

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre

12229 Bristow Rd. Bristow VA 20136 703-365-7895

The Town of Brentsville was established on 50 acres in 1820 to become the County seat of Prince William County. By 1820 many residents had moved farther west for better farm land and the old county seat of Dumfries was too far east for the western residents to travel conveniently. The new town of Brentsville was centrally located in Prince William County along the major east/west road that led from the port of Dumfries to the Shenandoah Valley. In 1893 the county seat moved to Manassas; and Brentsville became a rural community which allowed it to retain much of its 19th century character.

The Brentsville site consists of 28 acres with five historic buildings and various archaeological sites. These inc



the ca. 1850 Haislip-Hall House ca. 1875 Union Church and the 19. Brentsville Tavern archaeological site. The site also includes a mile area's natural resources.

Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre interprets the history of Breithrough three centuries. Currently the Courthouse Union Church ar restored. Work is underway for the restoration on the Jail and deveruseum. Once completed the site will give visitors a unique look ir William County but Northern Virginia.

The grounds are open to the public from sunrise to sunset every day and a picnic area are available. Tours are offered Thursday through October 31 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. or by appointment. The grounds rental.

Learn more from our videos



You can take a virtual tour of <u>Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre</u> and learn more about its rich history discover! You can also visit the <u>Haislip-Hall Log Cabin Home</u> to learn more about family and farm life in the

Brenstville Joins Other House Museums

Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre is a participating member of the Historic House Museum Consortium of Please visit www.dchousemuseums.org to learn about more than 40 historic house museums in the Wash Vernon Riversdale the White House and many more in Virginia Maryland and Washington DC!

Programs for School and Youth Groups

Educators and Youth Group Leaders are invited to Brentsville for special <u>Programs for Students</u> and youth groups. We offer a variety of activities to help youth gain an appreciation of days gone by and an understanding of the lives of Prince William residents in the past.

Upcoming Programs and Event

Prince William County is actively participating in the <u>Civil War Sesquicentennial</u>. Brentsville Historic Center will host local activities to mark Virginia's commemoration of this 150th anniversary. For more information, http://www.visitpwc.com/ or http://www.virginiacivilwar.org.



Jail Restoration

Learn about our efforts to restore the jail dating back to 1822 and who

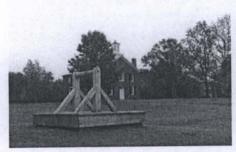
Brentsville Timeline

1686 Brent Town Grant made by King James II to Brent family including preser

1737 land was first surveyed

- 1779 Commonwealth of Virginia confiscates the land from the Bristow family du 1779-1820 Land was rented by the Commonwealth for farming and timber
- 1820 Town of Brentsville established by the Virginia General Assembly as the n
- 1822 Brentsville courthouse jail clerk of court's office and tavern completed
- 1835 William Hyden a freed black is falsely arrested as a runaway slave; attem slavery unsuccessful; escapes from Brentsville in 1836.
- 1853 Samuel Haislip built a new farmhouse off of Vint Hill Road now located on
- 1860 (Winter) Prince William Cavalry formed at Brentsville in response to the Jo Harper's Ferry
- 1861 (April 1) Prince William County magistrates vote to endorse Virginia's sect
- 1861 (May 23) Citizens of Virginia vote to secede from the United States. Sever regiments formed.
- 1862 (March 3) Last day of court in Prince William County until end of war
- 1863 (Oct. 14) Battle of Bristoe Station Union troops occupy Brentsville
- 1870 (Oct. 17) First County Board of Supervisors meeting in courthouse with fire
- 1874 Brentsville Union Church completed
- 1893 County seat moved to Manassas
- 1928 Brentsville one room schoolhouse built for grades 1-5 school was previous
- 1928-1960s Courthouse and schoolhouse used as community recreational space
- 1970 Prince William Park Authority takes possession of park and buildings
- 2004 Prince William County Historic Preservation Division assumes managemen
- 2006 Courthouse and Union Church restored
- 2008 Haislip/Hall house restored
- 2010 Jail stabilization begins

Brentsville Civil War History



Brentsville was the Prince William County seat during the Civil War. In Harper's Ferry in 1859 the Prince William Cavalry (Co. A Virginia Cavalr courthouse lawn in January 1860. The ladies of Brentsville made a flag Other Confederate units from Prince William County such as Ewell Guar were organized and drilled here.

Like many Virginian towns Brentsville suffered heavily at the hands of both armies. Confederate General Epp lawyer had his house and other buildings destroyed. The Hampton Legion among other units was posted here homes and churches served as hospitals. The county clerk's office was torn down and its bricks used for cam courthouse roof was torn off and many county records were either destroyed or taken by soldiers as souvening Pennsylvania Infantry wrote of Brentsville in 1864 "the houses generally are in ruin."

The Battle of Bristoe Station fought three miles west on Oct. 14 1863 brought combat to Brentsville's doorste John Buford's cavalry was posted here to protect the Federal supply train. Confederate partisan units operate war.





Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre is part of the Virginia Civil War Trails program.

Brentsville Courthouse was named a part of the Nation Underground Railroad in 2008. Learn more about th Underground Railroad and specifically about the connection between Brentsville and the Undergroun Railroad.

For more information contact:

Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre 12229 Bristow Rd. Bristow VA 20136 703-365-7895 historicpreservation@pwcgov.org

From Interstate 95: Take Rt. 234 North (Exit 152B); travel seven and a half miles Independent Hill Drive. Then make your immediate right onto Bristow Rd. Brentsv right.

From Interstate 66: Take Rt. 234 South (Exit 44); travel 4.5 miles and turn right onto Rt. 28 south (Nokesvil left onto Rt. 619 (Bristow Rd.); Brentsville is four miles on the left.

For more information on historic resources in the Prince William County area click