

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Bloom's House
AND/OR COMMON
Conner House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Conner Drive
CITY, TOWN
Manassas Park
STATE
Va. 22110
VICINITY OF
8th
COUNTY
Prince William
CODE
153
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Not in use

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
City of Manassas Park
STREET & NUMBER
City Hall, 103 Manassas Drive
CITY, TOWN
Manassas Park
STATE
VA 22110
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Prince William County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
9250 Lee Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Manassas
STATE
VA 22110

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
VHLC's Prince William County Historic Sites and Architectural Survey
DATE
1979
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
CITY, TOWN
Richmond
STATE
VA
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

GOOD

RUINS

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c 1810; 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Conner, E.R., III., "'Bloom's' and 'Bloom's Grove:' A Tale of Two Farms," in Echoes of History (Oct 1976).

Ratcliffe, R. Jackson, This Was Prince William (1979), p. 85.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded on the west by Conner Drive; on the north and northwest by New Dominion School; on the southwest by Osbourn Park High School; and on the east by Conner Drive extended.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Frances Jones, Architectural Historian/Surveyor

9 Oct 1980

ORGANIZATION

Northern Virginia Planning District Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

7309 Arlington Boulevard

TELEPHONE

703-573-2210

CITY OR TOWN

Falls Church

STATE

VA 22042

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

INSERT A.

The earlier part of this house is associated with the Hooe family, an influential first family in Prince William County, and the owners of the land around which Manassas sprang. The house is suspected to have been both the headquarters of Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston and a hospital during the Civil War. During the first half of the 20th century, Bloom's became a major dairy farm in Prince William, shipping milk daily to Washington, D. C.

DESCRIPTION

Bloom's, or Conner's, House is a two-story, gable-roofed, stone residence constructed in two parts, the earlier, c1800-1820 section having a more steeply-pitched roof than ^{that of} the later wing, which was constructed in 1855. The stone is locally-quarried red sandstone, or "brownstone," probably dug from one of two known quarries in the vicinity. The c18"-20"-thick walls of the older, main section are constructed of large, roughly-shaped blocks laid up in approximate courses; while the smaller stones on the later addition are laid in less well-defined courses of rubble. Large stone lintels are present above the doors and windows. The stone is mortared with lime and sand and repointed in places with portland cement. The exterior walls were previously whitewashed. There are also traces of yellow ochre paint on the exterior, beneath the whitewash. There is an exterior stone chimney on the east end of the older section; and an interior stone chimney on the west end of the later section. Both of these chimneys have been repaired with brick

A two-story, early 20th-century frame addition was located on the rear or north side of the house's main section. That addition, which contained a kitchen on the first floor, was removed by the previous owner because it was in poor condition. A one-story, open porch previously existed on the house's front, spanning part of both sections.

Beneath the recently-repaired, metal-covered gable roof there is a moulded cornice on the earlier section and a box cornice on the later addition. There is box trim around the previously shuttered 2/2 sliding sash windows and around the doors. The windows, though most of the panes are broken, were probably late 19th or early 20th century replacements of earlier probably 6/6, sash.

The main, earlier section, which measures approximately 27'5" x 20', has a side hall plan, with an entry hall containing an open-string, single-flight stair opposite

the front entrance and a single, large room to the right of the hall. The addition of the two-story wing converted the house's plan to a central hall plan, with a single room on either side of the center hall.

The house's interior has been ruined through deterioration and vandalism. It is apparent though, that the interior has been much changed. There are no remaining mantels, although fireplace openings are present in the two rooms on the first floor. The open-string, single-flight stair was probably installed in the late 19th or early 20th century. The newel, balusters, and most of the rail are missing. The door and window trim is predominantly plain box trim with butt joints, probably dating to the late 19th or early 20th century. There is some earlier, beaded architrave trim around the doors and deeply-set windows, on the second floor of the older section. Though much of the flooring throughout is medium-width tongue and groove (replacement) pine, some of the early wide pine floors are still present, especially in the second floor. It is apparent that "new" partitions were added on the second floor, probably in the early 20th century, thus creating four rooms where there were, from 1855 on, only two rooms--one on either side of the hall. A much earlier second floor room division, however, is suggested by signs of other previously existing partitions. Possibly, before the addition of the present stair, the hall on the second floor was a wider room, and there was probably a stair to the attic which has been removed. The roof of the older section has been rebuilt, evidenced by the presence of hewn rafters which have been reinforced with sawn timbers. The attic of the older section shows signs of having been finished with lath and plaster. The sawn-off ends of several heavy hewn joists can be seen resting on the plate of the house's older section.

Condition. The building is in deteriorating condition. The house, which was purchased by the City of Manassas Park in 1973, had probably gone unoccupied for about 5 years prior to the sale. Vandals have broken windows and wrecked the interior. In 1976, a chain link fence was erected by Manassas Park to prevent further vandalism. At about the same time the deteriorated two-story frame wing on the rear of the house was demolished. There is a large crack on the south wall, where the two sections were joined. In 1978, the roof was repaired, thus preventing further water damage to the interior from roof leaks. Some of the windows have been sealed to avoid more damage from exposure to the weather. According to a local contractor's estimate in 1976, the stone shell of the building could be repaired, though some of the stones would have to be replaced or reinforced, while some of the timbers on the inside could be preserved.

Site. Bloom's, or Conner's, House is a two-story, two-part, stone-constructed [^] early-to-mid-19th century residence located in western Prince William County, north of Manassas and east of the City of Manassas Park, which owns the structure. The house, now unoccupied, rests on a slight hill overlooking the tracks of the Southern Railroad, which passes by the front, or south side, of the house. ^{About a mile} To the east rise the wooded bluffs above Bull Run. Northeast of the house is the modern, low-rise [^] County-owned new Dominion School. To the west and northwest is Osbourn Park High School; and at the foot of the hill on which the house sits is Manassas Park's Social Services Department, housed in a corrugated metal [^] one-story, gable-roofed structure. [^] Beside this building and fronting on the railroad tracks is an industrially-zoned parcel.

The hill on which Blooms House sits has been reshaped, in part to accommodate New Dominion School when it was constructed. The 70-foot drop to the railroad, once gradual, has been made steeper in front of the house, probably to provide fill for road and other construction at the foot of the hill.

There are no outbuildings present on the property. Formerly, there was a log kitchen behind the house. In addition, there ^{were} was a large dairy barn where the new Dominion School is, and several other farm buildings. The house is the only remaining building on the former, approximately 100-acre, farm. An 1862 photograph taken by Timothy O'Sullivan and labeled "The Yellow Hospital" has been identified as Bloom's House. In this photograph, a one-story frame addition appears on the house's north end, and among the other visible outbuildings, there are a one-story log structure west of the house and a small frame, weatherboarded structure off the house's southwest corner.

SIGNIFICANCE

Bloom's, or Conner's, House is a small stone farmhouse, built in the first half of the 19th century as either the manor house of a moderate-sized general farm, or as a tenant house or overseer's house. Bloom's is one of the few remaining 19th century stone houses in the Manassas-Manassas Park area. ^{SEE INSERT} The house is in deteriorating but salvageable condition. There is both local government and citizen support for preserving the house. The stone used in the construction was quarried locally. The house's construction methods and materials show how houses were built in the early and mid-19th century. The house was probably built by slave labor. Built in two sections at two different times, the original house's side-hall plan helps to illustrate something about living arrangements and conditions in the first quarter of the 19th century. The change from a side hall plan to a central passage plan through the addition of the south wing, a move from an asymmetrically balanced facade to a symmetrically balanced one, demonstrates how some houses were enlarged in the 19th century to meet the demands for more room; and it also tells about emerging trends in architectural styles as they occurred in Prince William County.

The older part of this house, which may have been built before the end of the 18th century, is a hall-parlor-plan dwelling with an exterior end chimney and having a steeply-pitched, heavy timber roof. To that, in 1855, was added a two-story stone wing having an interior end chimney and one room per floor. In about 1900, a two-story frame addition was made to the main section's rear, containing a kitchen and a bedroom above. This addition was demolished in 1976. After the sale of the property, all of the farm buildings except this house were demolished, including an old log kitchen which sat behind the house. A portion of a silo may exist, on New Dominion School property.

The older section of the house ^{WAS} ~~may have been~~ built during the ownership of John Hooe, Jr., the property's owner from the end of the 18th century to about 1843. The

Ho

oe family, whose large property holdings lay southwest of Bloom's House, was one of Prince William County's first families; it was upon the Hooe-owned Mayfield Tract that ^{Manassas Junction,} ~~Tudor Hall,~~ the first railroad depot in the Manassas area was built in 1851.

^

During the Civil War, Bloom's was part of Lewis Butler's Birmingham tract. Birmingham is a frame-constructed house built in part, before the Civil War. Bloom's, Birmingham, and Liberia, the latter two houses located in the City of Manassas, are probably the only three pre-Civil War residences remaining in the Manassas area. Bloom's, moreover, is Manassas Park's only historical structure.

Bloom's ^{Farm} is thought to have been the location of Confederate encampments during the Civil War. The house had a commanding position overlooking the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, which had been completed from Alexandria to Manassas Junction in 1851. There recently has come to light new information suggesting that the house, known then as Puckett's House, was the headquarters and residence from July to November 1861, of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. If this is true, then, Bloom's was the headquarters of the Confederate Army for the first 5 months of the Army's existence. Recently, a Timothy O'Sullivan photograph, dated 1862 and labeled the "Yellow Hospital," was identified as Bloom's House. Many Civil War artifacts have been found in the house's yard and the adjoining fields. The house allegedly was struck by a cannon shell in an artillery duel in 1861.

Located as it is on a rich vein of red sandstone, the Manassas area has been a major local supplier of this stone for building purposes. Bloom's House is located

near a (presently defunct) commercial stone quarry that may have operated from just after the Civil War to the early 20th century. In the late 19th century, the quarry was owned by the Blooms Grove, or Blooming Grove, Company.

From the early 1900s, under the ownership of E. R. Conner, Bloom's became a major (c400-20) Prince William County dairy farm. Milk was shipped daily to Washington, D.C., from Bloom's Crossing, a railroad stop Conner had erected at the foot of the hill near his house.

After 1971, the Conner farm was divided up, with the larger portion being sold to the Prince William School Board. In 1973, the Town (now City) of Manassas Park purchased the house and yard. Located outside the Manassas Park city limits, the house was recently saved from demolition by the Manassas Park Women's Club. That group and other interested citizens are presently restoring the house. In 1976, a fence was erected around the house to keep out vandals. In 1978, the roof was repaired. In October 1980, preliminary archeological excavations were begun by volunteers under the direction of a qualified archeologist. The City has cooperated in and encouraged the preservation effort by declaring the house an important historical structure within the community and by appropriating funds for repairs to the property.