

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: Verona School	Common Name: Verona School
Street Address/Rt. No.: Route 11	VHLC File Number: 07-11/1299
Vicinity of: Verona	Owner: James Stout
USGS Quad: Staunton 7.5	Rt. 1, Box 495, Weyers Cave, VA

Date(s): 1911	Architect/Builder: Unknown
Original Use: Schoolhouse	Style: Vernacular
Present Use: Motel Office	
Condition: Good	
Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ; unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	

Physical Description:

The Verona School illustrates a common form for early 20th-century schools--the original three-room plan. Like the Verona School, most examples suggest a domestic character with a central entrance leading into a hallway with a room to each side in the manner of the common I-house design. The third room was located in a rear ell, again drawing from local building tradition. The Verona School retains its central transom-lighted entrance, central cross gable, and wooden porch. The chimneys were located on each side of the central passage, again similar to local tradition. A photograph taken for the 1932 insurance survey of Augusta County schools shows three windows on each side of the entrance. However, the county apparently enlarged the two front rooms and added an additional two windows on each side. Molded trim with bull's-eye carved blocks surround all the large 6/6 sash windows, including the three windows on each end. The interior walls had been finished with plaster and the rooms equipped with electricity by 1932.

After Stout and Lamb purchased the school, they moved it back from the road to its present location and built two long motel buildings to each side. The front block has not been altered on the exterior, although some additions have been made to the sides of the one-room wing. Inside, Lamb and Stout made the south room into an apartment, removed the central north partition to create the manager's living quarters, and added rooms for rental in the back wing.

Statement of Significance:

Verona School has been included in this thematic nomination as the only surviving three-room school identified in Augusta County. Although some three-room schools were built in the late 19th century, they became more popular in the early 20th century with consolidation. The majority of the 20th-century examples were constructed between 1900 and 1920, placing the Verona School in the midst of this development. At that time, Verona was a smaller community, but with its 20th-century growth, it outgrew this school by the 1940s.

The Augusta County School Board purchased the two-acre Verona tract on July 31, 1911 from C. E. McLaughlin. The 1911-12 Annual Report states that the school was built during this year for \$1,889, financed by \$1,675 from state funds and \$214 from private contributions. In the 1920s, the Verona School taught only grades one through five, with the first grade in the south room, grades two through three in the north room, and grades four and five in the back or west room. Higher grades were bused to Mt. Sidney High School. The school closed by the late 1940s, and in 1950 the School Board sold the school to Henry Lamb and James Stout. Around 1956-57, Lamb and Stout moved the school back from the road to serve as the office and manager's residence and built the motel buildings.

Geographic Data/Acreage: one-half acre

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point approx. 150' NW of a point on the W side of US 11 approx. 450' NE of intersection of said route with VA 612; thence extending (continued)
Boundary Justification: The bounds have been drawn to include the schoolhouse and a small portion of the surrounding yard.
UTM: 17/674470/4230090

Prepared By: Ann McCleary, Architectural Historian

Date Prepared: September 1984

Verona School
07-~~114~~ 1178

Verbal Boundary Description continued

approx. 150' NW; thence approx. 150' NE; thence approx. 150' SE; thence approx. 150' SW
to point of origin.

