

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

Historic Name: New Hope High School	Common Name: New Hope Elementary School
Street Address/Rt. No.: Rt. 608	VHLC File Number: 07-1087
Vicinity of: New Hope	Owner: Augusta County School Board
USGS Quad: Fort Defiance 7.5	Fishersville, VA

Date(s): 1925	Architect/Builder: Eutsler Brothers
Original Use: High School	Style: Art Deco
Present Use: Elementary School	
Condition: Good	
Altered <u>X</u> ; unaltered <u> </u>	

Physical Description:

New Hope School remains as the best-preserved example of the first type of central-auditorium school plans built in the County in the mid 1920s after the establishment of the Division of School Buildings in 1920. In plan and design, this school is very similar to three other schools built by the Eutsler Brothers of Grottoes between 1923 and 1925. The most distinguishing features of this plan is a large central auditorium/gymnasium, identified on the outside in all four examples by a tall hipped roof pierced with low windows. This auditorium provides the core of the design with classrooms around three sides, to the front, and to each side. Several major variations distinguish these mid 1920s plans from the seven later central-auditorium plans, like Crimora and North River, built by the County between 1927 and 1938.

Based on the "Standard One-Story Eight-Room Plan," the New Hope School plan was revised to meet the community's needs. The north side wing of three classrooms was excluded from the original construction, due to financial considerations. Consequently, the original plan consisted of a library and office to the north side of the central corridor, a classroom to the south side, and a string of three classrooms on the main floor of the south wing. The central classroom in the wing doubled as a stage. With four classrooms on the main floor, each could be used as a home room for the four high school grades. Although the original Standard Plan did not call for a basement, the New Hope School plan was revised to include two classrooms, called "laboratories," in the basement below the stage and east rooms in the south wing, and bathrooms for both the boys and the girls. The design lacked an interior basement stairs, so students would have to use the back door off the wing to go outside to reach the basement level. These basement rooms were created primarily for home economics classes, although they were not initially finished and prepared for this use until home economics instruction began in 1929. Since the home economics teacher generally taught science, these rooms were also used for science classes. It was not until 1942 that the standard plan was completed with the addition of a three-room north wing which also included two basement classrooms below the central and east room.

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Statement of Significance:

New Hope School is significant for its historical and architectural role in the development of public education in Augusta County. Historically, this building, costing \$22,000, became one of the first modern high school buildings to be constructed in the County. A prosperous agricultural community along Middle River, New Hope had outgrown its two-story frame school, which had housed both the grades and the high school, by the 1920s. The construction of this new building in 1925 reflects the progressive spirit of this village. **New Hope was also a leader** in vocational education as one of two Smith-Hughes funded agriculture programs to open in Augusta County in 1923. Three years later, the County built the first detached agriculture shop building here, the precursor of many others in the County.

Architecturally, New Hope is the best preserved of the first group of central-auditorium-plan consolidated schools built in the mid 1920s. The school also provides an excellent example of the planning process for school buildings after the establishment of the Division of School Buildings. An extensive collection of school plans preserved by the School Board indicates that the State Division originally sent one of its standard plans, 18-F, entitled "Standard One-Story Eight-Room School, Unexcavated," as the preliminary suggestion for the school design. After considering the particular conditions for this school and community, the Division modified the standard plan to create "18-F Special," which excluded one side wing for the first phase of construction and added basement rooms below the side wing to be initially built. The

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Geographic Data/Acreage: three and one-half acres

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point on the E side of VA 608 approx. 1,000' N of intersection of said route with VA 616; thence extending approx. 300' E; thence (continued)
 Boundary Justification: The bounds have been drawn to include the school complex and the immediate school yard.

UTM: 17/683540/4229990

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Date Prepared: September 1984

