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Metro Area

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## Courthouse Restored In Prince William

By JAMES BIRCHFIELD  
Star Staff Writer

BRENTSVILLE, Va., Nov. 4.—The old County Courthouse here, used as the seat of Prince William County's government for 70 years, is being restored by the County Board of Supervisors.

The old brick courthouse was built in 1822 by Architect William Clayton and was used by the county until 1892. The courthouse originally was located on a 3-acre plot, and the town, laid out by the supervisors, contained one-half acre lots and streets 60 feet wide.

Board Chairman O. J. Fitzwater, who was instrumental in getting the restoration project started, said a concrete floor, covered with linoleum tile, will replace the sagging wood floor. He said the exterior walls of the building will be made safe and a small heating plant will be installed.

The building will be used as a voting place for Brentsville Precinct, as a community center and later, perhaps, as a branch library, Mr. Fitzwater said.

The old brick jail nearby no longer belongs to the county, but Mr. Fitzwater said he hopes the county can acquire the property again. If this is successful, the old jail will become a part of the community center project.

The Brentsville courthouse was the fourth in Prince William County. The first courthouse was located on the south side of Occoquan Creek, near Woodbridge and served as the seat of government from 1731

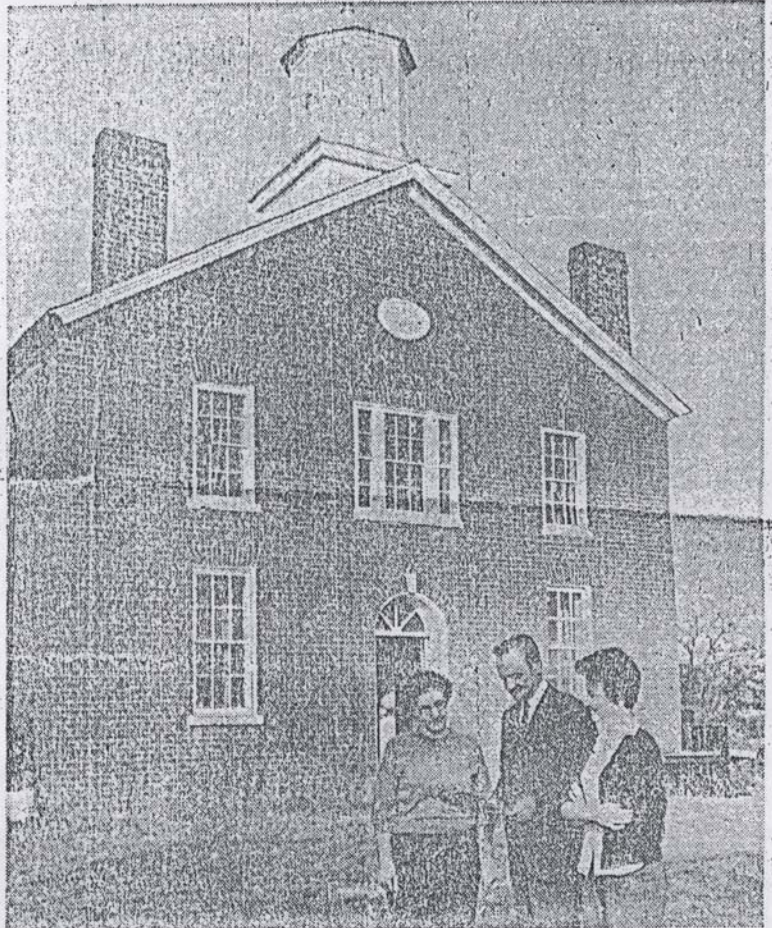
to 1742, when Fairfax County was formed.

In 1742 the county seat was moved from the Occoquan to Cedar Run, now a part of the Marine Corps reservation. In 1759 the courthouse was moved to Dumfries, and in 1822 was moved to Brentsville. Manassas became the county seat in 1892. None of the older courthouses remains standing.

### 'Pitch' Can Catch, Plays on Ball Nine

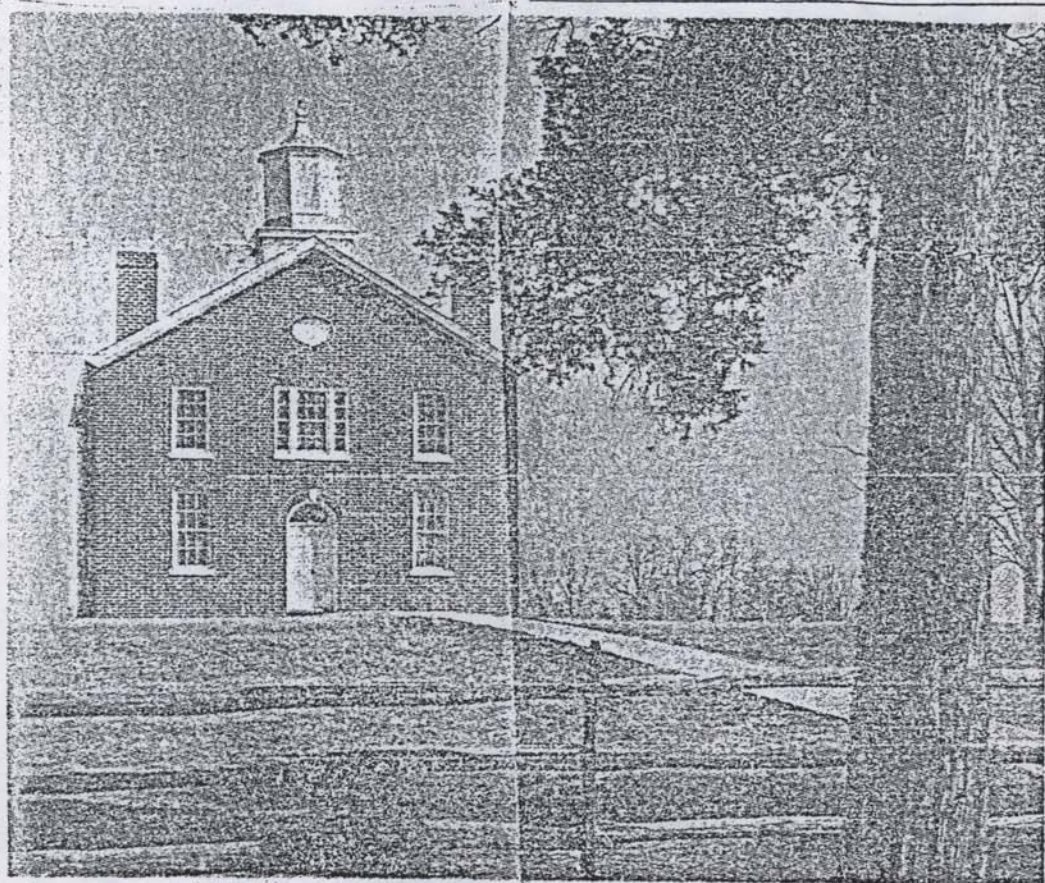
YONKERS, N. Y. (AP)—A young Labrador retriever belonging to the Thomas Chrystle family, named "Pitch," has learned to play baseball with the family's children.

However, in spite of his name, the position he plays is that of catcher. He stands behind the batter and if the ball is missed he grabs it and runs it back to the pitcher. If a foul is tipped, he catches it in mid-air and returns it to the pitcher. And when a batter makes a hit, he tries and usually succeeds in beating the fielder to the catch, again returning the ball to the pitcher.



The Brentsville Courthouse, built in 1822, is being renovated. O. J. Fitzwater, chairman of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors, looks over remodeling plans with Mrs. Margaret Burke (left), president, and Mrs. Nancy Urbanski, member of the Brentsville Home Demonstration Club.

Historic  
~~FAMILY~~ FILE: PWC Courthouse Brentsville  
PRINCE WILLIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM  
RELIC/Bull Run Reg Lib Manassas, VA



PICTURESQUE — The historic Brentsville Courthouse, formerly the county seat of Prince William, along with two adjacent buildings, will be used as a school for the mentally retarded beginning in July. Didlake School is now housed in cramped quarters near Prince William Hospital.