

VLR-10/18/95 NRHP 1/22/96

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **Victoria High School**
other names/site number **VDHR File No. 317-12**

2. Location

street & number **Eighth Street at Lee Avenue** N/A not for publication
city or town **Victoria** NIA vicinity
state **Virginia** code **VA** county **Lunenburg** code **111** zip code **23974**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility ~~meets~~ the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Julia W. Bosnik *11-8-95*
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register. _____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
_____ determined eligible for the National Register. _____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
_____ determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
_____ removed from the National Register,	_____	_____
_____ other (explain): _____	_____	_____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
EDUCATION	school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
WORK IN PROGRESS	

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	CONCRETE
walls	BRICK
roof	ASPHALT
other	GLASS
	METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past fifty years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1922-1928

Significant Dates

1922

1928

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approximately .33 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1	17 746980 4097820	3
2		4

— See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Daniel Pezzoni
organization J. Daniel Pezzoni, Preservation Consultant date July 18, 1995
street & number PO Box 7825 telephone (703) 366-0787
city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24019-0825

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Gordon F. Erby, Town Manager, Town of Victoria
street & number PQ Box V telephone (804) 696-2343
city or town Victoria state VA zip code 23974

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Victoria High School
Lunenburg Co., Va.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

Victoria High School is a Classical Revival building of one story raised on a basement story. The body of the school is constructed of five-course American-bond brickwork; the basement is constructed of poured concrete with a smooth exterior concrete finish. The southwestward-facing building is built into a hillside, giving it a full two-story rear elevation. Exterior features include a projecting front pavilion and portico, nine-over-nine-sash windows, and a hipped roof concealed behind a parapet. The interior is characterized by a story-and-a-half entry and stair hall, a U-shaped corridor on the main level, a basement auditorium, and a system of skylights and ventilation shafts.

Exterior

The front portico is the school's dominant exterior element. It has round wooden Doric columns and square pilasters; a pediment with a stuccoed tympanum, circular window, and wooden cornice; a beaded tongue-and-groove ceiling with a pendant light fixture; and a concrete floor penned in by a pipe railing and reached by concrete steps. The portico shelters an entry with three doors surmounted by a broad transom with diamond-shaped panes. Over the transom is a round-arched window.

The portico projects from a pavilion that forms the center three bays of the school's five-bay facade. The portico cornice carries through to the pavilion and to the other front and side elevations of the building. Under the cornice runs a soldier course and above it is a stepped parapet with diamond-shaped concrete accent blocks. Banks of windows flank the portico (similar three-window groupings appear on the other elevations). To the left of the portico floor are three basement openings that formerly served as coal chutes, with concrete driveway strips leading up to them; to the right are similar openings that formerly lighted a boiler room. To the left and right of these openings, in the reentrant angles of the facade, are traces of small porches that formerly provided access to classrooms on the main level. Bricked-up doorways and traces of roofing tar indicate the former location of these porches.

The other elevations repeat the detail of the front pavilion, with the exception of the two-story rear elevation, which lacks a cornice and reveals more of the concrete basement level, giving it a more severe character. The southeast end features a classically detailed porch with round columns, a low-pitched modern gable roof (which replaces the original hip roof), square balusters, and a stair with turned and chamfered newels with globe finials. A steel fire escape (probably dating to the late 1940s) rises on the northwest elevation. The concealed hipped roof was

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**Victoria High School
Lunenburg Co., Va.**

Description (continued)

recently re-sheathed with asphalt shingles and the skylight superstructures removed. Bonnet-type metal ventilators were retained.

The high school forms part of a campus that includes a modern elementary school, a 1935 agriculture building, playing fields, and historic and modern concrete walkways. Off the east front corner of the building stands a steel flag pole (probably dating to the 1920s or 1930s) that was fabricated by John E. Lingo & Son of Camden, N.J. Off the east rear corner stands a contemporaneous metal water fountain made by the American Foundry & Manufacturing Company of St. Louis, Mo.

Interior

The high school interior was designed for optimal functionality and comfort. A flight of steps leads up from the front entrance to the center of a wide U-shaped corridor that provides access to the main-level classrooms; other steps lead down to the basement auditorium, classrooms, and restrooms. The main-level corridor and classrooms were formerly illuminated by skylights, and the classrooms still feature beaded tongue-and-groove hatches that open into a system of ventilation ducts running from the basement to the roof.

The main-level spaces feature pressed metal ceilings with coves and rectangular apertures for the former skylights; original pendant incandescent light fixtures and later fluorescent fixtures and ceiling fans; five-panel doors with plain architraves and simple molded lintels; and narrow tongue-and-groove flooring, much of it covered with linoleum tiles. The entry-stair hall has stairs with square newels and balusters, signs reading "GIRLS" and "BOYS" over the stairs to the basement, and murals depicting a Virginian Railroad train crossing a viaduct. The murals are signed "Clark 81" and "Clements 81." The U-shaped corridor has beaded tongue-and-groove wainscoting that rises to about five feet in height with plaster walls above, and ceiling-level windows and floor-level grates to light and ventilate the remodeled office area at the center of the school. The classrooms feature modern paneled wainscots, blackboards, and old radiators. The library, which occupies the west rear corner of the main level, has wood shelves and a paneled center support that replaces a former wall.

The main space on the basement level is the auditorium, which was formed in 1928 out of a preexisting gymnasium/auditorium. The auditorium, which is oriented to a stage at its west end, features a celotex ceiling with suspended radiators, a sloping concrete floor, and 1960s steel and plywood seats. The stage is framed by a proscenium arch of stained wood finish with fluted

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**Victoria High School
Lunenburg Co., Va.**

Description (continued)

Doric pilasters. The stage apron has a metal-lined footlight trough. Other basement spaces include girls' and boys' restrooms with early toilets, urinals, and wooden stalls; a classroom; a teachers' lounge; the aforementioned boiler room and coal bin; and a two-level cinder-block storage room that was probably inserted in the mid-twentieth century.

Integrity Statement

Victoria High School retains good over-all exterior and interior integrity. The 1920s exterior finishes are virtually unaltered; the interior finishes too are mostly present, with the exception of the remodeling of the office and the addition of modern wood-panel wainscots in the classrooms. The school was left unoccupied and unmaintained during the early 1990s, resulting in considerable water damage from the skylights. Consequently, the skylights were removed and the building reroofed in 1994. The Town of Victoria now owns the building, and the non-profit Victoria High School Preservation Foundation has begun rehabilitation work. A number of uses are being considered for the building, including government offices, meeting space, and a railroad museum.

Architectural Analysis

In its present form, Victoria High School dates to two periods of construction. The school was built in 1922-1923 and extensively remodeled in 1928. It originally featured a brick classroom level on a raised concrete basement, a gabled portico supported by paneled square wood columns, small front porches flanking the center portico, a hipped roof with skylights and a ventilation and/or illumination monitor, and an interior with a "large study hall, eight classrooms, [and] an auditorium with a stage, which doubled as a gym" (see Exhibit B for an illustration of the school in its original form).¹ The study hall apparently occupied the core of the building, under the monitor. In 1928, the school was remodeled to add classroom space and to enhance the classical character of the building. The basic building envelope was preserved, but a well-proportioned Doric portico replaced the original (ungainly) portico, the main front entry was reworked, the secondary front porches and entrances were removed, and the original roof and monitor were replaced with a low-pitched hip roof concealed behind a decorative brick parapet. The study hall was subdivided to create two additional classrooms and an administrative office, and the two classrooms in the building's west corner were made into a library.² The basement gymnasium/auditorium was converted into an auditorium with seating.³

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**Victoria High School
Lunenburg Co., Va.**

Description (continued)

Architects and draftsmen of the School Buildings Service of the Virginia Department of Education probably prepared the original construction drawings and remodeling plans for the high school. Between 1920 and 1950, the Service "provided plans and specifications for almost all of the rural schools built in that period, and for many of the urban and suburban schools." The Victoria school is similar in form and detail to other schools designed by the Service. Features such as the fluted Doric proscenium pilasters, diamond-shaped parapet accent blocks, and the former roof monitor, appear in construction drawings for other schools and in surviving buildings across the state. Less typical of the commonwealth's schools are the Victoria building's skylights, both the original skylights and the ones installed in 1928.

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Victoria High School
Lunenburg Co., Va.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Victoria High School served as Victoria, Virginia's principal public school building for white students from the date of its construction in 1922-1923 until 1966. The symmetrical one-story brick building, graced by a Doric portico and other Classical Revival details dating to a 1928 remodeling, represents a prominent local example of architectural classicism. The school also preserves remnants of a sophisticated ventilation and natural lighting system.

Justification of Criteria

The Victoria High School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The period of significance extends from 1922, the year construction on the building was begun, to 1928, the date of a remodeling that enhanced the building's classical character. The building possesses local significance.

Acknowledgements

A number of individuals and organizations assisted in the preparation of this report, foremost among them the sponsor of the project, the Victoria High School Preservation Foundation, including members Betsy Long, Nancy Snead, and Michael Tisdale. Others who helped include the staffs of the Lunenburg County Commissioner of Revenue office, the Victoria Public Library, the Lunenburg County School Board, the *Kenbridge-Victoria Dispatch*, the Library of Virginia, and John Wells of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Historical Background

Victoria's early public schools were rudimentary in character. The first school met in a one-room log building erected in 1895. In 1902, a one-room frame school--later enlarged to three rooms--replaced the log building. Population growth during the first decade of the twentieth century necessitated the construction of a larger facility, and in 1911-1912 a two-story brick building known as Victoria High School was built on Lee Avenue between Seventh and Eighth streets.¹ This classically-inspired building, which stood until 1972, featured a hipped roof with an octagonal cupola and a front entry with a large elliptical fanlight (see Exhibit B for an illustration of this first high school, minus its cupola).²

Victoria continued to grow during the 1910s and early 1920s, and in 1922 (some accounts give 1921), during the term of principal Hal J. Meredith, ground was broken for a new high school

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Victoria High School
Lunenburg Co., Va.

Description (continued)

Endnotes

1. *Victoria Then and Now: Anniversary Weekend Supplement*, 12; Erby, "Victoria High School," 2 (history continuation sheet). The 1928 Sanborn map of Victoria, published in August, portrays the school prior to its remodeling. The 1927 *June Bug* (Victoria High School yearbook) shows a section of the original portico and front entry in the background of the senior class photograph.
2. Erby, "Victoria High School," 2 (history continuation sheet).
3. Ibid.
4. Memo prepared by "JPH" and dated November 4, 1974 in "Schools--Drawings and Plans, 1920-1930," Virginia Department of Education records. Lunenburg County School Board records and copies of the local paper do not survive for 1922-1923, making it difficult to document the School Buildings Service as the source for the Victoria High School design, and the Department of Education Records are not in order, complicating the search for information on the school. A search in issues of the *Victoria Dispatch*, which survive for the year 1928, may turn up information on the school's remodeling.

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Victoria High School
Lunenburg Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

to be built beside the 1911-1912 building. The one-story Classical Revival building was apparently built to state specifications and featured eight classrooms, a study hall, and a basement gymnasium/auditorium. The 1925 *Pilot*, Victoria High School's first yearbook, contains a description of the recently completed school:

The following year, 1922-23, the new building was finished and the high school with some of the grades moved into it. This building was quite superior to the other, being more modernly equipped. The large, well lighted rooms with steam heat, water and electric lights serve to make this building more comfortable and pleasant for both students and faculty. The first floor or rear basement is used for an auditorium as well as for athletics. This in itself is an advantage to the school, as heretofore the only places available for holding entertainments were makeshift town buildings.³

Behind the new building, on Eighth Street, a playground was created in 1923-1924. Several years later, a one-story Domestic Science and Manual Training building was constructed on Eighth Street, and a large athletic field was graded behind the 1911-1912 building.⁴ A "training" or "industrial" school for Victoria and Lunenburg County's black students was constructed at another site in town in 1924-1925.⁵

Victoria High School's original teaching staff consisted of a principal, vice principal, and three instructors. Also modest was the school's enrollment--the 1926 graduating class numbered only eighteen--but small size did not limit the range of curricular and extracurricular activities.⁶ Students organized yearbook clubs, a school paper (the *Peptimist*), and several literary societies. Sports included boys' and girls' basketball (played in the basement gymnasium until auditorium seats were installed in 1928), baseball, and track, and in 1929 the Panthers football team played its first games.⁷ The school auditorium also provided community meeting space, hosting a two-week-long "evangelistic campaign" in 1925 and a soup kitchen during the Great Depression.⁸

Victoria's high school and that in the neighboring town of Kenbridge were consolidated in 1966, and a racially integrated facility--Central Senior High School--was constructed on a suburban site east of town.⁹ The 1922-1923 high school was vacated, and in 1993 plans for the deteriorating building's demolition were considered. A group of concerned citizens mobilized to save the building, and with the help of the Victoria High School Alumni Association persuaded the county to deed the school to the Town of Victoria and to provide funds for stabilization. The Victoria High School Preservation Foundation formed in 1994, and with assistance from the town has begun rehabilitation work on the school.¹⁰

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Victoria High School
Lunenburg Co., Va.

Statement of Significance (continued)

Endnotes

1. Erby, "Victoria High School," 1 (history continuation sheet); *The Pilot*, 21.
2. *Victoria Then and Now: Anniversary Weekend Supplement*, 12; *The Kenbridge-Victoria Dispatch*, August 17 and 24, 1972. The 1911-1912 Victoria High School is similar to high schools from the same period in surrounding counties, suggesting it was built to a standardized state plan.
3. *The Pilot*, 21.
4. Ibid.; Sanborn Map Company; and Lunenburg County School Board records. The 1928 Sanborn map shows a Domestic Science building behind the high school, but plans in the school board records for a Home Economics Cottage dating to 1935 suggest the earlier building was replaced by the present building on the site in the mid-1930s. The 1935 plans were drawn up by the Virginia Department of Education's Division of School Buildings.
5. *Lunenburg Call*, September 25, 1924; *The Victoria Dispatch*, August 21, 1925. This school was probably constructed with support from the Rosenwald Fund.
6. *The Victoria Dispatch*, May 28, 1926.
7. Ibid.; *The Pilot*; and Erby, "Victoria High School," 2 (history continuation sheet).
8. *The Victoria Dispatch*, August 28, 1925.
9. *The Kenbridge-Victoria Dispatch*, August 17, 1972.
10. Ibid., January 20, 1994 and February 23, 1995.

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Victoria High School
Lunenburg Co., Va.

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Lunenburg Call (Victoria, Va.).

Lunenburg County School Board. Records. Victoria, Va.

Lunenburg County tax records, Victoria, Va.

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The Victoria Dispatch (Victoria, Va.).

Victoria High School Alumni Association Newsletter (Victoria, Va.).

"Victoria High School, Victoria, Va., Class of 1942 50th Anniversary Reunion, May 2, 1992." (program).

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Victoria Then and Now: Anniversary Weekend Supplement. 1984.

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**Victoria High School
Lunenburg Co., Va.**

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated parcel appear as Exhibit A.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated parcel are defined so as to include the principal historic resource--the 1922-1923 high school--and to exclude adjoining historic and modern resources.

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Victoria High School
Lunenburg Co., Va.

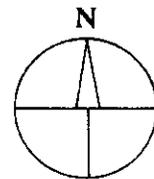
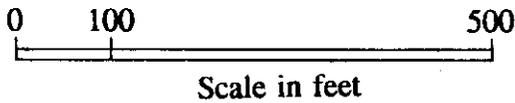


Exhibit A. Victoria High School nominated parcel. Map derived from Lunenburg County Tax Map 33A5.

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Victoria High School
Lunenburg Co., Va.

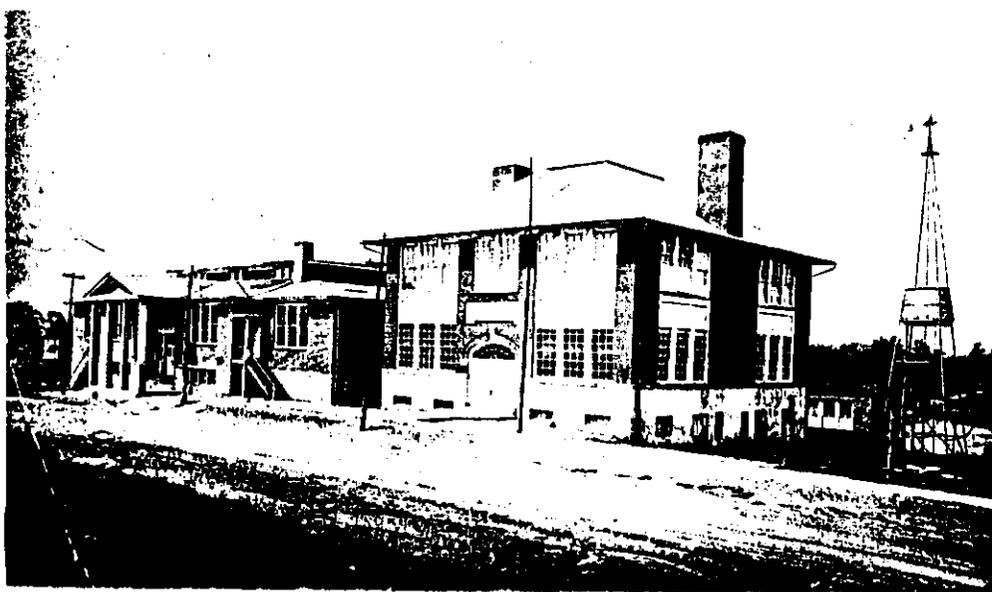


Exhibit B. 1920s photograph of the first and second Victoria High School buildings, the 1911-1912 building on the right and the 1922-1923 building on the left (from *Victoria Then and Now: Anniversary Weekend Supplement*, 12).

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Victoria High School
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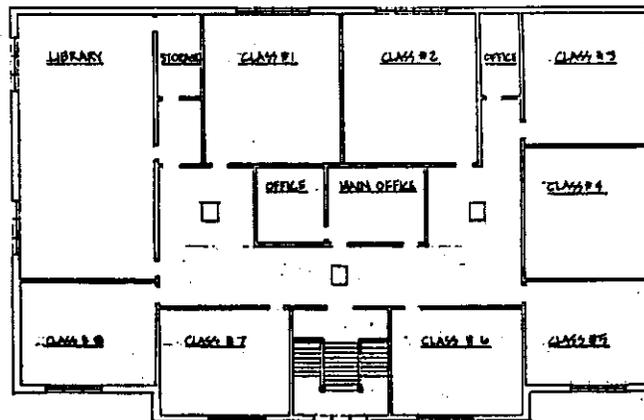
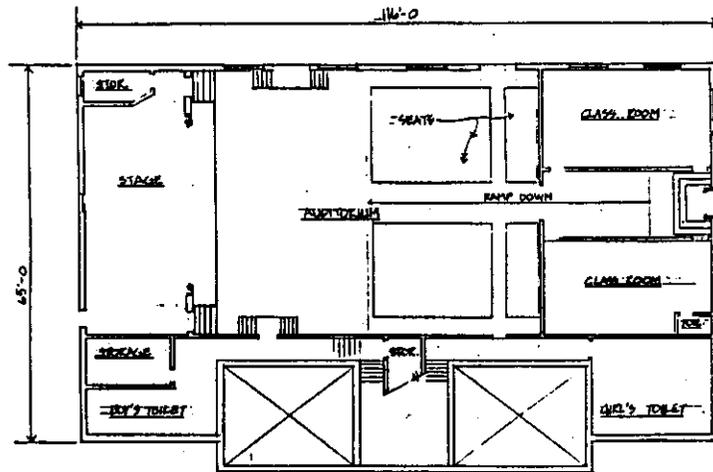
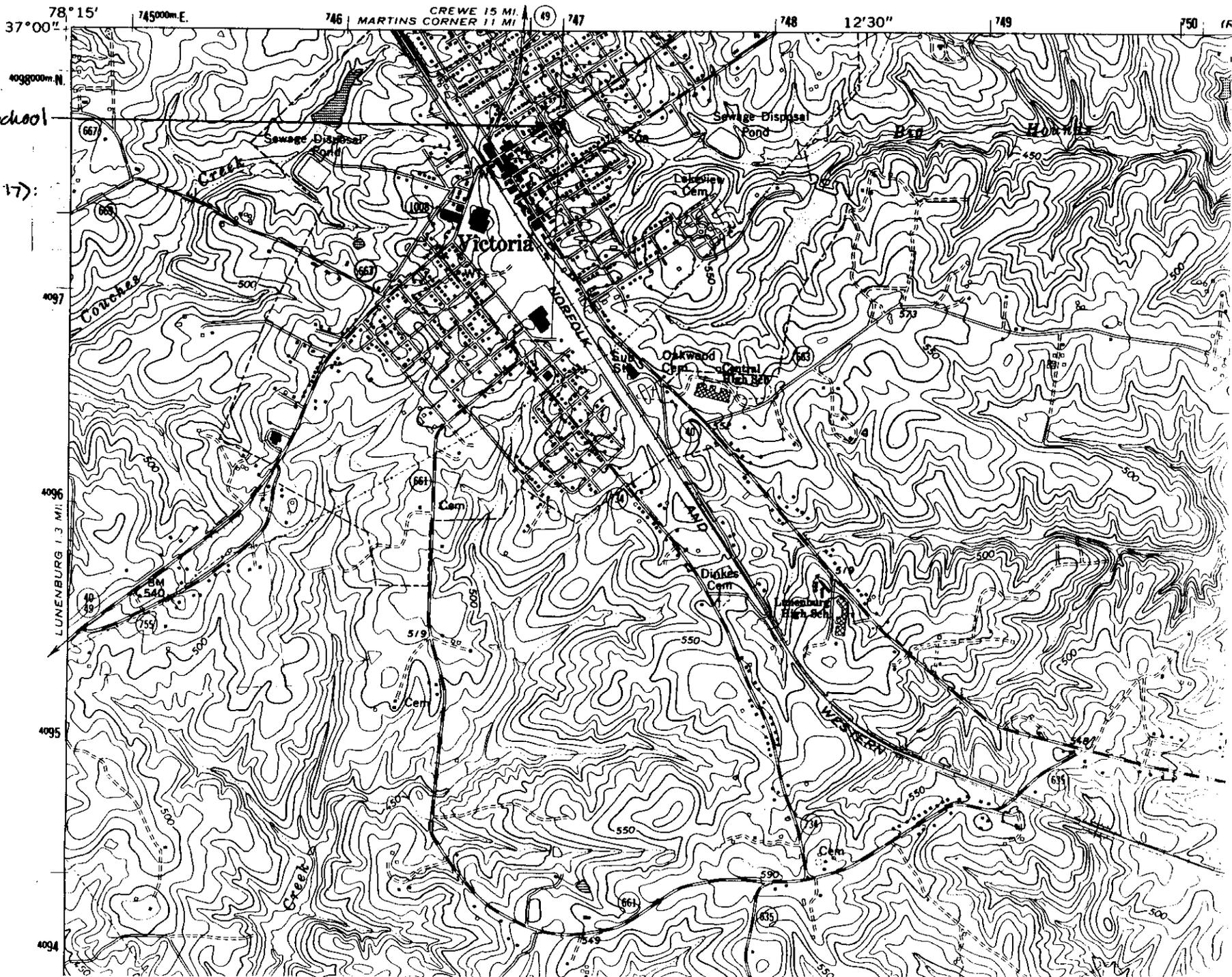


Exhibit C. Basement (top) and main level (bottom) floor plans of the Victoria High School. Scale: 1/32" = 1'. (From Erby, "Victoria High School.")

5228 III SE
(MERRIN)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH
DIVISION OF MINES



Victoria High School
Victoria, VA

UTM refs (zone 17):
E 746980
N 4097020