



**VIRGINIA  
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

File no. 76-59  
Negative no(s) —

SURVEY FORM

Historic name Prince William County Court- County/Town/City Prince William Co. house Site	Common name A.K.A. Second Prince William County Courthouse Site; Cedar Run Courth. Site
Street address or route number c $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of the "Concrete Rd." leading from S.R.646 to Sowego, on	
USGS Quad Nokesville Quad	Date or period U.S. Marine Base
Original owner Philemon Waters?	Architect/builder/craftsmen
Original use Farmland	
Present owner U.S. Government?*	Source of name
Present owner address U.S. Marine Corps, Quantico, Va.	Source of date
Present use Marker site	Stories N/A
Acreage c10-foot-square possibly included in 50,000+ acres of Marine Corps Base	Foundation and wall const'n N/A
State condition of structure and environs	Roof type N/A

State potential threats to structure  
Note any archaeological interest This is an archeological site, the location of the Prince William County seat from 1742 to 1760.

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.)

Interior inspected? N/A

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

The marker commemorating the Second Prince William County Courthouse is located in the northwest corner of the U.S. Marine Corps Base, in Training Area 17, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of the "Concrete Road" leading from S.R. 646 to Sowego, and on the south side of Cedar Run.

The courthouse, moved to this site in 1742 from its first location on the Occoquan River at Woodbridge, was so relocated when the County of Fairfax was created from Prince William. As a result of a dispute over exactly where the new county seat would be located, Governor Gooch appointed a board of arbitrators--Col. Henry Fitzhugh, Col. William Fairfax, and Col. John Colvil--to recommend among the five suggested sites the most convenient place for building the courthouse. The five places were Brent Town, Hoomes' land, Tacquets Ford, Watkins' land, and Waters' land. The three arbiters examined each of the proposed sites, met at Neabsco iron mines to hear others' opinions on where the courthouse should be, and finally chose to establish the courthouse on Philemon Waters' plantation. Philemon Waters was one of a group of Huguenot settlers who in the 18th century received land grants on the south side of Cedar Run, below the 30,000-acre Brent Town Tract. Philemon Waters' plantation was part of a tract that had been patented in 1712 by Lewis Reno and Philemon Waters.

(continued next page)

\*According to one source, the monument sits on a 10-foot-square plot of land that was not deeded to the Marine Corps.



Sources and bibliography

Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.) R.J. Ratcliffe, This Was Prince William (c1976), p. 11; Tommy S. Burton, "Courthouses of Prince William County," in Virginia Cavalcade, Summer 1978, pp. 34-47, Fairfax Harrison, Landmarks of Old Prince William (c1924, repr.1964), p. 34-47.

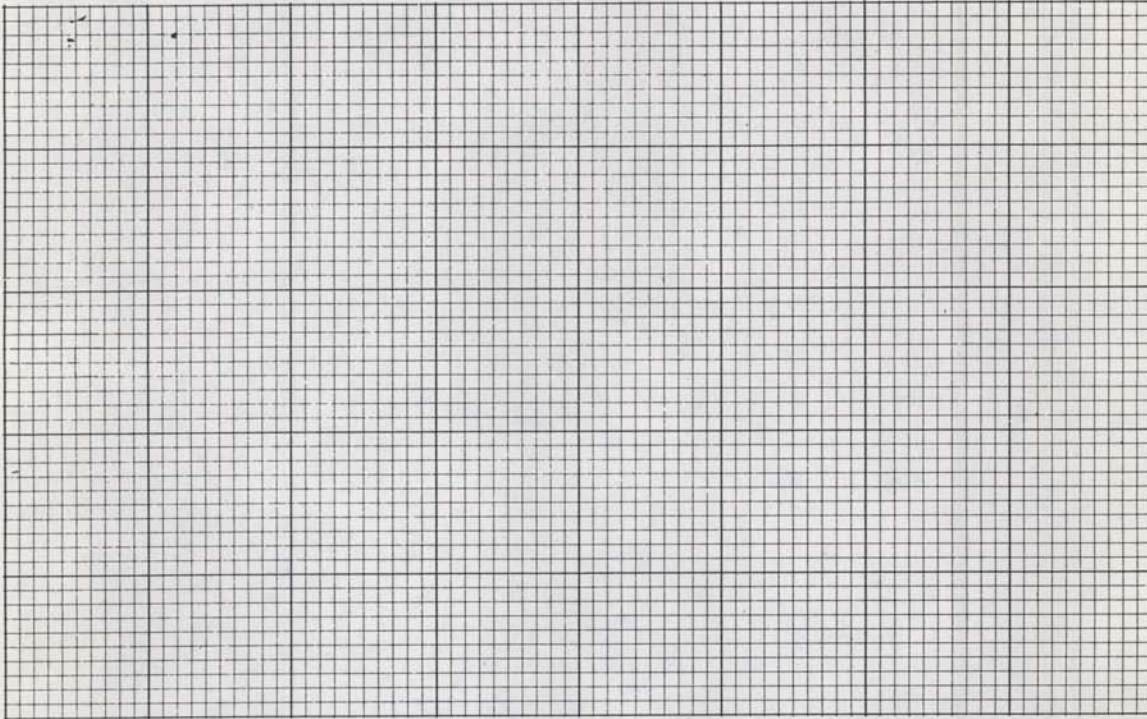
Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

(continued next page)

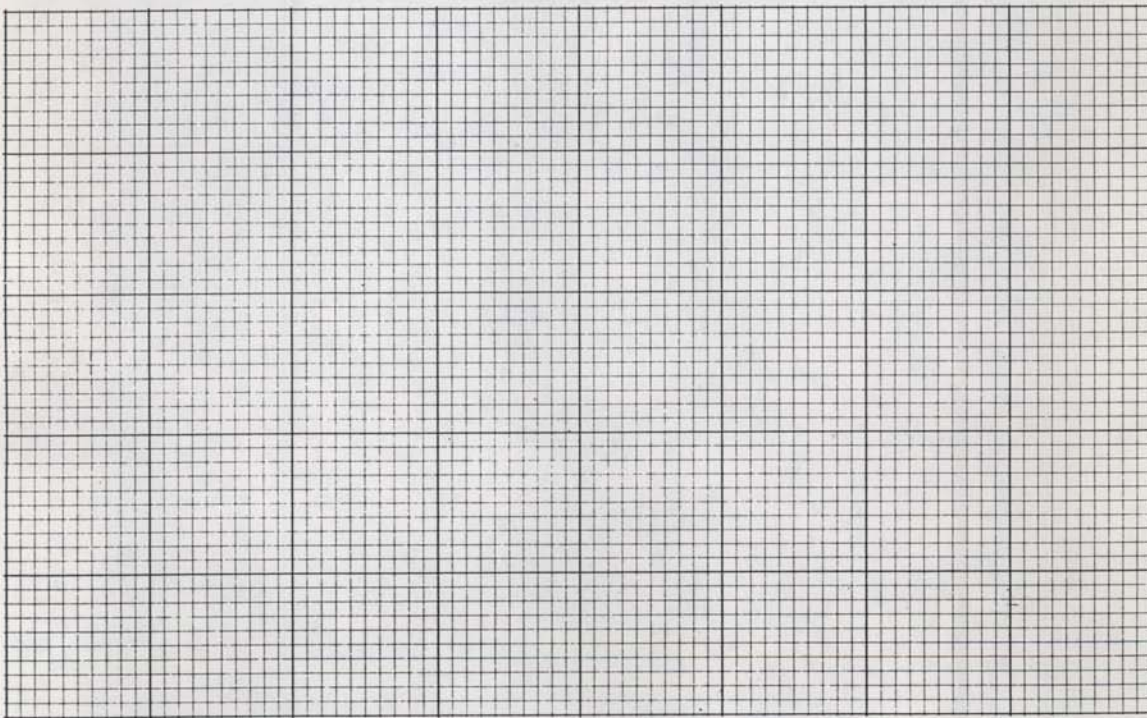
Included in Naval Reservation Master Plan for U.S. Marine Corps Base at Quantico.

Names and addresses of persons interviewed E.R. Conner, III, Manassas Museum.

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

1981

CONTINUATION SHEET  
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE SITE

Published Sources (continued)

W.P.A., Writer's Program, Prince William, The Story of Its People and Its Places  
(c1941), p. 110.

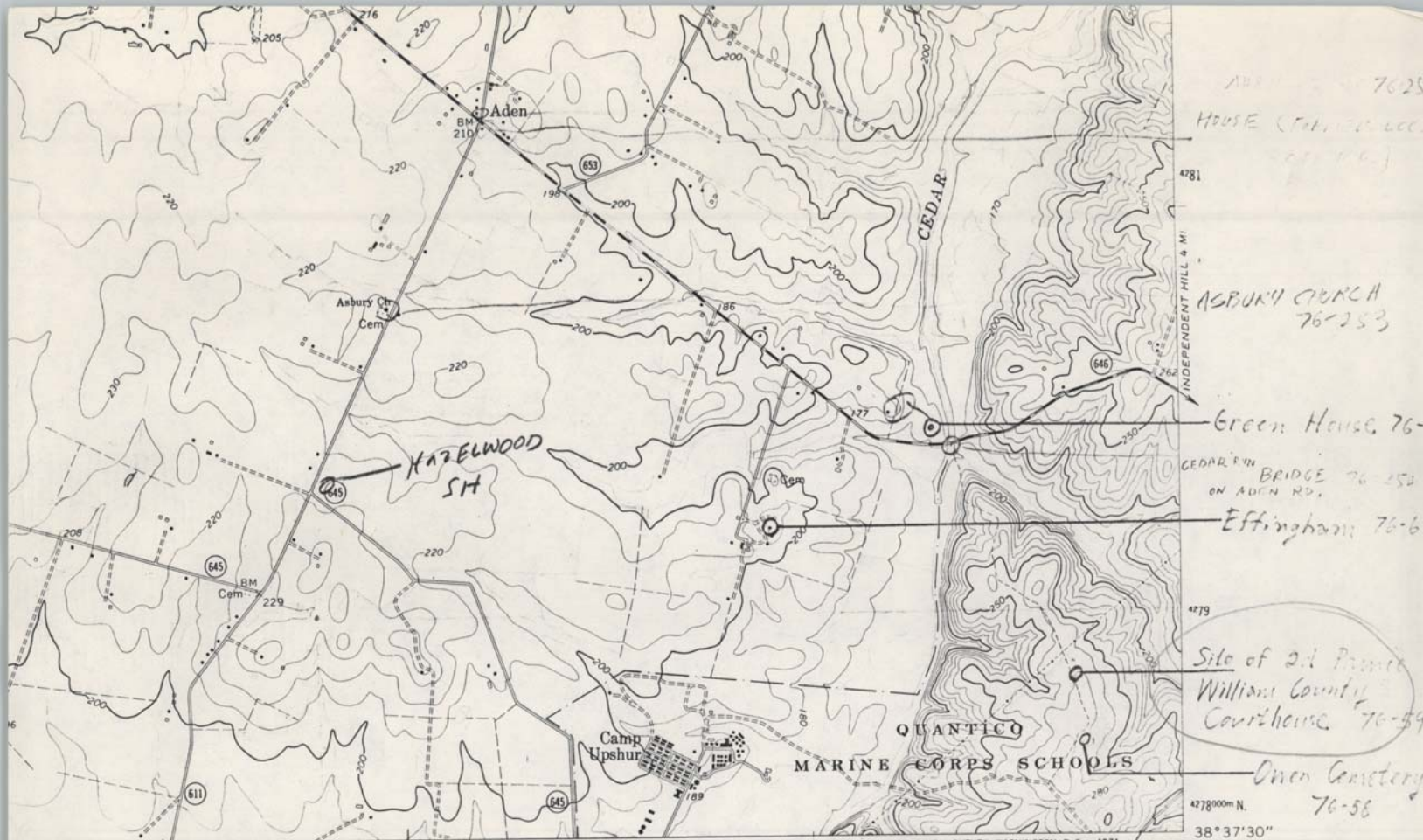
Prince William County Historical Commission, "Gateway to Virginia's Unique Tradition:  
Historic Prince William County," brochure and tour map (1976).

Historical Significance (continued)

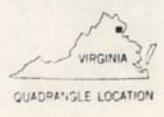
Allegedly, there were, besides the courthouse (which was built in 1743), a clerk's office and jail, taverns, stores, and residences. It is not known what the courthouse looked like; perhaps it resembled the King William County Courthouse, which is said to have been a Virginia prototype for court buildings. This courthouse, a one-story, brick rectangular-plan building with a steeply-pitched hip roof and an arcaded front facade, is located in Tidewater, Virginia, where many of Prince William County's English founders originated. After the county seat was moved from Cedar Run to Dumfries in 1762, the courthouse at Cedar Run supposedly fell into disuse. In 1911, the site was all-but-forgotten when George C. Round of Manassas identified the site on the Ashmore Farm, northeast of the village of Orlando. The site was dedicated in the 1920s by teacher Florence Marshall and students of nearby Payman School, a one-room schoolhouse which was demolished in 1942-43 when the Base was enlarged. In 1932, a plaque commemorating the Second Prince William Courthouse was affixed to a low stone monument said to have been built from the foundation stones of the original building. In 1974, this monument was rediscovered by the Marine Corps and the Prince William County Historical Commission. At that time, the marker was restored, the site was cleared of underbrush, and the monument was rededicated.

The Ashmore Cemetery, containing many fieldstone-marked graves, is located near the courthouse site. Of the three tombstones in the graveyard in 1941, according to the W.P.A. guide, two were inscribed with only initials: "E.G.B." and "W.A. 1771;" and a third was erected for "Mary D. Lane, consort of George Lane and daughter of the late Major Wm. Ashmore. Born 8th of Feby. 1781...."





ERVILLE) 61 II SE  
 1:24,000  
 0 1 MILE  
 0 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET  
 0 1 KILOMETER  
 INTERVAL 10 FEET  
 MEAN SEA LEVEL



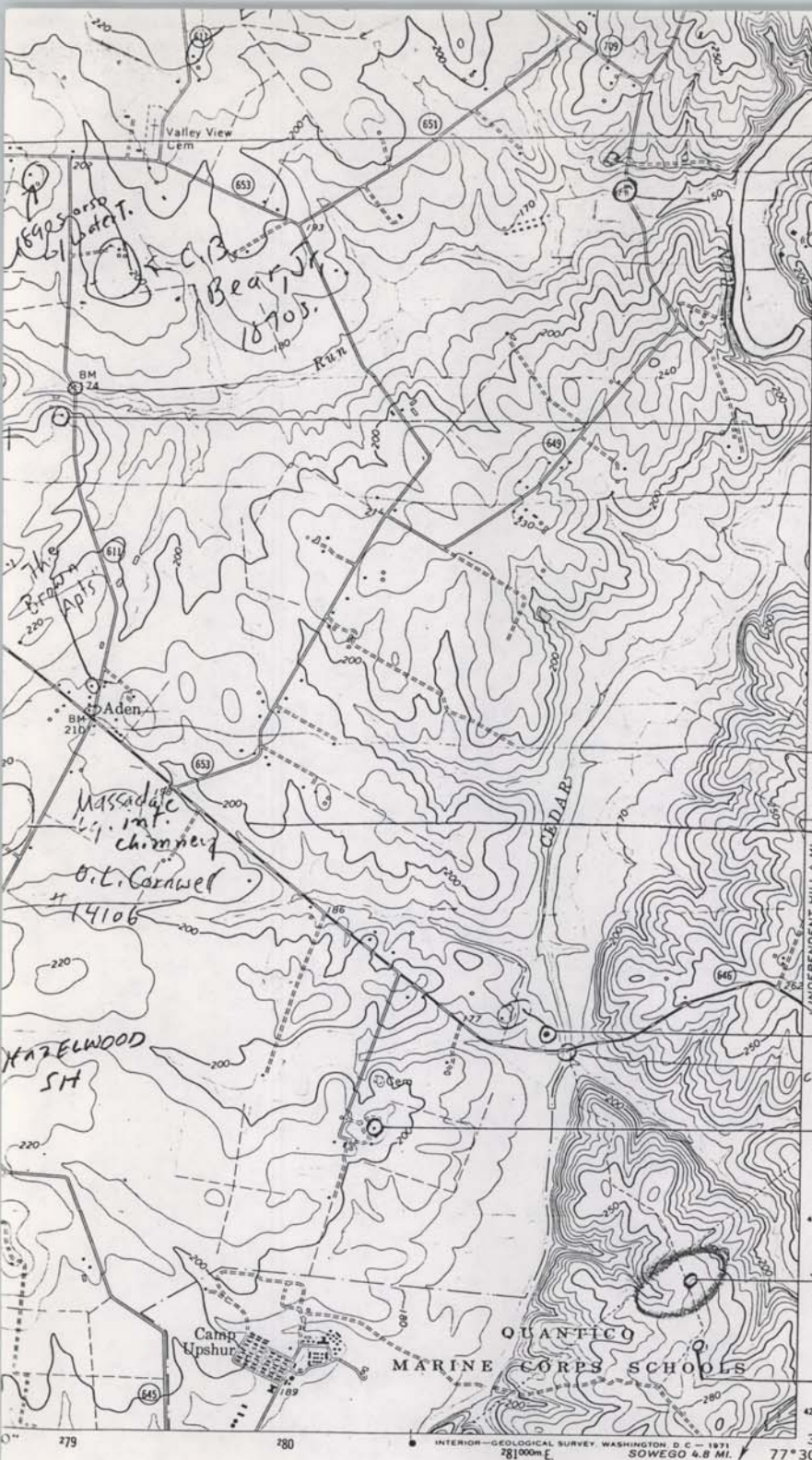
**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**  
 Primary highway, all weather, hard surface —————  
 Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface —————  
 Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface —————  
 Unimproved road, fair or dry weather —————  
 ○ State Route

NOKESVILLE, VA.  
 NE 1/4 CATLETT 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N3837.5—W7730/7.5

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 U.S. SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242

4279  
 38° 37' 30"  
 77° 30'  
 SOWEGO 4.8 MI.  
 INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON, D. C. — 1971  
 281900m E  
 JOPLIN 5561 III SW



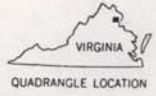


- 4284 Park Gate 76-18
- + Cemetery 76-248  
RO. N. 110 N. 10.  
(check this one)
- WHITE HALL  
Cemetery 76-250
- 4283 STEEL TRUSS BRIDGE ACROSS  
SLATE RUN 76-251
- 40' Fleetwood 76-5
- SUNNYSIDE 76-250
- 4282
- ADEN 76-252
- HOUSE (FARMER, DEC.  
OF P.O.)
- 4281 Massadale 76-323
- ASBURY CHURCH  
76-253
- Green House 76-9'
- 4279 CEDAR RUN BRIDGE 76-254  
ON ADEN RD.
- Effingham 76-6
- Site of 2d Prince  
William County  
Courthouse 76-59
- Over Cemetery  
76-58

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

○ State Route



**NOKESVILLE, VA.**  
NE/4 CATLETT 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3837.5—W7730/7.5

1966  
PHOTOREVISED 1971  
AMS 5461 II NE—SERIES V834

LUPLINE  
566 11 SW



100 550

## COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The site of the Second Prince William County Courthouse is located in the Northwest corner of the Base in Training Area 17. Although the original courthouse was built in 1742, the length of its use and cause of disappearance is ~~not known~~ unknown.

The Prince William County Historical Society memorialized the site with a monument in 1932.

For unknown causes, the monument was damaged, forgotten and the site overgrown. In 1966 the site was discovered by an employee of the Base followed by a ~~an~~ immediate clean up of the immediate ~~clean up~~ area.

As a result of communication between the County and the Base the same Historical Society erected a new monument in 1974 and ~~the~~ ~~dedicated~~ ~~the~~ ~~following~~ ~~year~~ ~~the~~ ~~structure~~

and was rededicated as an historical site the following year.

from Ed McGowan & Thast  
Jebbie LeClair.

Source

NRM  
Plan  
1976  
(paraphrased)