



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

76-13
File no. 152-1
Negative no(s). 4356, 5172

SURVEY FORM

Historic name Blooms House Common name aka Conner House
County/Town/City Manassas Park PN County
Street address or route number Conner Drive, Manassas Park, Va.

USGS Quad <u>Manassas</u>	Date or period <u>c 1844; 1855; early 1900s.</u>
Original owner <u>Lewis B. Butler?</u>	Architect/builder/craftsmen
Original use <u>Residence</u>	
Present owner <u>City of Manassas Park</u>	Source of name
Present owner address <u>103 Manassas Drive</u> <u>Manassas Park, Va.</u>	Source of date <u>Traditional date; cornerstone (1855).</u>
Present use <u>Not in use.</u>	Stories <u>2</u>
Acres <u>cl acre</u>	Foundation and wall const'n <u>Stone foundation and walls</u> <u>laid up in lime-sand mortar and patched with portland</u> <u>Roof type <u>Metal-covered gable roof.</u> cement.</u>

State condition of structure and environs House in very bad condition: cracks in masonry, missing windows, porch and 2-story wing demolished, interior a shambles. Integrity of setting gone.
State potential threats to structure Further deterioration, condemnation by city officials.
Note any archaeological interest Confederate campsite (Camp Walker) located near house.

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes X no ___ At the request of the city.

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.)

There apparently was a 2-story frame (now demolished) e1 on back of house.
Exterior may have once been whitewashed.

Double, 4-panel doors, front and back, date to c1905. Three-pane arch over doors, front and back. Windows, trim, and probably mantels all missing.

House has a full basement. Moulded cornice on main part of house, both back and front. Box cornice on smaller section on the west. Main house has steeply-pitched roof; west side has roof with more gentle slope. Stone chimneys recently repaired with brick.

Concrete slab (6' x 11') behind and to the north of house. (Foundation of former porch?) Demolished 1 story gable roofed porch on front (south side).

House is now surrounded by high wire fence. Few large trees around house, some in very poor condition. Original approach to house and slope from front of house completely changed through recent grading.

Several architectural fragments, including dated cornerstone and newel post, being held by local residents for safekeeping until restoration takes place.

Barn and log kitchen demolished, but silo, though vandalized, still remains.

Interior inspected? No

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

One source says Camp Walker (Confederate campsite) was located in house's front yard. In his book on Prince William County, R. Jackson Ratcliffe alleges that house was located between two Confederate campsites. House was supposedly damaged during fighting.

According to E. R. Conner III, house belonged to the Blooms before Conners, and for that reason has been known to the Conners as Blooms.

Land may have been part of "King" Carter's Lower Bull Run Tract. Farmhouse stood on western extremity of Lewis Butler's Birmingham tract during Civil War. Chain of title:

<u>Nov 1869</u>	<u>Sale from Lewis B. & Susan Butler to Jonas Greene.</u> <u>[In trust to John H. Butler] 88 acres.</u>
<u>Jul 1876</u>	<u>Deed. Cristina S. Greene to Louisa M. Greene.</u>
<u>Oct 1882</u>	<u>Louisa M. Greene to Abraham & Isaac Rickard.</u>
<u>Jan 1891</u>	<u>Abraham Rickard to Alvin H. Rouse.</u>
<u>Sep 1893</u>	<u>A. H. Rouse to M. C. Bennett.</u>
<u>Mar 1900</u>	<u>M. C. Bennett to E. R. Conner.</u>
<u>Aug 1972</u>	<u>E. R. Conner, Jr. to City of Manassas Park.</u>

City of Manassas Park, led by Myra Kittrell, intends to restore this building as a historic house museum.

Sources and bibliography

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

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

pp. 60-61

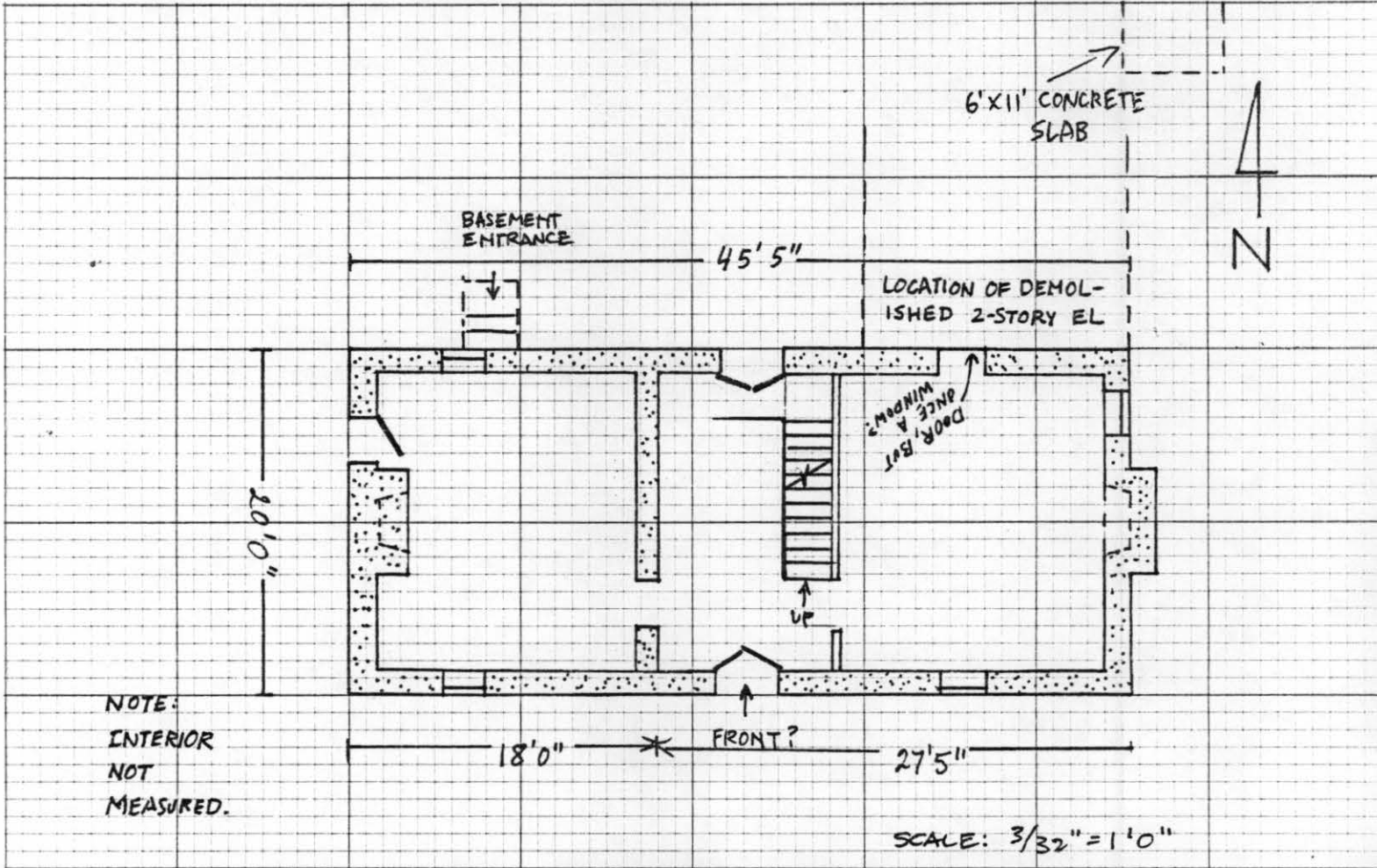
E. R. Conner III, "Blooms and Blooms Grove: A Tale of Two Farms," in *Echoes Of History*, Oct 1979

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

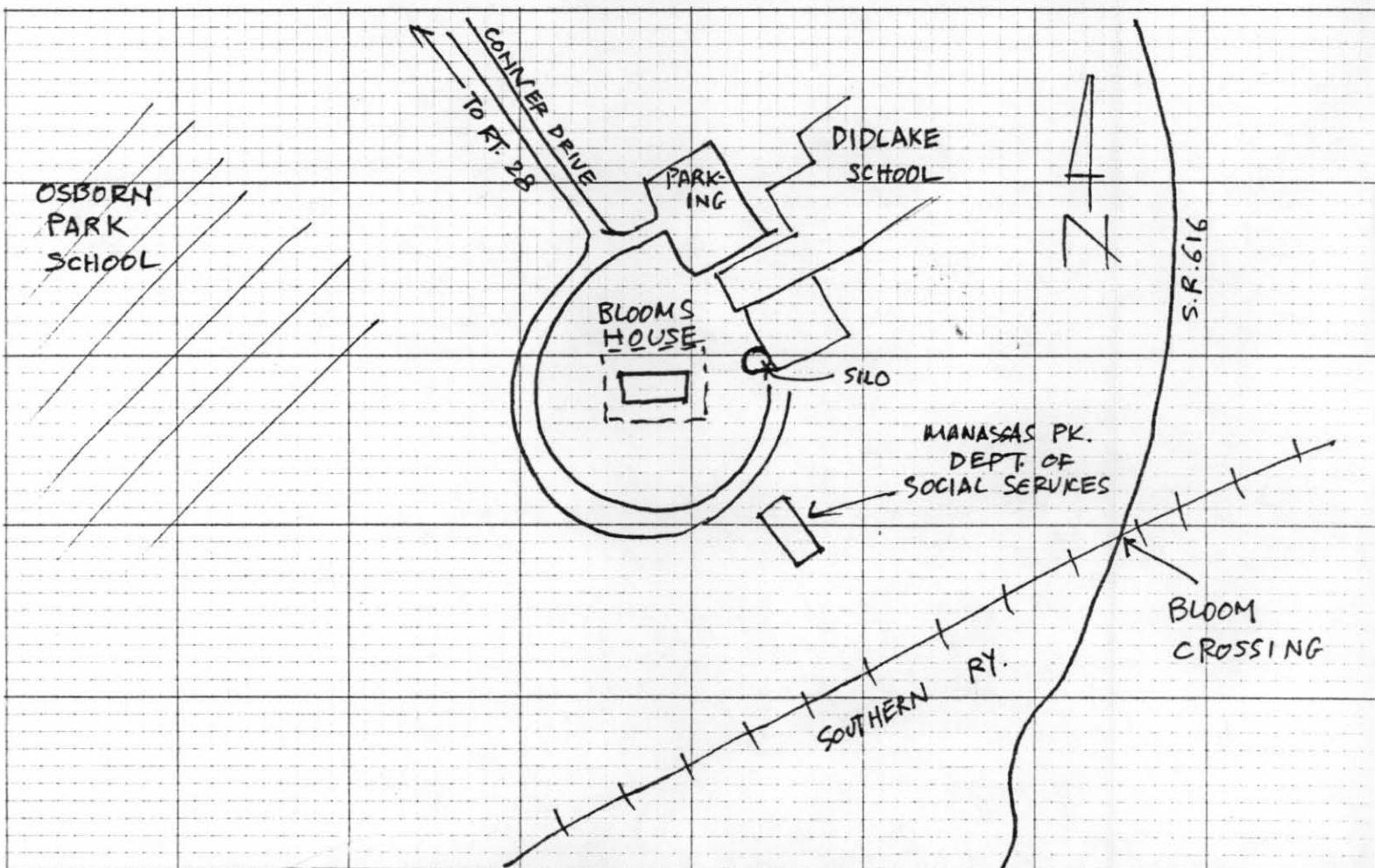
Deeds, Prince William County Courthouse, 1869 to present.

Names and addresses of persons interviewed Myra Kittrell, 156 Baker St., Manassas Park, Va. 22110;
E. R. Conner III, Manassas Museum, Manassas, Va.; Pam Warfel, Intl. Systems Inc., Atlanta, Ga.

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

1/11/79