

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: Mt. Meridian Schoolhouse
Street Address/Rt. No.: Rt. 865
Vicinity of: Mt. Meridian
USGS Quad: Grottoes 7.5

Common Name: Mt. Meridian Schoolhouse
VHLC File Number: 07-996
Owner: Charles, Peggy, Gladys, & Flossie
Wonderley, Rt. 1, Box 104, Grottoes, VA

Date(s): 1886
Original Use: Schoolhouse
Present Use: Vacant
Condition: Fair
Altered X; unaltered

Architect/Builder: Unknown
Style: Vernacular

Physical Description:

The Mt. Meridian Schoolhouse displays the familiar one-room frame school form that proved so popular in the late nineteenth century. By 1890, the school had been enlarged to two rooms with an addition off the east gable end. The present owners have removed the one-room frame addition and the building now assumes its original form.

The present rectangular building is of frame construction, underpinned with stone, with an off-center gable end entrance and two-bay side walls pierced with 6/6 sash. The present door on the south wall was added when the east addition was made, serving as an exterior door for the original room. The school retains its central stove flue and its metal roof.

Much of the original finish survives inside, including horizontal board sheathing on the south, west, and north walls as well as the ceiling. Greek architrave door and window frames surround the windows. The narrow matchboard vertical sheathing on the east wall was probably added about the time of the addition and suggests some changes to this end. The interior has been divided into four rooms by board partitions, but otherwise it has not been substantially remodeled or modernized.

A cistern providing the school's water supply remains off the northwest corner. There has never been any interior plumbing.

Statement of Significance:

The Mt. Meridian Schoolhouse is one of the best preserved of the numerous one-room frame schoolhouses built across Augusta County in the late 19th century. Although later enlarged to two rooms by 1890, the removal of the addition in the early twentieth century makes this the only nominated schoolhouse to retain its original one-room rectangular form. With this simple plan, original location, and unaltered setting, the Mt. Meridian schoolhouse clearly evokes the feeling of these older public schools. Despite later board partitions, the interior has also remained well preserved, illustrating the vernacular character of these utilitarian structures.

The trustees for the Middle River School Board purchased this one-acre tract from J. D. Craig on October 17, 1885, and built the school soon afterwards. The 1890 Annual Report for the Augusta County School Board indicates it had been enlarged to two rooms by that date. After the school closed in 1908, the School Board sold the tract August 2, 1909 to John G. Fulton. It was rented as a dwelling in the 1930s and 1940s, but it has never been modernized.

Geographic Data/Acreage: one acre

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point on E side of VA 865 approx. 550' SSW of intersection of said route with VA 256; thence extending approx. 200' SE; thence (continued) Boundary Justification: The bounds have been drawn to include the schoolhouse and the immediate school yard.
UTM: 17/587160/4236370

Prepared By: Ann McCleary, Architectural Historian

Date Prepared: September 1984

Mt. Meridian Schoolhouse
07-996

Verbal Boundary Description continued

approx. 200' SSW; thence approx. 200' W to a point on E side of VA 865; thence approx. 200'
N along E side of VA 865 to point of origin.

210 000
FEET

4233

4232

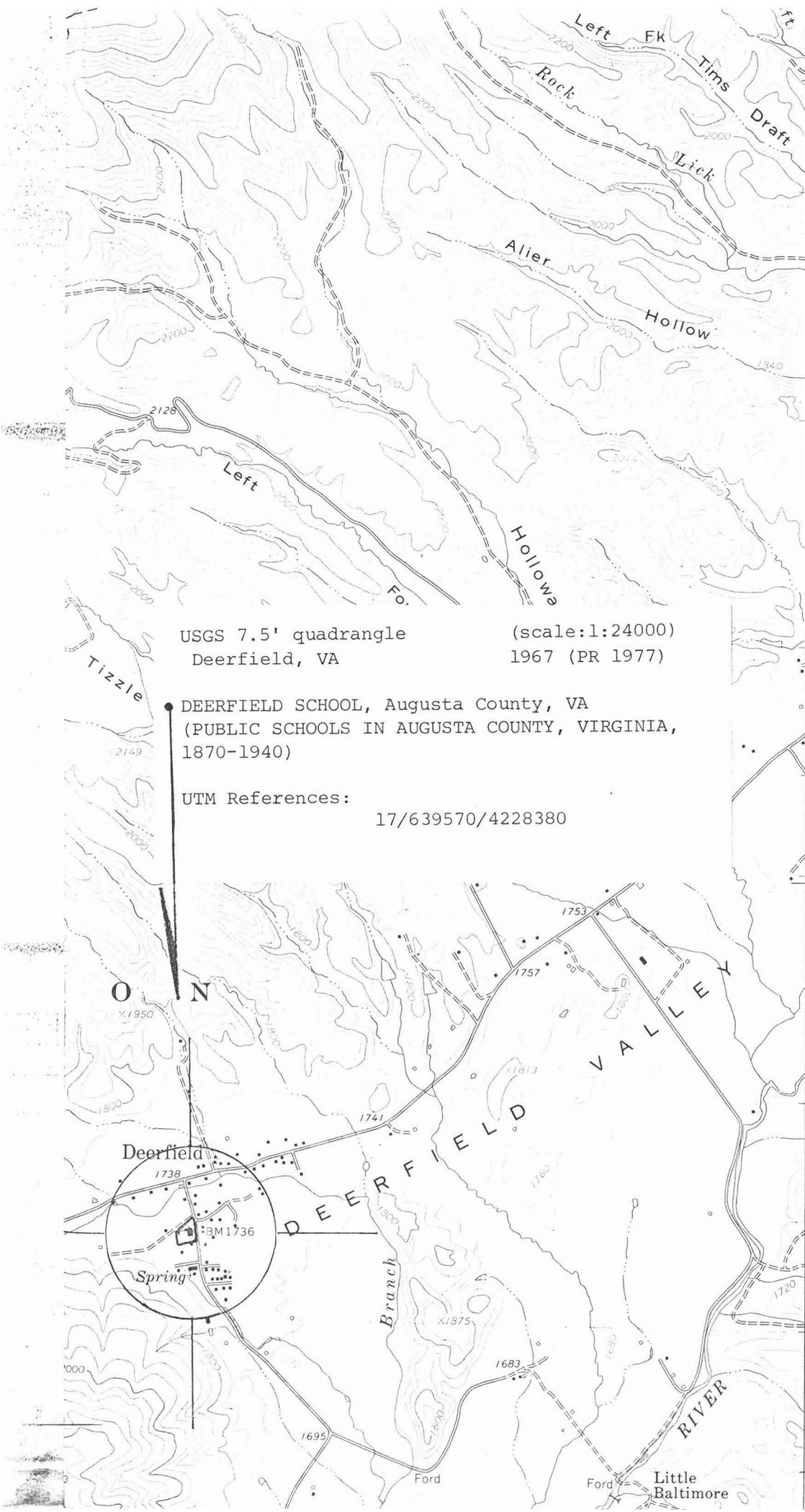
4231

12'30"

4229

4228

(ELLIOTT KNOB)
5160 III NE



USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Deerfield, VA

(scale:1:24000)
1967 (PR 1977)

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

UTM References:
17/639570/4228380

