



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-274
Negative no(s). 4374, 4914

SURVEY FORM

Historic name McLean Barn Ruins	Common name A.K.A. Yorkshire Barn
County/Town/City Prince William County	
Street address or route number vic. 7639 Chestnut St., Manassas, Va. 22110	
USGS Quad Manassas	Date of period c1856
Original owner Wilmer McLean	Architect/builder/craftsmen
Original use Barn	
Present owner Charles M. McGehee	Source of name
Present owner address 8241 Idylewood Rd. Vianna, Va. 22180	Source of date Published histories.
Present use Not in use	Stories Foundation only remaining. Barn may have been Foundation and wall const'n rebuilt at least once.
Acreege c3 acres	Stone foundation (walls were frame)
	Roof type --

State condition of structure and environs Foundation is in ruins; site overgrown.

State potential threats to structure Vandalism, weather.

Note any archaeological interest Barn was a general hospital during Civil War. Yorkshire house was supposedly near the barn.

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes no as an archeological site.

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.)

The main foundation, laid up in roughly shaped and coursed, locally-quarried, red sandstone measures about 75' long by 35' wide. There is a smaller addition on the north end measuring about 15' x 21'. The overall height of the foundation walls is about 9' to 10', but because it was a bank barn, the west side is built into a hill and the top of that wall is only a little higher than ground level. The wall in the main section is about 30" thick and about 18" to 20" thick in the addition. The three segmental arches are on the east side. Each of the arches was once lined with wood and fitted with doors. The walls on the north and east sides are not intact; many of the stones atop the arches have been removed by vandals or fallen off. The two end walls each have a large opening in the center measuring about 8' wide. There is a well-shaped sill (probably) at the top of the west wall. The well-dressed stone sill measures about 51" long by 16 1/2" deep and 6" high. Two rectangular holes measuring 1 1/2" x 4 1/2" x 1/2" appear on the top side of this stone. A hole on the foundation's south end may have been the location of the dated cornerstone, a stone which was dated 1856 and was allegedly given to the Manassas National Battlefield Park. The floor of the foundation is littered with debris, and small trees are growing up through the old concrete surface.

The setting of this old barn foundation is peculiar. It is located on a small parcel behind three low-income 1940s or 50s bungalow-style houses. The site is so overgrown that the presence of the barn ruin is not apparent. The Mitchell House, which faces the Martin House (see survey sheet), is located off the southwest corner of the barn. There is a lot of debris around the site, most of it junk, but a pile of old bricks near the east side of the barn ruin may have been a small outbuilding. There is no sign of the McLean house, which is thought to have sat above the barn.

(continued)

Interior inspected?

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

The stone foundation of the McLean Barn is the only apparent remaining physical evidence of the Yorkshire Plantation, a large farm established in the late 18th-early 19th century on Bull Run. While the barn was built in 1856, the history of the Yorkshire plantation can be traced to Richard Blackburn, of Rippon Lodge on the Potomac in eastern Prince William County. In 1733, Blackburn purchased 764 acres adjoining "King" Carter's Bull Run Tract from Mark Chilton, who had patented the land in 1729. Blackburn enlarged the estate, and it passed to his son Col. Thomas Blackburn. In 1800, Thomas Blackburn sold 145 acres of the estate to Bernard Hooe, Jr. Blackburn passed the estate to his sons-in-law Bushrod Washington and Henry Smith Turner who sold it in 1826 to John Hooe, son of Bernard Hooe, Jr. In 1854, Virginia McLean, wife of Wilmer McLean, acquired the Yorkshire plantation, then totaling 1,200 acres.

The McLean farm achieved notoriety during the Civil War, primarily because of its strategic position near Bull Run. During the spring and summer of 1861, the Confederates built substantial fortifications on the south side of Bull Run, in the vicinity of McLean's Ford and Mitchell's Ford. The Yorkshire area experienced heavy artillery fire by the Union forces. A shell hit the McLean house; and the McLean barn which was being used as a general hospital was also fired upon, despite the presence of a yellow hospital flag being flown. Yorkshire was the headquarters of General Beauregard between July 18 to 21, 1861. Beauregard had been headquartered at Liberia, the plantation just south of Yorkshire, but he moved to McLean's to be closer to the fighting. In December 1861, the McLean farm was the scene of a Confederate

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Sources and bibliography

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

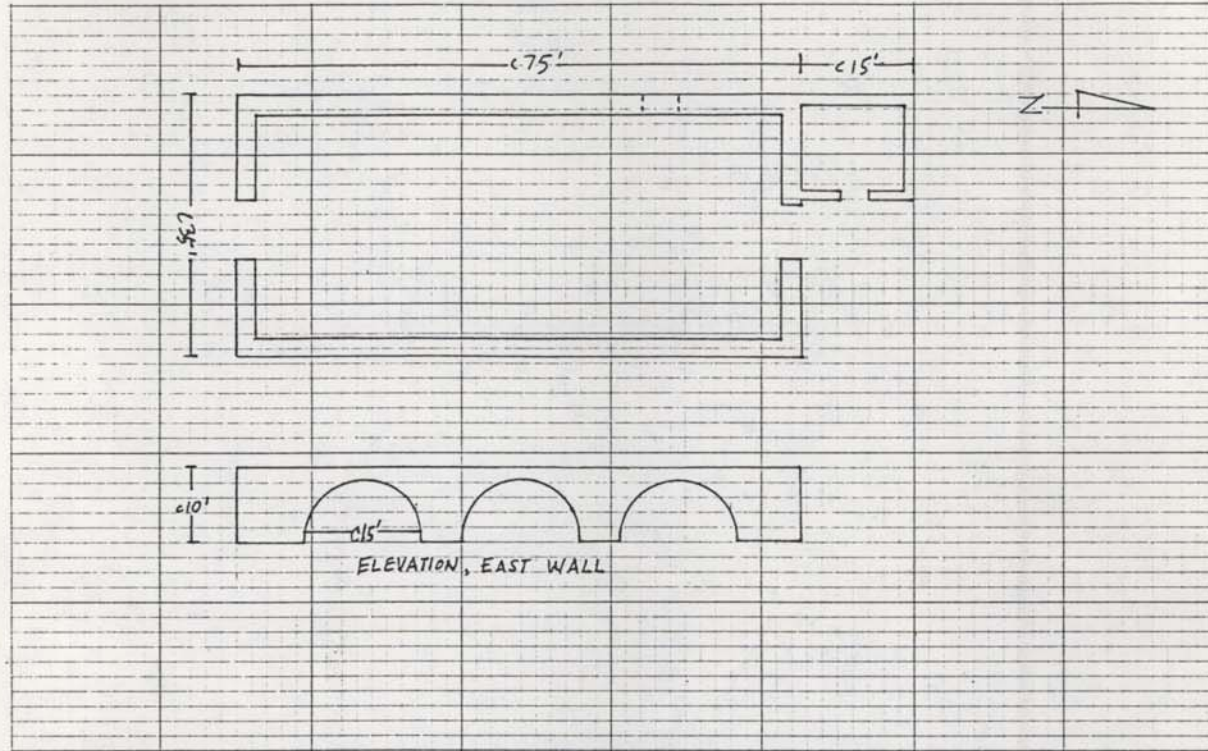
Ratcliffe, R.J., This Was Prince William (c1978), pp. 82; 116.

W.P.A. Writers Project, Prince William, the Story of Its People and Its Places (c1941), p.143-144

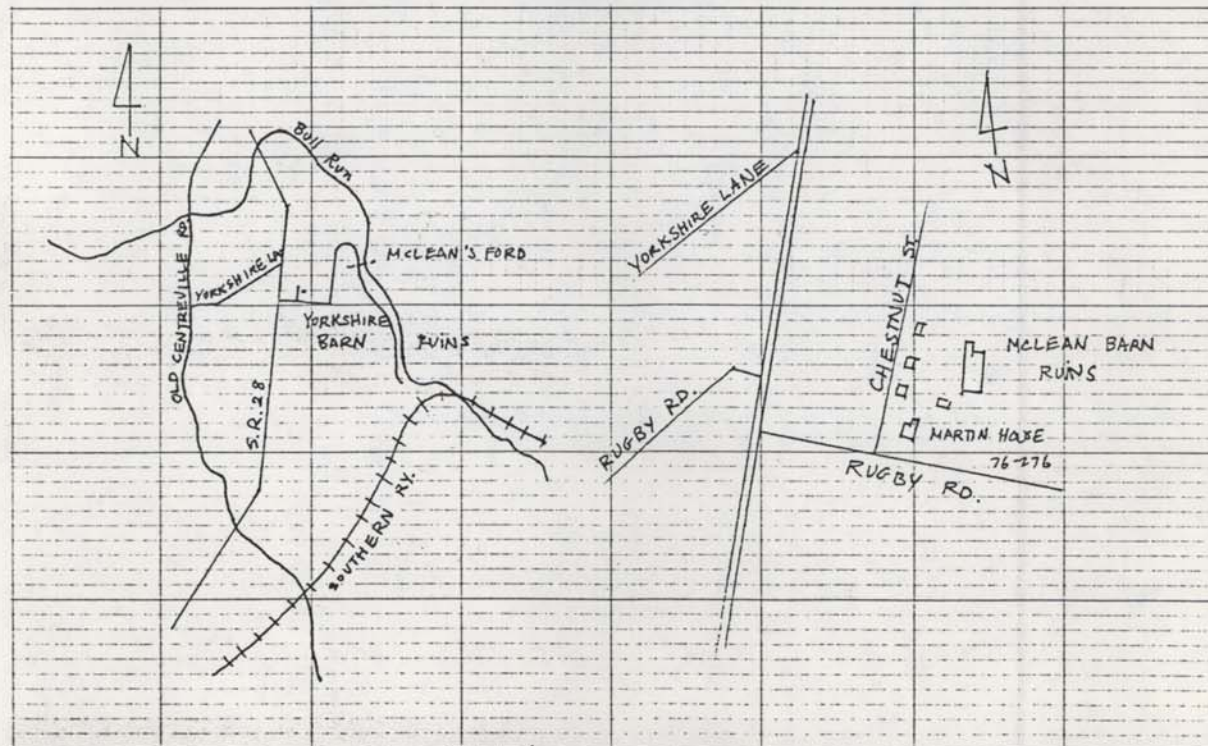
Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.) (continued)

Names and addresses of persons interviewed Mr. McGehee (owner); Ronnie Stanley, 7639 Chestnut St., Manassas; Mr. Mitchell, neighbor.

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 SEP 1980

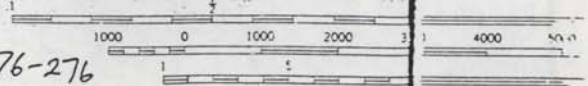


INDEPENDENT HILL 9 MI.
17 MI. TO INTERSTATE 95

MCLEAN BARN RUINS SCALE 24 000

MANASSAS QUAD. MN GN
6 1/2" 1" 32"
11 1/2 MILS 27 MILS

76-276



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL