

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: Crimora School	Common Name: Crimora Elementary School
Street Address/Rt. No.: Rt. 612	VHLC File Number: 07-964
Vicinity of: Crimora	Owner: Augusta County School Board
USGS Quad: Crimora 7.5	Fishersville, Virginia 22939
Date(s): 1927; 1942; 1955	Architect/Builder: Kellis Bibb & G. G.
Original Use: School	Style: Vernacular/Bungalow Shaver
Present Use: School	
Condition: Very good	
Altered <u>X</u> ; unaltered <u> </u>	

Physical Description:

Crimora School is one of the best-preserved Augusta County examples of the central-auditorium plan developed by the State Department of Education. The original plan, dated May, 1927, is Design 14-B of the Division of School Buildings. This design incorporates a combination auditorium/gymnasium as the core of the building off the main central entrance. Extending along each side of the auditorium is a rectangular gabled block containing two rooms with the gable ends projecting out slightly from the facade walls. Doors to these rooms open from the central auditorium. This particular example originally included a stage at the back of the auditorium, although the stage was an optional feature with the original plans and construction.

Like the other examples of this plan built in the late 1920s and early 1930s, the Crimora School is of brick construction on a concrete foundation. Pressed tin covers the central hipped bungalow roof portion as well as most of the gable roof wings. Whereas later examples of this plan, like the North River School, display the Colonial styles, the Crimora School hints at the bungalow style. A pent roof porch shelters the transom-lighted front door with sets of three 9/9 sash to each side. The front gable on each side were originally wood-shingled, but they are now covered with stucco and pierced by a square window. On the side walls, each classroom is lighted by a group of five 9/9 sash.

The School Board enlarged the school twice before 1942, doubling the number of classrooms to eight. One of the major advantages of this particular plan was that it was easily expandable by simply adding classrooms off the back of the wings. The first addition, in the 1930s, consisted of two classrooms, one on each wing. In 1942, an additional classroom was added to each side along with a lunch room behind a newly created "light court" off behind the stage. A finished basement room was created in the basement for the boiler, replacing the six coal stoves used for heating in 1932.

(continued)

Statement of Significance:

The Crimora School is the best-preserved example of the central-auditorium school plan in the County. This plan proved the most popular of the plans developed by the Division of School Building in the 1920s in Augusta County. The first four examples, built between 1923 and 1925 contained classrooms on three sides of the central auditorium. A classroom flanked the front hall in front of the auditorium and stretched along each side. Crimora was the first of seven examples after 1927 without these front classrooms. This design proved so popular in Augusta County that only two schools with other plans were built in the County until the services of the Division of School Building Services were discontinued in the 1940s.

Like four of the other six examples of this plan, the Crimora School was first built with four classrooms. The Augusta County School Board Maintenance Department purchased the plan, Design 14-B, at a small fee and supervised its construction. G. G. Shaver, the head of the maintenance program, and Kellis Bibb served as the primary carpenters for this building and with the succeeding examples.

Crimora School has always taught only elementary grades. The Crimora community has experienced tremendous growth throughout the 20th century, necessitating the additions to this school.

Geographic Data/Acreage: five acres

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point on N side of VA 612 approx. 2,800' W from intersection of said route with US 340; thence extending approx. 500' NNE; thence (continued)
 Boundary Justification: The bounds have been drawn to include the school complex and immediate school yard.
 UTM: 17/688150/4224970

Prepared By: Ann McCleary, Architectural Historian

Date Prepared: September 1984

Crimora Elementary School
07-964

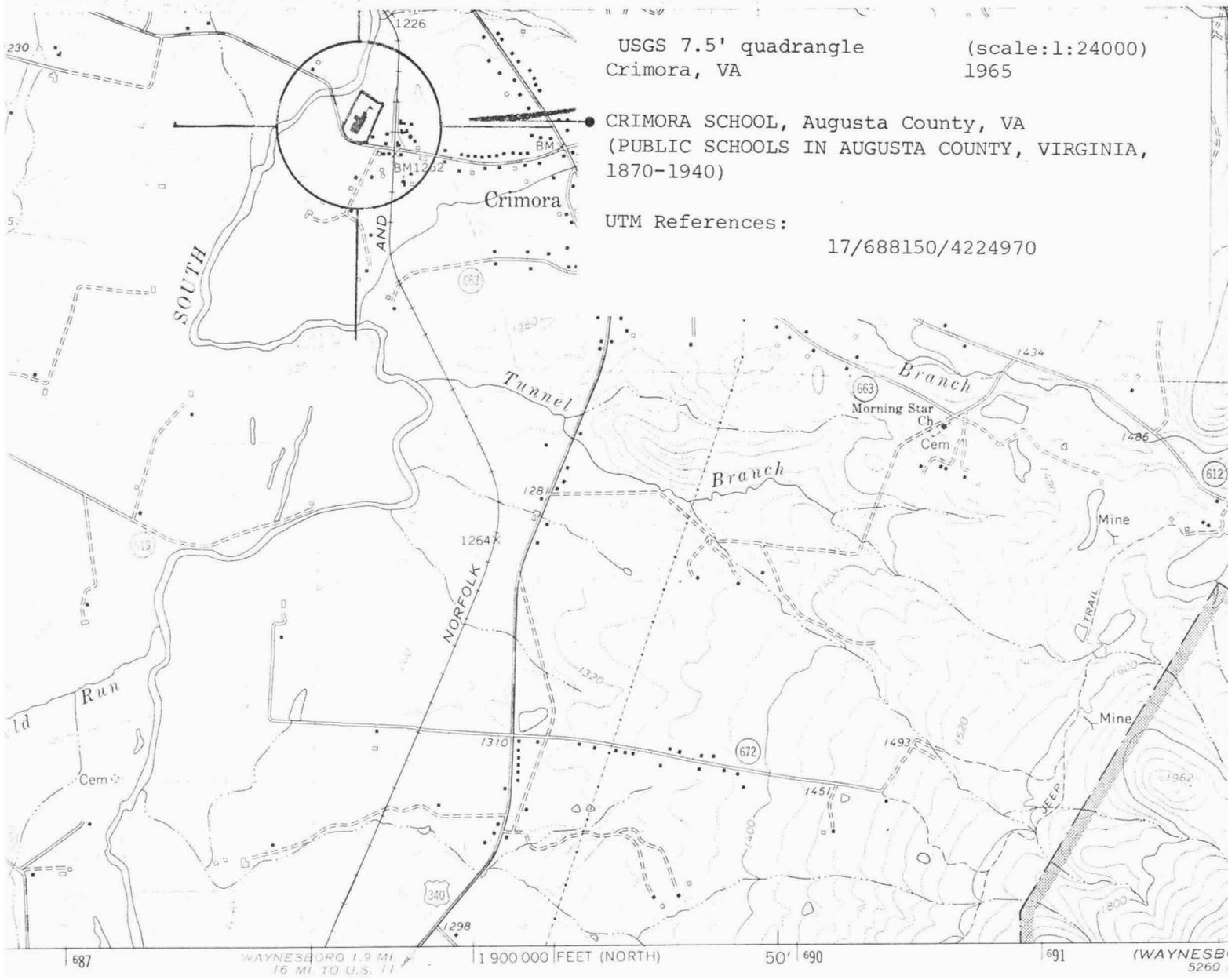
Physical Description continued

One of the primary reasons for including Crimora School in this nomination as an example of this school plan is its little-altered interior. The school retains its plastered walls and wood floor throughout, although the ceilings have been lowered in the classrooms and hallways ca. 1976-77. The classrooms retain the wardrobe and closet designs featured in the State Plans for "Details for Teacher's Closet, Wardrobe, and Bookcase," (May 1936, February 1938, October 1938, December 1940). All the blackboard space has been preserved, although some has been filled in as bulletin boards. The stage has not been altered.

In 1954-55 the school was again enlarged with a large brick veneer addition containing six classrooms, a cafeteria, teacher's lounge, library and office. Located to the rear of the old school, this addition does not obscure or detract from the original building. Also at this time, the lunchroom was subdivided into a clinic, restrooms, storage room, and janitor's room. Augusta County enlarged and modernized many of its older schools at this time.

Verbal Boundary Description continued

approx. 400' WNW; thence approx. 450' SSW to a point on N side of VA 612; thence approx. 400' SE along N side of VA 612 to point of origin.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Crimora, VA 1965

CRIMORA SCHOOL, Augusta County, VA
 (PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA,
 1870-1940)

UTM References:
 17/688150/4224970

and, and published by the Geological Survey

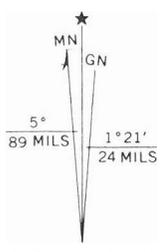
S and USC&GS

photogrammetric methods from aerial
 en 1963. Field checked 1965

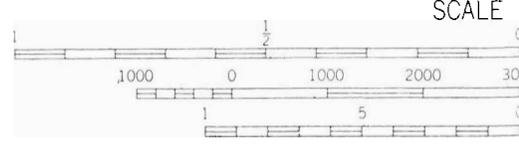
tion. 1927 North American datum
 is based on Virginia coordinate system,

zones
 iversal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 in blue

lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1965 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



SCALE 1:
 CONTOUR INTER
 DOTTED LINES REPRESENT
 DATUM IS MEAN

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATION
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS