



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-273
Negative no(s). 4371, 4922

SURVEY FORM

Historic name Nelson House	Common name AKA Woodyard House
County/Town/City Brentsville, Prince William County	
Street address or route number 12214 Bristow Road, Nokesville, Virginia	22123
USGS Quad Nokesville	Date or period Early 1800's; 1880's to early 1900's.
Original owner Unknown	Architect/builder/craftsmen
Original use Residence	
Present owner Nelson E. & Roberta L. Nestor	Source of name
Present owner address 12214 Bristow Road	Source of date Architectural evidence
Nokesville, VA 22123	Stories 2 stories
Present use Residence	Foundation and wall const'n Stone foundation; frame walls.
Acreage 42,689 square feet	

Roof type Metal-covered gable roof.

State condition of structure and environs House and grounds in fair to good condition.

State potential threats to structure

Note any archaeological interest - House is said to have been a hospital during the Civil War.

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes ☐ no ☐

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 2-story, frame-constructed, 3-bay, side-passage house on a high stone basement to which has been added a 2-story addition, and, added to that, a smaller 2-story addition. There is a brick and stone exterior chimney on the west side having fireplaces at the basement, first, and second floor levels. The stone in the chimney is locally-quarried red sandstone rubble laid up with lime-sand mortar. The house's exterior is covered with simulated brick design tarpaper, laid atop weatherboard siding. There is a one-story porch running across the front of the house. It has square posts and is supported on cinder blocks. "Stepping stones," large slabs of red sandstone, lead from Bristow Road to the front entrance. A small, one-story, shed-roofed, screened porch fills in the el, and an enclosed, shed-roofed, one-story porch is attached to the second addition. The main house has a plain box cornice and plain box trim around the doors and windows. The windows in the oldest section are $\frac{6}{6}$ and $\frac{2}{2}$ sliding sash. The windows in both of the additions are predominately $\frac{2}{2}$ sliding sash. The front door is a 4-panel moulded door with mortice lock and ceramic knob. There is a 3-light overhead above the front door. Opposite the front door is an enclosed, steep, winding stair paneled with horizontally-laid narrow boards. The door and window trim in the older section is architrave moulding. The mantels in the parlor and bedroom above it are similar: a moulded, cut-out shelf supported by pilasters with run-out stop chamfering, and a plain but slightly arched frieze. The floors in the older part are random-width pine. The doors are 4-panel moulded doors with box locks and ceramic knobs. Both riven and sawn lath can be found in the old, main part of the house. The walls and ceiling of the larger of the two rooms on the second floor are entirely covered with beaded tongue and groove boards. The attic's walls are partly finished with beaded boards, but traces of plaster and lath can also be seen. The common rafters of

(Continued)

Interior inspected? Yes.

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

This house was the residence of Edwin Nelson, Clerk of the Prince William County Court from 1887 to 1911. Nelson was clerk when the County Seat was moved from Brentsville to Manassas in 1893. After the Nelsons, the house's owners were a family named Woodyard. Woodyard sold to Del Wright, and Wright to H.H. James. The Paynes acquired the house in 1959 from James. Mrs. Payne sold the property in 1979 to the present owners.

This house is located in the town of Brentsville, as it was laid out in 1822.

ARCHITECTURE (Cont.)

NELSON HOUSE
(Cont.)

the roof are joined in a half-lap joint and pegged. Collar beams are fastened with square-headed nails. From the windows on the attic's west side, Nokesville, a few miles to the northwest, can be clearly seen. In the thick-walled basement there is a large fireplace, thought to have served as the cooking hearth. The floor in the basement is of brick.

The two story addition to the rear of the house has plain box trim. It is several steps below the level of the main section and is connected at both the first and second floors. This addition contains one room on each floor. Another addition, containing the kitchen, a rear stair, and upstairs a bedroom and a small bathroom, is attached to the end of the first addition. The additions date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

There are 2 small frame-built sheds on the property. The site of a demolished barn may be located on the property.

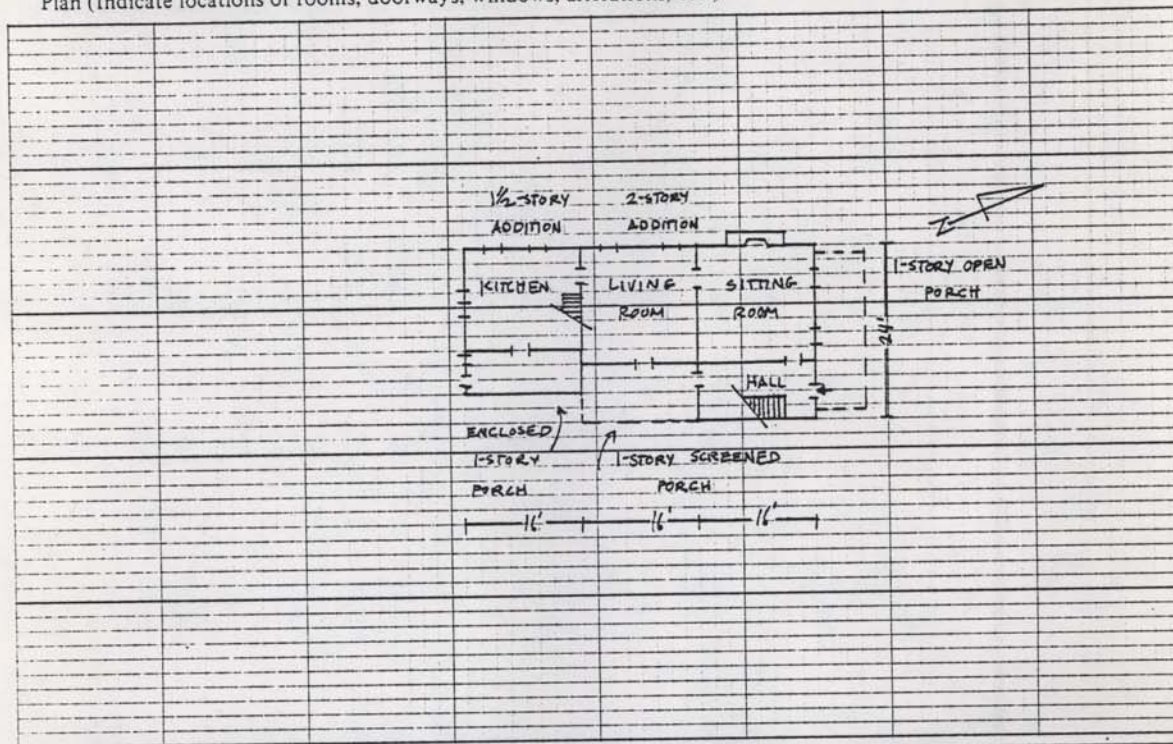
This is an unpretentious house having several distinctive architectural features that make it valuable, namely, the side-passage plan; the paneled, steep, enclosed, winding stair; and the large stone and brick exterior chimney. The side-passage plan is seldom encountered in the Brentsville vicinity. Moreover, the house has had surprisingly few alterations, either exterior or interior.

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

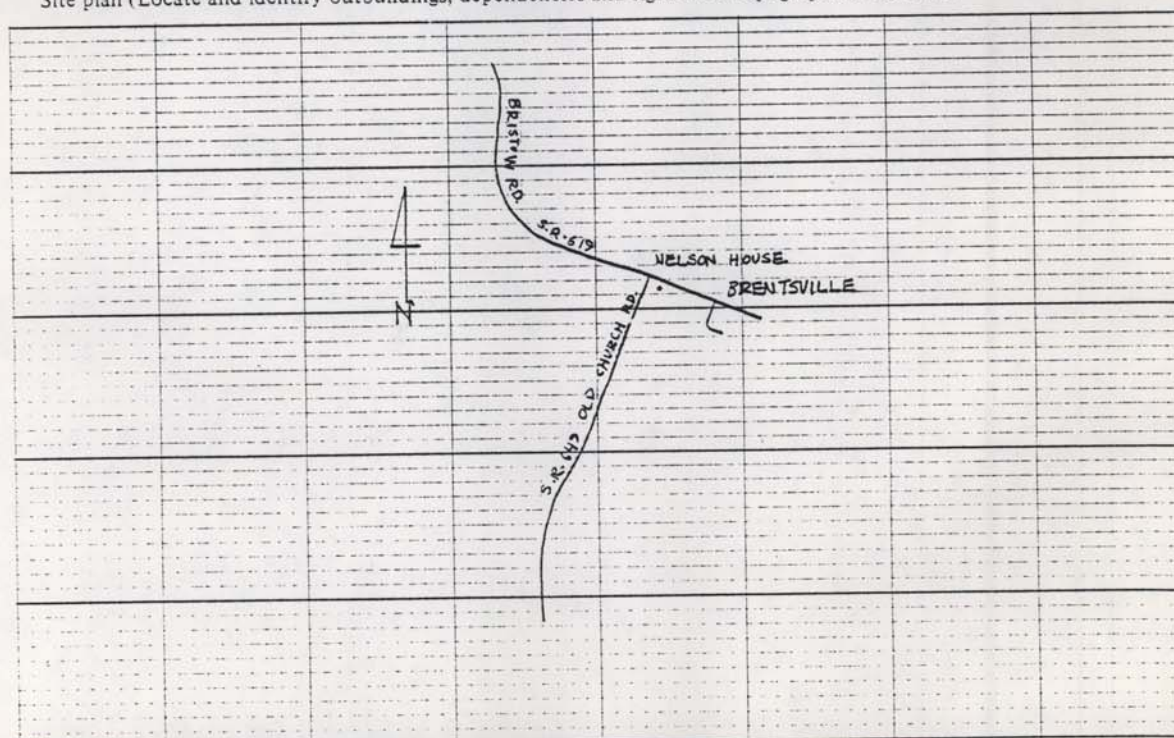
Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

Names and addresses of persons interviewed Mrs. Golder Payne (former owner); Mr. Nestor (owner).

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

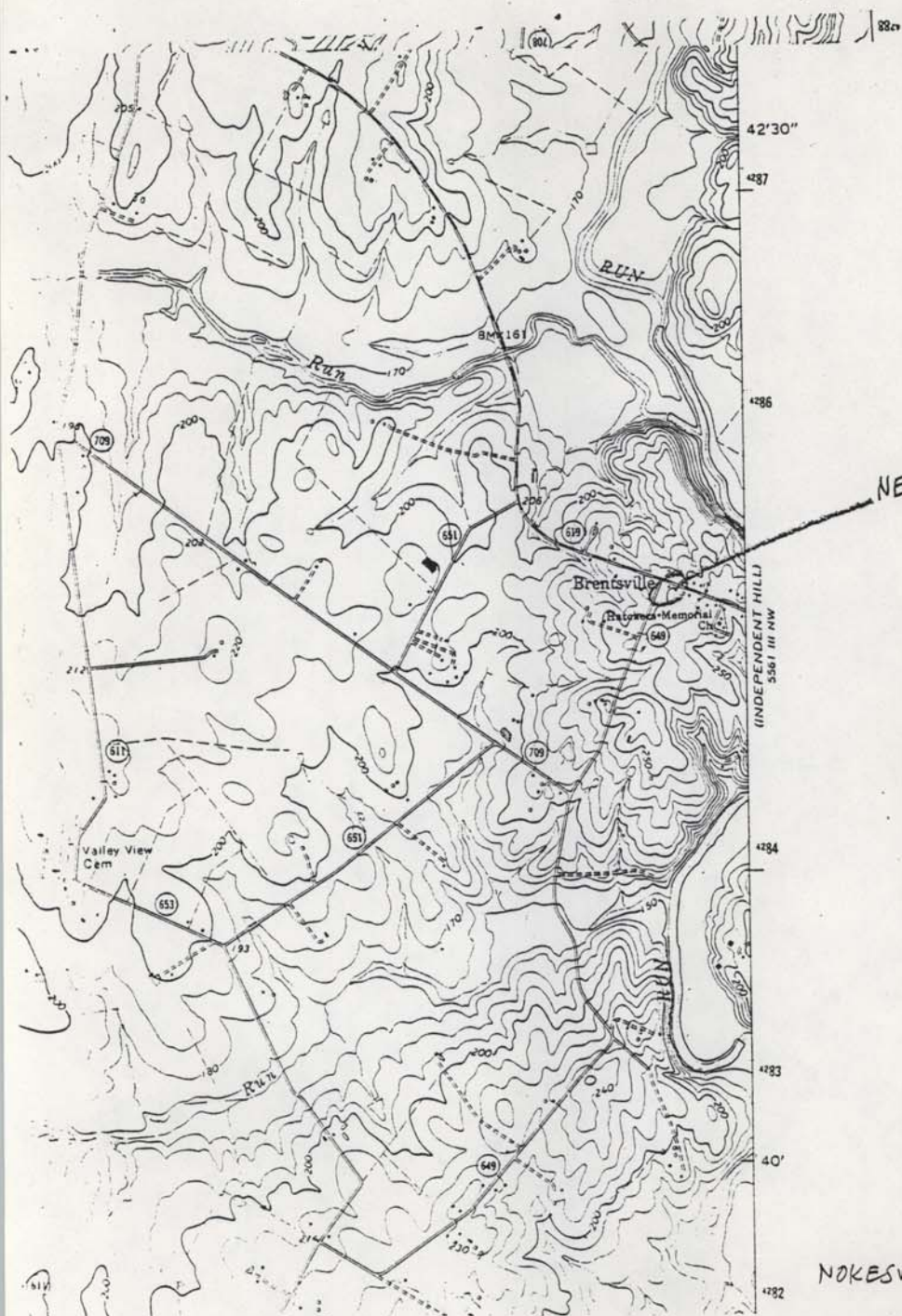


Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



Name, address and title of recorder
Francis Jones, Architectural
Historian - Surveyor, N.V.

Date
SEP 1980



NELSON HOUSE
76-273

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