



Descr. ①

A one-and-one-half story frame home on a high stone and brick basement, the Groves House was probably constructed in about 1840, <sup>perhaps on an earlier foundation.</sup> Three dormers (probably 20<sup>th</sup> century additions) pierce both sides of the shingle-covered gable roof. A two-story porch (a recent addition) spans the house's front, <sup>or northwest side.</sup> supported by square columns, the porch has a brick verandah and shelters the basement entrance of this basically hall-parlor <sup>plan</sup> ~~type~~ house. Two large exterior brick end chimneys laid in 3, 4, and 5-course American bond served fireplaces at the house's three different levels. An open porch with steps leading to the <sup>house's</sup> first floor runs partly across the rear. ~~there is~~ <sup>perpendicular to the house's</sup> a small, log building <sup>sits</sup> south end. The building, kitchen, containing the a one-story gable-roofed structure, measures 12' x 12' and rests on a modern brick foundation. It is connected to the main house by a low, gable-roofed addition. According to one source this building was the old smoke house, though that is doubtful.

The home's exterior covering is a combination of wide, beaded weatherboards (front) and plain weatherboards (sides and rear). Beneath the steeply-pitched gable roof is a box cornice. The rake is plain, and there are single cornerboards. ~~Plain~~ Architrave trim surrounds the 1/6 replacement sliding sash windows and doors.

A stone foundation with a water table at 2'8" from the ground supports the high brick basement. The brick <sup>walls,</sup> partly rebuilt in place, varies in thickness from c22" at the rear to c14" at the front and sides. The window (and door?) openings at the basement level feature segmental arches. The heavy board <sup>basement-level</sup> and <sup>side</sup> batten door on the northwest <sup>side</sup> (probably the main entrance) is surmounted by a single-light overhead. Heavy wrought iron strap hinges held the door in place. Wide architrave trim surrounds the doorway.

The two rooms at the basement level were probably most recently used as the dining room (south) and living room (north). Each has a working fireplace. The fireplace in the north room has a cut-out moulded shelf,

supported by reeded jambs on moulded blocks. There is an architrave surround and a ~~moulded~~ moulded frieze. Reproduction paneling surrounds the fireplace and fills the north wall. The wide architrave window trim with a moulded piece beneath appears to be reproduction work.

A <sup>single-flight, open-string</sup> reproduction stair (~~partly~~ <sup>partly</sup> demolished) rises along the south wall of the north room, <sup>and winds at the top.</sup> It ~~consisted~~ <sup>had</sup> a moulded rail, turned colonette newel, <sup>scroll stair skirting,</sup> and square balusters. ~~A single-flight open string stair~~ Exposed, <sup>hewn and pit-sawn</sup> beams, measuring approximately 4" x 8", ~~can~~ can be seen in both rooms ~~downstairs~~ at this level. Both rooms have replacement pine floors. The mantel in the dining room or south room consists of a reproduction moulded shelf with no supports. The doors and trim in this room are also reproduction work.

Two narrow, blocked windows ~~in this~~ on the ~~the~~ east wall of this room flank a regular sliding sash window. The stair rises into a central hall <sup>to divide</sup> at the main floor level ~~dividing that floor~~ into two bedrooms. ~~Medium-width~~ Old pine floors can be seen at this level.

The ~~is~~ 6-panel simple-moulded doors are (were) attached with ~~is~~ H-L hinges. ~~The trim,~~  
Apparently old, wide architrave + rim surrounds the doors and <sup>replacement sash</sup> windows. Some of the partitions have been moved and a small stair constructed to accommodate a bathroom. The mantel in the north room has a moulded shelf, plain jambs, scroll brackets, an architrave surround, and a plain frieze. The mantel in the south room has a moulded cut-out shelf, plain jambs, an architrave surround and a raised hearth. The ~~attic~~ finished attic ~~sets~~ contains three small rooms. The stair is a reconstruction, but the stair walls are paneled with old, diagonally-laid single-beaded boards.

The kitchen, an old log building measuring approximately 12' square on a new brick foundation, is connected to the main house by a small addition which contains the furnace. The walls of the kitchen, which contains modern appliances, are

stuccoed or plastered between the exposed  
logs. There are a few sheds behind the  
house but no barn. ~~or <sup>signifier</sup>~~ Outside the kitchen  
is a rectangular garden, enclosed on the  
northwest side by large boxwoods.

cont. →

note: a H heading

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H Setting, Condition, and Historical Significance

The Groves House site on a hillside, presently east of Triangle and is surrounded by <sup>17 acres of</sup> open space, presumably old fields. South of the house across Fuller Heights Road is the extensive U.S. Marine Corps Base at Quantico. About a year ago the Kerr property was being offered for sale. At the time, the house, which was still in good condition, was advertised for its historical qualities—“hand hewn beams and random width pine floors...”, ~~and~~ its many fireplaces, and its kitchen, a converted smokehouse. Since then the house has been seriously vandalized. The interior has been demolished—the doors <sup>were</sup> ripped off their hinges and smashed; the stairway <sup>has been</sup> completely wrecked; mantels pulled away from the walls and broken; ~~interior walls~~ and <sup>all</sup> windows and sash have been broken. Though it is possible, a restoration of the house now would be very expensive. The grounds have been neglected for quite a few years, though there are numerous boxwood bushes and other well-established plantings around the house.

In recent years, the value of this property has dramatically increased. The real estate

agent who was handling the property last year when it was on the market believes that the property would be more salable without the house. He said that if the house is not burned by vandals, it will probably be bulldozed before the owner <sup>again</sup> offers the property for sale.

This house is significant because it is the only one of its kind in the Triangle area. Triangle was settled early in the County's history, its residents probably having a connection with Dumfries, the closest port town nearby which had its origins in the early 1700s. By the time the Groves house was built, Dumfries had been an incorporated town for almost 100 years. Bounding the Groves property on the north was the large plantation Graham Park, established by John Graham, founder of Dumfries and an early tobacco merchant. There is nothing remaining of Graham Park. Two other <sup>known</sup> early houses in the Triangle vicinity, <sup>the</sup> Luckett home and Ennis home,

mentioned in the WPA guide, are also gone.

The similarity of the Groves House with the long-demolished Merchant House, for which HABS drawings exist, suggests that the Groves house may in part have been built earlier than the suggested date of construction, 1840. An archeological survey and closer inspection of the thick-walled 20'x34' stone and brick basement may support a 1700s date of construction for the basement.