

VLR-12/14/82 NRHP-2/10/83

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lafayette Grammar and High School (Preferred) (VHLC 122-43)
and/or common Lafayette I.D.P. Center

2. Location

street & number 3109 Tidewater Drive N/A not for publication
city, town Norfolk N/A vicinity of
state Virginia code 51 county (in city) code 710

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Norfolk
street & number City Hall
city, town Norfolk N/A vicinity of (city) state Virginia 23501

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Norfolk City Hall
street & number Norfolk City Hall
city, town Norfolk state Virginia 23501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date N/A federal state county local
depository for survey records N/A
city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Lafayette Grammar and High School consists of two buildings connected by an architecturally neutral link. Although both buildings were constructed within a five-year period and share common massing and common materials, the two parts in other respects are unrelated, with different architectural details and characteristics. The first part, the grammar school, built in 1905, is a low, two-story mass crowned by a slate hipped roof. The brick walls are articulated with string courses and arched window caps and crowned with a metal cornice. The composition is symmetrical with three arched windows flanking a central pedimented entrance. The school has no basement and accommodates only four classrooms on its two floors. The building is well preserved. The only major change has been the removal of a bell cupola. The high school portion, constructed in 1910, has been greatly altered. Two stories and on a high rusticated brick basement, it has lost its hipped roof, cornice, and entrance portico. Only the brick walls of the high school have been unchanged. The suburban neighborhood which the school originally served remains little changed and retains its early 20th-century character.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The 1905 grammar school, a low and broad Colonial Revival, two-story brick mass crowned with a slate roof, does not have a basement, and has no dormers in the attic space. The cornice and the pediment at the front entrance are pressed metal; other trim is made of white brick except for limestone window sills and pilaster bases.

The walls are orange brick laid in common bond with white brick string courses laid in running bond. The window cap arches are constructed of three courses of white brick headers. The school is seven bays wide with three bays flanking a central entrance bay. The round arched windows of the classrooms are double-hung and have a curved design in the upper sash.

The school is entered through a broad arch framed by a pressed metal classical pediment, supported by brick pilasters. Above the pediment is a wide elliptical window, subdivided into three parts with an elliptical fanlight. There was a cupola on the roof which held the school bell. Photographs indicate that this cupola was derived from Mount Vernon. The pressed metal cornice is classical in detail.

The interior plan is also symmetrical, with a classroom and wardrobe on each side of a central hall. The pressed metal ceilings, wood wainscot and plaster walls of these rooms are unchanged. The rooms were heated by metal stoves in each room when the school was built, and the structure did not originally include indoor plumbing.

(See Continuation Sheet No. 1)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1905, 1910 **Builder/Architect** 1905, Vance Hebard; 1910, Lee & Deihl

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lafayette Grammar and High School is a good example of public school architecture in rural Virginia at the beginning of the 20th century. The original portion, erected in 1905-06, is the work of Norfolk architect Vance Hebard, and is a well-preserved example of the Colonial Revival, maintaining the intimate scale of the Georgian style in a school building. Located in the rapidly urbanizing Tanner's Creek District of Norfolk County, this school was unusually large and served as a focal point for the Lafayette Residence Park, the earliest suburban development (in this part of the county). In 1910, the school was enlarged with a high school wing designed by Lee and Deihl. While this was the largest school in the county, it soon became overcrowded and was annexed to the City of Norfolk in 1923. Located on the primary thoroughfare of the area, the school remained the focus of community life and the most important architectural landmark of the district. Abandoned in 1970, it is to be redeveloped as housing.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Although the Constitution of 1869 mandated the creation of a public school system, a system in the modern sense did not emerge until the adoption of the Constitution of 1902, which provided for increased funding for schools in accord with a growing popular demand for public education. Rural Norfolk County, where the Lafayette School would become the largest in its system, faced special problems with a dispersed population and difficult terrain. This rarely permitted anything more than a one-room school.

The City of Norfolk was growing at an unparalleled rate between 1900 and 1910, and expanded into Tanner's Creek District of Norfolk County, which was to become a densely populated streetcar suburb. The Lafayette School was originally called the Tanner's Creek School #8, but was soon renamed after the Lafayette Residence Park, the earliest suburban development in the area. The Park and the School were astride one of the major access routes to the Jamestown Exposition and greatly benefited from the increased attention and improved public services which accompanied the Exposition.

The Lafayette Grammar School was built in 1905-06 and was designed by Norfolk architect Vance Hebard in the Colonial Revival style. Hebard, who practiced architecture in Norfolk between 1902 and 1905, made an effort to revive the architectural traditions of mid-18th-century Virginia in his design for the school. The proportions and detailing of houses like Wilton and the George Wythe House appear to have inspired the design.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Buck, J. L. Blair. The Development of Public Schools in Virginia, 1607-1952.
Richmond: Commonwealth of Virginia, 1952.

(See Continuation Sheet No. 3)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.19 acres

Quadrangle name North Norfolk

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>18</u>	<u>337260</u>	<u>4081750</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

A rectangular parcel of land shown on the Revised Plan of Lafayette Residence Park, Norfolk, Virginia, of the record in the office of the
(See Continuation Sheet No. 3)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert P. Winthrop

organization Robert Winthrop, Architect date November 2, 1982

street & number 417 North Boulevard telephone (804) 353-8828

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23220

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell
H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date DEC 14 1982

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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LAFAYETTE GRAMMAR AND HIGH SCHOOL

Continuation sheet NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

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The high school building was added in 1910 and was more typical of public school architecture as it developed in the 20th century. It was altered greatly and related more harmoniously to the original building than is now evident. The most notable feature of the building was an elaborate classical portico and high hipped roof. Both of these features have been removed.

The high school is a two-story brick structure, sitting on a high rusticated brick basement. Symmetrical wings flank a projected central entrance. The corners of the wings are marked by rusticated brick quoins. Between the quoins are ganged clusters of six double-hung windows. Between the two tiers of windows are five limestone diamond-shaped motifs, aligned with the frames of the windows. The side walls have only two windows. Patterns in brick headers are used to articulate these walls, subdividing the space into broad rectangular spaces.

The building now has a flat roof and no cornice. It originally had a classical cornice and brick parapet as well as a slate hipped roof. The roof accommodated an auditorium. The central portico was made up of four attached Doric columns supporting a Corinthian entablature and a shallow curved pediment. The brick base of these columns remains as do the windows which sat behind the portico. The columns, entablature, and pediment have been removed.

The interior rooms have been changed little and retain pressed metal ceilings. The stair now stops at the second-floor landing; it once continued to a third-floor auditorium. This structure included interior plumbing, but a central heating system was not provided until 1919.

The grounds of the school have been neglected and have no notable features. Early photographs of 1914 and 1921 do not indicate that there was any landscape treatment on the site. There were street trees on the edge of the site, but the school sat alone in the middle of its yard.

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LAFAYETTE GRAMMAR AND HIGH SCHOOL

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While the Georgian Revival was one of the most popular styles for schools at that time, in 1900 the term was not limited to a pre-revolutionary architecture, and Hebard's choice of mid-Georgian precedents is unusual as is the intimate scale of the school, which is more residential than institutional.

In 1906, the state legislature required the creation of high schools throughout Virginia, and in 1910 the Norfolk firm of Lee & Deihl designed an eight-room addition to the school. The Lafayette Grammar and High School was then the largest school in the county system, but it did not adequately meet the needs of the growing district for long. In 1919, double sessions were instituted, and in 1923 the school housed 926 students and was growing at a rate of 12 percent a year. It accommodated 50 percent of the entire population of the county as well as being the largest elementary school in the system.

The 1910 addition was more typical of school designs of the period than was the earlier portion of the building. Symmetrical banks of ganged windows flanking a monumental entrance feature became a standard formula which was repeated all over the state.

The county, caught between the increasing demand for public education and the explosive growth of the Tanner's Creek District, never resolved the problems of the school. The area was annexed to the City of Norfolk in 1923 and the city erected a new high school elsewhere. The Lafayette School became a relatively small school in the city system.

It remained the primary focus of the neighborhood. It is the only major public building in the area, a district which lacks monumental churches. The school is the sole architectural focus of the area, and its location on a major thoroughfare reinforces its importance.

The school was phased out of educational use in the 1970s. The neighborhood is experiencing a revival, and it is proposed that the school be converted into housing.

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LAFAYETTE GRAMMAR AND HIGH SCHOOL

Continuation sheet NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

The History of the Lafayette School: Undated typescript of Norfolk
Public Schools Archives.

Robinson, Charles M. Norfolk County and South Norfolk City School
Housing Survey, 1921. Richmond: Commonwealth of Virginia, 1922.

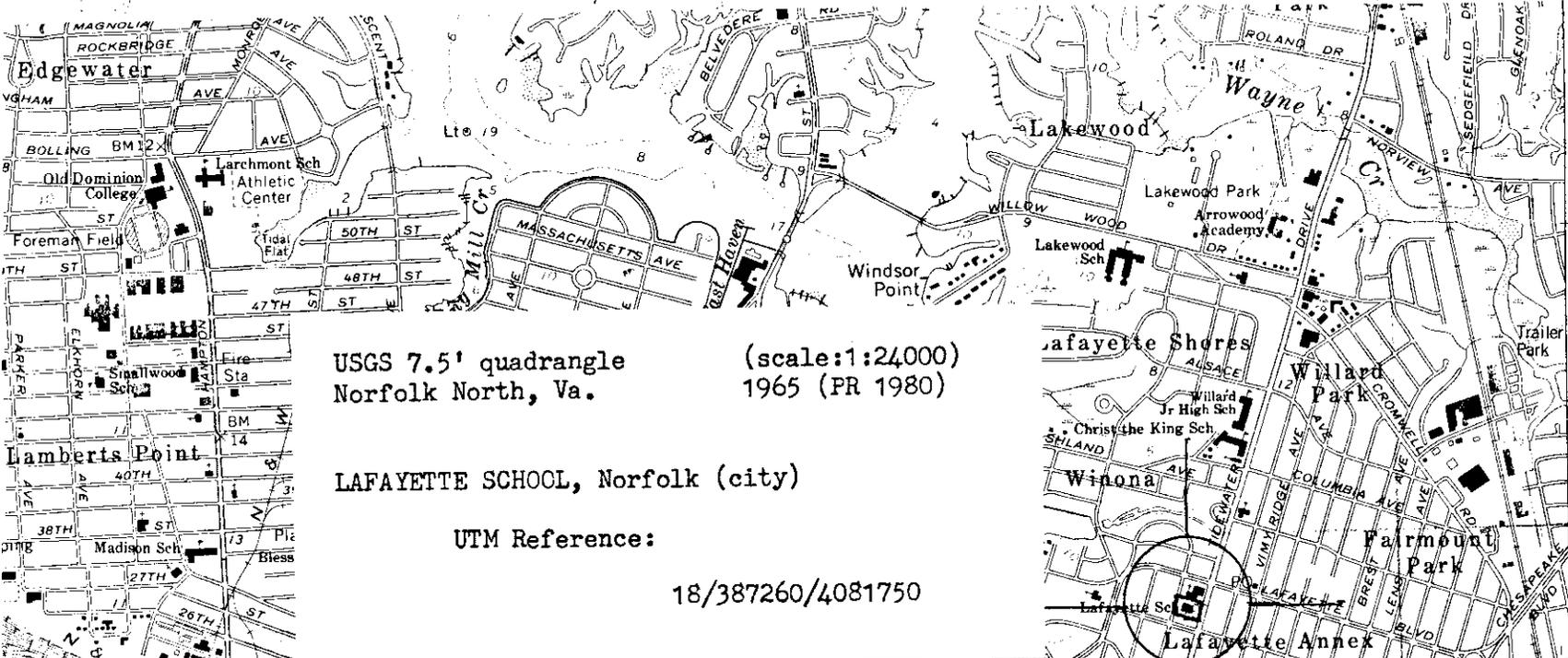
Rover, Henry S. History of Norfolk Public Schools, 1681-1968. Norfolk:
typescript, 1968.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Clerk of the Circuit Court of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, in Map Book 8, at pages 81 and 82, said parcel being described as follows:

"Beginning at a point in the present western line of Tidewater Drive, as the same is shown on a plat of record in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the city of Norfolk, Va., in Map Book 14, at page 113, said point being distant 110.01 feet northwardly from the northern line of Bellevue Avenue, thence westwardly, along a line that is parallel to Bellevue Avenue, a distance of 289.37 feet to a point in the eastern line of Avenue Racine; thence northwardly, along the eastern line of Avenue Racine, a distance of 180 feet to the southern line of a 16.0 foot lane, at a point distant 186.0 feet southwardly from the southern line of a 16.0 foot lane, at a point distant 186.0 feet southwardly from the southern line of Lafayette Boulevard; thence eastwardly, along the southern line of said 16.0 foot lane, a distance of 287.20 feet to the present western line of Tidewater Drive, a distance of 180.01 feet to the point of beginning. The boundaries include the school and its school yard. This has not changed since its original construction."

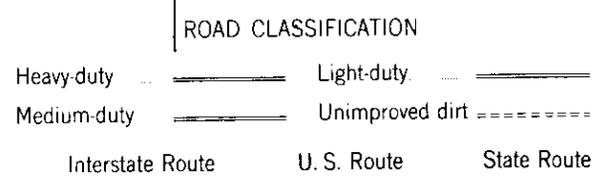
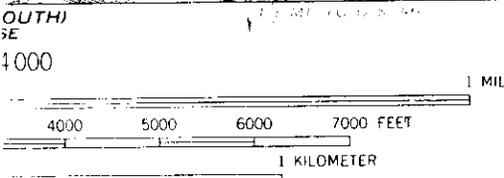
Boundary Justification: The boundaries include the school and its entire school yard.



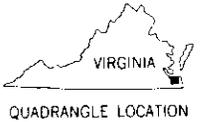
USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
 Norfolk North, Va. 1965 (PR 1980)

LAFAYETTE SCHOOL, Norfolk (city)

UTM Reference:
 18/387260/4081750



VERTICAL DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
 HORIZONTAL DATUM IS VARIABLE
 APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
 APPROXIMATELY 2.5 FEET
 MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 WASHINGTON, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
 ADDITIONAL SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



NORFOLK NORTH, VA.
 N3652.5—W7615/7.5
 1965
 PHOTOREVISED 1980
 DMA 5757 IV NE—SERIES V834

(KEMPSVILLE)
 5757 SW