

VLR-12/11/84

NRHP-2/27/85

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA, 1870-1940  
 VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION  
 Thematic National Register Nomination Inventory Form

Historic Name: Moffett's Creek Schoolhouse	Common Name: Moffett's Creek Schoolhouse
Street Address/Rt. No.: Rt. 681	VHLC File Number: 07-547
Vicinity of: Newport	Owner: Mt. Herman Cemetery Association
USGS Quad: Augusta Springs 7.5	Middlebrook, VA

Date(s): 1873; 1880s	Architect/Builder: Unknown
Original Use: Schoolhouse	Style: Vernacular
Present Use: Woodworking Shop	
Condition: Good	
Altered <u>    </u> ; unaltered <u>  X  </u>	

Physical Description:

This schoolhouse remains one of the best-preserved examples of a one-room schoolhouse that was later enlarged into a two-room graded school. **Both portions display the familiar rectangular block design.** The original portion is the west room with the gable end facing the road. This frame structure, resting on a limestone foundation, retains its two-bay facade, with off-center gable-end entrance and three-bay side walls pierced by 6/6 sash. The gable-roofed addition built perpendicular to the original school creates an "L"-shape plan. This was also of frame construction on a stone foundation and had two-bay side walls.

The interior of both rooms has been well maintained. Both retain narrow matchboard wainscoting with plaster above, and the addition still has the blackboard along the east wall. The church added a board partition in the original room, but this has been the only change in plan. Both rooms retain their original flooring and ceiling.

Statement of Significance:

Moffett's Creek Schoolhouse clearly displays the evolution from a one-room to a two-room schoolhouse that occurred for many of Augusta County's schools in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. **Since the building has not been remodeled into a dwelling as have many older schoolhouses,** the building retains its ca. 1890 plan and much of the interior finish. The School Board purchased an acre tract for "school purposes" from John and Elizabeth Hite in February, 1873, and soon built this school. This was the first year that Augusta County began to purchase older schools as well as lots to build new schools, and the value of school property increased dramatically that year. **Newport proved to be a bustling community by 1885, and its growing population clearly led to the enlargement of this school by 1890.** At this time, Newport had one of 22 two-room graded schools in the county, boasting an enrolled population of 68 and an average daily attendance of 47.

Newport continued to grow, and by 1923 a larger, four-room masonry school was constructed near this schoolhouse. The old property was sold to the Mt. Herman Lutheran Church the following year. Still in the ownership of the Church Cemetery Association, the building has been well maintained and has not been substantially altered since its closing.

Geographic Data/Acreage: one acre

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point on the S side of VA 681 approx. 1,800' WNW of the intersection of said route with VA 252; thence extending approx. 200' W (continued)

Boundary Justification: The bounds have been drawn to include the schoolhouse and the immediate school yard.  
 UTM: 17/648570/4207200

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