



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-25
Negative no(s). 4371

SURVEY FORM

Historic name St. James Episcopal Church	Common name Hatcher's Memorial Baptist Church
County/Town/City Brentsville, Prince William County	
Street address or route number vic. 12232 Bristow Road, Bristow, VA 22013	

USGS Quad Nokesville	Date or period 1847, 1964
Original owner Trustees of St. James Church	Architect/builder/craftsmen
Original use Church	
Present owner Trustees of Hatcher's Memorial	Source of name Dr. W.E. Hatcher, D.D. (pastor in 1897)
Present owner address 12232 Bristow Road Bristow, VA 22013	Source of date Architectural evidence, church history. Stories 1 (tall) story
Present use Church	Foundation and wall const'n Stone foundation and walls.
Acreage .386 acre.	Roof type Metal-covered gable roof.

State condition of structure and environs Church and surrounding area in good condition.

State potential threats to structure
Note any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes no Included in a Brentsville historic district

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 tall, 1-story, gable-roofed, Greek Revival-style stone church with a lower 1-story gable-roofed stone rear addition.

The most striking architectural features of this solidly-built, massive, monumental church are the thick walls with their heavy, tall pilasters, within which the large windows and front door are set. The windows, 1960's louvered replacements of earlier multiple-pane sliding sash windows, have stone sills and are capped by large stone lintels. The front entrance, though changed by the addition of a low, frame-built entrance, contains a large, semi-circular stuccoed-over arch which contains a large stone lintel over the front door. Prior to the addition of the new entrance, the front door, a large, double door, was flanked by multiple-pane side lights and, possibly, a glass-paned overhead.

The stone is locally-quarried red sandstone, roughly shaped and laid up with lime-sand mortar and mud in coursed rubble. There is a water table running around the building's perimeter ranging from 6" to 18" above the ground. The walls are about 18" thick. Beneath the gable roof is a moulded stone cornice, while the pedimented front gable has a wooden moulded cornice. The front and rear gables are covered with pressed tin, applied over earlier weatherboards. The rear gable has stone gable returns and a moulded wooden cornice.

The window trim, 1 3/4"-wide, is moulded.

Inside, the sanctuary, consisting of a large open room with an alcove at the east end containing the pulpit and altar, has been completely renovated. The walls are paneled with light-colored thin sheets of wood paneling. The ceiling is tiled, as is the (concrete?) floor. The trim and all of the furniture are modern, dating from about 1964 when the church was restored and a new 1-story educational wing measuring 12' x 22' was built of cinder block on the church's, north side.

Interior inspected? Yes.

(Continued)

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

Built in 1847, St. James Episcopal Church, or Hatcher's Memorial Baptist Church, as it was named in the 1890's, is one of the oldest churches in Prince William County. It may be the oldest church built as such and still being used as a church.* Antioch Baptist Church 76-127, in the Waterfall area, was originally built in the 1840's, of stone, but it was replaced in 1901 with the present frame church, probably built on the older 30x60 stone foundation.

St. James came into existence as a chapel of Dettingen Parish, built in about 1822 in Brentsville to replace the earlier Broad Run Church, about a mile ^{South} north of Brentsville. That early chapel was in turn replaced with the present stone structure, built in 1847.

During the Civil War, the church was used as a hospital and barracks. At the end of the war, only the stone walls remained, and the interior of the church had to be rebuilt. The Baptists began holding services in the church in 1866 under Rev. B.P. Dulin, who remained pastor for 25 years. The church fell into disuse after 1893 when the County Seat was moved from Brentsville to Manassas, taking with it some church members. In 1897, Dr. W.E. Hatcher, D.D., after whom the church is named, led the congregation in buying the church. Laymen John Kincheloe and Harris Fields made large contributions towards the church's purchase.

* Ewell's Chapel, or Grace Chapel, near Hickory Grove, may have been built earlier than 1847. Renovated in the late 19th century, it has fallen into disrepair.

ARCHITECTURE (Cont.)

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(Cont.)

This is an exceptional building, which, despite the changes made to the front entrance and the interior by a complete renovation, retains much of its architectural integrity. The setting (the church is located near the end of Barbee Road, an unpaved lane leading from Bristow Road, past the present pastor's residence to the church and a 19th century former parsonage), is attractive and the grounds are well-cared for. The church is in regular use.

Sources and bibliography

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

Ratcliffe, R.J., This Was Prince William (c1978), pp. 18, 22

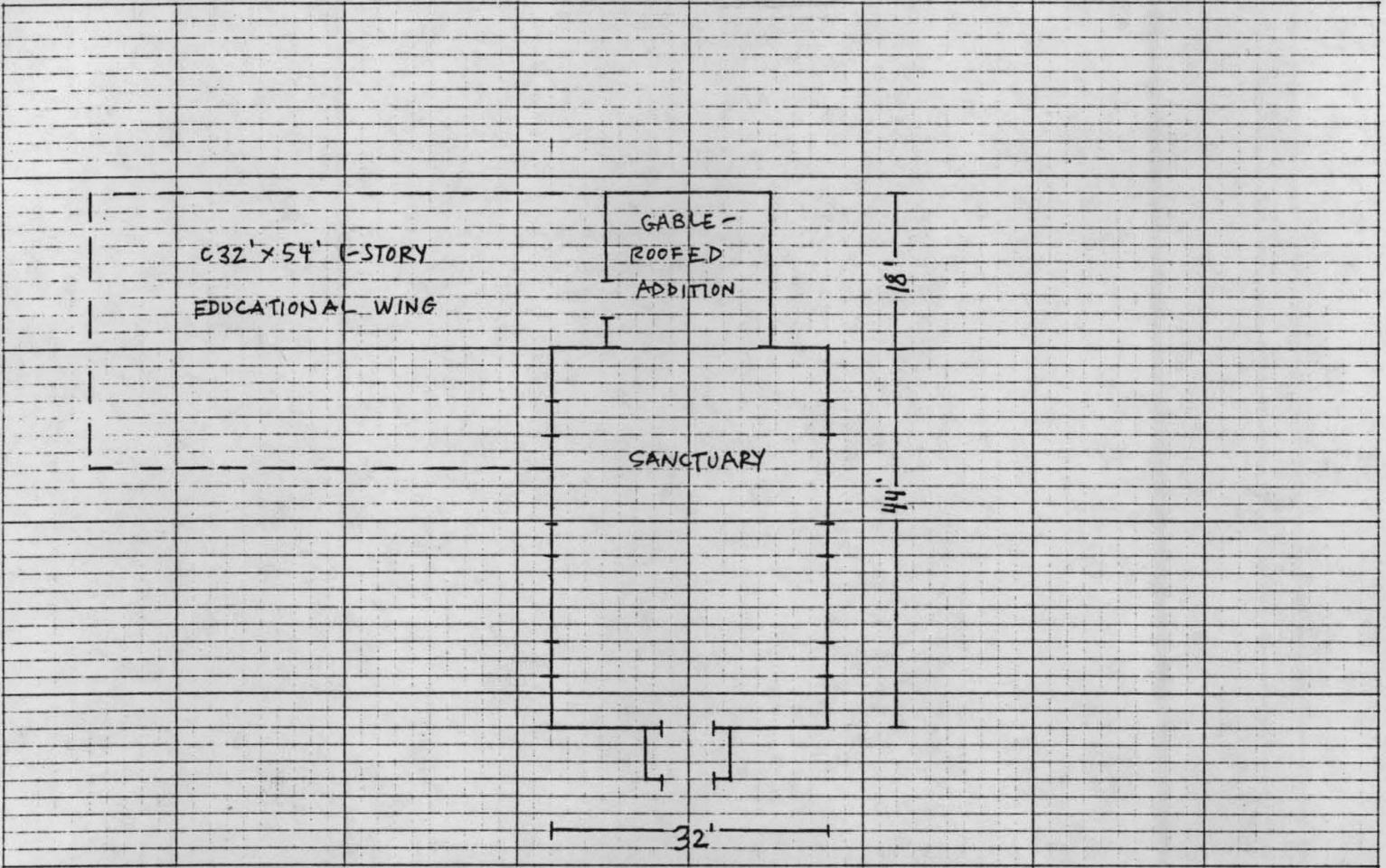
W.P.A., Writer's Project, Prince William, the Story of Its People and Its Places (c1941), pp. 47, 114

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

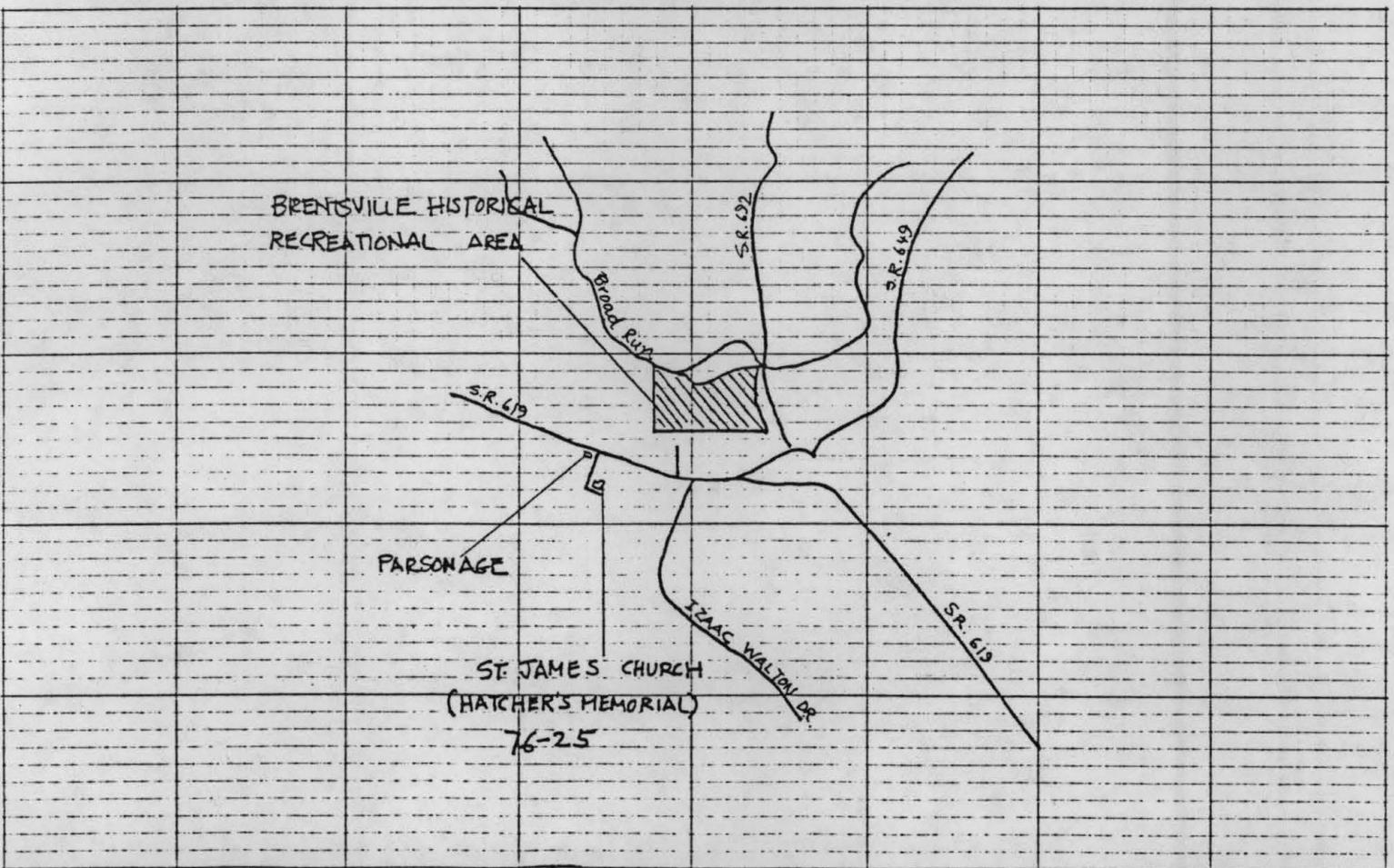
2-page church history available from church. Postcards, ext. and int., available from church and Manassas Museum.

Names and addresses of persons interviewed Robert Gault (pastor), 12232 Bristow Rd., Bristow, VA

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

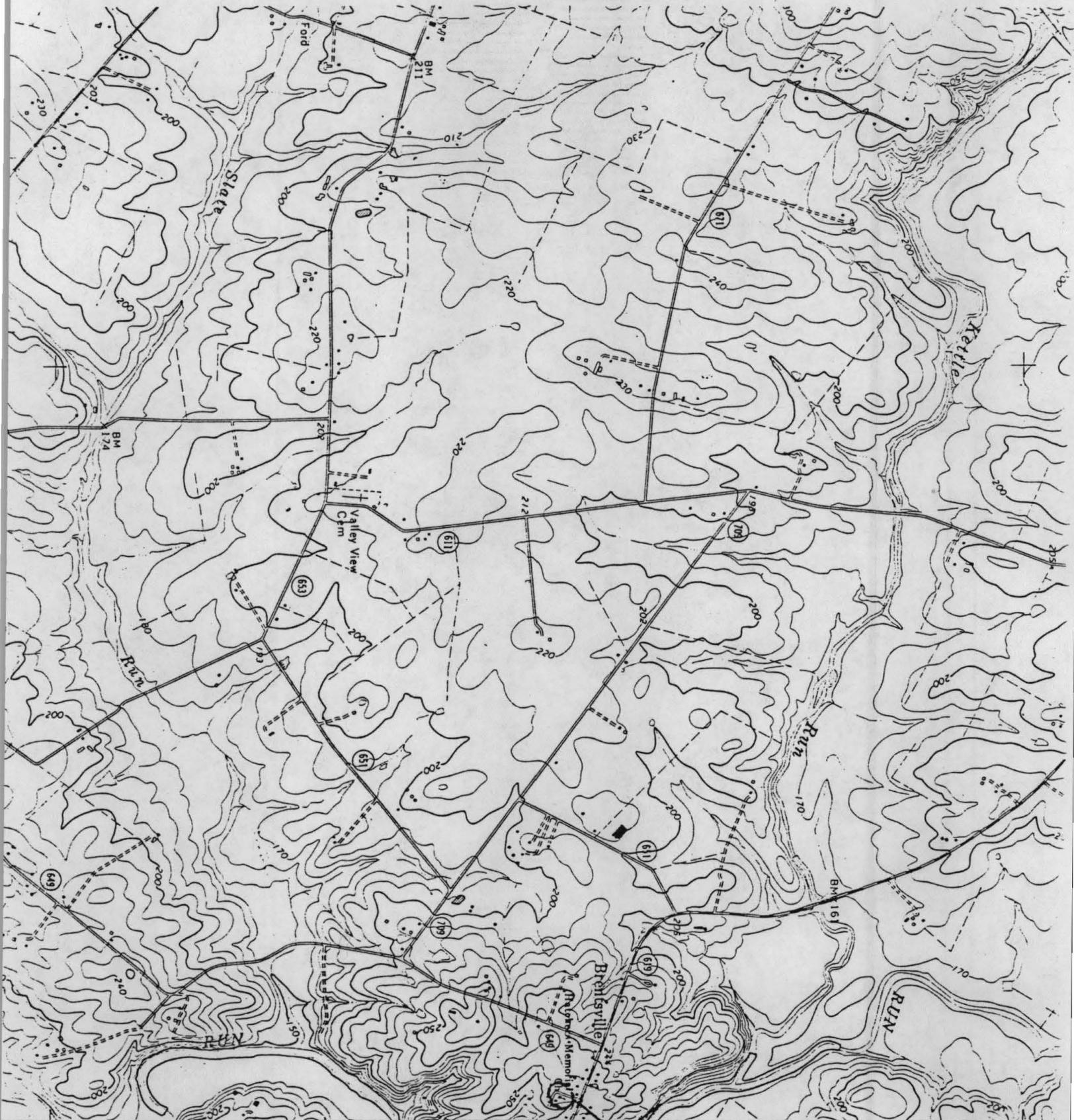


Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



Name, address and title of recorder Frances Jones, Architectural Historian - Surveyor, NVPDC

Date JUN 1980



INDEPENDENT HILL
5561 III NW

ST. JAMES CHURCH
(HATCHER'S MEMORIAL)

76-25

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