



SURVEY FORM

Historic name	Conner Building	Common name	AKA Conner's Opera House
County/Town/City	Manassas		
Street address or route number	9102 Center St., Manassas, VA 22110		
USGS Quad	Manassas	Date or period	1906
Original owner	E.R. Conner	Architect/builder/craftsmen	
Original use	Commercial Bldg., Opera House		
Present owner	Park Newspapers, Inc.	Source of name	
Present owner address	P.O. Box 550, Terrace Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 Hill	Source of date	Local Historian
Present use	Commercial Bldg.	Stories	2 stories
Acreage		Foundation and wall const'n	brick
		Roof type	

State condition of structure and environs Good

State potential threats to structure
Note any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes ___ no X

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 large, 2-story, brick commercial building constructed to contain as many as three stores or commercial uses on the first floor, and a large hall, or opera house, on the second floor. Until recently, the office of the Journal Messenger was located in this building.

The first floor of the Conner Building contains three sections, each two bays wide. Access to the second floor, which once contained a large unpartitioned hall but has been partitioned into several rooms, is via a door on the right front, leading to a wide straight stair.

The front, which once contained three separate store entrances, each flanked by shop windows, has been rearranged through the closing up of one of the entrances and the installation of 6/6 sliding sash windows to replace the earlier stationary plate glass windows. Tall, narrow 6/6 sliding sash windows on the second floor have been replaced with fixed, single panes. Windows on the first floor, east side of the building and the rear have been replaced and the window openings made shorter.

The interior, 1st floor, has been partitioned into many small offices and several large work areas. The interior has been remodeled, and, except for a pressed tin ceiling in one of the work areas, there is no original interior woodwork or decoration. The floor is concrete. The ceilings have been lowered and covered with tile.

Interior inspected? Yes

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

E.R. Conner built this large brick building in 1906, and moved his grocery store into it from a building just west of this structure in 1907. The Conner Building was constructed on the site of two late 19th century, frame commercial buildings, one of which had earlier housed E.E. Conner's Meat Market.

In 1910, E.R. Conner installed a private generating plant in this building, making it the first electrically lighted building in Manassas.

In the early days, the first floor housed two stores and the Manassas Journal Newspaper office. Plays and other entertainments were held in the upstairs room, Conner's Hall. In 1916, Col. J.S. Mosby attended a reunion of Mosby's Raiders, held in Conner's Hall.

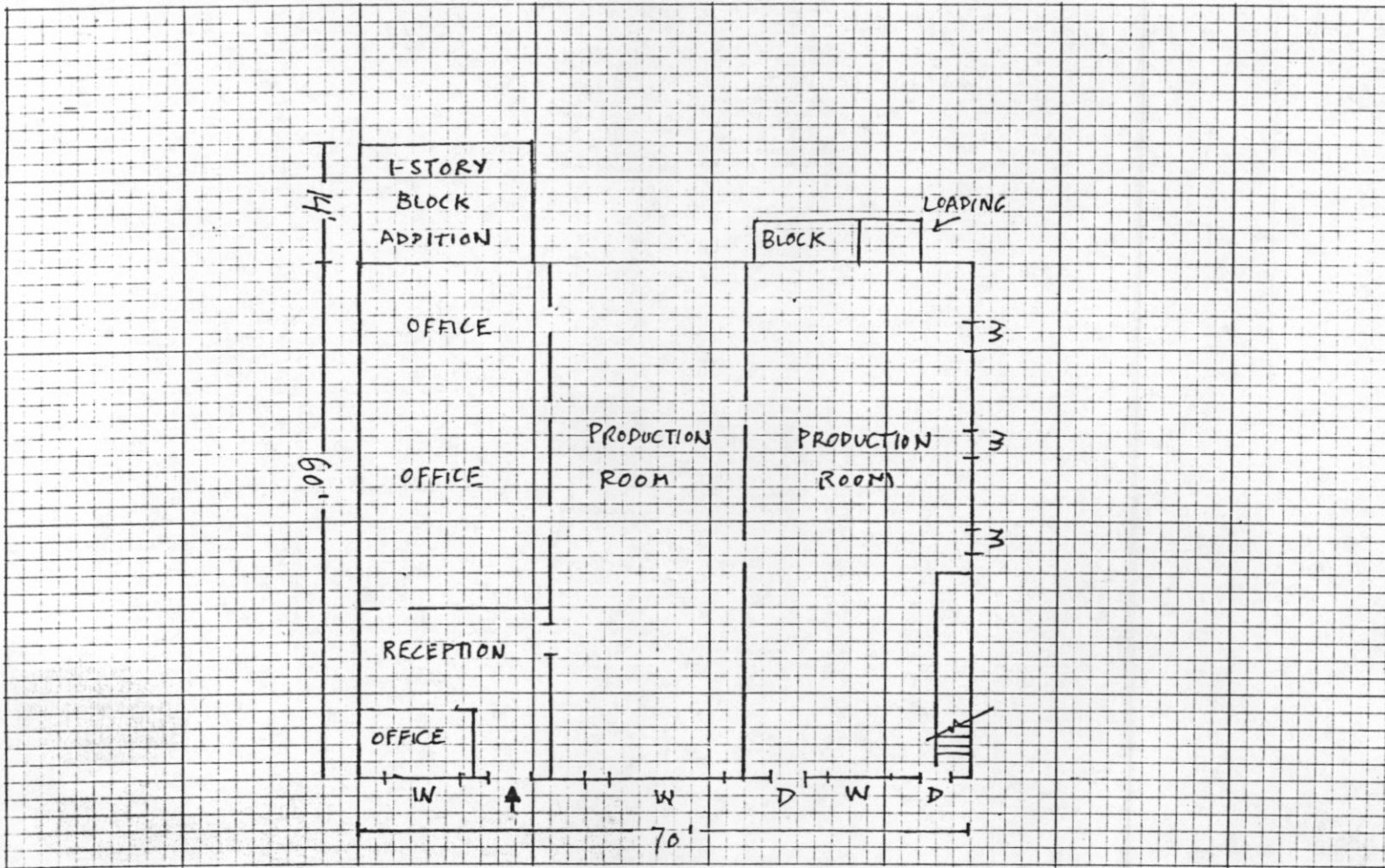
Didlake School, an adult educational center for the handicapped, rents the first floor and operates a print shop. Manassas Elks rent the second floor as a meeting room.

Sources and bibliography
 Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)
 Ratcliffe, R.J., This Was Manassas (c1973), p. 34.

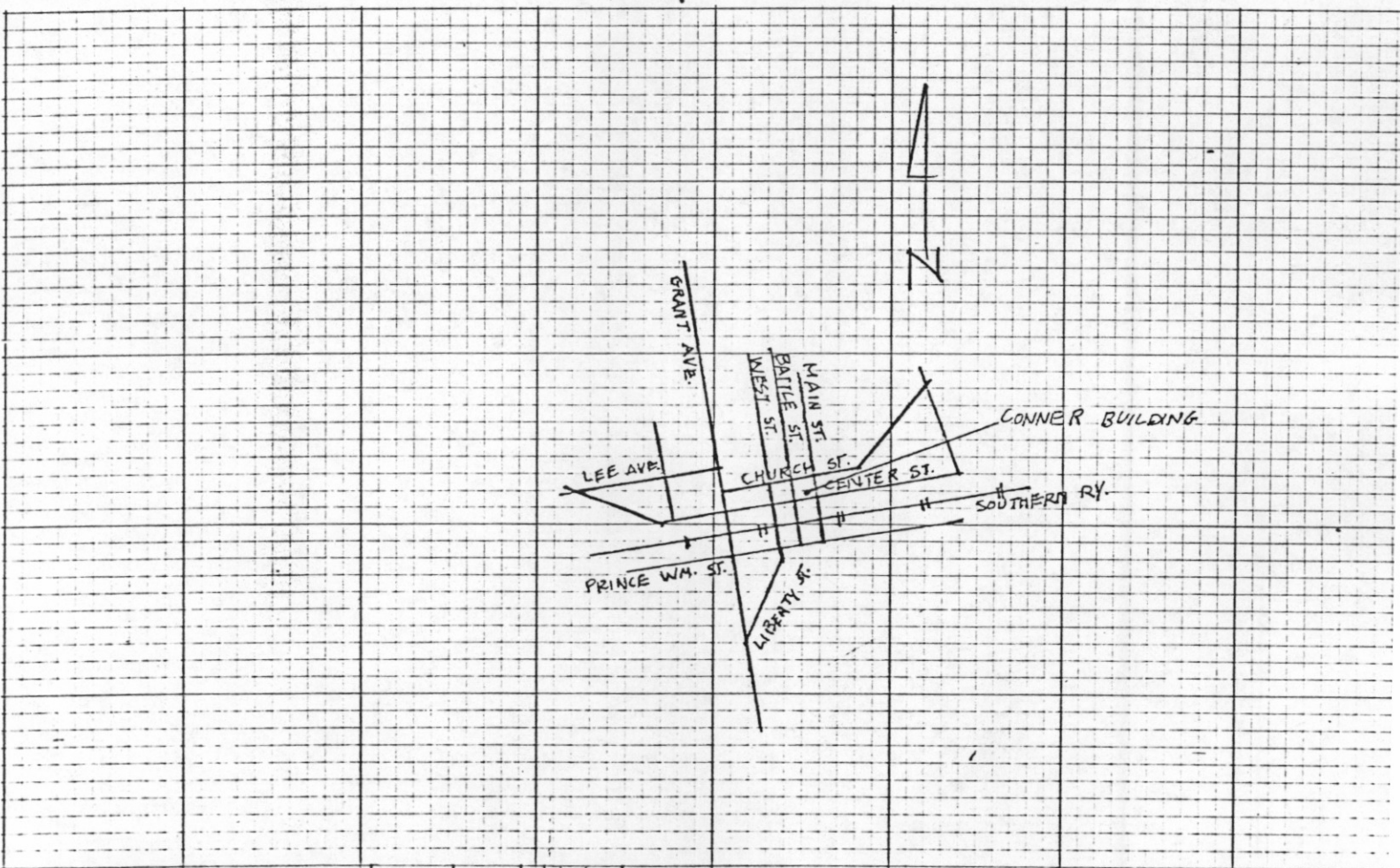
Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

Names and addresses of persons interviewed E.R. Conner, III, Manassas Museum, Manassas, Va.

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

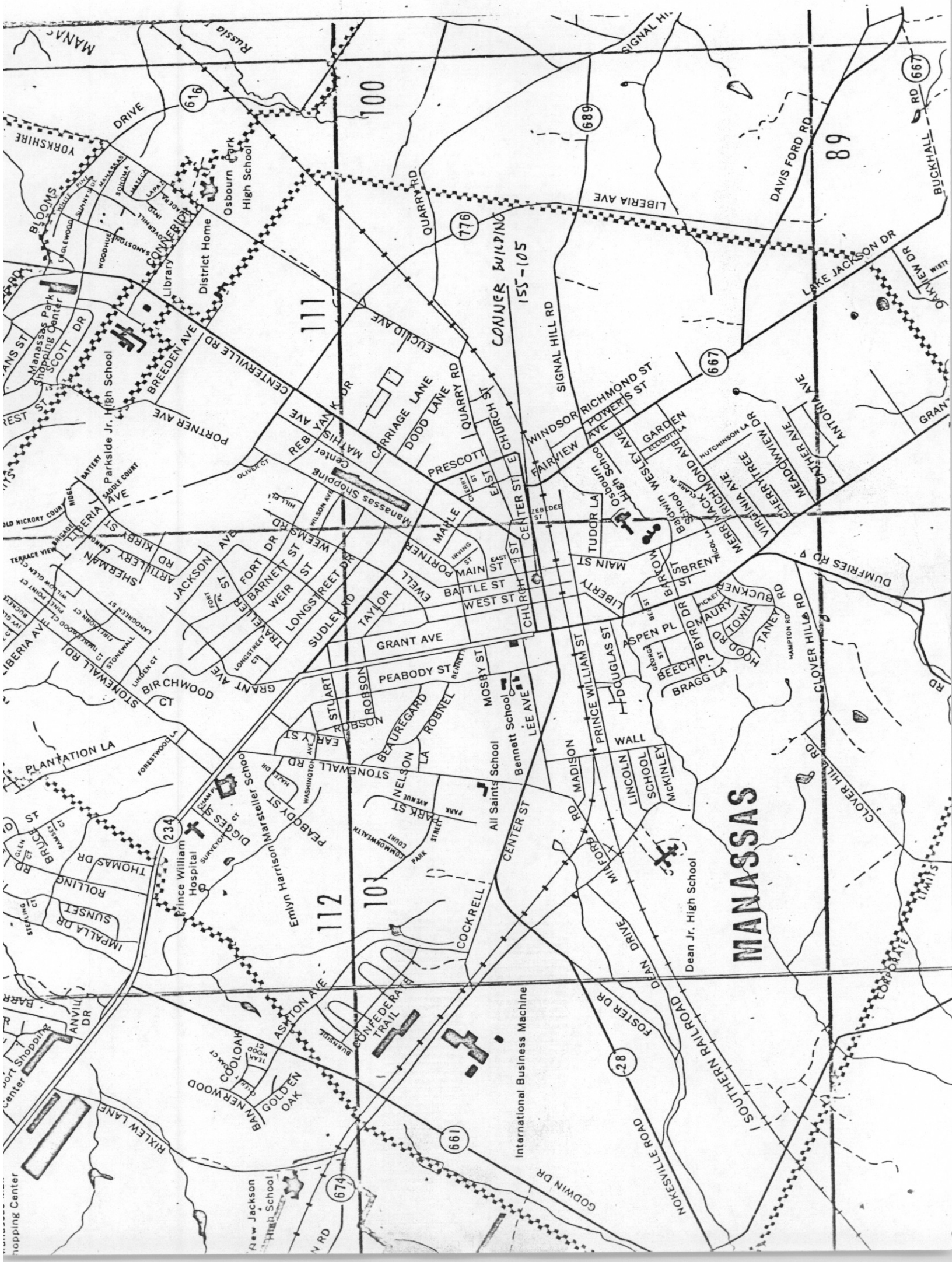


Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



Name, address and title of recorder Frances Jones, Architectural
 Historian - Surveyor, NVPDC

Date
 MARCH 1980



MANASSAS

CONNER BUILDING
155-105

Prince William Hospital

All Saints School

Dean Jr. High School

International Business Machine

EMILY HARRISON MARSHALL SCHOOL

CONFEDERATE TRAIL

BANERWOOD GOLDEN OAK

NEW JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL

OSBOURN PARK HIGH SCHOOL

PARKSIDE JR. HIGH SCHOOL

MANASSAS SHOPPING CENTER

DIGGS SCHOOL

LOCOCK SCHOOL

MANASSAS SHOPPING CENTER

MANASSAS SHOPPING CENTER