



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-165
Negative no(s). 4900

SURVEY FORM

Historic name	Bushy Park	Common name	
County/Town/City	Prince William County		
Street address or route number	5261 Catharpin Road, Catharpin, Va. 22069		
USGS Quad	Gainesville	Date or period	Mid-to-late 18th Century and later.
Original owner	Unknown	Architect/builder/craftsmen	
Original use	Residence		
Present owner	Charles W. Rector, Trustee	Source of name	Unknown
Present owner address	9402 Battle Street	Source of date	Architectural evidence.
	Manassas, Va. 22110	Stories	1 story; 1½ stories.
Present use	Residence	Foundation and wall const'n	Stone foundation; frame wall construction.
Acreage	243.8 acres	Roof type	Metal-covered gable roof.

State condition of structure and environs House and environs are 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.)

Though it has had several additions, the core of this house is a one-story, frame-built, gable-roofed, 18th century house resting on a high basement and having stone exterior end chimneys. To this basic house has been added a 1½ story wing off the east end, containing a kitchen and a bedroom above and having a separate staircase. Another addition off the north side of the 1½ story addition has a shed roof and contains a bedroom and bath. This addition may in part be a one-story enclosed porch. A third addition exists off the south side of the old house. It is one story high, has a shed roof, and contains a bedroom.

The exterior of the main house, which measures three bays long and has a plain box cornice, is covered with channeled siding. The shuttered, 2/2 replacement sliding sash windows are surrounded by plain box trim. The windows in the additions, all of which have the exterior channeled siding are variously 6/6 sliding sash, six-pane casement windows, or 2/2 modern sliding sash. There are two six-pane casement windows, one on either side of the west chimney at the second floor level of the old house.

The main house rests on a rather high stone foundation made of locally-quarried red sandstone mortared with lime-sand mixture and patched with portland cement. Formerly there was only an outside entrance to the cellar, but this entrance has been sealed and the entrance is now by a door in the center of the main house under the stair. The basement floor is of poured concrete. This was done to control the water problem that previously existed in the basement. There is no sign of any fireplace in the basement, though the stonework at both ends has been extensively reworked. Heavy, hewn beams and sills support the core of the house.

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Interior inspected? Yes.

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

The importance of this house warrants a search of the available sources to determine the history of Bushy Park. Unfortunately, neither the WPA guide to Prince William County (published in 1941), nor R.J. Ratcliffe's book on Prince William County contains any reference to Bushy Park. According to one source, the farm once belonged to the Whitings. Mathew Whiting owned the nearby Snow Hill and Stepney estates in the 1760s and 1770s. Both tracts had earlier been included in Lewis Burwell's portion of the Bull Run Tract, patented in 1725 by Robert "King" Carter when he was agent for the Northern Neck proprietary.

In 1850, according to the population census, Alexander MacMullen was living at Bushy Park. Sometime before the Civil War MacMullen sold Bushy Park to the Buckleys, for W.A. Buckley was living there, a 9-year-old on his father's farm, when Col. Daniel Alexander Ledbetter, from Orr's South Carolina regiment, was carried to Bushy Park after he had been wounded at Groveton in 1862, during the Second Battle of Manassas. Ledbetter died of his wounds and was buried at Bushy Park. Almost 20 years later, a poem about Ledbetter's death written by W. A. Buckley was published in the Manassas Gazette. The poem made its way to South Carolina, where Colonel Ledbetter's son saw it. This poem, entitled "Two Men Wearing Gray" enabled Ledbetter's family to find Ledbetter's grave, the whereabouts of which had been previously unknown to them. The grave was finally marked with a marble monument and an iron fence was erected around it and the grave of another soldier who was buried beside Ledbetter, whose name was allegedly Colonel Norton.

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Bushy Park
(Continuation Sheet)

Architectural description (continued)

The front entrance was formerly in the center bay of the main house, though it is not known whether the front of the house was originally in the south or north side. At present, a door which was formerly in the center of the north side has been sealed; the opposing door on the south side leads to one of the additions. A door which presently leads to the outside and is located on the south side of the main house was earlier a window. According to the present owner, a stone-constructed stoop with about three steps once led to the now sealed entrance on the north side. The plan is two finished rooms on either side of a stair hall on the first floor, and two low-ceilinged rooms on the second floor, separated by a stair hall. The winding, enclosed stair is wide. Riven lath can be seen in the stair hall. At the stair's upper end there is a simple square rail supported by square posts and square balusters. There are at least three fireplaces in the main house, but only one works. The mantels on the first floor consist of a moulded shelf atop a moulded, dentiled cornice; a plain frieze; shoulderblocks; and a rectangular opening surrounded by architrave moulding. There is a simple moulded shelf over the fireplace in the west room, second floor. The mantel in the west room, first floor, is more ornate than that in the east room. It has fluted shoulder blocks, more prominent dentils in the cornice and fancier mouldings. There is a chairrail above "matchboard" wainscoting in the east room, first floor. The trim around the replacement 2/2 sliding sash windows is plain box trim, but some wide architrave trim is still present around the doors, most of which are recent two-panel doors. There are some older batten doors. Remnants of earlier H or HL hinges can be seen on some of the door jambs. The floors throughout the main house are of wide, worn tongue and groove boards. The first floor ceilings are about 10 feet high. The walls and ceiling are plastered.

This house is similar to Piedmont, an 18th century house, in part, with a central stair, located a few miles northwest of Bushy Park. The Shelter (oldest part) and Prospect Hill, both in the upper corner of Prince William County, are also similar to this house. The Shelter is in ruins, however, and Prospect Hill, a 1 1/2-story central hall house with exterior stone end chimneys has undergone some restoration, while Bushy Park, except for the 20th century exterior siding and the several small additions, has not been changed much.

The house sits on a small parcel surrounded by a high board fence. No early outbuildings exist. Near the house is a complex of small 20th century farm buildings. Northeast of the house is a small cemetery surrounded by an iron fence, containing several trees and the grave of Col. D.A. Ledbetter, a Confederate soldier who was killed at the 2d Battle of Manassas in 1862.

Historical significance (continued)

In 1901, according to the 1901 map of Prince William County, W. Buckley was at Bushy Park. There is a plat of the 298-acre Bushy Park Farm in the County's map collection, made by surveyor George T. Allen in 1915.

In 1953, the owners of Bushy Park were Mr. & Mrs. E.B. Ussury. In the 1970s, the late millionaire-industrialist E. Carl Hengen owned Bushy Park and nearby Lawnvale. The present owner purchased Bushy Park from Mr. Hengen in the 1970s.

Sources and bibliography

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

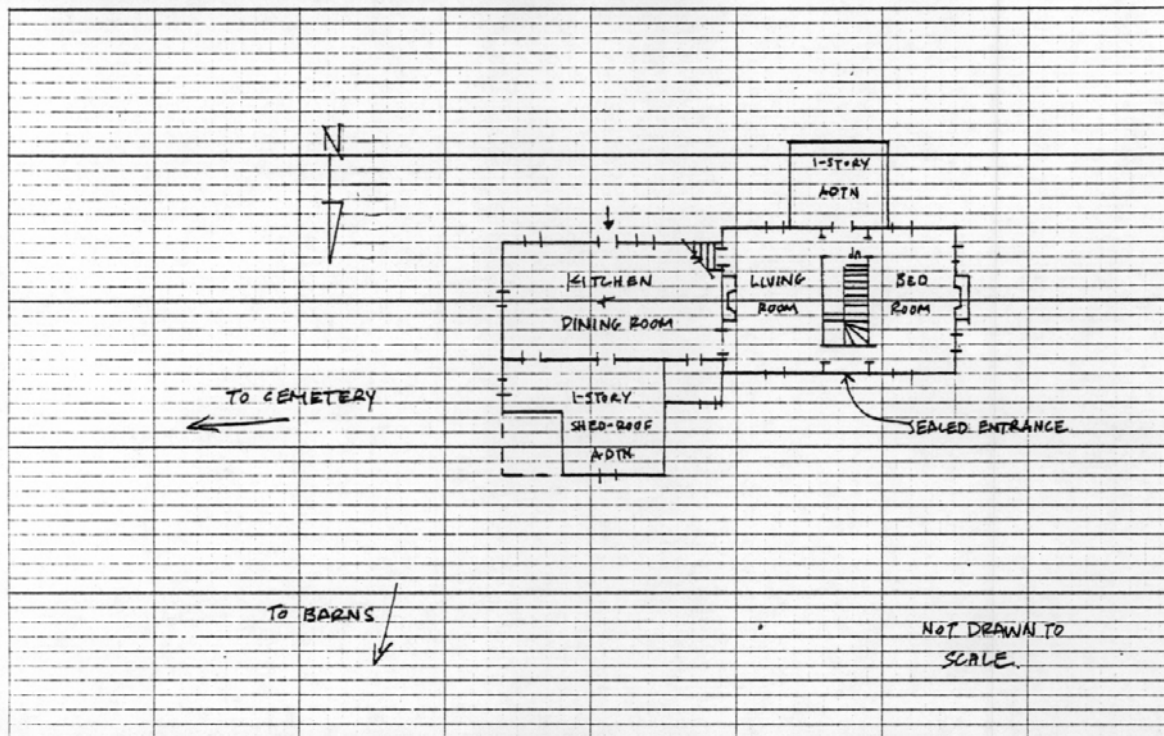
Hanson, Rosamund, "Search for Grave Pays Off," in Manassas Journal-Messenger, ³⁰ 20 Sep 1965.

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

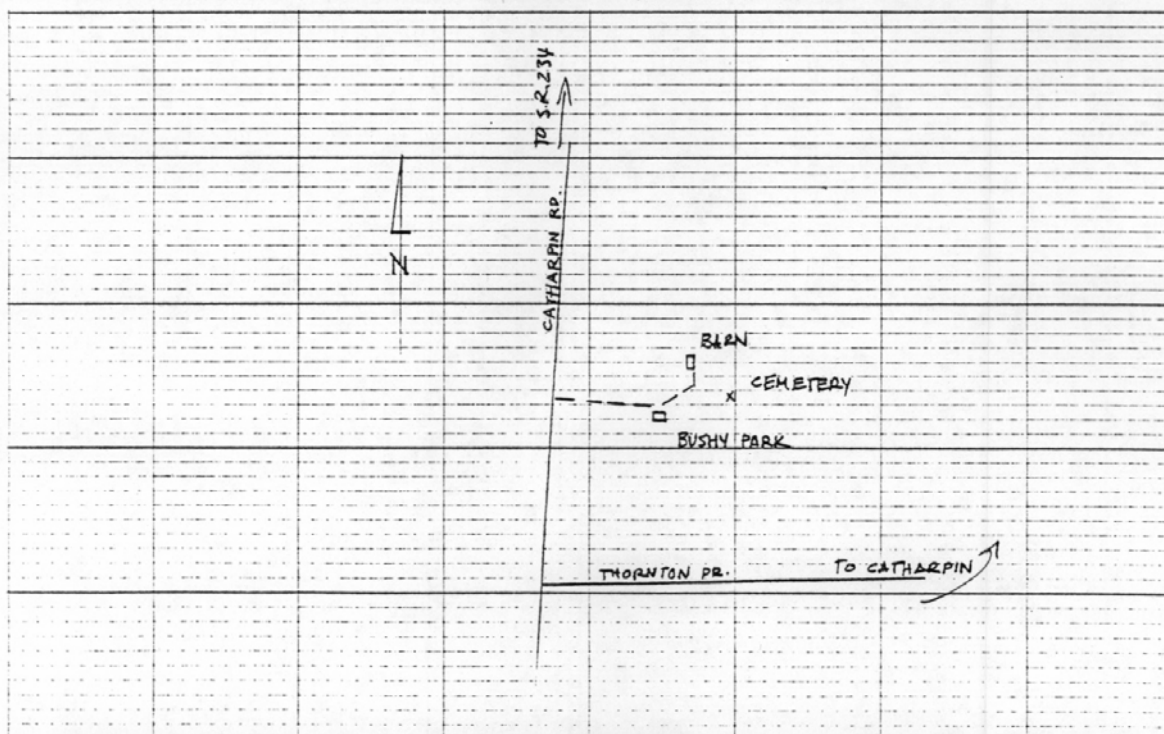
Plat of Bushy Park Farm, Map Book 3, p. 33, Prince William County Courthouse.

Names and addresses of persons interviewed Mr. & Mrs. James Jenkins (tenants); 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.)



Name, address and title of recorder

Frances Jones, Architectural
Historical Surveyor, NYPDC

Date
SEP

1960

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



GAINESVILLE QVAD. BUSHY PARK 76-165