

**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 Old Portlock School #5

other names/site number VDHR File # 131-0626

**2. Location**

street & number 3815 Bainbridge Boulevard  not for publication

city or town Chesapeake  vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Chesapeake (Independent City) code 550 zip code 23320

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

H. Alexander White Jr. 12/22/99  
Signature of Certifying Official Date

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

Old Portlock School #5  
Name of Property

Chesapeake, Virginia  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION  
Sub: School

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURAL  
Sub: Museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals; Colonial Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation BRICK  
walls BRICK  
roof METAL  
other \_\_\_\_\_

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

See continuation sheets.

Old Portlock School #5  
Name of Property

Chesapeake, Virginia  
County and State

**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.)

Property is:

- 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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
EDUCATION

**Period of Significance**

1908

**Significant Dates**

1908

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

FINLAY FORBES FERGUSON  
CHARLES J. CALROW

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Old Portlock School #5

Chesapeake, Virginia  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .5394 ACRES

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	385650	4071820
2		Zone Easting	Northing

3		Zone Easting	Northing
4			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 Mark H. Woodward, Management Analyst

organization City of Chesapeake, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

date August 20, 1999

street & number 306 Cedar Rd., P.O. Box 15225

telephone (757) 382-6191

city or town Chesapeake

state VA

zip code 23328

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

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 City of Chesapeake

street & number 306 Cedar Rd., P.O. Box 15225

telephone (757) 382-6191

city or town Chesapeake

state Virginia

zip code 23328

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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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 Chief, Administrative Service Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service**

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**Old Portlock School #5  
Chesapeake, VA**

**Description**

Old Portlock School #5 is located at 3815 Bainbridge Boulevard on the corner of Freeman Avenue and Bainbridge Boulevard in the South Norfolk Borough of the City of Chesapeake. It is a red brick, one story building that has two interior chimneys and twenty-eight large twelve over twelve light double hung windows and two smaller pivoting windows. The building has a hipped, standing seam metal roof and metal gutters with rainspouts on all sides. A classical temple fronted porch with frieze, pediment, cornice, columns and pilasters give prominence to the building and provide cover over the front entry steps and deck. A pair of paneled doors with sidelights and transom panel are at both the front and rear entrances to the building. The building rests on a high basement and is approximately 4,500 square feet.

Architectural Description

The neoclassical Colonial Revival building is centrally positioned in a .5394 acre site, with a large grassed yard to the north, and smaller grassed yards to the south and west. Entrances into the building are on the front (west side) and rear (east side). Nearby trees and adjacent properties form a defining frame of the large school yard. The site is nearly flat. The building is raised on the site by several inches as the ground tapers gently down to the edges of the property. The roof is sloped equally from all four sides of the building. Two large brick chimneys penetrate the ridge equally spaced off the center of building.

The building is primarily approached from the east side, which incorporates the rear entrance and leads to the asphalt parking lot established during the building's rehabilitation in 1994-95. A concrete and brick handicap access ramp with black metal railings leads directly from the building's rear entrance to the parking lot, which has four designated handicap parking spaces and fifteen regular spaces. A sidewalk leads from the rear entrance of the building to the one-story brick auxiliary building, which serves as a support facility to the museum for storage/preparation of exhibits, museum-related workshops and classes, and community events. The parking lot entrance is located on Freeman Avenue, with the exit located to the northeast of the building.

The rear entrance is given much less importance although it is precisely centered in the rear elevation. Two doors are recessed approximately 8 feet to provide protection from rain and wind when entering. Procession to the rear doors was re-done as part of the rehabilitation to provide for handicap access to the building, with the original concrete stoops and steps being removed. A new brick landing was constructed, extending from the rear doors to a point approximately 4 feet beyond the recess. A 28 foot concrete and brick handicap access ramp leads from the landing to a curb cut at the parking lot. Two small brick landings (3 feet by 3 feet by 1 foot tall) flank the ramp on either

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Old Portlock School #5  
Chesapeake, VA

Description (continued)

side, with four brick steps leading up from these landings to the main landing, providing overall visual balance and support to the handicap access ramp.

In addition to the reconfiguration of sidewalks and parking areas serving the building, the site was landscaped and provided with outdoor lighting. Thirteen Victorian styled streetlights were installed along the perimeters of the parking area, sidewalks, and front and rear entrances to the building to provide functional lighting and period accents. A variety of trees, shrubs and ground covers were planted in beds and groupings around the building as part of the renovation to complement the refurbished building. Trees planted included: "Foster" Holly; "Nellie R. Stevens" Holly; "Natchez White" Crape Myrtle; "Brackens Brown" Beauty Magnolias; Japanese Snowballs; and "Green Vase" Zelkova. Shrubs planted included: "Crymson Pygmy" Barberry; Common Boxwoods; "Hetzii" Japanese Holly; "Green Luster" Holly; and Southern Waxmyrtle. Ground covers planted included: "Green Sargent" Junipers; and "Wilton" Blue Rug Junipers.

A very large base visually raises the building. The base is slightly less than one-fourth the overall height of the brick facade. The overall height of the building to the cornice line is 19 feet, 6 inches. The base is strengthened by an offset, which visually forms a pedestal. The base is corbeled at the top and a deep reveal then transitions to the plane of the building's wall. The reveal above the corbel brick is two brick courses high and forms a strong horizontal shadow line. Functionally, the base forms the thickened foundation walls of a full basement necessary for utility piping and storage. Shrubbery around the building is neatly sculptured to the height of the base. Front entrance concrete steps and rear entrance brick steps complete the monumental approach to the building.

The main entrance has a classical portico, which protrudes approximately six feet from the face of the exterior wall. The cornice line is unbroken and matches the cornice on the rest of the building. The typical eave along the roofline consists of a frieze board on the face of the brick and a simple cornice exaggerated by dental large enough to form a slight overhang of the cornice and eave. The same cornice and eave details are used at the roof of the porch. The ridge of the porch roof continues until intersecting and dying into the roof of the building proper. An entablature approximately three feet deep drops from the eave line of the porch to the height of the column capital below.

Applied pilasters on each side of the doors provide visual support of the portico where the cornice and frieze of the entablature die into the brick facade. The pilasters are squared 18 inches across the face with a 27-inch base and capital to match the detached round columns at the front of the porch. Four ionic columns flank the entrance in front, while two are set within a few inches of each

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**Old Portlock School #5  
Chesapeake, VA**

**Description (continued)**

other on each side of the procession between them. Simple lines of the base and capital compliment the columns. The capitals are nearly of Roman order. The floor of the porch is equal in height to the corbeled brick detail at the facade. The bottom frieze line of the entablature and soffit of the porch matches the typical window head elevation along the facade (making it 12 feet, 3 inches above the porch).

Twenty-eight windows are large in order to provide as much natural lighting as possible. They are 3 feet, 8 inches wide by 8 feet, 9 inches tall. The windows are wood framed with a double hung sash below a fixed transom above, separated by a horizontal mullion. There are eight lights vertically and four lights horizontally for a total of thirty-two in each window. Eight of these windows are on the front and rear elevations. In each case, four are positioned equally apart and precisely mirrored on each side of the entrance. The basement vents are evenly centered on the facades. Window sizes and spacing on the north and south elevations remain consistent with those around the rest of the building. There are six windows, three flanking each side of the building's centerline on the two end walls. A single window, exactly in the center of the north and south walls, is hung at the same height as others. However, the sill is raised approximately three feet higher.

Upon entry to the building, the floor plan is simple, consisting of a center hallway with two classrooms at the front end of the building and two classrooms at the rear on either side of the center hallway. Prior to the rehabilitation, access to all four classrooms was directly from the center hallway. The center hallway, which is 11 feet, 6 inches wide by 40 feet long, still provides the primary access from the front to the rear of the building. However, as a result of the rehabilitation, it is now intersected by a secondary hallway that provides access to the restrooms, storage spaces, and the classroom in the northeast section of the building. All restroom facilities, interior doorways and the water fountain are handicap accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. There are one-way closets in three of the classrooms that are approximately 12 feet wide and 6 feet deep with 13-foot, 9-inch ceilings. The closets in the southeast and southwest classrooms have the original 2 doorways for ingress/egress and are being used as office space for the museum curator and staff. The closet in the northwest classroom has been converted into a gift shop. The closets in the northwest and southeast classrooms receive natural light from the smaller windows on the north and south elevations.

Original interior elements and finishes include the wood studs, plates and headers, the wood ceiling joists, wood furring strips on the brick walls, metal ventilation grills, brick ducts and chimneys and the finished floors in the southeast and southwest classrooms and the main and secondary hallways.

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**Old Portlock School #5  
Chesapeake, VA**

**Description (continued)**

During rehabilitation work, several roof rafters, beams, and braces were installed and/or replaced. Several water-damaged, deteriorated ceiling joists were also replaced. The tongue and groove wood flooring was removed during rehabilitation work for salvage and restoration. There was insufficient salvageable flooring to reinstall in all four classrooms, closets and hallways. Thus, the tongue and groove flooring was reinstalled in the following areas: center hallway; secondary hallway; southwest classroom and closet; and southeast classroom and closet. The finished wood flooring is  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch tongue and groove with remnants of stain and clear finish heart pine, with imprints still visible in some places where school desks were anchored. The northwest and northeast classrooms are carpeted.

The ceiling height is typically 13 feet, 9 inches from the floor. During the rehabilitation, walls and ceilings were demolished to the original studs, beams, joists, furring strips, or masonry walls due to the required hazardous material abatement process and to address wood rot. Where necessary due to new partition construction or wood damage, new studs and furring strips were installed. Walls and ceilings were refinished generally with 5/8-inch gypsum wallboard with plaster skim coat. The front and rear replacement doors are solid wood replicas of the originals, typically 6 feet wide and 8 feet, 9 inches tall. The replacement wood doorframes extend in height to 11 feet, 6 inches and are 9 feet wide, including a transom and sidelights. Doorways to the classrooms and secondary hallway are typically 3 feet, 6 inches wide by 7 feet tall. Fixed transoms extend another 3 feet above the doorways. The high ceilings and large doorways allow good air circulation in the building. Renovation work included installation of state-of-the-art fire suppression, security, and heating/cooling systems. The building is also humidity-controlled and has special track lighting for museum exhibits. Replacement interior moldings and trim were designed to replicate original elements.

Brick piers support wood beams of varying sizes, which bear either on the piers, the foundation walls, or on the brick chimney/heating chamber foundations. Subflooring consists of the 2-3/4 x 3 1/2 tongued planks with 1/2 inch splines. Several new brick piers were constructed to support the floor framing. Also, several new 8 inch by 12-inch beams were installed to replace rotten elements.

**Statement of Significance**

Old Portlock School #5's architectural style and significance, the role the school played in the overall infrastructure improvement plan, and the fact that it was the first modern, "free" public school in Portlock makes it worthy of listing on the National Register.

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Old Portlock School #5  
Chesapeake, VA

Description (continued)

The Old Portlock School #5 was constructed in 1908. The Old Portlock School facility and grounds are a good example of the American schoolhouse, incorporating characteristic features such as central hallways, large windows, and monumental entrances employed by designers and school systems even today. Elements of American Classicism in educational and public architecture are exemplified. The monumentality of the building expresses the intended permanence of the school and public education in the community.

The Old Portlock School #5 manifests the quality in architecture characteristic of the public school buildings in Virginia at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As noted by Calder Loth in *The Virginia Landmarks Register*, "the state constitution of 1902 provided for increased funding for public education and associated facilities, and handsome public school buildings became focal points of civic pride throughout the state".<sup>1</sup> Within Norfolk County, the construction of Lafayette Grammar and High School in 1906 and Old Portlock School #5 in 1908 bore testament to the rise of public education and the trend towards monumentality in public school buildings.

The schools built prior to Old Portlock School #5 were largely one room wooden structures.<sup>2</sup> Portlock School #5 was considered "state of the art" because it was a large brick four room building constructed in the Colonial Revival style which was popular with the Tidewater Region Architects, many of whom designed buildings for the Jamestown Exposition. This school was also significant because it was one of the first to be built that was an advancement from the one and two room school houses to a building that was spacious and could accommodate a larger number of students from several neighboring communities.

The preconstruction notice read: "Portlock, VA-Bids will be opened July 22 for erection of four-room brick school building at Portlock; certified check, \$500; plans and specifications on file at office of Ferguson & Calrow, architects, Norfolk, VA; or at office of A.H. Foreman, Superintendent of Public School Norfolk County, Chamberlain Building, Norfolk VA".<sup>3</sup>

Mr. Finlay Forbes Ferguson and Mr. Charles J. Calrow were the architects selected by the Norfolk County Board of Trustee Electoral Board, chaired by Judge W.N. Portlock, to design the school.<sup>4</sup> The school was designed to be showcased as the most modern, stately, and sophisticated educational facility

<sup>1</sup> Calder Loth, ed., *The Virginia Landmarks Register* (Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia, 1986), p. 295.

<sup>2</sup> Charles B. Cross, Jr. and Eleanor Phillips Cross, *Chesapeake: A Pictorial History* (Norfolk: The Donning Company/Publishers, 1985), p. 121.

<sup>3</sup> *The Manufacturers' Record* (July 16, 1908), p. 59.

<sup>4</sup> Chesapeake, VA, *Norfolk County School Minutes* (c. 1908), volumes kept in Chesapeake Central Library Wallace Room.

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**Old Portlock School #5  
Chesapeake, VA**

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

of its time. The contractor was Mr. J. W. Jones. The cost of the building was \$1,000.00. The architect and engineering fees were \$350.00. Old Portlock School #5, with its huge white columns and Tuscan portico design patterned after the Colonial Revival architectural style of the period, was designed to provide an air of institutional dignity and authority.

The primary architect, Mr. Ferguson, was well known and respected for his work in the lower Tidewater area, particularly Norfolk, during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Mr. Ferguson was a native of Norfolk. He received his AB degree from Hampden-Sydney College in 1895 and a BS degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1898. Mr. Ferguson began his career in architecture in Norfolk in 1899, became a member of the firm of Peebles and Ferguson in 1917, and later partnered with Charles J. Calrow. Buildings he drew plans for in Norfolk included Norfolk National Bank, annexes to Atlantic City Schools # 1 and 2, Brambleton School # 7, Ghent Presbyterian Church, Ohel Shalom Temple, and numerous other commercial and residential commissions.

The latter part of the 1890's brought rapid growth and development to the Portlock section of Norfolk County (now the City of Chesapeake). In response, an infrastructure improvement plan was developed. One component of the plan was to build a much needed, modern, "free" public school building for white children who lived in and around the township. Prior to the construction of the Old Portlock School, children living in Portlock either attended a small two room wooden school building on Campostella Road, the small wooden Hillwell School House on Hillwell Road, or were taught at home.<sup>5</sup>

A committee appointed by the Norfolk County School Board for the Washington Magisterial District No. 5 was tasked to secure a site and borrow money for the building. Under Virginia's revised constitution of 1868, a referendum was held and passed on the question of levying a tax of thirty cents on each \$100 of real and personal property for the purpose of operating county schools.<sup>6</sup> School Board meeting minutes recorded during the 1902 - 1922 time period indicate that the Norfolk County School Board Districts raised funds to build schools by submitting requests to the Norfolk County Board of Supervisors for additional school tax levies and/or by securing bonds.<sup>7</sup>

The land for the school was purchased from the Shea family on August 31, 1895 for \$150 by Norfolk

<sup>5</sup> Interview with John Ben Gibson, former student at Old Portlock School #5, Chesapeake, Virginia, Fall 1996.

<sup>6</sup> Charles B. Cross, Jr. and Eleanor Phillips Cross, *Chesapeake: A Pictorial History* (Norfolk: The Donning Company/Publishers, 1985), p. 52.

<sup>7</sup> Norfolk County, VA, *School Board Minute Book, Pleasant Grove District* (Aug. 15, 1902 - Apr. 22, 1922).

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Old Portlock School #5  
Chesapeake, VA

Statement of Significance (continued)

County School District Number Five.<sup>8</sup> The Norfolk County School Superintendent at the time was Mr. A.H. Foreman and members of the Norfolk County Board of Trustees were Mr. E.M. Tilley, Chairman, Mr. M.C. Keeling, Clerk, and Mr. T.W. Butt. The actual neighborhood was referred to as Raleigh Heights according to a 1928 drawing and 1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of Norfolk County on file at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

The date on the construction plaque at the front entrance to the Old Portlock School #5 is 1908. Mr. John Ben Gibson, a former student at Old Portlock School #5, indicated in an interview his belief that the school was built sometime between 1902 and 1905.<sup>9</sup> The land deed for the school site, dated August 31, 1895, appears to lend support to Mr. Gibson's claim. Two photos of the original building, taken by Photographer Harry Mann and received from the Virginia State Library & Archives are attached. The first photo, of a school with trolley tracks and utility lines in front, is labeled "C.C. Walton Schoolhouse." The second photo is of a school with a dirt road in front and several modest framed houses in the background. It is labeled "Portlock School #5". The photos appear to be the same school, based on the observation of the buildings and the identical location of three trees in front of the building in each photo. Though the photos are not dated, Mr. Mann was contracted to photograph architecture from 1906 to 1923, indicating that the school could have been built prior to 1908. According to written testimony from Ms. Pauline B. Dennis, former President of Chesapeake's Museum & Information Center, Inc., information she gleaned from family members and friends who attended the school led her to state that it was "most unlikely that the Old Portlock School was ever

named the C.C. Walton School House at Money Point."<sup>10</sup> Likewise, according to Mr. Hunter Barnes from the Virginia Department of Education, there is no record of a C.C. Walton School. Additionally, an inventory of school plants in the City of Chesapeake for the 1963-64 school year, maintained by the Virginia Department of Education and received from Mr. Barnes, indicates that the original school was built in 1900. This document lists several buildings under the sub-heading "Portlock Elementary," one of those buildings being a "Bldg. facing Boulevard" with a date of 1900 in a column labeled "Year Erected." However, due to the lack of further authenticating information on which to base a construction date earlier than 1908, the official construction date for Old Portlock School #5 is assumed to be 1908.

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<sup>8</sup> Norfolk County, VA, Norfolk County Deed Book (1895), Deed Book 193, p. 504.

<sup>9</sup> Interview with John Ben Gibson, former student at Old Portlock School #5, Chesapeake, Virginia, Fall 1996.

<sup>10</sup> Letter from Ms. Pauline Dennis, former President of Chesapeake's Museum & Information Center, Inc. to Mr. Robert L. Copeland, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Chesapeake, Virginia, June 1, 1995.

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Old Portlock School #5  
Chesapeake, VA

Statement of Significance (continued)

According to a 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, the school had a frame outbuilding connected to the rear of the school by a wood framed platform with a wood plank deck.<sup>11</sup> The wood for the brick "shire stoves" and coal used to heat the school were kept in the basement. Children who lived at Edmond's Corner, Dozier's Corner, Money Point, Crestwood, and Portlock attended the school. The mode of transportation for students not within walking distance and during inclement weather was a horse and buggy.

Parents and other affluent and influential citizens donated and raised funds to help cover the cost for school supplies (wooden desks which sat two students per desk that were not accommodating to left-handed students, books, paper, pencils, globes, fireplace wood, chalkboards, rulers, etc.). A parent made the curtains for the huge windows, which compensated for the lack of artificial light. Students brought their lunch to school and on occasion, parents volunteered to make soup for everyone, charging 5 cents a bowl. Parents also helped take care of maintenance, cleaning, and lawn care.<sup>12</sup>

Initially, grades 1 through 12 were taught at the school, with children ages 6 to 21 being eligible to attend. Students of all ages in the same class were grouped together according to intellect. Typically, the "advanced" students were grouped together. As the community's population increased, the grades taught at the school gradually decreased to grades 1 through 4 by the 1940's, as other public schools were built in the area. According to Mr. Raymond Harper, a local historian and author, other schools constructed in 1908 included the South Hill Elementary School at the corner of Hill Street and Hanna Avenue, and George Washington Carver School off Campostella Road.<sup>13</sup> Portlock High School, one of several three-story brick schools constructed in 1922, was located behind and to the left of the Old Portlock School and was demolished in 1965.<sup>14</sup> Ms. Lowrine Halstead, who attended the Portlock School as a child, remembers walking to school daily, catching the trolley only on inclement days. Later, as a teacher at Portlock, she taught 5th grade. She remembers grouping children in her classroom according to age, grade and intellect. The initial subjects taught were reading, spelling, writing and arithmetic (addition, subtraction, and long division). According to Ms. Halstead, "departmentalizing" was attempted but failed to catch on.<sup>15</sup>

Old Portlock School #5 continued to serve as an educational facility until the mid-1960's, at which

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<sup>11</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1928 ed. (Norfolk: Sanborn Fire Insurance, 1928).

<sup>12</sup> Interview with Ms. Lowrine Halstead, former pupil and teacher at Old Portlock School #5, Chesapeake, Virginia, Fall 1996.

<sup>13</sup> Raymond Harper, History of South Norfolk (Chesapeake: Raymond Harper, 1996), p. 37.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 44.

<sup>15</sup> Interview with Ms. Lowrine Halstead, Fall 1996.

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Old Portlock School #5  
Chesapeake, VA

**Bibliography**

Published Works, Newspapers, Periodicals:

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Old Portlock School #5  
Chesapeake, VA

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

All that certain lot, piece or parcel of land situate in the South Norfolk Borough of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, as shown on the attached plat entitled "Survey of a Part of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, Property to be Conveyed to the School Board of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia," dated January 18, 1980, being designated thereon as "0.5394 acres" of land; it being the same property conveyed to the School Board of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia by deed from the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, dated April 15, 1980.

Beginning at a point located S 24°47'-00"W 121.75' along the eastern right of way of Bainbridge Boulevard from the southern right of way of Godwin Avenue; thence from the point of beginning S 65°13'00E 135.23' to a pin; thence S 24°47'-00"W 173.35' to a pin; thence N 65°-

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**Old Portlock School #5  
Chesapeake, VA**

**Verbal Boundary Description (continued)**

33'00"W 135.23' to a pin on the eastern right of way of Bainbridge Boulevard; thence along the eastern right of way of Bainbridge Boulevard N 24°47'-00"E 174.14' to the point of beginning, containing 0.5394 acres.

**Verbal Boundary Justification**

The .5394 acres nominated includes a portion of the tract deeded for the school in 1895 and later conveyed to the City of Chesapeake by the School Board of the City of Chesapeake by deed dated June 7, 1988.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo Page 13

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Old Portlock School #5  
Chesapeake, VA

All photographs are of:

OLD PORTLOCK SCHOOL #5  
Chesapeake, Virginia  
VDHR File Number: 131-0626  
Mark H. Woodward, photographer  
DATE: August 18, 1999

All negatives are stored with the Department of Historic Resources

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: kitchen facility  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 1 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: center hallway, facing west  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 6 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: northeast classroom from east wall  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 2 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: center hallway facing east  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 7 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: northeast classroom from doorway  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 3 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: northwest classroom from doorway  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 8 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: secondary hallway to northeast classroom  
facing north and showing restrooms, storage  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 4 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: northwest classroom showing  
gift shop converted from closet  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 9 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: secondary hallway facing south  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 5 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: northwest classroom from gift  
shop facing west  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 10 OF 25

United States Department of the Interior  
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Old Portlock School #5  
Chesapeake, VA

Photographs (continued)

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: southwest classroom from doorway  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 11 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: southwest classroom from corner, facing  
northeast and showing closet  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 12 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: southeast classroom from corner, facing  
Northwest  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 13 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: southeast classroom from doorway  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 14 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: close-up of original tongue and groove  
Flooring in southeast classroom, showing  
desk anchor imprints  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 15 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: re-dedication plaque at rear entrance  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 16 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: northern elevation of building  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 17 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: construction plaque on wall in  
front entrance portico  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 18 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: western elevation of building  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 19 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: southern elevation of building  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 20 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: eastern elevation of building  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 21 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: basement access  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 22 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999  
VIEW OF: auxiliary building activity room  
facing west  
NEG. NO.: 17718  
PHOTO 23 OF 25

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photo Page 15

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**Old Portlock School #5  
Chesapeake, VA**

Photographs (continued)

DATE: August 18, 1999

VIEW OF: close-up of exterior brickwork, window,  
rainspout, and front porch side view, facing  
north from southwest corner of building

NEG. NO.: 17718

PHOTO 24 OF 25

DATE: August 18, 1999

VIEW OF: Old Portlock School # 5 and setting, with  
Auxiliary building, landscaping, and parking  
Lot visible; view facing northwest

NEG. NO.: 17718

PHOTO 25 OF 25



FOR NATIONAL REGISTER OFFICE - WASHINGTON, D.C.  
EXACT DEED CITATION

**OWNER OF RECORD: VERIFICATION FORM FOR NOMINATIONS  
TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

NAME OF PROPERTY: Old Portlock School # 5

CITY OR COUNTY: Chesapeake, Virginia

**NAME AND ADDRESS**

OF OWNER OF RECORD: City of Chesapeake

*(You must provide the name  
of the appropriate contact  
person in the event of  
corporate ownership)*

3815 Bainbridge Blvd.

Chesapeake, Virginia 23324

**NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL OWNERS OF PROPERTY ADJACENT TO  
PROPOSED REGISTER BOUNDARIES (continue on additional sheets as necessary):**

City of Chesapeake, 3915 Bainbridge Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23324

Herbert Friedman, 3900 Bainbridge Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23324

George & F.J. Rochevot, 3806 Bainbridge Blvd., Chesapeake, VA 23324

**RECORDS CONSULTED: (Tax Assessor's, Land Records, etc.)**

*Include Deed Book or Will Book reference, if known*

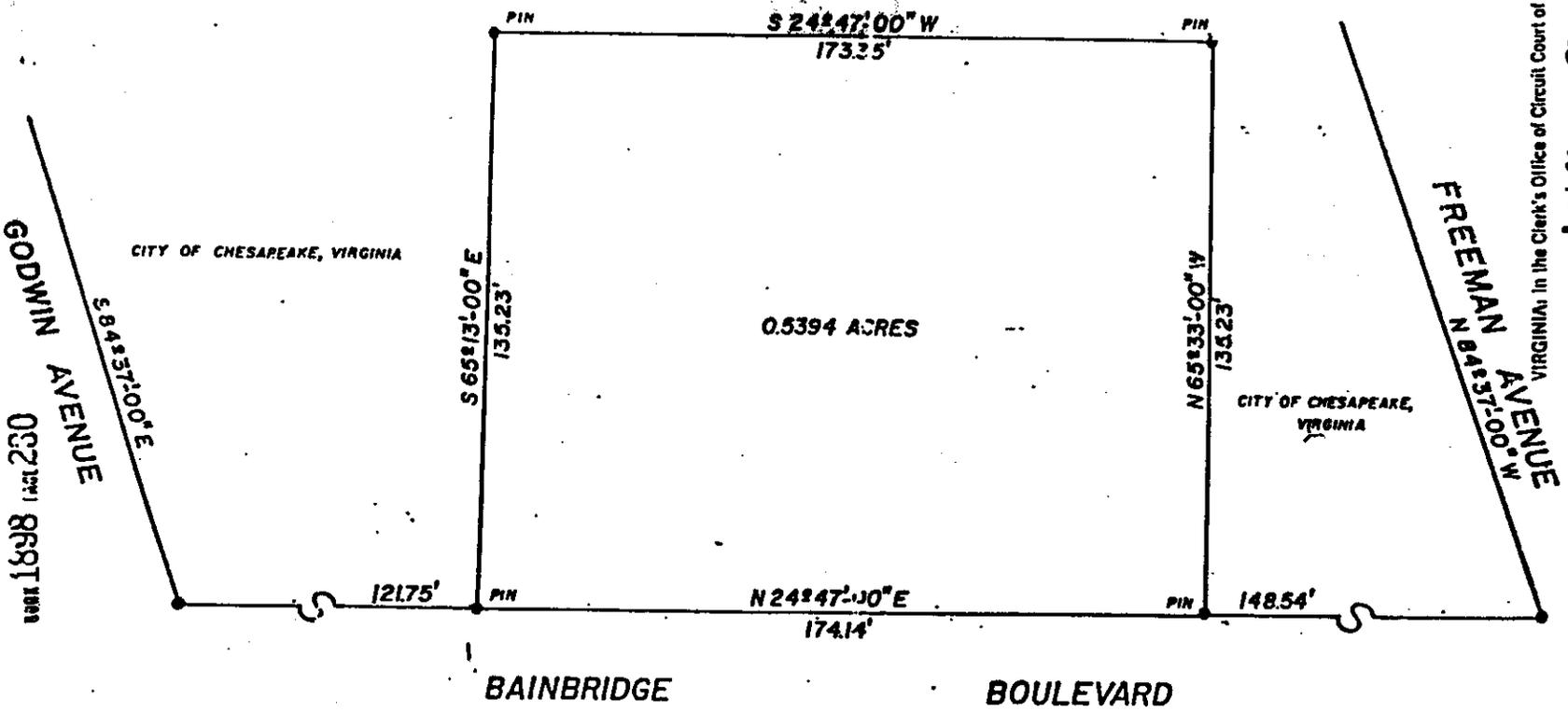
City of Chesapeake Real Estate Assessor's Tax Assessment Records - Deed Book  
references as follows: 3815 Bainbridge Blvd., Deed Book 2400, page 344; 3915  
Bainbridge Blvd., Deed Book 2083, page 357; 3900 Bainbridge Blvd., Deed Book 1676,  
page 317; 3806 Bainbridge Blvd., Deed Book 2226, page 551.

BY VISIT:  YES  NO BY TELEPHONE: YES Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE RECORDS CONSULTED: August 10, 1999 INITIAL: M.H.W.

CONSULTANT TO RECEIVE COPY OF NOTIFICATION: N/A

CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA



FREEMAN AVENUE  
N 84° 57' 00" W

VIRGINIA: In the Clerk's Office of Circuit Court of the City of Chesapeake, Subst. 23, 1990-132764  
 This Deed was recorded in Office of the Clerk of the City of Chesapeake and admitted to record.  
 Teste: Lillie M. Hym, Clerk  
*Richard L. Lamm*, D.C.

EXECUTED & DEL. TO  
*W. Thomas [Signature]*  
 11-3-1990

SURVEY OF A PART OF THE CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA PROPERTY  
 TO BE CONVEYED TO THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA

JANUARY 18, 1980 SCALE. 1" = 30'



47°30" OLD PORTLOCK SCHOOL #5  
 472 VDHRAL # 131-0626  
 UTM  
 18 388050 4071820  
 CITY OF  
 CHESAPEAKE  
 VIRGINIA

6 MI. TO U.S. 58  
 CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE TUNNEL 12 MI.  
 OAK GROVE 2.2 MI.  
 ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. 39 MI.

TS CORNER 1.7 MI.

INTERIOR, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA  
 OAK GROVE 2.1 MI.

36°45'  
 76°15'

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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