

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16.) Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. A an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable" For functions, styles, materials and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a) Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: The White House  
other names/site number: 76-31

2. Location

street & number: 32320 Bristow Rd. N/A not for pub  
city, town: Brentsville (mailing: Bristow) N/A vicinity  
state: Virginia code: VA county: Prince William code: 153 zip code: 22013

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
public-local	district	2	buildings
public-State	site	2	sites
public-Federal	structure		structures
	object		objects
		4	Total
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0	

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets / does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property meets / does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
\_\_\_ entered in the National Register.  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register.  
removed from the National Register.  
\_\_\_ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling  
EDUCATIONAL/ school

Current Functions  
DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheet

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Stone  
walls: Brick  
roof: Metal  
other: Stucco (covers part of brick)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties

nationally

statewide

locally

Applicable National Register Criteria    A    B    C    D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)    A    B    C    D    E    F    G

Areas of Significance  
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance  
1822

Significant Dates  
1822

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):  
preliminary determination of individual listing  
(36 CFR 67) has been requested  
previously listed in the National Register  
previously determined eligible by the National Register  
designated a National Historic Landmark  
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #  
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:  
 State historic preservation office  
Other State agency  
Federal agency  
 Local government  
University  
Other:  
Specify repository: Prince  
William Planning Dept.  
Va. Dept. of Hist. Res.

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of property: 1.76 acres

**UTM References**

A	18/	282580/	4284980	B	/	/	/
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C.	<u>    </u> See continuation sheet			D.			

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

  X   See continuation sheet

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**Boundary Justification**

This boundary encompasses the two current parcels on which the house is located and which make up the majority of the original lot #9 of the Brentsville plat of 1820.

     See continuation sheet

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title	William T. Frazier and George W. Polhill, Jr.	date	June 1988
organization	Frazier Associates	telephone	(703) 886-6230
street and number	213 N. Augusta Street	state	VA
city or town	Staunton	zip code	24401

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**Summary Description**

The White House is located on Bristow Road (State Route 619) across from the old courthouse at Brentsville, the fourth county seat of Prince William County. This two-story, painted-brick, Federal-style structure is sited on a slight rise and is surrounded by an attractive garden with mature trees. The house was constructed in 1822 and after sitting vacant for ten years it was purchased in 1941 by the Webster family and extensively remodeled. The house is a five-bay, gable-roofed dwelling with a central entrance hall, double-pile floor plan, and prominent double end chimneys that have a parapet wall connecting them. The interior retains much of its fine Federal woodwork as well as its original staircase. Most of the original outbuildings including the kitchen and barn have been demolished.

**Architectural Analysis**

The brick pattern of the White House is Flemish bond on the facade and five-course American bond on the rear of the house. The house contains a brick dentil cornice and has jack arches over the openings. The exterior is partially covered with scored stucco to resemble stone. The standing-seam metal roof most likely replaced wood shingles. The front gutters are in poor condition and need to be replaced.

The six-over-six windows are replacements dating from the 1941 Webster restoration, because the original windows were missing. The undecorated entrance consists of a nine-panel door capped by a transom with five lights. Between the transom and door frame is a molded trim with a circular design similar to a rope motif. The door appears to be a late-nineteenth-century replacement due to its large molding and panel design.

Each gable of the house has a small attic casement window with four panes as well as tie rods that were added at some point to hold the wall together. These rods are bolted through large timbers that are rotting and in poor condition. The west elevation of the main house is almost completely covered with scored stucco. It contains a one-over-one replacement window that

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was installed at the first floor level. The east end of the house contains an exterior door to the basement although there are no basement windows or other foundation features visible from the exterior.

The rear (southern) elevation originally had a one-story, shed-roofed porch that has been removed. Today there is a pair of French glass doors opening off of the center hall onto a raised brick patio surrounded by red sandstone walls and plantings. In addition, both of the major first floor rooms also have doors opening out onto the rear patio.

The two-story frame kitchen wing added by the current owners during the 1941 restoration has a rear door that opens onto the back yard. It is clad with weatherboards and in recent years has been partially covered with aluminum siding. On the west elevation of this shed-roofed wing are two six-over-six windows as well as a brick exterior chimney added during the remodeling. There is also a frame one-story storage shed addition on the west side of the kitchen opening into the yard. The entire wing is approximately three feet below the grade of the house. Inside, the kitchen mantel has been stripped and stained to match the pine paneling and cabinets in the kitchen. In the northwest corner of the kitchen is a small single-flight stair with winders leading up to a workshop above. It has random-width floors and plaster walls and ceiling.

The central hall has a two-flight open-string stair raising on the west wall. The delicate newel is a slender, turned colonette with a slight bulge in the middle; it rests on a plain block. The round plain balusters tie into ornamental brackets.

The east side of the hall has a double parlor separated by a folding double door. The mantel in the northeast sitting room has a molded shelf with deeply cut bed moldings, an undecorated frieze, paneled end blocks, and fluted pilasters. This fireplace is flanked by matching bookshelves and cupboards whose doors are paneled and attached with H-L hinges.

The southeast sitting room, which opens out to the rear patio, is very similar to the adjoining parlor to the north. Its mantel has a molded shelf, plain end blocks and frieze, and fluted pilasters. It is flanked by a cupboard to the north and a window to the south. The cupboard has a set

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of raised two-panel doors attached by H-L hinges.

The west side of the house contains the living room and adjoining dining room that opens onto the patio and ties into the kitchen wing. The wall between these rooms was removed when the house was used as a school in the late nineteenth century. The folding four-panel doors separating these rooms were found in the attic and reinstalled with the wall along with new bookshelves during the Webster's remodeling.

The living room fireplace has symmetrically molded pilasters supporting recessed paneled end blocks, an undecorated frieze, and a molded shelf of the period. The shelf to the north of the fireplace is original and contains two paneled doors to the cupboard below. There is an identical shelf on the south side added by the current owners. They also installed the bookshelves and cupboards on the east wall of this room and the dining room. Its mantel is identical in construction and design to that in the living room. A window to the north of the dining room fireplace was also added.

Upstairs, the bedchamber in the southeast corner has an original mantel with molded trim around the opening, a plain frieze, raised end blocks and a molded shelf. There are built-in linen presses on either side of the fireplace with two-panel double doors above and a single paneled door below. The mantel in the bedchamber in the northeast corner of the house has been removed and reused in the kitchen because the bedroom flue is used for the furnace. The linen press remains and is located on the north side of the chimney and is similar in design to the one in the southeast bedchamber except it has only one door instead of two.

The northwest bedchamber's mantel has diagonal reeding in the end blocks, horizontal reeding across the base of the undecorated frieze, and symmetrically molded pilasters. Again, there are linen presses next to the fireplace. To the west of the center hall upstairs there is a secondary hall that extends past a bathroom to a second-floor kitchen that has a mantel very similar in design to the one in the northwest bedchamber. At the end of the center hall in the front of the house on the second floor is a small chamber containing an attic staircase. In the attic are hand-hewn rafters of mortise-and-tenon construction with Roman numerals on them.

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The beaded chair rail and baseboard throughout the house is original and the picture molding was added by the current owner. Most of the interior doors are six-panel with rim locks and brass or ceramic knobs, much of which is replacement stock. The floors are random-width pine with the exception of those in the living room, which have been covered with random-width, stained oak by the current owner. On the main floor the blue colors in the west rooms, and grey in the east are based on scraping down to the original colors by the Websters during the remodeling. The H-L hinges on most of the cupboards downstairs were added by the current owners.

In the northeast corner of the house is a small one-room basement that contains evidence of a stone fireplace and a large wood lintel above. Unfortunately since it has been totally rebuilt and the flue closed up, it is difficult to tell if it was operable or not. The room is now used for the furnace and other mechanical systems but it is possible that it might have been a kitchen originally.

Large American boxwood surround the house and to the east there is a small driveway and lane which extends to other properties to the south of the house. The east side garden has several magnolia, fruit, and maple trees, as well as large shrubs and flowering bushes. The back yard contains several lilac bushes, additional fruit trees, and a large rolling lawn. There are remnants of a wooden fence on the southern boundary of the property. The south lawn rolls away from the house and to the west there are additional large oval and circular flower beds arranged around bushes and other trees. The west yard contains a large pine tree and several large elm, mulberry, and cedar trees. The front yard is dominated by a very old black gum tree.

In the rear yard near the kitchen addition is a small gable-roofed storage shed covered with vertical siding. There is a covered well in the backyard south of the house. On the east side under a crab apple tree is a small frame three-hole privy that is on the verge of collapse. There was also an ice house in the middle of the backyard near the present fence and an old barn in the field behind the fence, but both have been demolished by the present owner. The ruins of an overgrown one-and-one-half-story frame cottage supposedly dating from the early nineteenth century remain on a lot to the west of the house.

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The White House originally was laid out on Square no. 4, lot no. 9, on the Brentsville plat of 1820. The nominated parcel is one-and-three-fourths acre and the contributing buildings are the main house and the shed. The ruins of the cottage and the ruins of the privy are contributing sites, but are completely overgrown and were not photographed.

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**Statement of Significance**

The White House is significant as being the finest example of Federal, residential architecture in Brentsville, Virginia. The house was built for Mrs. John Williams, the widow of the former clerk of the court, probably in 1822, the year the county seat was moved from Dumfries to Brentsville. The two-story, scored, stucco-over-brick residence is relatively unaltered, and is probably the oldest existing residence in the village. The interior features a central hall plan, and retains most of its original handcrafted woodwork. The house not only functioned as the home of a prominent widow, but also as a social gathering place for the political elite in the newly established county seat, thus explaining the high level of craftsmanship exhibited in the simple but well-appointed interiors.

**Historical Information**

The land on which the White House and the town of Brentsville were established was originally part of the Brent Town Tract, consisting of thirty thousand acres granted to George Brent, Nicholas Hayward, Robert Bristow, and Richard Foote, in 1687, in order to establish a religious sanctuary for all denominations. Prior to 1779, about seven thousand five hundred acres of this tract was owned by Robert Bristow, an Englishman and a descendant of the grantee, Robert Bristow. In 1779, under the authority of an act passed during the Revolution, the commonwealth seized Bristow's portion. The proceeds from the sale of the land went to the Literary Fund for educational purposes. In 1820, fifty acres of this property was laid out for the new county seat of Brentsville with a three-acre plot reserved for the courthouse and the jail.

The White House was built in 1822 on Square no. 4, lot no. 9, across from the public square, by Jane Williams, the widow of John Williams. The house's name is a local appellation, probably in reference to the structure's whitewashed, stuccoed walls. John Williams had served as the clerk of the Prince William Court at Dumfries from 1795 until his death in 1813. Mrs. Williams was the daughter of the prominent Dumfries silversmith, William Dowe. After her husband's death, her brother, Philip D. Dowe assumed the duties of clerk until his death in 1832. In that

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year John Williams's son, John Williams II, became the clerk of the court. Mrs. Williams relinquished the White House to her son at this time, moving to a neighboring, small, one-and-one-half-story frame cottage.

The last members of the Williams family to live at the White House were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Iardella. Mrs. Iardella, nee Annie Williams, was the daughter of John Williams II. She moved to the house with her family from Washington, D.C., just prior to the Civil War. Mr. Iardella served in the Geodectic Coast Survey of the United States, and was a Union sympathizer. The home was always open to Union officers during the war. Mrs. Iardella died from typhoid fever while her husband was away during the war, and then the house passed to a Mrs. Holland, a British citizen.

After the Civil War, the White House was purchased by Ezra Bauder (1824-1896), to be used as the new location for the Brentsville Seminary, a coeducational school offering engineering and college preparatory courses. The Bauders apparently removed a partition between the first floor rooms to the west of the hallway. This partition was restored for structural as well as aesthetic reasons by the current owners. Ezra Bauder and his wife, Julia, are buried in a nearby cemetery. The current owner, Agnes G. Webster, purchased the house with her late husband in 1941, carefully restoring the interiors that had been left vacant for about ten years, and adding a small kitchen wing to the back of the structure.

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**Bibliographical References**

**Published Sources**

Bushong, Gladys. "Brentsville Has Its Own White House". *The Journal Messenger*. 11 August 1966.

Harrison, Fairfax. *Landmarks of Old Prince William*. Richmond: The Old Dominion Press, 1924. pp. 317, 339.

*Potomac News*. 19 April 1974. p. 37.

*Potomac News*. 17 April 1974.

*Potomac News*. 9 October 1974. p. 1B.

Prince William County Historical Commission. *Prince William: A Past to Preserve*. Prince William County Historical Commission 1982. pp. 59, 198, 212.

Ratcliffe, R. Jackson. *This Was Prince William*. Leesburg, VA: Potomac Press, 1978. pp. 73-75.

Templeman, Eleanor Lee, and Netherton, Nan. *Northern Virginia Heritage*. Privately published 1966. p. 187.

V. H. L. C. & H. A. B. S. *Virginia Catalog* (1976). p. 163.

Work Projects Administration Writer's Program. *Prince William: The Story of Its People and Its Places*. Richmond: Whittet & Shepperson, 1941; 4th ed., (Bicentennial Edition) 1976.

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**Unpublished Sources**

Owner's Photographs, ca. 1940.

Historic American Building Survey, Photograph (1936). Library of Congress.

**Interviews**

Agnes Webster  
12320 Bristow Road  
Bristow, VA 22013

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property occupies parcel 47 and the front half of parcel 48 which has been divided by a platted road on Prince William County Department of Public Works map #66N. Starting at the northwest corner of the property on Bristow Road proceed in a southwesterly direction along a line perpendicular to Bristow Road for 160 feet. Then proceed at a right angle in a southeasterly direction for 160 feet. Then proceed at a right angle in a southwesterly direction for 160 feet. Then proceed at a right angle in a southeasterly direction for 130 feet. Then proceed at a right angle in a northeasterly direction for 320 feet to Bristow Road. Then proceed along the south side of Bristow Road in a northwesterly direction for 290 feet to the point of origin.

1.76 acres  
White House  
Prince William Co, Va  
A-18/122580/4284980

