

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

Historic Name: McLean (Yorkshire) Barn

Date or Period: ca. 1856

Original Use: Barn

Vicinity: Yorkshire

"The stone foundation of the McLean barn is the only apparent remaining physical evidence of the Yorkshire plantation, a large farm established in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century on Bull Run. The main foundation, laid up in roughly shaped and coursed, locally quarried, red sandstone, measured about seventy-five feet long by thirty-five feet wide. The McLean farm achieved notoriety during the Civil War, primarily because of its strategic position near Bull Run. During the spring and summer of 1861, the Confederates built substantial fortifications on the south side of Bull Run. On July 18, the Yorkshire area experienced heavy artillery fire from Union forces. A shell hit the chimney of the McLean kitchen. It is said that the McLean barn was also fired upon despite the fact that it flew a yellow flag indicating its use as a hospital. The McLean house was the headquarters of Confederate General P. G. T. Beauregard from July 18 until July 21, 1861. He had moved there so that he could be closer to the fighting. The McLean family moved away from Yorkshire when the Confederate army evacuated Manassas. Eventually the family settled in Appomattox Court House in Central Virginia. Ironically, the war followed the McLean's and ended in their front parlor at Appomattox Court House, where Confederate General Robert E. Lee signed surrender papers. In 1958 a severe storm leveled the wooden superstructure of the McLean barn. (While located in northwestern Prince William County and thus included in this chapter, this structure actually is in the Brentsville Magisterial District.)