



# VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no.	76-209
Negative no(s).	4370

## SURVEY FORM

Historic name Hazel Plain (Site)	Common name Chinn House Site
County/Town/City Prince William County	
Street address or route number vic. Chinn Branch, Manassas National Battlefield Park	
USGS Quad Manassas	Date or period Late 18th, early 19th C.
Original owner Bernard Hooe	Architect/builder/craftsmen
Original use Residence	
Present owner National Park Service	Source of name Previous owner
Present owner address c/o Donald Varnado, Supt., Manassas Nat'l Battlefield Park, Box 350, Manassas, Va. 22110	
Present use Historic site	Source of date Historical, architectural evidence.
Acreage	Stories None
Included in park acreage (c3,000 A)	Foundation and wall const'n Sandstone rubble foundation only remaining.
	Roof type

State condition of structure and environs Ruins are in fair condition, having been stabilized.

State potential threats to structure

Note any archaeological interest First & Second Battles of Manassas fought near house.

(Included in Manassas National

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ Battlefield Park)

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.)

Foundations have skewed and slumped badly, and have been repaired out of alignment. Several kinds of emergency repointing are evident. Concrete caps seal the former gable end chimneys. No outbuildings present. Well and old pump (evident in an accompanying copy of a historical photo) still visible. Hooe family cemetery (no stones remaining) southeast of house site.

Interior inspected?

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

Bernard Hooe (d. 1825) probably built Hazel Plain on 343 acres he acquired in about 1809. Bernard Hooe was Overseer of the Poor of Dettigen Parish in 1791, Justice of Prince William in 1790, trustee of Haymarket in 1798, and sheriff in 1800. In 1825, the property passed from Hooe to his wife, and in 1828 to his daughter, Elizabeth Thacker Hooe. At that time the Hazel Plain estate consisted of 957 acres. The estate was divided in 1836, and Hazel Plain, 548 acres, passed from Elizabeth Thacker Hooe Fowle to her husband, William H. Fowle. The farm was then successively owned by John Kemp, Elizabeth S. Jones, and Sophia E. Jones. The farm acquired its lasting name, the Chinn Farm, from its owner during the Civil War, Benjamin Tasker Chinn. In 1853 Chinn bought the farm from William Y. Downman, and in 1871 Chinn sold it back to Mary A. Downman. In 1883, owner Q. L. Sandford sold it to Andrew Cather, and in 1936 Cordelia Cather Swart and her husband, Hamilton Swart, and Anna Cather conveyed Hazel Plain, or the Chinn House, to the U.S. Government.

Hazel Plain was the scene of heavy fighting during the First and Second Battles of Manassas. The Chinn House served as a field hospital, according to a Battlefield Park historian.

When the National Park Service acquired the farm in the 1930s, there were several outbuildings, including a large barn north of the house. While the initial intention of the NPS was to repair the large 2-story frame house for use as the superintendent's residence, the house was "dismantled" in 1950 after a determination was made that the house was structurally unsound. A cemetery associated with the Hooe family's ownership of Hazel Plain is located southeast of the house foundation. Though the cemetery was vandalized in 1950 and all stones

(continued)





Hazel Plain (Site)  
Continuation Sheet

Historical Significance (continued)

were removed, it is known that Bernard Hooe (d. 1825), Thomas Pratt Hooe (1772-1809), and James D. Hooe (d. 1825) are buried there.