



FRIENDS OF BRENTSVILLE COURTHOUSE HISTORIC CENTRE

12239 Bristow Road • P.O. Box 732 • Bristow, VA 20136

Brentsville Courthouse and its related properties served as the county seat of Prince William County from 1820 to 1892. The Courthouse and jail were constructed in 1822; the present school was built in 1910 and stands on the site of what was the clerk's office for many years. The Board of Supervisors and the Courts as we know them in Prince William County first functioned here. These structures were used for a variety of purposes over the years after Manassas became the county seat, but fortunately remained in the public domain. The site (nearly 18 acres) is formally designated a Historic Recreation Area. It was open to the public under the County Parks and Recreation Center in October 1975.

Long before Brentsville became the county seat it was the crossroads of Indian trade paths and rough roads from the Potomac to the Blue Ridge Mountains. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, James Monroe, William Grayson, and many other notables of our colonial period knew the area and had occasion to pass through it.

Several months ago the Friends of Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre was formed by a number of county citizens who are committed to preserving the historic structures and site. They want to see it developed into a unique location for cultural and historic events and a facility to enrich the lives of students, scholars, and visitors as well as becoming once again a center of community activity for residents of Brentsville and surrounding towns.

On January 29 the Friends filed a formal request for state funds to embark on an ambitious plan to revitalize this historic area. This request was endorsed by the Prince William County Board of Supervisors, the Prince William Park Authority and fifteen prominent officials, historic, social and civic organizations.

The Friends now invite all who are interested in cultural and historic preservation to join in this most unusual effort. New members are encouraged to serve in one or more of the study committees now forming to further the project. A membership form is printed below. Please give this opportunity for public service your earnest consideration. You will meet and get to know many talented and energetic people who are determined to cherish our past and preserve its physical properties and published records for future generations.

Clip and mail

FRIENDS OF BRENTSVILLE COURTHOUSE HISTORIC CENTRE - PO BOX 732, Bristow, VA 20136

Voting Member (\$15)

Affiliate Member (\$15 or more in support of FBCHC objectives) (Non-voting)

Junior Affiliate Member (\$5 to age of 18) (Non-voting)

Applications made after July 1 are one-half the annual rate. Please make checks payable to FBCHC. My 1997 membership payment is enclosed.

Please print:

_____ Name

_____ Home Address

_____ Home Telephone

_____ Zip

_____ Date