



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
SURVEY FORM

File no.	76-141
Negative no(s).	5164

Historic name Groveton School County/Town/City Prince William County Street address or route number 6706 Groveton Rd., Manassas, Va. 22110 USGS Quad Gainesville Original owner Original use School Present owner B. Oswald Robinson Present owner address 6702 Groveton Rd., Manassas, Va. 22110 Present use Residence Acreage 2.4 acres	Common name Date or period c1917 Architect/builder/craftsmen Source of name Source of date Architectural evidence; present owner. Stories 1½ stories Foundation and wall const'n Stone and cement foundation; frame wall construction with stone veneer. Rooftype Asphalt shingle-covered gable roof.
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State condition of structure and environs Building and grounds are in good condition.

State potential threats to structure
 Note any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes no

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.)

Groveton School was a high, one-story, weatherboard-clad, two-room schoolhouse. It had large sliding sash windows on two sides. The main entrances were two double doors on the center front. One of these doors led to the classroom on the south, the other to the classroom on the north. The latter door is now a window. There was also an outside entrance to the cloak room, a third door off the front porch. This door has been completely blocked. Inside, the two classrooms were divided by an arched opening fitted with pine, paneled folding doors. There was a c3-foot-high wainscoting on the classroom walls. The 16-foot-high ceilings (now lowered) were paneled with "matchboard," or narrow tongue and groove boards. A brick stove flue on the rear wall served both classrooms; it has been enlarged and converted to a working fireplace. The former cloak room, which is covered with tongue and groove boards, is now the location of the bathroom. A living room, dining room, kitchen, and two bedrooms were created out of the former classrooms. The wood finished yellow pine door and window trim (plain box with cornerblocks) throughout and the pine panel doors may date to the conversion to a residence. The floors are of yellow pine, tongue and groove. The replacement windows are 6/6 sliding sash.

Though there is little evidence to reveal this building's earlier use as a school, except the overall proportions and the recessed front porch, the conversion to a residence is a successful one, and it has made a comfortable, small house. Other former one and two-room schools in the County include the Hickory Grove School, a former one-room school converted to a residence; Catharpin School, a tree and gardening center; and Buckhall School, a community center. Most of the small country schools have disappeared since they were closed in the 1930s and on. The last one-room school, the Bethel School in Woodbridge, closed in 1966.

Interior inspected? Yes.

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

The first school house at Groveton was a log building which sat near Groveton Rd. on the present school parcel. That building was purchased by Jim Peters and was moved to a house on Featherbed Lane where it was used as a kitchen. The house and former schoolhouse still exist, according to one informant, and are now within the Manassas National Battlefield Park. This one-room public school for white children was replaced in the early 20th century with the present building. Built as a two-room schoolhouse in about 1917, it was converted to a five-room residence in the 1930s. The present owner, Mr. Robinson, believes that the second school was paid for by the philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, who donated several other schools in the Northern Virginia area, primarily for the use of Blacks. At Groveton, according to Mr. Robinson, the County provided the lot and Rosenwald financed the school building.

In 1931, Lois Gue purchased the Groveton School property from the Prince William County School Board. The property belonged to the Gues until about 1933 when it was sold to William Thomas. It then passed to Alice Thomas, and in 1968 to Juanita Thomas Powell. In 1969, B. Oswald Robinson purchased the property from Juanita Powell. Mr. Robinson remodeled the structure which sometime in the 1930s or 40s had been converted to a residence. Mr. Robinson installed central heat and air conditioning, added the second floor, installed a brick fireplace, and covered the exterior with flagstone. The stonemason was Cecil Rhodes, and the source of the stone was Moyer's quarry on Bull Run Mountain.

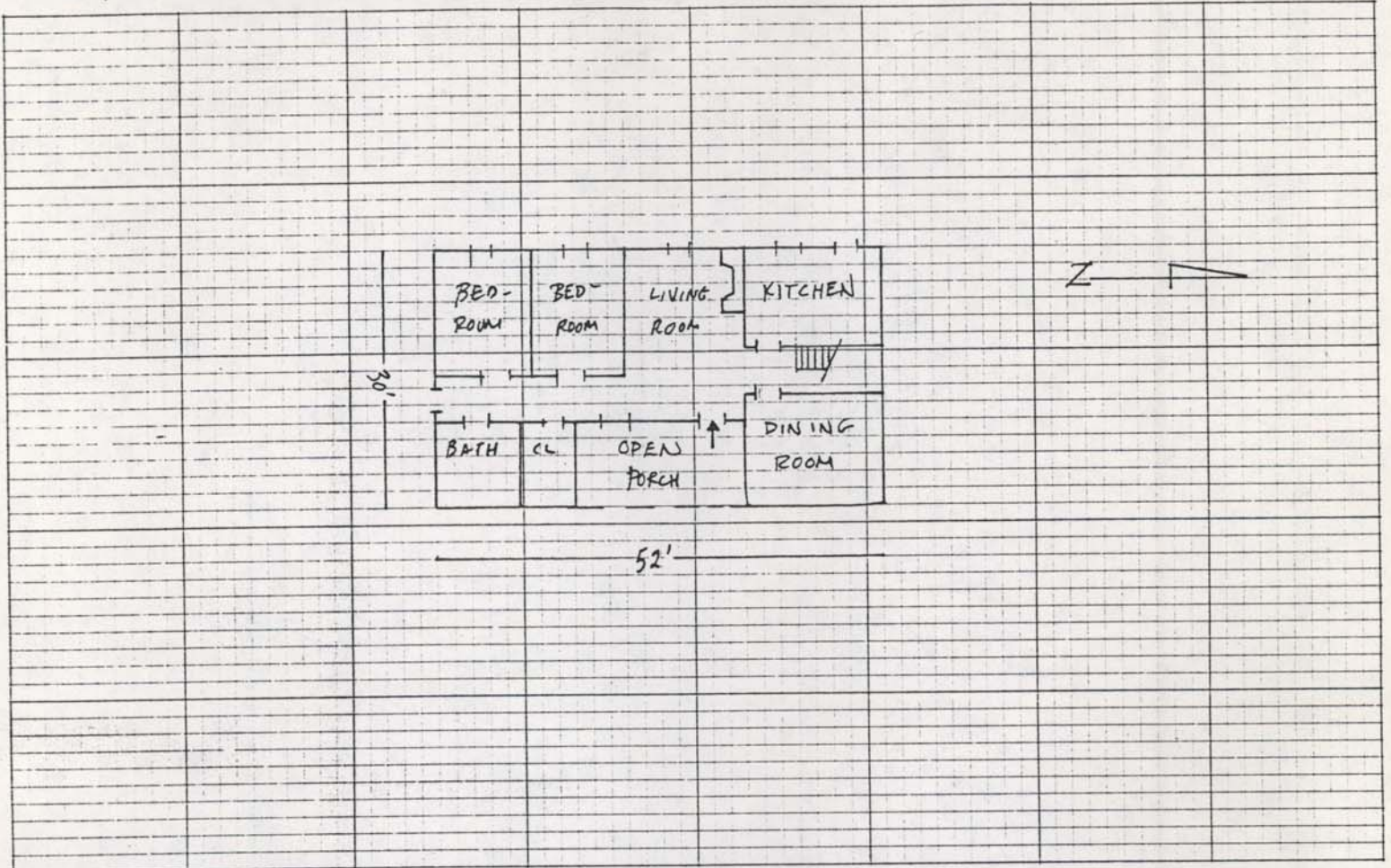
Sources and bibliography

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

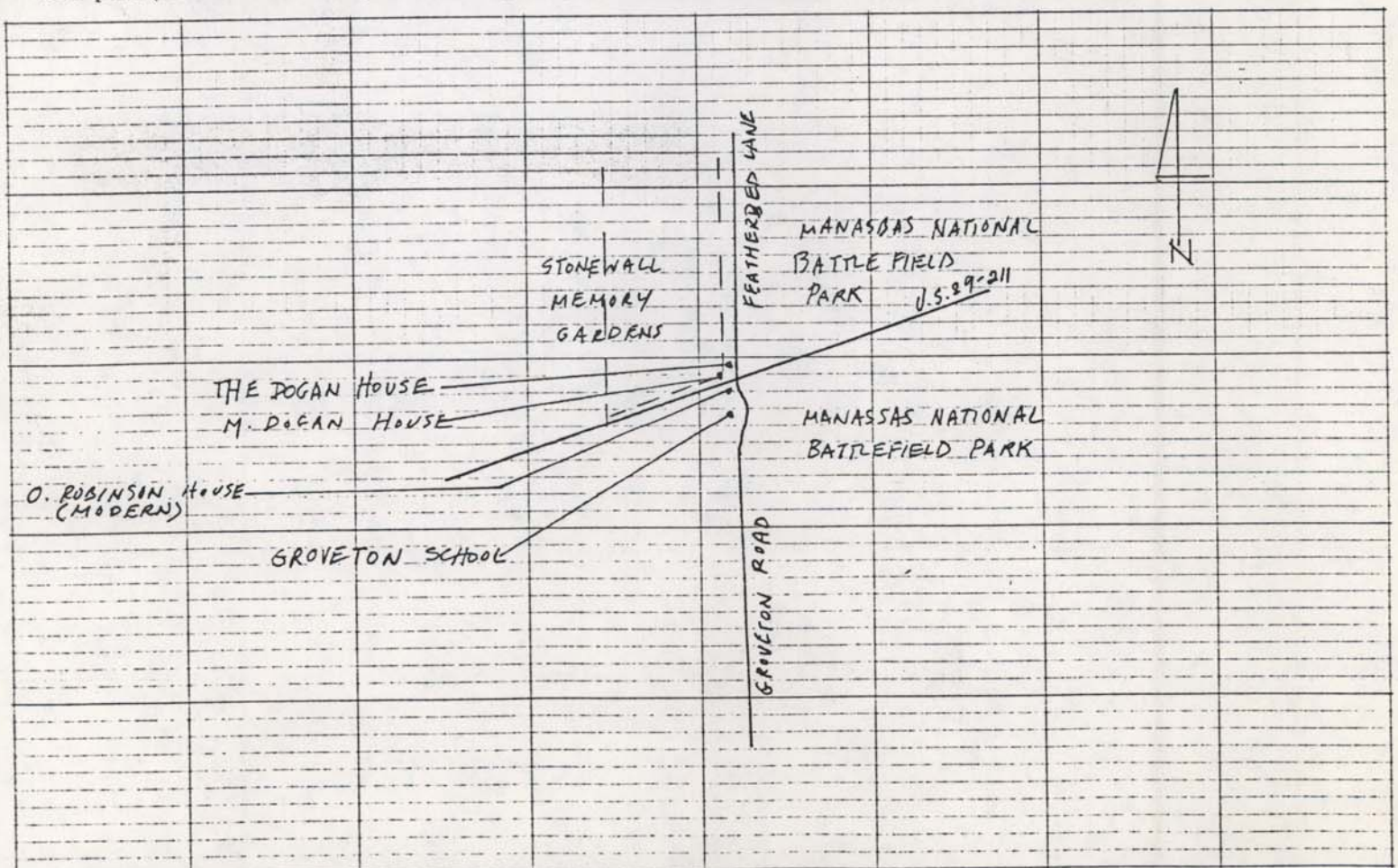
Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

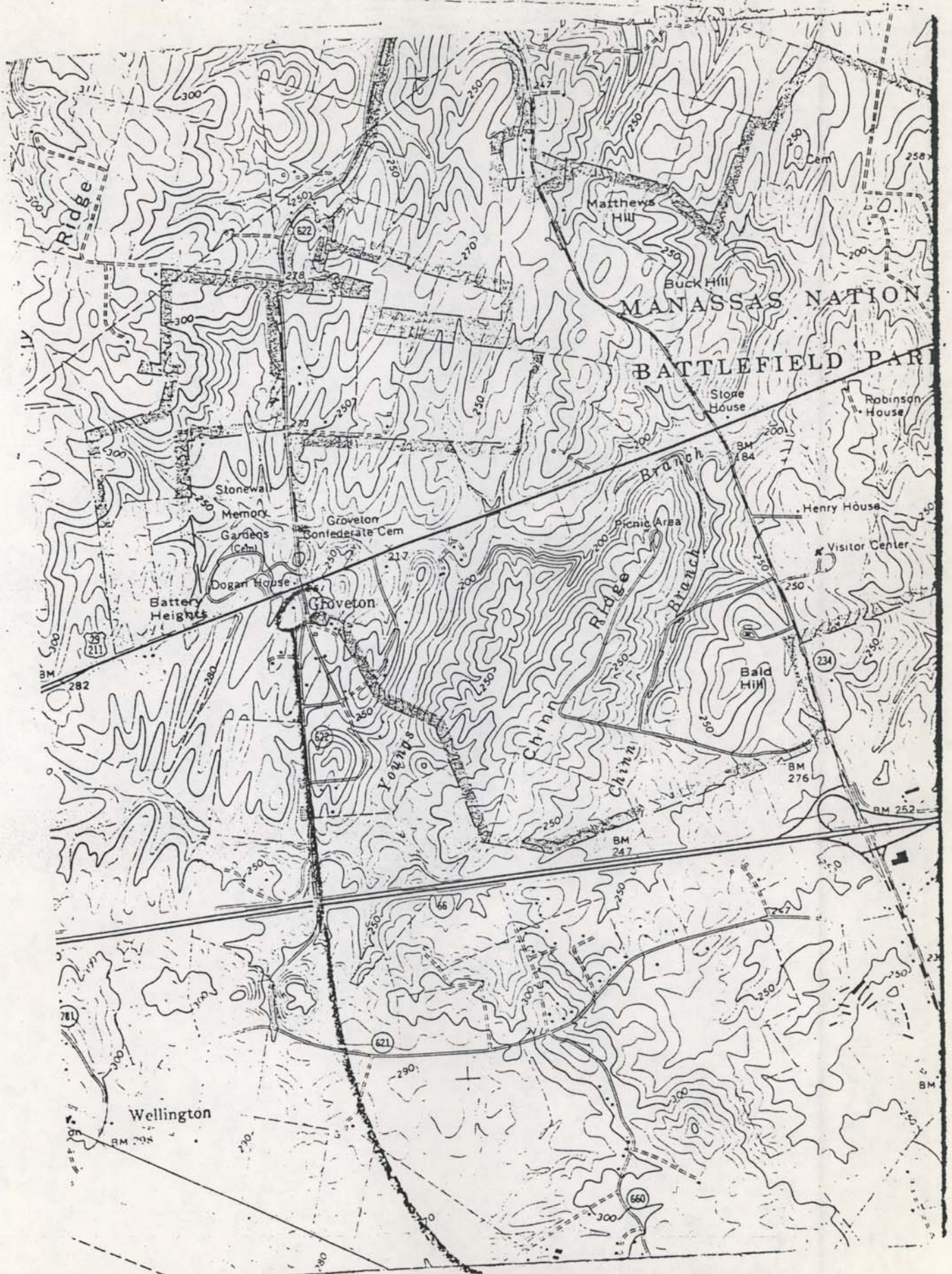
Names and addresses of persons interviewed Present resident: Ms. Martha Jones, 6706 Groveton Rd., Manassas, Va., B. Oswald Robinson (owner); Miss Grace Metz, 8215 Signal Hill Rd., Manassas, VA.

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



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





GAINESVILLE QUAD.

GROVETON SCHOOL