

VLR- 3/19/09
NRHP 5/21/09

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Grove
other names/site number DHR# 016-0012

2. Location

street & number 33115 Mount Gideon Road not for publication N/A
city or town Hanover vicinity x
state Virginia code VA county County of Caroline code 033 zip code 23069

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 5/21/09
Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain):
Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 3 </u>	<u> 6 </u>	buildings
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 6 </u>	<u> 6 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> DOMESTIC </u>	Sub: <u> Single Dwelling </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> Secondary Structure </u>
<u> AGRICULTURE </u>	<u> Processing </u>
<u> FUNERARY </u>	<u> Cemetery </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> DOMESTIC </u>	Sub: <u> Single Dwelling </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> Secondary Structure </u>
<u> AGRICULTURE </u>	<u> Animal Facility </u>
<u> FUNERARY </u>	<u> Cemetery </u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

- Colonial/Early Republic: Vernacular
- Mid 19th Century: Greek Revival
- Mid 20th Century: Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation	<u> Brick </u>
roof	<u> Wood Shingles, Asphalt Shingles, Corrugated Metal </u>
walls	<u> Wood Weatherboard, Corrugated Metal </u>
other	<u> n/a </u>

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation Sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance c.1787-1920

Significant Dates c. 1787, c. 1797, 1858, 1868

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation Sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # Unknown #- Aug. 1957, H.C. Johnson, Jr.
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 68.03

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>18S 0291480 4187080</u>	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____

x See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. Scott Smith, Managing Partner

Organization The Antiquaries, LC date 28 December 2008

street & number Post Office Box 75 telephone 434-401-3995

city or town Lynchburg state Virginia zip code 24505

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Jayne Maire Massie

street & number 33115 Mt. Gideon Road telephone 804-648-2012

city or town Hanover state Virginia zip code 23069

=====
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Grove occupies a 68.03 acre tract of land in the southern part of Caroline County on the east side of Mt. Gideon Road, which is designated as the "Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route." The Grove is a two-and-a-half story, three bay frame house that is sited approximately twenty feet from the road, and is surrounded by a number of domestic and agricultural resources. The property consists of a mix of open fields and dense woodlands, which are split by deep ravines containing tributaries of Mill Creek, which feeds into the nearby Pamunkey River. Building technology and documentary evidence suggest that The Grove was constructed as a two-and-a-half-story, one-cell-per-floor frame house ca. 1787 during the ownership of a woman named Susannah Foster. It was expanded into a center hall plan dwelling shortly thereafter, ca. 1800, and expanded again in the mid-19th century. The Grove is an excellent example of an 18th century house along a former stagecoach route that evolved to meet the needs of its occupants throughout the 19th and well into the 20th centuries.

The Grove House

The Grove is a two-and-a-half story, three-bay, gable-roofed frame dwelling which faces west and lies approximately twenty feet from the east side of Mt. Gideon Road. Thought to have been constructed in at least five building campaigns, the house presents an excellent example of the evolution of a Tidewater Virginia farmhouse during the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Today, the house presents itself as a three-bay dwelling with a central passage, covered by blind-nailed, beaded weatherboarding. The side-gabled roof of the main section of the house is a 12/12 pitch, and is covered by wooden shakes, which were installed by the Massies to replace a 19th century standing seam metal roof. Several wooden shingles, thought to represent the original roofing material, have been located in the garret of the main house. The roof is trimmed with a simple box cornice and flush rake boards. The dwelling rests on a low brick foundation, and is flanked by two pairs of brick chimneys on its gable ends.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 7 **Page** 2

At least five building campaigns have caused the dwelling's evolution. Phase I (the southern section), consists of what was likely a two-bay, two-and-a-half story, single-cell-per-floor building constructed in the early fourth quarter of the eighteenth century. Phase II (the northern section), comprises the bulk of the house as it is seen from the road, and consists of a thirty-foot-long, two-and-a-half story addition to the north of Phase I. Subsequent alterations, including the installation of newer windows in the nineteenth century (and probable reconfiguration of the fenestration pattern on the front [west] façade) and the installation of replacement clapboards in the mid twentieth century, mask the distinctions between Phases I and II to the casual observer. Phase III consists of a one-story, shed roofed addition along the rear (east) façade that was added in the mid-nineteenth century. Phase IV is represented by the construction of several small utilitarian additions on the south and east facades of the dwelling later in the nineteenth century. A single-story, shed-roofed enclosed porch was built along the length of the east (rear) façade in the mid twentieth century, and is designated as Phase V.

Building Phase I: The Southern Section

The southern section of the house likely began in the fourth quarter of the eighteenth century as a two-and-a-half-story, one-cell-per-floor house which measured approximately 18' deep and 20' long on the exterior. Based on extant similar buildings in the region, this was probably a two-bay dwelling, although possible evidence of this is masked by new clapboards that were installed by the late nineteenth century and replaced in the mid twentieth century. Potential remnants of the two-bay origins of this phase are the two six-over-six windows on the rear (east) second-story façade. This is the only section of the house that has a cellar, which is accessed from the exterior by a pair of graceful six-paneled doors at the base of a shed addition at the south end of the house. Architectural evidence suggests that these doors were once located flush with the end of the house, but were moved outward when a small shed addition was built over this space in the late 19th century. The doors are hung on large HL hinges, and are secured by a wrought iron hasp. The cellar is lit by a pair of three-pane windows on the west side, and the floor has been partially infilled with fine crushed stone to facilitate drainage. The exterior foundation of the cellar which is readily visible (the western, or front face) presents a mix of bond styles, including Flemish bond, running bond, and running bond with a soldier course at the top of the foundation (these various sections are separated by the cellar windows). All of this brickwork displays signs of heavy repair and replacement. However, the interior of the cellar is finished in English bond, which suggests an 18th century origin. This section of the house rests on massive hewn oak sills, measuring approximately 10" x10". A similarly sized beam runs east to west,

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 7 **Page** 3

and supports the hearth of the room above. The remaining floor joists are hewn on at least two sides, and display characteristic signs of pit sawing on the third visible face. On the southern wall of the cellar, a small storage niche is created by the presence of a relieving arch, which is supported by a wooden lintel. Remnants of storage shelves line a portion of the eastern wall of the cellar. A double-shouldered Flemish bond chimney with tiled weatherings and grapevine mortar joints (which measures 5' 9" across by 3' 6" deep on the outside) is located on the south gable end of this section.

The chamber on the first floor of the house is lit by one large six-over-six window on the front (west) façade (likely a mid-19th century replacement), and is accessed by doorways in the southeastern and northeastern corners of the room. The floor consists of narrow pine boards, which cover the original wider pine boards. A dogleg, boxed staircase probably occupied the northwestern section of the room, as evidenced by flooring joints on the second floor. A simple mantel (representative of the mid-19th century) adorns the fireplace on the south wall. The ceiling is nine feet tall, and the joint between the ceiling and walls is trimmed by a short profile crown moulding installed by the Massies. Also installed by the Massie family is a storage closet on the east wall of the room.

According to Catherine King Hamilton (1892-1980), a former owner of The Grove and relative of the Worthington Family, the east wall of a later addition (see Phase III below) contains two windows which were removed from the first floor of this section of the house (it is not known whether they originated on the front or rear façade). These two windows contain nine over nine sash that are divided by very wide (1.25") muntins with a Roman profile, which are typical of the 18th century. The frames feature a massive bullnosed sill which is fastened to the vertical members by a pair of large exposed pegs.

The second floor of this section of the house is divided into two chambers. A stair hall contains a boxed, dog-legged staircase to the garret and storage cabinetry installed by the Massies; the flooring exhibits evidence of a staircase which once connected this space with the first floor chamber. A single six-over-six window (measuring 3' 9" x 2' 3") with wide, Roman-profile muntins is located in the rear wall of this hallway. A bed chamber occupies the southern portion of this section. It is illuminated by a small six-over-six window on the rear (east) wall, and a large six-over-six window on the front (west) wall. An arched fireplace, which is capped by a simple shelf mantel added by the Massies, occupies the south wall. The dividing wall between the stair hall and this bedchamber consists of random-width, beaded vertical paneling.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET****The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**Section 7 Page 4

The garret (third floor) of this section is accessed by the boxed staircase previously mentioned. A solid balustrade consisting of vertical beaded boards separates the main living space from the steep stairway. This space is unheated, but displays evidence that it was originally plastered. Extant lathe nails are fully hand-wrought. The west wall of the stairway retains some of its plaster, but where the plaster has decayed brick nogging can be seen in the exterior wall. This nogging can also be seen in a late 1950s photo taken when siding replacement work was being performed on the south wall of the house. The rafters are joined at the peak with a mortise and tenon bridge joint, and rest on a plate that sits on top of the floor joists. The rafters in this section are reinforced by four diagonal braces, which are let into the rafters, and help provide rigidity to the roof structure. The northernmost rafter in this section is paired with a rafter that signifies the beginning of the roof structure of the second phase of construction (see below). Visible framing members in the garret appear to have been ripped by a sash saw; some have hewn faces. The knee walls and gable end walls are trimmed with a simple beaded mopboard, and the southern gable wall is pierced by a single double-hung two-over-four window (on the west side of the chimney). The two-pane sash on this window displays the wide muntins found in other windows in this section of the house. The northern gabled wall contains a four-panel door hung on HL hinges that leads to the remainder of the garret, along with a double-bead chair rail.

Building Phase II: The Northern Section

During the late 18th or early 19th century, the 30' long northern section was probably added to the existing house, creating a central passage plan. This section rests on a crawlspace created by a Flemish bond brick foundation with grapevine joints. The floor joists of the first floor are more regularly shaped than those in the previously described section, and exhibit vertical sash saw markings. The chimney on the northern gable end is double-shouldered with asymmetrical tiled weatherings, and is finished in the Flemish bond pattern with grapevine mortar joints. This chimney is somewhat larger than the one found on the southern end, as it measures 7' wide by 3' 8" deep on the outside. The line of division between Phases I and II, while obscured by nineteenth century reconfiguration of windows on the front façade and several replacements of clapboard siding, can still be identified on the front (west) by a vertical butt joint in the brick foundation, a break in the cornice moulding, and a noticeable irregularity of the roof surface. In the interior of the dwelling, the change between Phases I and II is marked by a slight change in floor level on the second floor.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 5

The first floor is divided into two sections. An 11' wide central passage contains a dogleg, closed stringer staircase. The lower third of this staircase is supported by a small paneled closet, which is secured by a four-paneled door (hung with HL hinges). The interior of this door is still covered with its original yellow ochre paint. The front door is very wide, and is surrounded by a transom and sidelights. This doorway, along with the front porch, was probably installed in the third building phase. A large opening on the east wall of this space opens into a rear hallway, a doorway underneath the staircase (east wall) opens into the chamber described in Phase I, and a doorway in the north wall leads to the Parlor.

The Parlor measures approximately 17' x 17', and is lit on the west wall by a large six-over-six window. The fireplace, which is trimmed with a simple mid-19th century mantel, is located on the north wall. A six-over-six double-hung window located to the right of the fireplace provides additional light to the room. Massie family members think that an exterior doorway once existed to the left of the fireplace, but no visible physical evidence of this was located during this study. Simple baseboards in this room are decorated with a faux marble paint treatment.

The layout of the second floor of this section is similar to that of the first. An 11' wide stair hall is located at the southern end of this section. A doorway on the south wall leads to the Phase I section of the house (a small change in floor level helps mark the change). A closet (now bathroom) is carved out of this hall, and is walled with vertical beaded board paneling. The four-panel door that secures this room is hung on HL hinges.

A doorway leading to a bedchamber is located on the north wall of the hallway. One small six-over-six double-hung window pierces the rear (east) wall of the hall, and a large six-over-six window illuminates what is now the bathroom. The northern bedchamber measures approximately 17' x 17', is lit by a small six-over-six window on the east wall, and a large six-over-six window on the west wall. An arched fireplace (with a mantel shelf installed by the Massies) occupies the northern wall.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 7 **Page** 6

The garret space of the Phase II section is accessed via the staircase to the garret of the Phase I section. A four panel door (hung on HL hinges) leads from the older section of the house to the Phase II garret. The northern wall is lit by a pair of two-over-four windows. The walls and ceilings of this section also exhibit evidence of past plastering, and remaining lathe nails are also fully hand-wrought. The mopboard along the base of the walls in this section is slightly taller than that in the Phase I section. The roof framing is similar to that of the adjacent section, but the rafters are only braced by two, lighter-weight, diagonal braces on the northern end of the house. The rafters of this section are also sash-sawn, but display less oxidation (are lighter in color) than those of the Phase I section.

Building Phase III: The Eastern Shed Addition

This addition was probably built by Robert T. Wortham circa 1858¹ to provide additional space for his family and medical practice. The structure runs the entire length of the east (rear) side of the house, is one story in height, and is covered by a shed roof. However, instead of showing the rake of the shed roof, a parapet wall was built to give a more formal appearance on each end. A pair of double-shouldered chimneys, mirroring the style of the older chimneys on the house, anchor the north and south ends of the addition. The southern chimney is finished in five-course American bond, but the northernmost chimney seems to be running (stretcher) bond, with only two complete courses of headers visible on the entire structure.

The addition is divided into three cells. The southernmost room now serves as a dining room, and is lit by two nine-over-nine windows (see description for the main chamber of Phase I) on the eastern wall. A doorway leads out of the southern wall into a later addition (this probably originally provided ready access to an outdoor kitchen), and also out of the northern wall into the central passage. The mantel surrounding the fireplace in this room is consistent with the others found on the first floor of the house. It is probable that Wortham updated the trim in the older sections of the house when he built this addition.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 7 **Page** 7

The central passage measures approximately 13' deep by 11' wide, and contains a (formerly) exterior doorway on its east wall that is identical to the front door on the west wall of the central passage in the Phase II section. This hallway contains a wooden strip with cast metal coat hooks on the northern wall. These hooks are said to have been provided for patients of Dr. Wortham, who waited in this hallway. The northern room of the addition measures approximately 13' deep by 17' wide, and contains a fireplace on its northern wall. A narrow four-over-four window illuminates this room, and is located to the right of the fireplace. Tradition holds that this chamber was used by Dr. Wortham as his examination room. A doorway on the east wall leads out to a later addition, which contains a bathroom.

Building Phase IV: The 19th Century Southern and Eastern Additions

In 1868, the Worthams made improvements to the house that caused its value to increase by approximately twenty percent.² This increase in value probably reflects a series of additions that were made to the house on the southern and eastern sides. A one-room shed addition was added to the southwestern corner of the Phase I section of the houses. This addition now contains a bathroom and exhibits construction methods representative of the mid to late 19th century, including circular saw marks on framing members and vertical board-and-batten siding. Another shed-roofed addition on the southern end of the Phase III addition connects the house to a building that appears to have been moved from its original location and connected to the house. This building (now addition) is raised on brick piers (the spaces in between the piers have now been filled with brick) and has a relatively low-pitched roof. The structural members underneath were cut by a circular saw, and are arranged in a manner consistent with being originally built as a free-standing edifice (a wooden sill plate runs the perimeter of the building, which is not fully integrated with the framing of the adjacent additions on the house. The majority of the interior space of this addition serves as the modern kitchen. Another small, shed roofed addition was constructed off of the rear (east) side of the room that is said to have served as Dr. Wortham's medical office. This addition now serves as a bathroom.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 8

Building Phase V: The 20th Century Southern and Eastern Additions

After acquiring the house in 1956, the Massies added a screened-in porch along the rear of the house, which has since been enclosed. Also, Mrs. Massie had a small gable-roofed addition built on the southern end of the house that filled in space between two older additions. This room serves as a sunroom for cultivating plants.

Smokehouse: Contributing Building, early 19th century

Just to the east of the main house is a timber-framed, gable-roofed, smoke house, which is typical of the early 19th century. The building is covered by beaded clapboard siding and rests on a concrete foundation and floor (both mid to late twentieth century additions or repairs) Framing members possess a combination of sash saw and hand hewing marks. Several original meat hooks (made from forks in tree branches) remain inside the building. The smokehouse's board and batten door is secured with iron strap hinges.

Pumphouse: Non-Contributing Building, late 20th century

South of the main house is a small building with a hipped roof which contains the pump that moves water from the well to the water tower (see below). The pump was made by the F.E. Myers Company of Ashland, Ohio. The pump itself is historic, and the building is sited above the historic well, but the entire structure of the building has been replaced outside of the property's period of significance (probably in the early fourth quarter of the twentieth century).

Water Tower: Contributing Structure, c. 1920

Between the main house and the pumphouse is a two-story-tall water tower, which stores water pumped from the well, and provides significant head pressure to indoor plumbing fixtures within the main house. The cylindrical tank, which appears to be constructed of wooden staves, is supported by a series of lightweight steel trusses (connected by rivets that make up the tower, and is covered by a conical roof. A catwalk with railing encircles the water tank.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 7 **Page** 9

Garage: Non-Contributing Building, late 20th century

The two-car garage is located to the southeast of the main house, and is clad in beaded weatherboards. The gambrel roof provides a storage loft above the automobile storage space below. This building replaced a smaller one that was extant when the Massies acquired the property. Mr. Massie rebuilt the garage to its present size so that it would accommodate the construction of a small airplane, but that project was never begun.

Tool Shed: Non-Contributing Building, late 20th century

The tool shed lies to the southeast of the garage, and is a frame structure covered by a low-pitched gable roof and clad in beaded weatherboard.

Tractor Shed: Non-Contributing Building, mid to late 20th century

The tractor shed is located to the east of the garage, and is clad in T-111 siding. The off-center gable roof is covered by corrugated metal, and the shed's floor is concrete. This building replaced a similar, but smaller shed that was extant (but in poor condition) when the Massies acquired the property.

Tobacco Barn: Contributing Building, early 19th century

The tobacco barn lies to the southeast of the complex of domestic outbuildings associated with the main house. The timber-framed building follows a form common to the early 19th century, has a steeply pitched gable roof, and a box cornice. A similar barn stands at nearby Mt. Gideon, but was identified as an early 19th century granary in the 1991 "Historic Architectural Survey of Caroline County, Virginia". While the building lacks the pungent odor of cured tobacco found in many other tobacco barns, other features, including the open, airy interior construction suggest that the family traditions associated with this building match the historic use. Inside, numerous cross-members (both sawn and natural) help support the structure and provide a footing for temporary storage lofts or the hanging of crops. The wooden materials used in the barn are representative of various time periods. Some are hewn with sash sawn faces, others are completely sash sawn, and still others display circular saw marks.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 7 **Page** 10

The sawn rafters are connected at the peak of the roof by a ridge board. The roof is covered in standing-seam metal, and the exterior is clad in a combination of standing seam-metal and corrugated metal. The tall barn door is hung by wrought iron strap hinges. A low, off-center, gable-roofed addition on the north side of the building serves as a stable.

Stable: Non-Contributing Building, mid to late 20th century

The stand-alone stable (as opposed to the one attached to the tobacco barn) stands just north of the tobacco barn. It is covered by a corrugated metal, off-center gable roof, and is clad by T-111 siding. The building contains for animal stalls, which open on the south side of the building into a small fenced lot. Currently, two donkeys and a miniature pony reside in the stable.

Wortham-Peatross Cemetery: Contributing Site

The cemetery is located in the backyard of the main house, approximately 100' to the east. It contains 31 graves ranging in burial date from 1869 to 1980. The cemetery is rectangular in shape, and is enclosed by a wrought iron fence supported by 20th century brick pillars. Many of the grave markers are 20th century granite replacements. The oldest marker stone is that of Dr. Robert T. Wortham from 1880, and is made of marble. The following is a listing of the marked graves within the cemetery (order: counterclockwise from entry gate)

Jane Mason Peatross	1843-1897			
Jean Scott Peatross	1872-1891			
Julia Samuel Peatross	1835-1885			
Susan Matilda Peatross	1831-1891			
Robert Sale Peatross	1805-1880			
Sterling Wortham	1865-1869	Annie Wortham	1867-1869	(same marker)
Mary Scott Wortham	1800-1872			
Robert Timothy Wortham	June 16, 1821-May 28, 1880			
Isabel Wortham	1870-1882			
Mary Fletcher Wortham	April 1, 1833-February 3, 1906			

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 7 **Page** 11

Janie Evelyn Wortham	1874-1915
Robert Olin Wortham	1861-1925
Mary Elizabeth Wortham	1857-1926
Catherine King Hamilton	November 19, 1892-August 9, 1980
Henry Rufus Hamilton	March 4, 1886- December 12, 1952
Bessie L. Peatross	1868-1954
Cecil Peatross	1866-1943
Lena Peatross	1878-1951
Mary Peatross	1880-1952
Warner Guy Wortham	1864-1928
Maude E. Wortham	1877-1955
Charles Thomas Wortham	1872-1936
Mollie Peatross Wortham	1922 (infant)
Jane Elizabeth Wortham	1823-1900
Walter Samuel Peatross	1876-1942
Leila Morgan Peatross	March 3, 1875-August 19, 1959
Robert Wortham Peatross	September 20, 1873-January 2, 1920
Warner Mason Peatross	1877-1918
Walter Scott Peatross	1842-1911
Annie Ferrell Morris	1898-1899
Frances Peatross Morris	1870-1898

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 12

Guest House: Non-Contributing Building

Located to the north of the main house, the guest house is a simple, typical mid-20th century Cape Cod-style frame house with a gable roof, asphalt shingles, and composite siding. The house was built by the Massies in 1962 to accommodate Jayne Maire Massie's mother. It is now occupied by The Grove's farm manager.

Icehouse: Contributing Site

A large pit, approximately 25' in diameter, and 10' deep, marks the site of The Grove's former icehouse. This site is located on a ridge to the south of the house and overlooks a branch of Mill Creek. This ridge may have been the site of slave quarters (late 19th/early 20th century photographs show several buildings) but their exact location is unknown. Future archeological investigation of this vicinity is likely to yield clues to the location of these buildings.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 13

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

By the second half of the 18th century, lower Caroline County was well established as an important thoroughfare for people and goods travelling between Richmond and Williamsburg and points farther north, including Fredericksburg, Alexandria, Georgetown, Baltimore, and Philadelphia. During this time, large plantation owners began to subdivide their holdings as families grew, and additional dwellings were constructed along the “Stage Road” that was to become U.S. Route 2. Building technology and documentary evidence suggest that The Grove was constructed as a two-and-a-half-story, one-cell-per-floor frame house ca. 1787 during the ownership of a woman named Susannah Foster. It was expanded into a center hall plan dwelling shortly thereafter, ca. 1800, and expanded again in the mid-19th century. The Grove is an excellent example of an 18th century house along the Stage Road that evolved to meet the needs of its occupants throughout the 19th and well into the 20th centuries. The property was likely the scene of American Revolution activity that largely occurred because of the property’s proximity to the Stage Road and Littlepage’s Bridge on the Pamunkey River.

The Grove is eligible for listing at the local level on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture, as it displays highly intact architectural craftsmanship from the 18th and mid 19th centuries in the upper Tidewater region, and is representative of an under-documented form and plan of dwelling found in southern Caroline County. The Period of Significance is from ca. 1787 (the date of construction for the earliest part of the house) to ca. 1920 for the construction of the water tower (which represents the last significant historic addition to the house or complex).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 14

Historical Context

In 1714, Thomas Davenport (Davenport) patented 311 acres adjoining Colonel Edward Hill (of Shirley Plantation), Thomas Jones, Samuel Williams, and David Anderson in what was then King William County, just north of the Pamunkey River. Davenport paid one pound, five shillings for the land, and agreed to bring two individuals (Joseph Woodnut and William Compton) into the Colony of Virginia.³ This tract of land was well-suited to farming, as it occupied the majority of a relatively level prominence that rises approximately one hundred feet above the Pamunkey River basin. Devil's Woodyard Swamp, a complex network of marshy bottomland surrounded by steep escarpments, lay just to the east, and was largely owned by Thomas Jones of New Kent County.⁴ It is likely that Davenport built some sort of a structure on the property and began cultivating the land shortly after he acquired it, as the requirement to "plant and seat" a patent was being actively enforced in his neighborhood.⁵

In 1723, Caroline County was formed from parts of King William, Essex, and King & Queen Counties. As most of Caroline County's records (particularly deed books) were burned while being stored in Richmond in 1865, the traditional "linear" method of tracing property for the next century cannot be employed. As a result, little is known of Davenport's activities on the land. Thomas Davenport died in Cumberland County in 1775⁶, and likely divested himself of the property before he moved westward. Local historians report that the land surrounding the sites of The Grove and Elson Green (016-0009) was owned by Duncan Graham, a prominent merchant.⁷ Although no record of the 311 acre tract being transferred to Graham has been found, the Davenport family was known to him, and he purchased an unknown quantity of land from Richard and Kesiah Davenport in 1765.⁸ The next year, Graham advertised that he had "Three hundred acres of well timbered level land... about three miles from Mantahick [Mangohick] church, and on the main road [probably Route 30]."⁷ Mangohick Church (050-0041) is located approximately five miles due east of The Grove, and it is possible that Graham was selling a portion of his larger landholdings in the area.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 8 **Page** 14

It has been said that The Grove was a stagecoach tavern in the 18th century.⁹ However, while its placement directly on the main road suggests a commercial purpose, little primary source documentation has been located to support this. Several members of the Massie family (current owners of The Grove) remember reading a traveler's diary that specifically mentioned "staying at a Tavern called the Grove, five miles north of Hanover Court House" in either 1723 or 1740. A number of 18th century travel narratives have been searched, and this reference has not yet been re-located. Former Caroline County Clerk of Court, Thomas Elliott Campbell, compiled an extensive list of ninety individuals who were issued licenses to operate taverns from 1733 through 1781. No name that is known to be associated with The Grove appears on this list. Furthermore, Campbell wrote that, in 1953, only four of Caroline County's colonial taverns were standing (Todd's at Villboro, Johnston's at Wright's Fork, Broaddus' at Sparta, Farish's in Bowling Green).¹⁰ A sampling of Caroline County Personal Property Tax records for the years 1783, 1796, 1800, 1817, and 1820 was conducted to search for familiar names in the list of ordinary licensees. Between four and eight ordinaries were licensed each year, but again, no individuals known to be associated with The Grove are listed.¹¹ This does not completely refute the tradition that The Grove served as a tavern, as one of the keepers listed could have rented the building without owning it (a common practice in Virginia towns and cities).

Duncan Graham died in 1780, leaving his son Robert as executor of his estate.¹² In the late summer of the next year, Simeon DeWitt, Geographer to The United States Army, mapped the vicinity as a section of his set of maps ordered by George Washington on 29 August, 1781. DeWitt's job was to survey the roads leading to the Middle Peninsula of Virginia (and Cornwallis' army entrenched at Yorktown). Washington wrote to DeWitt, "I need not observe to you the necessity of noting Towns, Villages and remarkable Houses and places but I must desire that you will give me the rough traces of your Survey as you proceed on as I have reasons for desiring to know this as soon as possible."¹³ DeWitt's map of the area gives excellent detail regarding natural features and changes in the direction of the road (old Route 2), but only shows one building within a few miles of the site of The Grove: "Widow Palmer's Tavern" on the west side of the road, about one mile north of the site of The Grove.¹⁴ According to Thomas E. Campbell's book, Mildred Palmer operated a tavern at Guinney [sic] Bridge from 1775-1781. She also appears on the tax roll as operating an ordinary in 1783. If Campbell's information is correct, DeWitt's map suggests that she relocated her operation by 1781. In 1789, Christopher Colles used much of DeWitt's work as the basis for his southern maps in his "Survey of the Roads of the United States of America" and Widow Palmer's Tavern again appears at mile marker 137 (probably the mileage from Baltimore headed south).¹⁵

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 8 **Page** 15

Fortunately, the French Army gives more detail of the area. On the Army's twelfth march on 4 October 1781 from Lynch's Tavern to Hanover town, the officers giving marching directions write "go through a clearing, with a house on the right [likely Palmer's]. You come to Crean [probably Graham] House, a fine plantation. You go downhill and follow a brook on your right [this is where Mt. Gideon Road cuts through a ravine as it descends towards the river]. You enter a very larger clearing [Pamunkey River bottomland] where there are several houses. You continue through it for a mile, then go down to the bank of the Pamunkey, a river 40 yards wide, running between steep banks, which you can cross on a wooden bridge [Littlepage's]..."

After the Allied victory at Yorktown, French troops again passed through the area on their way back to Georgetown. On 5 July 1782, Lauzun's Legion travelled "from Norrel's tavern on 5 July to march to an encampment, passing by Hanover Court House, two miles beyond Little Page's Bridge, a wooden bridge across the Pamunkey, where one enters the great road to Philadelphia. There are enough houses there for the headquarters of that division." Based on the distance from Littlepage Bridge, this camp would be on flat, level land approximately 2,000 feet north of The Grove house on Mt. Gideon Road, near its intersection with Catalpa Drive (this is likely, at least partially, on the property being nominated). On 6 July 1782, Lauzun's Legion departed from its camp "two miles beyond Littlepages Bridge, to march to a camp one mile beyond Burck's Bridge..."¹⁶ According to Dr. Robert A. Selig, overseer of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary War Route survey in Virginia, the camp was along Mount Gideon Road almost a mile south of where Mt. Gideon Road crosses VA-SR 301/2 again to become Baylor Road in Caroline County. Based on this information, the likely location of Lauzun's Legion's camp was in the fields immediately adjoining and (possibly) overlapping the site of The Grove and Elson Green. According to the itinerary, there were "enough houses" in that immediate vicinity to contain the command officers of Lauzun's Legion.

Following the Legion's passage through the area, the infantry made its seventh camp at [Little]Page's Bridge or Graham's House. It was at this point that the marches of Lauzun's Legion, which was heading north from the Petersburg area, merged with that of the infantry which was travelling from Williamsburg. The officers travelling with the infantry created beautiful color maps of each of the Army's camps, and the map of the seventh camp indicates that the infantry encamped on the bottomlands of the Pamunkey River, east of the main road, while the artillery and baggage was located very close to Littlepage's Bridge, just south of the intersection of the main road with the road that leads to North Wales farm.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 16

The map clearly show's "Graham's House" (Elson Green), along with two outbuildings and its impressive cedar-lined allée, on the west side of the road. The map also shows other buildings that are not on the main road, including what is probably the North Wales farm complex, a set of three buildings in the bottomlands, a single structure to the southwest of Elson Green, and two buildings on a road that ran eastward into the Devil's Woodyard Swamp (this is now a farm road that intersects with Mt. Gideon Road as it makes a sharp [90 degree] turn to the north as it heads toward Elson Green). The map does not show The Grove, even though it is now located almost directly across the main road from Elson Green, and is much closer to the road and more visible than Elson Green's outbuildings. While not conclusive (for we do not know what the French cartographer had in mind when identifying buildings on the map), this is strong evidence to suggest that The Grove was built after 1782.

Even though Duncan Graham died two years before the French map was drawn, Elson Green was still identified as "Graham's House," which implies that it was still occupied by that family. Duncan Graham's son, Robert, must have died by 1787, as the Caroline County Order Book for that year mentions that his estate was ordered to be settled.¹⁷

Because Caroline County's deeds are largely non-existent before 1836, a non-traditional approach was used to piece together the chain of title for The Grove. Most of Caroline County's land tax records survive, and because they list owners' individual tracts (unless they had them resurveyed and combined), it is often possible to track a parcel of land from one property owner to another by searching for similar quantities of acreage. This process is aided by the addition of a general description of the land (i.e., "The Grove" or "Stage Road") along with a compass bearing from the court house, notations of changes in ownership in the previous year (i.e., "555 acres from John Jones"), and the designation of a value of buildings on the property (after 1820). This work is typically conducted in reverse chronological order. However, in order for this research to mesh with the historical record, it is being presented below in chronological order.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 17

Previous research on The Grove, while methodical, was not successful in connecting the property's ownership to Duncan Graham, the individual widely held in oral history as the individual responsible for development of the land in the immediate vicinity of The Grove (including the Elson Green and Mt. Gideon tracts). As mentioned above, Robert Graham's estate was ordered to be settled in 1787. That same year, Susannah Foster appears on the Caroline County Land Tax rolls as owning 326 acres (corrected to 325 the next year), which she is listed as owning through 1793. Though there is not sufficient documentary evidence to warrant listing under Criterion A, Susannah Foster's status suggests the changing roles, perceptions, and opportunities for women in the post-revolutionary era. Future research may reveal a broader, or embryonic pattern. Foster has at least one known, albeit convoluted, connection to the Graham family. Susannah was the daughter of Daniel and Ann Isbell, and married a Foster (probably William, who died in the 1770s). Her sister Lucy married John Woolfolk¹⁸, brother of Paul Woolfolk (owner of Mt. Gideon by 1803¹⁹, which is immediately adjacent to The Grove and Elson Green). Paul Woolfolk's wife, Sarah Thilman, was formerly married to Robert Graham (Duncan Graham's son). Thus, Susannah Foster was a sister-in-law (of sorts) with Robert Graham's widow.

As mentioned, Susannah Foster is shown as owning the 325 acre tract that contains the site of The Grove through 1793, and it is likely that the oldest section (the one cell per floor, two and a half story section) was built by or for her once she acquired the tract in 1787. In 1794, the land tax records show the 325 acre tract being divided three ways, with John Foster, George Foster, and James Foster (probably sons of Susannah) each receiving 108 1/3 acres (one of these contained The Grove).²⁰ John Foster (and company) then transferred their share of the land to George Isbell, who may have been Susannah's brother. In 1796, George and James Foster sold each of their tracts to Thomas Taylor, making the property 216 2/3 acres.²¹ Taylor's 216 2/3 acre tract would be recognized as the site of The Grove in land tax records well into the nineteenth century. In addition, Taylor and his "plantation" were mentioned in passing by neighboring slave Edmund Woolfolk (owned by Paul Woolfolk of Mt. Gideon) in testimony related to Gabriel's Rebellion in 1800.^{22 23 24}

It is probable that Taylor added the gable-roofed section to the north of the original house at The Grove in the early years of his ownership, as construction techniques are consistent with the late 18th century, and there are no known events later in his ownership that would trigger the desire to more than double the size of the house. In 1810, Thomas Taylor appears on the census as being aged 45 or over, and has no other people in his household, including slaves.²⁵ By 1816, The Grove is held by Taylor's estate, signifying his recent death.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 18

Thomas Taliaferro (pronounced Tolliver by locals) acquired 116 2/3 acres of the property in 1817, and the 1820 Caroline County Land Tax list shows that buildings valued at \$1,000.00 were in place on the tract.²⁶ This value is generally consistent with a frame house the size of The Grove at the time. The 1820 Census lists Taliaferro as being between 26 and 45 years of age. Other household members include a female aged 16 to 26, a female under 10, a male under 10, and another male aged 26 to 45. The Taliaferros had six people engaged in agriculture, two engaged in manufacturing, and owned sixteen slaves.²⁷

Thomas Taliaferro began amassing additional land in 1821, when he purchased approximately 230 acres from an unknown grantor. In 1824, he acquired 4 additional acres from John Monday, and another 448 acres from Martha Roane in 1828. That year, the value of buildings on Thomas' land rose to \$1,500.00, which may be due to an extant building on the Roane tract. Thomas probably died by 1840, as he is replaced on the census by his wife, Sarah.²⁸ Sarah was responsible for a significant number of people, including 9 children and at least 44 slaves. 13 individuals were engaged in agriculture, and 3 were engaged in manufacturing.²⁹

The 1843 land tax records show Taliaferro's estate, called the "Grove" containing 654 3/4 acres, with buildings valued at \$1,800.00. The next year, Taliaferro's son-in-law, John Burke Tod (1814-1852) (his wife, Martha A. Taliaferro, was a daughter of Thomas and Sarah) appears on the tax rolls with 303 acres called "The Grove" (buildings valued at \$1,800.00) that he acquired from the following sources: 18 acres from Thomas Taliaferro's estate, 110 acres from William Taliaferro, 30 acres from Francis Harris, and 125 acres from J.T. Hoskins. John Tod was the administrator of Thomas Taliaferro's estate, and was serving as a guardian for two of Thomas and Sarah's children, Thomas and Evelina.³⁰

John B. Tod acquired a merchant's license in 1845 and 1846, and his chief backers were his brothers Lovell P. Tod and George T. Tod along with Francis W. Scott, a "kinsman."³¹ In July of 1847, John B. Tod entered into a deed of trust with Robert Hudgin to secure numerous debts to his brother, Lovell P. Tod and others. Tod posted a significant amount of property as collateral for this deed of trust, including

"that tract of land on which the said John B. Tod now resides supposed to contain 200 acres, being all the said tract except 8 acres & the improvements thereon hereinafter mentioned...about 190 acres about two miles from the home tract...all the interest the said John B. Tod has in the following real estate belonging to his wife Martha A. Tod to wit: eight acres of land with the improvements thereon above mentioned [thought to be Elson Green]...ten acres of land adjoining the aforesaid tract of 190 acres, and fifty three acres of land near the road leading from Needwood to Mangohick Church [Route 30]."

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 19

He also posted 21 slaves (one of them a blacksmith named Jim), all household furniture, two silver watches, “implements of husbandry”, two wagons, two carts, a wheat machine, carriage and harness, all crops (growing or “severed”), three mules, 15 head of cattle, three horses, twenty sheep, and fifty hogs as collateral.³²

Tod was apparently not able to pay the debts that he owed, because Robert Hudgin sold the land to John Chandler in December of 1847. The deed mentions that John B. Tod had a life estate, and was a tenant of the property, “by the courtesy of the said Martha A. having since the date of the said indenture departed this life.” The following tracts, as described in the plat of the division of the estate of Thomas Taliaferro (these documents have not been located): “Lot No. 1, containing eight acres (reserving the family burying ground, say twenty by forty feet, with the privilege to the heirs of the said Thomas Taliaferro, and to the said John B. Tod, & their descendants... ..with all the buildings thereon.” Also conveyed were lots number 4 (ten acres of woodland), and others, totaling 338 acres.³³ The location of the graves of Thomas Taliaferro and Martha A. Todd (nee Taliaferro) are not known.

The 1848 land tax records still show John B. Tod in possession of 251 acres called “The Grove” with buildings valued at \$1,800.00. By 1849, John Chandler is listed with 622 acres “on the Stage Road.” A notation adds that 371 acres were from Thomas Taliaferro’s estate, and 251 acres were from John B. Tod. It should be noted that the 371 acre tract had no buildings assessed in 1848. The 1850 Census lists John Chandler, a 48 year old farmer, with real estate valued at \$9,000.00. Others living in the household were Lucy (37 years of age), Bettie (12), Algernon (6), John B. Hackett (37, a Clerk), and Robert T. Wortham (28, Doctor of Medicine, with real estate worth \$50.00)³⁴

The 1850 Agricultural Census gives a glimpse into the size of the farming operation on Chandler’s land. He had 630 acres of improved land, and 255 acres of unimproved (noncultivated) land. The farm was valued at \$5,000.00, and farming implements held a value of \$500.00. There was a modest quantity of livestock (ranging from two mules to 62 swine) with a total value of \$866.00. The farm produced 400 bushels of wheat, 150 bushels of corn, 90 bushels of oats, no tobacco, 25 pounds of wool, 50 bushels of potatoes, and 200 bushels of sweet potatoes, and 30 pounds of honey.³⁵

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 20

A.B. Chandler, a son of John Chandler, wrote that he was born at Woodlawn on 16 August 1843, where he lived for four years until “my father, John Chandler, bought Elson Green, two miles north of Page’s Bridge. At Elson Green I lived during my boyhood days until my father sold it in 1863, and loaned the proceeds to the Confederate Government...he was an ardent secessionist...[and] he would risk all he had in the success of the Confederate cause. He did so and lost all.”

37

As evidenced by Chandler’s recollections, The Grove and Elson Green were almost inseparable during this time period. However, this would change in 1858, when John and Lucy Ann Chandler sold Robert T. Wortham a “piece or parcel of land called The Grove... ..on the east side of the road leading from Littlepages Bridge to Needwood and adjoining the lands of Robert Hill and Henry Hill and supposed to contain about 75 acres.” In this deed, Chandler provides a more distinct definition of The Grove. The land tax record for the next year reveals that the \$1,800.00 value of buildings that had been associated with the land since it was in Thomas Taliaferro’s possession fifteen years earlier actually reflected the value of two houses: Elson Green and The Grove, as the buildings on Wortham’s 75 acre tract were valued at \$900.00 (half the combined worth) in 1859. The tax record also notes that \$300 was added due to “repairs to buildings.” This significant (30 percent) increase likely reflects the addition of the one story, shed-roofed addition to the rear of the house that included a dining room, an extension to the central hall, and a room that is said to have served as Dr. Wortham’s office.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 21

It is possible that Robert T. Wortham was already living at The Grove when Chandler sold it to him, as he was living in Chandler's household (directly across the road) eight years earlier. Robert Timothy Wortham (born in 1821) was the son of Charles Wortham and Mary J. Chandler, and married Mary Fletcher Peatross in 1855. He was a medical doctor, and was "one of the brilliant group of physicians who lived in Lower Reedy Church District and adjacent Hanover County which made this region one of the leading medical centers of Virginia throughout the late 18th and 19th centuries," according to local historian Rev. Ralph Emmett Fall.³⁸ Wortham has not been located in the 1860 Census Population Schedule, but an entry for Robert and Mary's slaves indicates that they owned 9 male slaves, ranging in age from 2 to 45 years old (4 were considered black, and the rest were mulatto).

In 1860, Robert Wortham owned 120 acres of improved land, and 115 acres of uncultivated land. His farm was valued at \$2,000.00, with \$125.00 worth of machinery, and \$350.00 in livestock.³⁹ After the conclusion of the Civil War, in 1868, Wortham made some improvements to The Grove, causing the value of the buildings on the property to increase to \$1,100 (about 20 percent). This increase probably signifies the construction of the several board-and-batten sided additions on the south end of the house.

In 1870, Robert Wortham is listed as a "physician and farmer," with real estate valued at \$2,500.00 and a personal estate of \$1,000.00. Also in the household are his wife Mary, four children, Mary Wortham (70 years old, probably Robert's mother), Jane E. Wortham (47 years old, a sister of Robert's); included, too, were Henrietta James (a 15-year-old black domestic servant), Lewis Fells (a 16-year-old black farm laborer), and Charles Dabney (an 11-year-old black domestic servant). Only two other families who owned their own land lived in the immediate vicinity - Richard Tunstall of Elson Green (real estate worth \$5,000) and Ambrose Bland (real estate valued at \$60.00), both heads of white families. The other closely neighboring families consisted of black or mulatto farm laborers, probably tenants and former slaves of the Elson Green and Grove properties, with surnames such as Dickinson, Terry, Tinsley, Burwell, Young, and Stephens.⁴²

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 22

Dr. Robert Timothy Wortham died on 28 May, 1880 of heart disease at age 59⁴³, leaving his wife Mary to care for six children, ranging from three years (Maude) to nineteen years old (Robert O.). Fortunately, Mary had her sister in law, Jane Wortham, in the household to help. By 1880, the family had no servants living with them.⁴⁴ In 1900, many of Mary's children were still living at The Grove, including Robert O. Wortham, a 38 year old insurance agent, Warner Guy Wortham, a 34 year old farm laborer, Charles T. Wortham, a 28 year old teacher, Mary and Jeanne, teachers (36 and 26 years old, respectively) and Maude, who was 23 years old. Robert T. Wortham's sister, Jane, then 77 years old, was at The Grove, as was Alice Peatross (a niece of Mary's, also a teacher) and Polly Minnis (?) a 14-year-old black cook.⁴⁵ Jane Elizabeth Wortham, Robert's sister, died later that year, and is buried in the family cemetery at The Grove.

Mary Fletcher Peatross Wortham died at The Grove on 9 February 1906 at the age of 72.⁴⁶ The 1910 Census indicates that Warner Guy Wortham had become the head of the household, and was operating the farm. Robert O. Wortham was still working as an insurance agent, Janie E. Wortham was a teacher, Maude E. Wortham had no occupation, and M. Lizzie (Mary Elizabeth) Wortham was a teacher.⁴⁷

It has been said that the Wortham Family of The Grove were typically the first to employ modern technology at their farm. They were the first to install electricity and running water, and were on the forefront of advanced farming techniques in their neighborhood. Many of the Wortham children never married, preferring to stay at The Grove rather than give up the life that they loved to restart life in a new location. Maude Wortham, the last child of Robert and Mary Wortham remaining at The Grove, said that she loved the place too much to leave.⁴⁸ Maude died in 1955, leaving The Grove to her niece, Catherine King Hamilton, who cared for her in her last years.⁴⁹ The next year, Hamilton sold The Grove, which was re-surveyed and found to contain 64.5 acres (instead of the 75 acres mentioned in the deed from Chandler to Wortham), to G. Edmond Massie, III (an aeronautical engineer) and Jayne Maire Massie (a teacher).⁵⁰ The Massies began a major rehabilitation project on the house, and constructed a porch along the length of the rear of the house (this has since been enclosed). A guest house was built to the north of The Grove in 1962 to accommodate Mrs. Massie's mother, and several other outbuildings, including a garage, tool shed, and barn were built or significantly repaired in the subsequent years.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 8 **Page** 23

Architectural Context and Significance

The Grove is sited very close (approximately twenty feet) from the main road (now called Mt. Gideon Road), unlike its neighbors Mt. Gideon and Elson Green, which are each set back from the road approximately seven hundred feet. Both Mt. Gideon and Elson Green are approached by long, cedar-lined drives. Situated directly on the road, The Grove has no grand entry; it is accessed by vehicles via a driveway on its south (right) side that also acts as a service road for its complex of outbuildings. During the study of The Grove, nearby primary and secondary roads were surveyed to determine context. No other domestic buildings in the vicinity were found that mimic The Grove's relationship to the road.

Of the vernacular eighteenth century dwelling plan types found in Caroline County during a 1991 survey, the most common were "modest hall-parlor or side-passage-plan buildings to the larger three-and five-bay I-house plans."⁵¹ It is somewhat difficult to determine what the original floorplan of The Grove might have been, as the original flooring in the main chamber of the Phase I section was covered over in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century by narrow pine flooring (perhaps to conceal ghosting from the original staircase and/or dividing wall). While the Phase I section may have been a side-passage plan dwelling, this is unlikely based on the form of the staircase that leads from the second floor of this section to the garret. The boxed, dog-leg staircase found at that level of the house is probably indicative of what was located on the first level, which would suggest that the Phase I section was a single cell plan, and did not fit into any of the norms described in the county-wide survey quoted above.

During this survey, two buildings were identified that display features that are similar to The Grove's original appearance. A circa 1800 dwelling (VDHR # 016-0230) between State Route 650 and Hornquarter Creek appears to have been built in several phases, with its first phase being a two-and-a-half story, two-bay frame building. Unlike The Grove, however, this dwelling does not appear to have a useable garret space. A second similar house was identified via a windshield survey approximately 3.8 miles east of The Grove, near the intersection of Routes 30 and 601 at Calno. This building (UTM 18S 0297670 4186830) is not included in the Virginia Department of Historic Resources archives. The interior floor plan of these houses is not known but the exterior appearance of these buildings along with The Grove is not identified as common in the 1991 "Historic Architectural Survey of Caroline County, Virginia" completed by PMA Consulting Services and Tracerics.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 8 **Page** 24

Strikingly, The Grove is widely dissimilar from its two immediate neighbors, Mt. Gideon and Elson Green, both of which also date to the eighteenth century. Both of these houses are typical examples of vernacular houses of Tidewater Virginia in the eighteenth century, being one-and-a-half stories tall, three-bays wide, and flanked by a pair of brick chimneys.

While ostensibly of the same cultural and familial origins as Mt. Gideon and Elson Green, The Grove does not present itself as a dwelling that served as the seat of a family. Its close relationship with the main road implies that the occupants needed to be near the road for some reason; perhaps for commercial purposes, or perhaps the dwelling was occupied by a plantation overseer who needed convenient access to the rest of the farm. This presents a stark contrast to the long, tree-lined drives of Mt. Gideon and Elson Green. In addition, the two-and-a-half story, single-cell-per-floor configuration of The Grove lends itself to being adequately heated by its sole chimney (perhaps a cost-saving measure), unlike its two neighboring houses which have two chimneys to heat a similar amount of space.

Smaller dwellings such as The Grove (as it appeared after its first phase of construction) are often overlooked by local historians, and are often not valued by the community in the same way that larger, grander, family seats are. Because of this, they are commonly left to decay, and are demolished at a relatively high rate. The Grove was significantly expanded during the late eighteenth century, and thus avoided the fate that so many similar dwellings suffered.

In addition to its original form and subsequent modifications (showing the evolution of the house to meet the needs of growing families and changing aesthetic ideals), The Grove is also architecturally significant because of the presence of intact fabric representing eighteenth century construction techniques, including the brick nogging within the house's walls, pit-sawn floor joists and English bond brickwork in the cellar of Phase I, and extant millwork features including the cellar doors, pair of nine-over-nine windows with wide muntins and bullnosed sills, and the millwork found in the garret of the Phase I section, including the balustrade fashioned out of vertical beaded boards. Additional features of note include the smokehouse, which is one of twelve such Caroline County structures warranting mention in the 1991 survey, and the extant early 19th century tobacco barn, which is a rarity in Virginia as a whole.

Overall, The Grove possesses a high level of architectural integrity of building techniques, types and siting. In addition, archeological investigation of the property may yield important information on the presence of Franco-American military forces (primarily Lauzun's Legion) present in the Virginia theatre of operations during 1782 as well as the living conditions of African slaves during the antebellum period.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 8 **Page** 25

1. 1858 Land Tax Record, Caroline County Clerk of Court
2. 1868 Land Tax Records. Caroline County Clerk of Court.
3. Virginia Patent Book 10, pages 226-227. 23 December 1714. 311 acres to Thomas Davenport. Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.
4. Virginia Patent Book 11, pages 176-177. 18 February 1722/23. 765 acres to Thomas Jones. Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.
5. Virginia Patent Book 11, pages 102-103. 22 June 1722. 100 acres to David Lewis. Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia. This tract was located adjacent to Davenport and to his south. The grant to Lewis makes mention of William Terrill, who patented the land in March of 1715/16, "failed to make Such Cultivation and Improving the same as in the Said patent is Expressed."
6. Davenport, John Scott. "The Pamunkey Davenport Chronicles, Version A, Part 2 of 2." Holdmel, New Jersey: The Pamunkey Davenport Association, 2001. page 13.
7. Rose, Robert and Fall, Ralph Emmett, ed., "The Diary of Robert Rose: A View of Virginia by a Scottish Colonial Parson." Verona, Virginia: McClure Press, 1977. page 133.
8. Caroline County Order Book, 1759-1768. 10 October 1765. Deed Richard Davenport and Kesiah his wife to Duncan Graham.
9. *Virginia Gazette*, Williamsburg, Virginia: Purdie & Dixon, 20 June 1766, page 3, column 1.
10. Fall, Ralph Emmett, "People, Postoffices and Communities in Caroline County, Virginia: 1727-1969," Roswell, Georgia: W.H. Wolfe & Associates, 1989. page 349.
11. Campbell, Thomas Elliott, "Colonial Caroline: A History of Caroline County, Virginia." Richmond, Virginia: The Dietz Press, Incorporated, 1954. pages 410-414.
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17. Orders and Itinerary for the Return March of Lauzun's Legion from Petersburg to Georgetown, July 1782. Rochambeau Papers, Library of Congress, vol. 3, fols. 328-331.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 8 **Page** 26

18. Campbell, Kimberly Curtis, "Caroline County, Virginia Court Records: 1781-1799." Athens, Georgia: Iberian Publishing Company, 1999. page 29
19. Hopkins, William Lindsay, "Caroline County, Virginia Court Records and Marriages," Richmond, Virginia: Gen-N-Dex, 1987. page 182.
20. Declaration #2252, Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia. "Mt. Gideon" for \$1350. 1803. Library of Virginia. Reel 3, Volume 25.
21. Caroline County Land Tax Records, Alterations, 1794
22. Caroline County Land Tax Records, Alterations, 1796
23. Virginia Department of Historic Resources Highway Marker E-115, 2002 (located on US 301 on the north side of Littlepage's Bridge in Caroline County).
24. The location of Ellis' Tavern is not currently known. On 5 October 1796, Joseph Brame advertised in the Virginia Gazette & General Advertiser (Davis), Richmond that he was looking for a runaway slave named Isaac, and that he [Brame] was living in "Caroline County, near Ellis' Tavern." The Personal Property Tax list of 1800 does not list an Ellis with an ordinary license. Clearly, Ellis' Tavern was relatively close to Littlepage's Bridge, as the Gabriel's Rebellion conspirators seemed to visit with ease.
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26. 1810 United States Census, Population Schedule, Caroline County, Virginia
27. Caroline County Land Tax Records, 1816, 1817, 1820. The Commonwealth of Virginia only began requiring localities to track the value of buildings separately from the value of the land in 1820.
28. 1820 United States Census, Population Schedule, Caroline County, Virginia
29. Thomas Taliaferro married Sarah Oliver on 28 June 1814. Caroline County Marriage Bonds, 1810-1816, Library of Virginia.
30. 1840 United States Census, Population Schedule, Caroline County, Virginia.
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36. 1850 United States Census, Agriculture Schedule, Caroline County, Virginia.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 8 **Page** 27

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48. Massie, Jayne Maire. Personal Interview. 22 December 2008.
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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 9 **Page** 28

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section 10 Page 29

Verbal Boundary Description

See attached sketch and USGS Topographic Maps for additional detail. The subject property includes the following tax map parcels within the County of Caroline: 108 A 31, 108 A 30, and 108 A 32, comprising a total of 68.03 acres.

This area is roughly bounded by Mount Gideon Road (State Route 651) on the west and an intermittent branch of Mill Creek on the east. UTM coordinates of the outer boundaries of this property follow:

Beginning at a point on the east side of Route 651 at:	18S	0291611	4186754
Running northward on said road to:	18S	0291380	4187320
Thence running along a tree line to a branch at:	18S	0291650	4187390
Thence following the meanders of said branch to:	18S	0292262	4186561
Thence in a straight line to:	18S	0292232	4186545
Thence in a straight line to:	18S	0291750	4186765
Thence along a tree line to the beginning.			

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundaries form the approximate boundaries that have identified The Grove since 1858, and encompass all known buildings, structures, and sites associated with the property.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section _____ **Photos** _____ **Page** 30

Photo Captions

Information Common to All Images

Property Name: **The Grove**

Town, County, State: **Hanover Vicinity, Caroline County, Virginia**

Date: **All photographs taken December 2008**

Photographer: **W. Scott Smith**

Photo Captions:

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0001.tif

Front & South Façades, from southwest

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0002.tif

Front (west) Façade

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0003.tif

South Façade, Cellar Door Detail

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0004.tif

Main Entry Hall, First Floor

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0005.tif

Central Hall, Staircase Detail, First Floor

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0006.tif

Staircase Detail, Second Floor

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0007.tif

South Bedchamber, Second Floor, Fireplace Detail

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0008.tif

Smokehouse

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0009.tif

Pumphouse

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0010.tif

Water Tower

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0011.tif

Garage

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**The Grove
Caroline County, Virginia**

Section _____ **Photos** _____ **Page** 31

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0012.tif
Tool Shed

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0013.tif
Tractor Shed

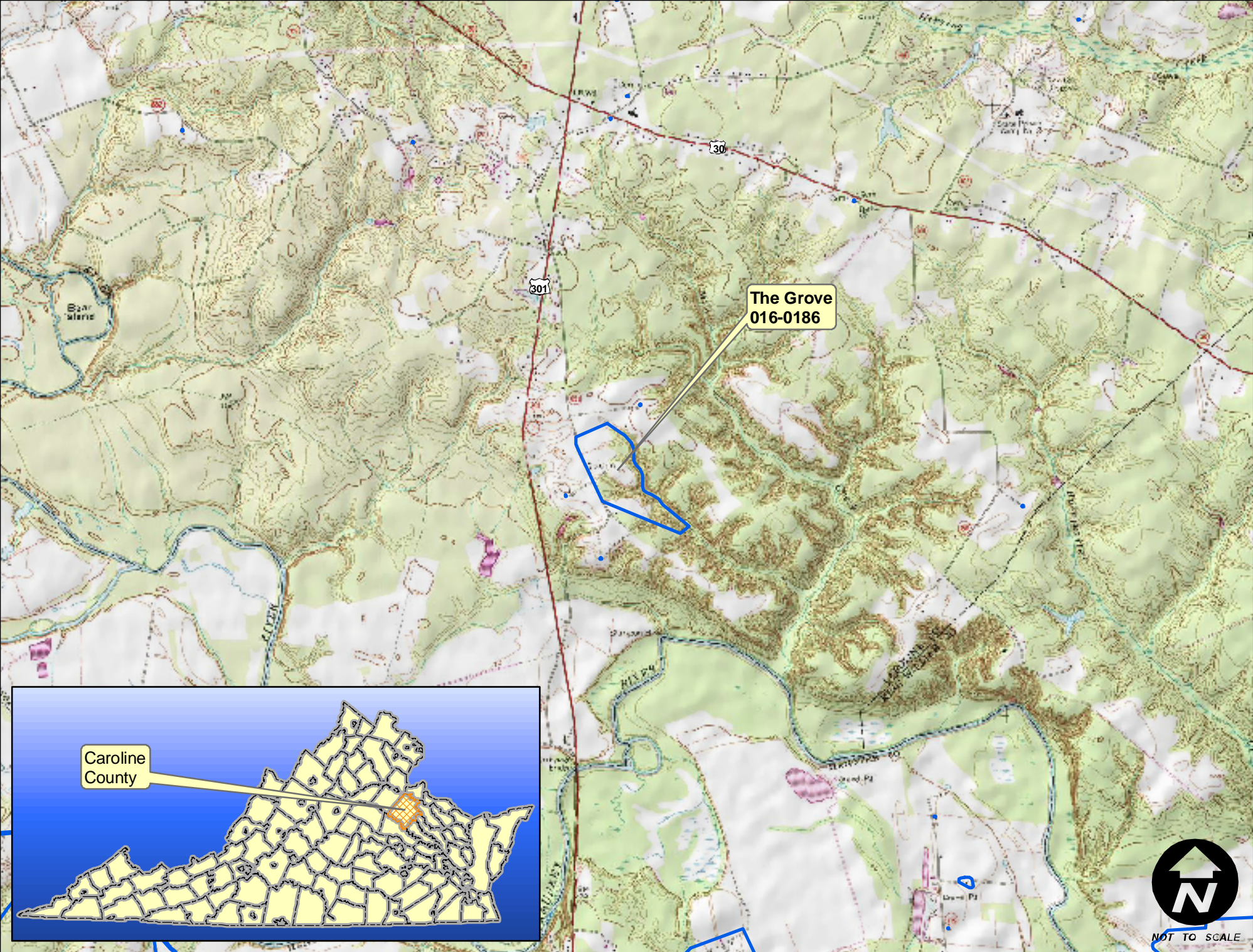
VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0014.tif
Tobacco Barn

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0015.tif
Stable

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0016.tif
Cemetery

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0017.tif
Guest House

VA_CarolineCounty_Grove_0018.tif
Ice House Site



The Grove
016-0186

Caroline
County



NOT TO SCALE



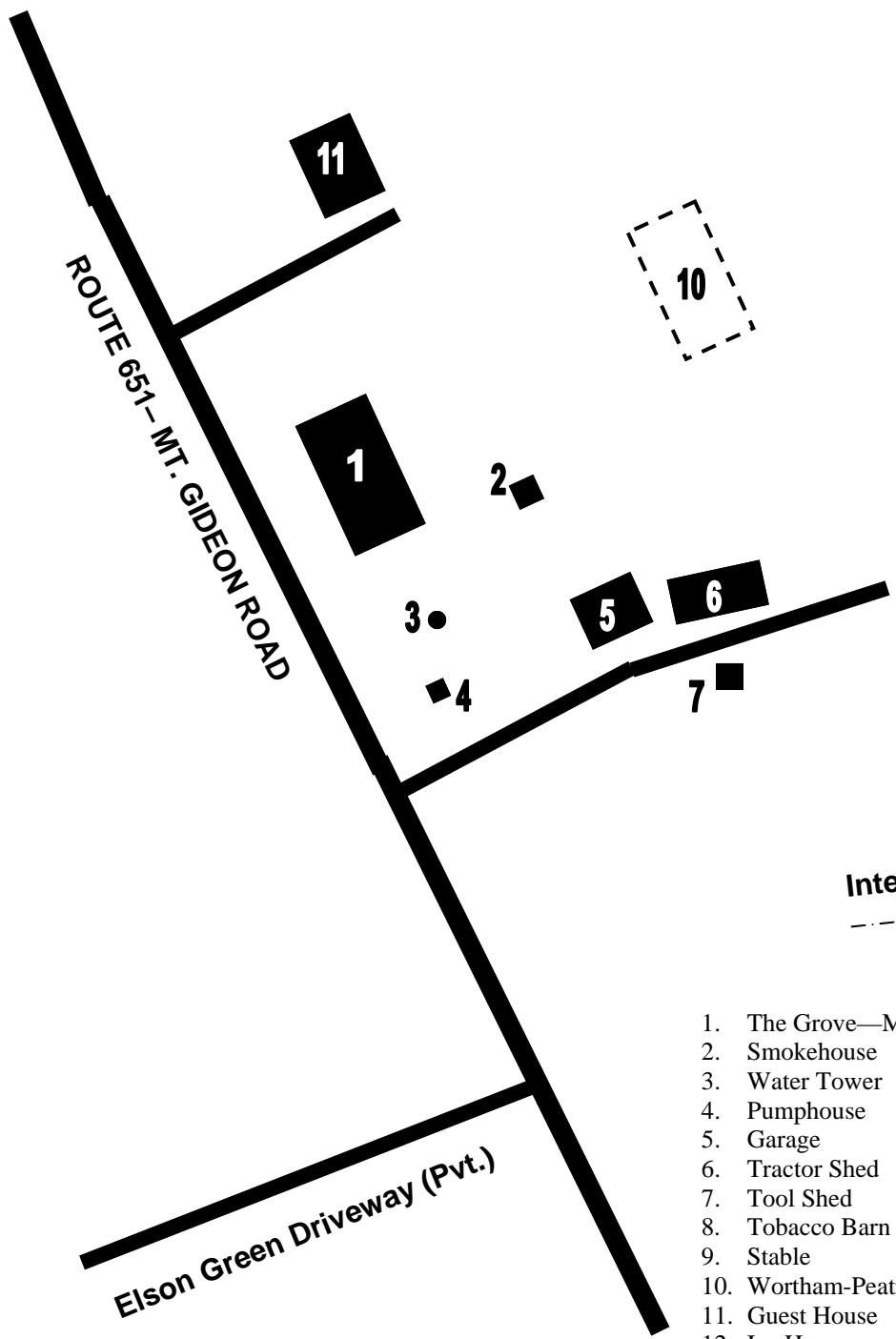
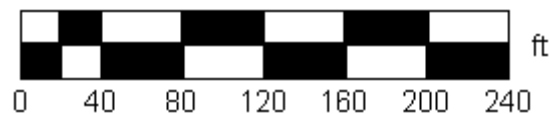
MN (10.2° W)

The Grove

Hanover Vicinity, Caroline County, VA

VDHR # 016-0012

SITE PLAN



Intermittent Stream (to Mill Cr. > Pamunkey Rvr.)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. The Grove—Main House | Contributing | Building |
| 2. Smokehouse | Contributing | Building |
| 3. Water Tower | Contributing | Structure |
| 4. Pumphouse | Noncontributing | Building |
| 5. Garage | Noncontributing | Building |
| 6. Tractor Shed | Noncontributing | Building |
| 7. Tool Shed | Noncontributing | Building |
| 8. Tobacco Barn | Contributing | Building |
| 9. Stable | Noncontributing | Building |
| 10. Wortham-Peatross Cemetery | Contributing | Site |
| 11. Guest House | Noncontributing | Building |
| 12. Ice House | Contributing | Site |

12