

# Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites Report

## Groveton School

### Location and Existing Information

**Tax Map Numbers** :92-2((1))13A

**Street Address** 2999 MEMORIAL ST  
**/ General Location:**



**Acreage** 3.36

**Existing Use** DEMOLISHED

**Zoning** PRM

**Comprehensive Plan** NA

**Supervisor District** LEE

**Planning District** Mount Vernon

### Preservation Status

#### REGISTRATION

National Register

Virginia Register

County Historic District

Standing Structure

X County Inventory

Listed on Inventory between  
1988 and Mar 7, 1990.

#### EASEMENT

Open Space

Preservation

Conservation

Other

X No easements

#### OWNERSHIP

X Private

Public

Both

#### ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible, Unrestricted

Accessible, Restricted

X Inaccessible

Demolished Aug 1991.

### Historic Information

**Original Use** School

**Original Owner** County School Board of Fairfax County

**Date Constructed** 1925(Accurate)

### Historic Significance

The frame school house was built by the county School Board of Fairfax County, Virginia in 1925. It replaced a one-room free public school, which had opened in 1876, located to the south and on the opposite side of Route 1 (then known as Old Mount Vernon Road). The original Groveton Elementary School was purchased at auction by the Reverend Dennis O'Connell, Bishop of Richmond. That site is now the Saint Louis Catholic Church near the intersection of Route 1 and Popkins Lane. In September 1924, the School Board purchased two acres of land from W.F. P. Reid and Sallie K. Reid for \$500 (J-9, 164). In this era of public schools, the School Board, not the parents, funded the building. For this building, a plan prepared by the State Board of Education was used. The plans illustrate a simple and well-proportioned one-story, two-room, center hall building. Construction by R.L. Smith of Accotink was begun by February 1925. It was completed by March 31, when the school was insured with the North River Insurance Company for \$6800. The second Groveton School was built in a period of transition from many isolated school houses administered by independent school boards to larger consolidated schools administered by a centralized County School Board. Both the history and architecture of this structure are evocative of an era of rapid change and can be studied to understand the development of the public school system in Fairfax County. In 1933, already too small, the frame school was replaced by a larger brick building, which was built on an adjacent lot, facing Memorial Street, across from what is now Beacon Mall. The 1933 building was replaced by a fourth

# Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites Report

## Groveton School

Groveton Elementary School, built on Harrison Lane in 1972. The 1933 brick Groveton School was also torn down sometime in the late 20th century. Foregoing from "Groveton School Recordation" by Deborah Cannan, February 1990.

### Significant People:

### Significant Dates /Events:

1876 : First Groveton School opened on different site.  
1925 : 2nd Groveton School built (school on Inventory).  
1933 : 3rd Groveton School built on adjacent lot.  
1972 : 4th Groveton School, on Harrison Lane, built. Still in use.  
8/1991 : 2nd Groveton School, Inventory site, demolished.

### Site / Structure Information

<b>Condition</b>	Unsalvageable	<b>Site Features</b>
<b>Integrity</b>	DEMOLISHED	0 Standing Structures
<b>Building Style</b>	Classic Revival	0 Landscape Features
<b>Architect/Builder</b>	R. L. Smith of Accotink	0 Archaeological Features
		0 Other Site Features*

### Site Description:

The site is now vacant. The concrete steps that used to lead to the walkway to the front door are still there, now leading to nothing.

### Architectural Description:

The building was a one-story, wood frame, clapboard covered two-room, center passage schoolhouse with a hipped roof. The most striking feature of the building was the tall, hip-roofed, one-bay center portico supported by paired Doric columns. Beneath the portico were double doors with a transom window. Other than the door, the front elevation had no fenestration, presenting an almost blank façade to the street. These windowless walls accommodated blackboard space in the classrooms. The side elevations had sets of five large sash windows. The building had the improved light and ventilation advocated by educational reformers in the early twentieth century, as well as the characteristic of Classical Revival architecture, such as the temple front and detached columns. The sitting close to and facing US Route 1 was a reminder of the rural and quiet past of that busy highway. Later modifications to the building included: installation of bathrooms in the rear of the passage; installation of acoustic tile ceiling, covering of the center rear windows, and replacement of the original front doors.