



VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-276
Negative no(s). 4374

SURVEY FORM

Historic name	Common name Martin House
County/Town/City Prince William County	
Street address or route number 7643 Chestnut St., Manassas, Va. 22110	
USGS Quad Manassas	Date or period c1900, though part could date to 1880s or 1890s.
Original owner	Architect/builder/craftsmen
Original use Residence	
Present owner Charles M. Martin	Source of name
Present owner address 7643 Chestnut St. Manassas, Va. 22110	Source of date Architectural evidence
Present use Residence	Stories 2 stories
Acreage c7.9 acres	Foundation and wall const'n Stone foundation, frame walls.
Roof type Metal-covered gable roof.	

State condition of structure and environs Good--guttled, except for 2d floor, and renovated.

State potential threats to structure
Note any archaeological interest House may be the site of McLean House of Civil War fame.

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 small, frame-constructed, renovated farmhouse. Until recently, the original weatherboards were covered with asbestos shingles, but in late 1979 or early 1980, the exterior was covered with aluminum siding.

The plan of the original central passage I-type house was two rooms on the first floor and two on the second floor. At some point, the two-story addition was built on the rear. The join in the roof can be seen in the attic. In recent years a 1-story open porch was raised to two stories and enclosed. The 1-story open porch on the front (a poured concrete slab with turned posts) was recently refurbished through the addition of a rail; the house was earlier heated by stoves, but it now has central heat, and a fireplace/stove has been installed in the living room. There is a crawl space but no cellar.

The interior trim on the first floor is all reproduction. Some of the original doorways have been remodeled and have no trim. The windows throughout are all replacement 6/6 sliding sash.

Some architrave door and window trim remains in one room on the second floor, but early woodwork in the other rooms has all been removed. The closed, straight string stair has a rail at the second floor. It has a heavy square newel, square balusters, and a heavy, moulded rail. Random-width pine floors are found on the second floor. The remaining older doors are 4-panel moulded doors from the late 19th-early 20th century.

There is a small gable-roofed frame-constructed shed southeast of the house beside Rugby Rd. Measuring about 10' x 12', it rests on a stone and cinderblock foundation and is thought Interior inspected? Yes. _____ by the present owner to have been a springhouse and dairy.

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

The Yorkshire tract of 764 acres was originally patented in 1729 by Mark Chilton; later it was owned by Col. Richard Blackburn of Rippon Lodge, a native of Yorkshire, England. Blackburn subsequently enlarged the estate, which passed to his son, Col. Thomas Blackburn. In 1800, Bernard Hooe, Jr., purchased 145 acres of the estate from Col. Blackburn. In 1824, Blackburn's sons-in-law Bushrod Washington and Henry Smith Turner acquired the Yorkshire estate. In 1826, they sold it to John Hooe, son of Bernard Hooe, Jr. In 1854, Virginia B. McLean, wife of Wilmer McLean, acquired the farm. The McLeans built the large frame barn on a stone foundation, part of which still exists. The house that some historians have asserted was the

Sources and bibliography

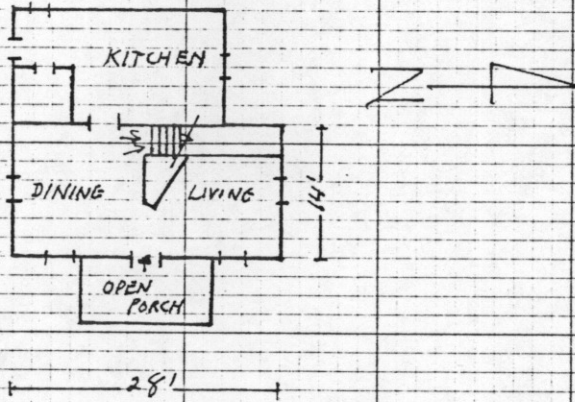
Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)

Ratcliffe, R. J., This Was Prince William (c1978), p. 82. Writers Program, WPA, Prince William, the Story of Its People and Its Places (1941, 1961), p. 143. (continued)

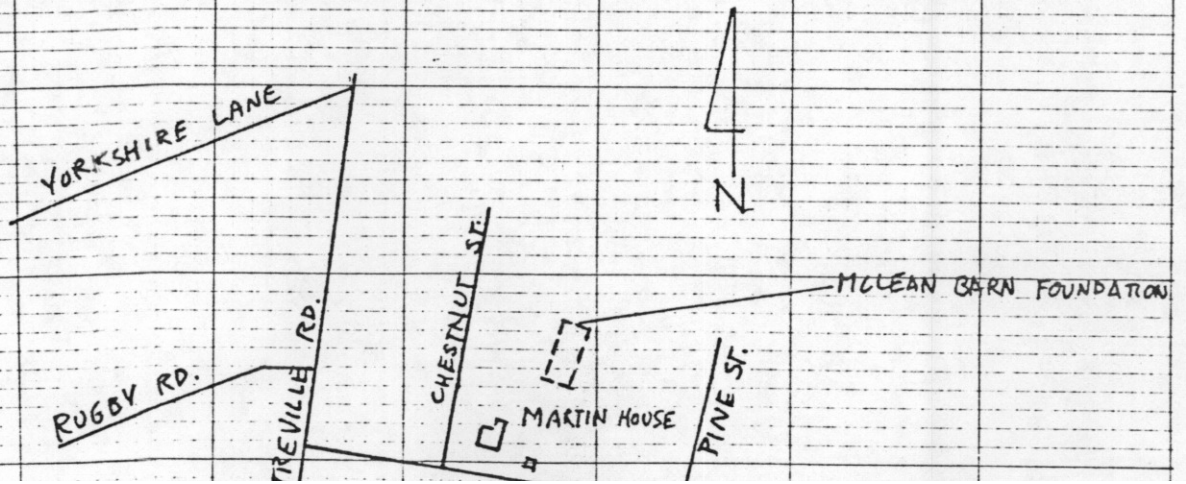
Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

Names and addresses of persons interviewed Charles Martin, owner.

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



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



Martin House
(Continuation Sheet)

Historical Significance (continued)

Near the house, about 50 yards northeast, are the crumbling foundations of the McLean barn, built in 1856, used as a hospital during the Civil War, and destroyed in a strong windstorm in 1958.

The present owner bought the house in 1975 from Houston Darnell, who had bought it in 1971 from Ben Marks. Marks had acquired it in about 1951 from Mr. Goldrich, who had acquired a large parcel in the Yorkshire area in 1949 from I. J. Breeden. Yorkshire was probably included in the estate of Robert Portner, whose holdings, about 2,000 acres at the turn of the 19th century, ran from Manassas to Bull Run. Breeden bought the estate from Portner's heirs in the 1940s.

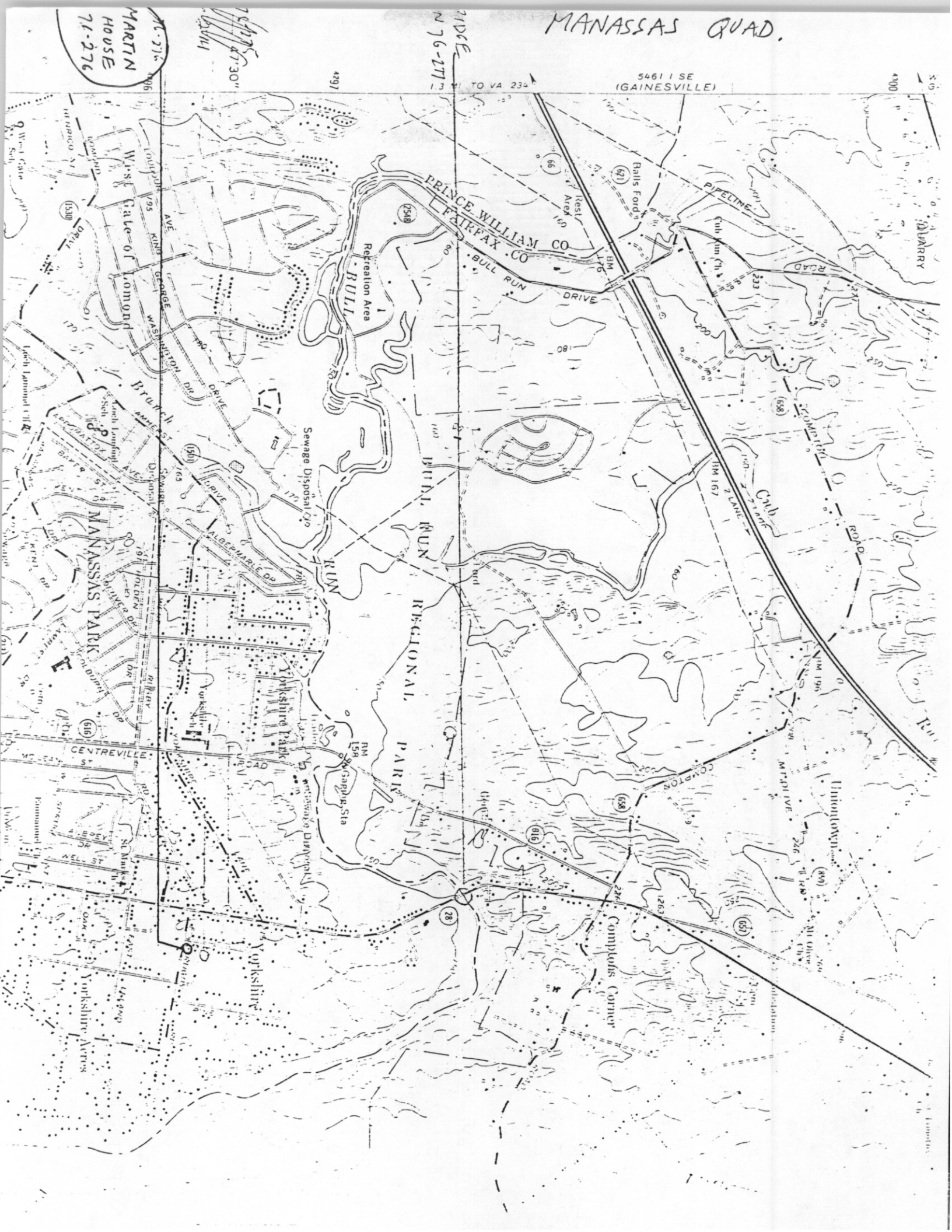
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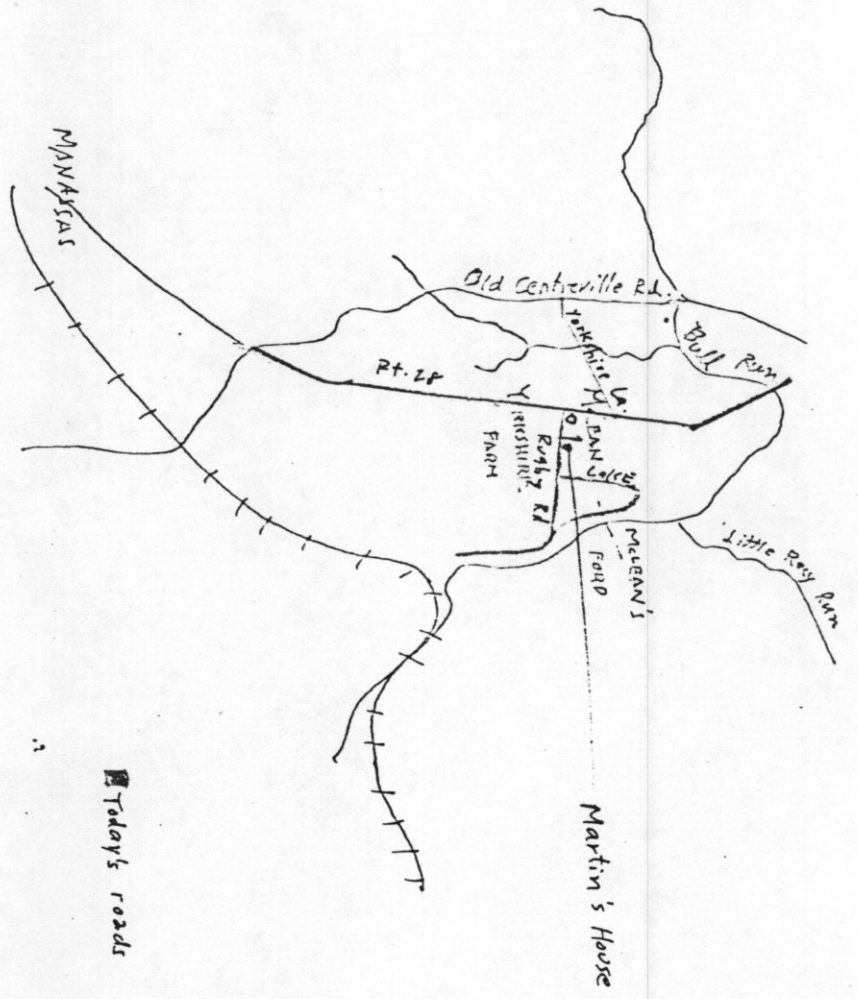
Hanson, Joseph Mills, Bull Run Remembers (1953), pp. 96-98.

Ebert, Bruce, "Remembering Wilmer McLean," in Manassas-Journal Messenger, 8 April 1977.

MANASSAS QUAD.

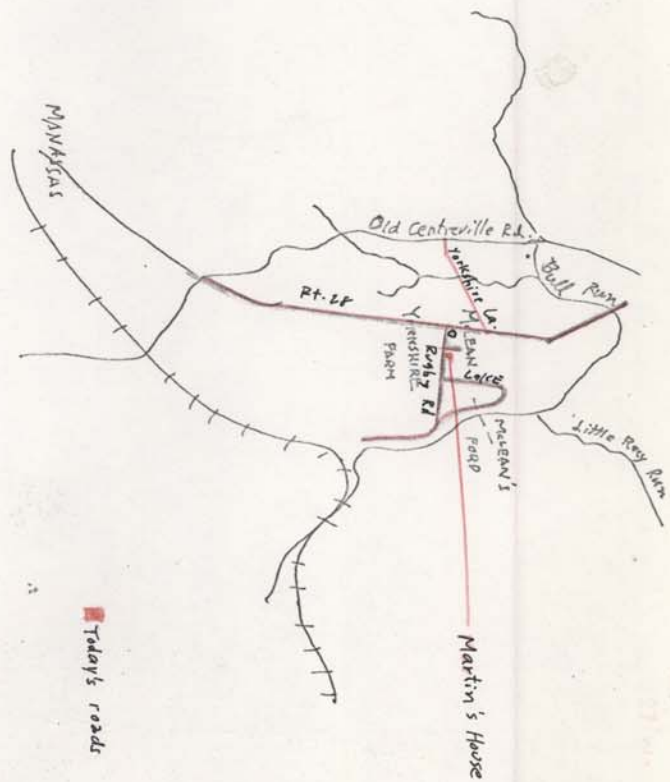
MARTIN HOUSE
71-276





YORKSHIRE
 drawn from 1901 map of
 Wm H. Brown

Today's roads



YORKSHIRE.
 drawn from 1901 map of
 Wm H. Brown

84
 92

McLean Barn Ruins
(Continuation Sheet)

Architectural Description (continued)

The Yorkshire area may be one of the more economically depressed areas of Prince William County. Public services are improving however; soon a new sewer system will be in place, and the unsafe Rt. 28 is being widened. New rapid development will accompany these general improvements, and it is likely that if this small parcel is not reserved soon it will be sold and a house or houses will be built on the site. There is paractically no public park or recreation space in Yorkshire. Acquisition of this small parcel and a cleaning up of the barn ruin for use as a small historical park would moreover preserve the only remnant of the McLean plantation which came to light during the Civil War.

Historical Significance (continued)

military review led by Gen. Earl Van Dorn's Division. The parade took place on the "old fields" southwest of McLean's Ford, where Yorkshire Village is now. The McLean barn may have been the scene of a grand military ball held at Camp Carondelet near Blackburn's Ford in February 1862.

Wilmer McLean, according to legend, was a star-crossed man. It is said that the McLeans, after their house was hit during the First Battle of Manassas, decided to move to a safer location. They eventually settled at Appomattox, in a house where, coincidentally, on April 9, 1865, Lee's surrender to Grant took place. Actually, according to the published memoirs of E. P. Alexander, a signal officer in the Confederate Army, Wilmer McLean stayed on at Yorkshire after moving his family to a safer location and worked (in part as a civilian volunteer) for the Confederate Quartermaster Corp. Later at Appomattox, it was no sheer coincidence that the surrender took place in his house; McLean allegedly offered the house as the place of the signing of the surrender papers.

Around the turn of the century, Yorkshire became part of a 2,000-acre estate created by Alexandria brewer and financier Robert Portner. Portner bought both the Liberia farms and the old McLean farm, and on the outskirts of Manassas built a brick and stone Colonial Revival mansion which he named Annaburg. The Yorkshire and Liberia tracts, in addition to being farmed, contained Portner's hunting grounds, though nothing remains of the hunting lodge he supposedly had in what is now Manassas Park. After Portner's death, I. J. Breeden acquired the estate between Bull Run and Manassas. Breeden, who lived at Liberia, subdivided and sold or developed most of the land he acquired from the Portner heirs.

In 1958, a severe storm leveled the wooden superstructure of the McLean barn. (No one seems to know what became of the McLean House.) The frame structure of the barn post-dated the foundation and may have been the third barn on the old foundation.

Published Sources (continued)

Hanson, Joseph Mills, Bull Run Remembers (1953), pp. 36, 40, 96, 101, 172, 180.

Hanson, Joseph Mills, "Major Hanson Outlines History of McLean Barn," in Manassas Journal-Messenger, 10 June 1958.

Alexander, E.P., Military Memoirs of a Confederate ().

Ebert, Bruce, "Remembering Wilmer McLean and His Guests," in Manassas-Journal Messenger, 8 April 1977.

Obituary of Wilmer McLean in Alexandria Gazette, 7 June 1882.

Gauble, Frank P., A Biography of Wilmer McLean (Appomattox Court House, National Historical Park, 1969).