Exterior trim is plain with a low-arched lintel capping the doors and windows on the front. There is a plain box cornice, cornerboards, and gable returns. The front door is a 2/2 panel door with ceramic knob. The 6/6 sash windows are replacements. There are two brick stove chimneys, one for each room. The rear section, smaller and lower-ceilinged, has plain box trim and an entrance (2/2 panel door) on the southwest side, to the left of a pair of windows. Both sections of this two-room former schoolhouse rest on a sandstone rubble foundation; however, the foundation beneath the rear section looks more deteriorated than that under the front section. There is a foyer at the entrance, probably a former cloakroom, sheathed with "matchboard" wainscoting. The front section contains the larger of the two rooms, and has symmetrically-moulded trim with cornerblocks and c3-foot-high matchboard wainscoting; while the trim in the smaller rear room is plain box trim with a single bead and the walls are covered to about 5 feet with matchboard wainscoting. The interior walls, above the paneling in both rooms, are wallboard painted beige and with a textured surface. The two rooms are heated by two oil burning stoves. The floors in both sections are pine. The front and rear sections are separated by a wide rectangular arch opening, trimmed in plain box trim.

The building was restored in 1965-66 by the Buckhall Civic Association. It sits beside the Buckhall Store (76-234), a c1900 two-story frame building with several one-story shed
(continued)

Interior inspected? Yes.

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

In R. Worth Peters' history of public schools in Prince William County, the author claims that there was a schoolhouse in the Buckhall vicinity prior to 1755, citing an entry in an old order book concerning a road which was to be "cleared from the schoolhouse where William Barr formerly taught to Bull Run." (Order Book #3, Prince William County, 1755-57, Dec. 28, 1755, p. 22).

An act creating Virginia's public school system was passed in 1869. It provided that public schools for both whites and Blacks should be functioning by 1876. Prior to that, there were free schools in Prince William County. Supported by revenue from the Literary Fund, and administered by school commissioners, the commission was responsible for educating poor children only. The financially able citizens hired a private tutor or sent their children to a private school or academy.

It is not known whether the Buckhall School, said to have been built in 1865, was a free school for the poor or a privately supported school. An earlier VHLC survey relates that the Buckhall School was the first public school in western Prince William. It probably began as a one-room school which around the turn of the century received an addition making it a two-room school. Possibly, if the school was not already owned by the County, it may have been acquired by the School Board at the time of the supposed addition.

(continued)

Buckhall School
(Continuation Sheet)

Architectural description (continued)

additions. These two buildings and a third, a cinder-block constructed two-story residence, occupy a prominent position in the small community of Buckhall at the intersection of Old Davis Ford Road and Moore Drive. Across the road to the north are the Buckhall Cemetery and the Buckhall Church (76-233); across from the store to the east is the former William Davis residence (76-225). Just south of the store, Pineview Road splits off from Moore Drive. South of Buckhall on both of these roads new residential development is occurring. The Manassas area's population increase is having an effect on the small commercial crossroads of Buckhall. Earlier this year, the cemetery was vandalized. The Buckhall Store has enlarged so that it now calls itself "Buckhall Mall."

Historical significance (continued)

The present owner's father, William Davis, purchased the Buckhall School at auction from the School Board in the 1930s. At that time, many of the old one and two-room country schools were abandoned in favor of new central schools.

In 1920, there were 22 one-room schools for whites and 8 for Blacks; and nine two-room schools for whites and four for Blacks. In 1940, there were only two one-room and four two-room schools for whites, and five one-room and two two-room schools for Blacks.

The building was restored in 1965 by a private group interested in preserving the old schoolhouse. It is now used regularly as a meeting hall by the Buckhall Civic Association. The Prince William County Historical Commission has designated the Buckhall School to receive a historical plaque.

Sources and bibliography

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

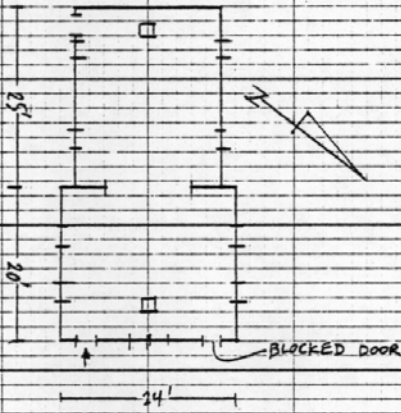
Ratcliffe, R.J., This Was Prince William (c1978), p. 88.

WPA, Writers Project, Prince William, the Story of Its People and Its Places (c1941), pp.66-67.

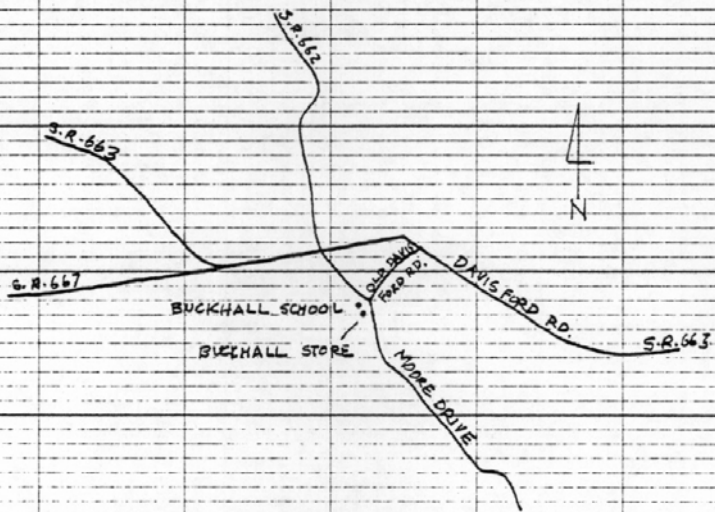
Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials: give location.)

Peters, R. Worth, "Secondary Education in Manassas, Va., 1890-1935," Master's Thesis (1939) in Prince William Library. See also R. Leu survey for VHLC, 1972.
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.)



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