

Source - "Prince William: A Past to Preserve" by the Prince William County Historical Commission

Historic Name: Judge J. B. T. Thornton

Date or Period: ca. 1844, 1892, 1893

Original Use: Residence

Vicinity: Manassas

"A large, two-story, center-hall-plan, frame house, this may have been the first house on Grant Avenue, which was opened after the completion of the courthouse. J. B. T. Thornton, a county judge and commonwealth's attorney, moved his family from Brentsville, as did many prominent families when the courthouse was relocated in 1892. Thornton served as town councilman in 1895, was a law partner of E. E. Meredith, and was school superintendent. In July 1911, when Manassas hosted the Great Jubilee of Peace attended by President William Howard Taft and more than 1,000 union and Confederate army veterans, the President and prominent Manassas and Prince William County residents had lunch at Judge Thornton's house. To commemorate the accomplishments of the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1901, to which Judge Thornton was a delegate, the state agriculture department sent to each representative an oak sapling. Thornton's tree still exists in the yard of this home, which may be the only residence of its style left in Manassas."