



SURVEY FORM

Historic name	John Trone House	Common name	
County/Town/City	Prince William County		
Street address or route number	8204 Buckland Mill Rd., Gainesville, VA 22065		
USGS Quad	Thoroughfare Gap	Date or period	Early 1800s.
Original owner	John Trone?	Architect/builder/craftsmen	
Original use	Residence		
Present owner	Mary R. Fink	Source of name	Previous owner.
Present owner address	8204 Buckland Mill Rd. Gainesville, VA 22065	Source of date	Architectural evidence.
Present use	Residence	Stories	1½ stories on high basement.
Acreage	2½ acres	Foundation and wall const'n	Stone foundation, frame walls.
		Roof type	Asphalt shingle-covered gable roof.

State condition of structure and environs Fair condition.

State potential threats to structure Lack of maintenance.

Note any archaeological interest Site of Trone's blacksmith shop, though partly obliterated by road, may contain artifacts.

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes no Included in historic district.

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.)

High stone basement has c18"-thick walls and is built into the side of the hill on which the house rests. Frame-built 1½ story structure above, which has been changed over the years. According to a photograph dating to about the 1930s, the house earlier had two doors on the upper level of the east side, doors which probably led to a second story porch which had been removed before the c1930 photograph was taken. Present owner claims that her husband replaced the doors with windows, and also removed a frame shed from the south end of the house. Stone retaining wall on either side of the house apparently was once higher and longer. No significant woodwork inside, except plain mantel in basement which is said to have been removed from the old Graham house across Rt. 29-211, known in this survey as the Odescalchi-Graham House, and installed in this house a few years ago. Fireplace on second floor blocked. House is heated by a large oil burner. An old winding stair is located in the rear of the north room, or kitchen. Dining room and kitchen in 1st floor or basement; sitting room on main floor; and bedroom, reached by a narrow, steep stairway, in finished attic. Interior throughout covered with plasterboard.

Interior inspected? yes

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

John Trone, the legendary blacksmith after whom this house is named, purchased lot 6, on which this house stands, in 1825.* Trone, a blacksmith by trade and a licensed Methodist lay preacher, conducted services at the Buckland Methodist Episcopal Church; and occasionally walked to the Sudley M-E Church to preach. It was through Trone's efforts that the present Buckland Church was built, on land donated in 1856 by Hugh Hite.

Trone achieved notoriety during the Civil War when he refused to shoe a Federal Officers' horse. "This horse is going to be shod, by God," the Federal officer is said to have shouted, to which the perky old blacksmith is supposed to have replied, "All right, if God will do it, but John Trone will not." According to both written accounts of this story, the Federal officer rode away, having received neither human nor divine aid.

John Trone and his wife, Delilah, are buried in the churchyard on the hill behind the house.

The present owner, Mrs. Mary R. Fink, moved to Buckland with her husband in the 1940s. R.L. Fink had received the house and about 15 acres from an inheritance. Twelve and one half acres were sold to Marion E. Turner (DB 247, p. 264) and ½ acre to the State for widening of Rt. 29/211. (cont.)

* According to a map of Buckland, lot no. 6 was bounded on the west by Lafayette Street, on the east by Buckland Mill Road, on the north by Prince Wm. St, which later became the turnp

Sources and bibliography

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

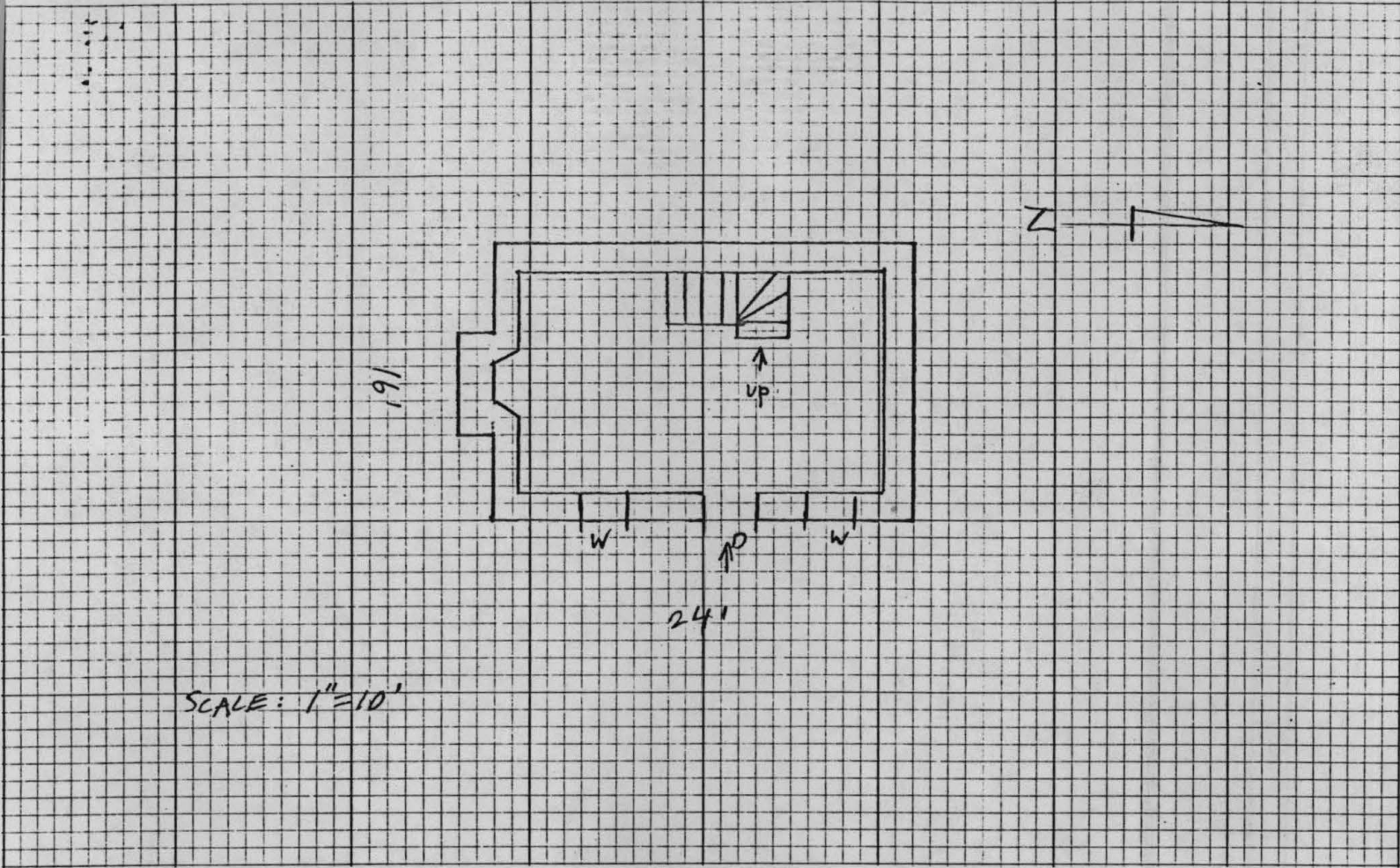
Ratliff, R. J., This Was Prince William (c1978), pp. 69-71.

Leitch, Martha, "Buckland in P rince William County, Va.," in Echoes in History, Nov.1773

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

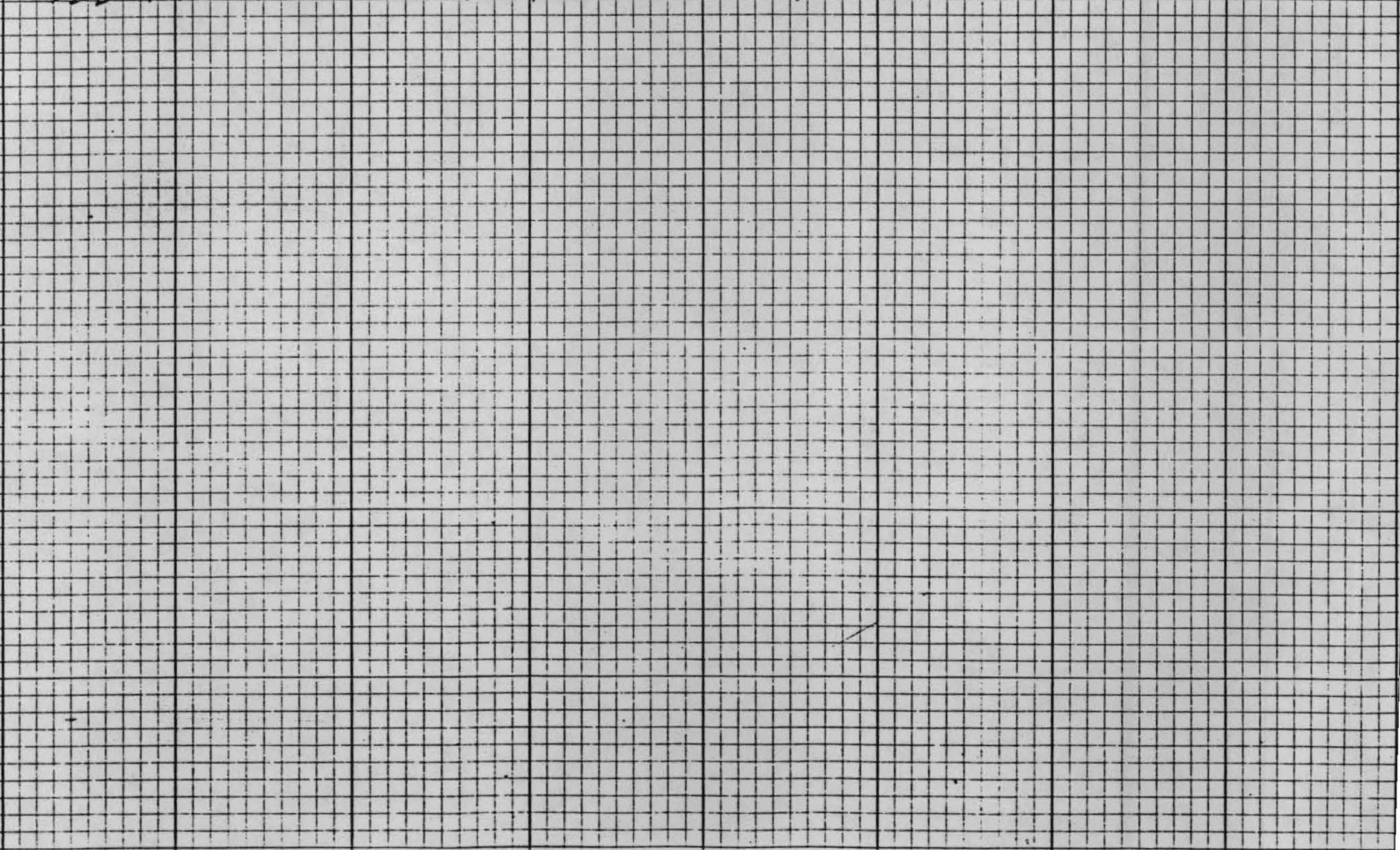
Names and addresses of persons interviewed Mrs. Mary R. Fink, owner.

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



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

SEE SITE PLAN FOR BUCKLAND MILL 76-112.



Name, address and title of recorder Frances Jones, Architectural Historian - Supervisor, NVPDC

Date

JAN 1980

Historical Significance (continued)

This house is probably the least altered of all the old houses in Buckland; it still retains the appearance of its original shape and plan. No recent additions have been made. House probably has the earlier siding under the present, new asphalt siding. Plain woodwork on interior may be original. Chimney is old though perhaps rebuilt. Even the type of residence, that of the cottage of poor persons, remains the same. House has no running water, no telephone, and no central heat, but it does have electricity. It clearly looks like the vernacular residence of a Buckland craftsman.

This house's present appearance and its associations with the blacksmith-preacher John Trone place it high on the list of important, old Buckland houses to be preserved.