

VLR-12/11/84 NRHP-6/19/86

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

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Historic Name: Augusta County Training School	Common Name: Cedar Green School
Street Address/Rt. No.: Rt. 693	VHLC File Number: 07-755
Vicinity of: Cedar Green	Owner: American Legion
USGS Quad: Churchville 7.5	P. O. Box 272, Staunton, VA

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Date(s): 1938	Architect/Builder: G. G. Shaver & Kellis
Original Use: Grade and High School	Style: Vernacular/Neocolonial Bibb
Present Use: American Legion Hall	
Condition: Good	
Altered <u>X</u> ; unaltered _____	

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Physical Description:

The Augusta County Training School, more commonly called Cedar Green, is one of the last examples of the very popular central-auditorium plan built in Augusta County. **The State Department of Education's Division of School Buildings** introduced this plan in the early 1920s. Many of the Division's "Standard Plans" incorporated this basic design. Cedar Green was the eleventh and last example of this plan, which was no longer used after the closure of the Division of School Buildings in the 1940s. The County did not solicit a plan for this particular building from the State. Instead, Augusta County Maintenance Supervisor G. G. Shaver and Kellis Bibb took what had become a familiar plan and made their own modifications and adjustments.

The resulting design is very similar to the five central-auditorium plans built between 1927 and 1933. The major difference with the Cedar Green School and also the Deerfield School built around the same time was that these were frame rather than brick veneer. In plan, however, the form displays the projecting classroom wings on each side of a recessed auditorium. The main entrance leads directly into the auditorium, as with these other later examples. This particular school included a stage behind the auditorium and two bathrooms behind the stage. On the main floor, the classroom wings contain three rooms on the west and two rooms on the east with a small office in the front of the east wing. The partial basement, located below the west room, incorporates two rooms, one used as a classroom and one as a lunchroom.

Cedar Green's stylistic features are also similar to these later brick schools. The projecting entrance portico and steeply pitched roof suggest the Neocolonial influences of the 1920s. Changes in fenestration have been the only exterior alterations. The American Legion has blocked in the three sash on each side of the front entrance as well as some windows on the classroom wings, but the fenestration pattern remains clearly visible. The building rests on a concrete foundation and retains a pressed tin roof.

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Statement of Significance:

The Augusta County Training School, locally called Cedar Green School, was the first consolidated school larger than two rooms built for black students in Augusta County. While most of the consolidated white schools were being built in the 1910s and 1920s, it was not until 1938 that a similar school was constructed for black students. Although the Cedar Green School has been remodeled inside into an American Legion Hall, the exterior form has not been dramatically altered. With its associated contemporary shop building and 1950s classroom addition, the Cedar Green School remains an important landmark in the history of rural black education in the County.

The concept of a "training School" which would focus on industrial education for blacks developed in the 1910s. Yet, historian William Link notes that these schools lost much of their original idealism by the 1920s. This clearly proved to be the case in Augusta County, since this school offered only token amounts of industrial education, mainly carpentry and manual arts with a little agriculture and home economics. Indeed, Cedar Green assumed the character of the other local consolidated schools, with the absence of some of the equipment and facilities like libraries found in white schools. Yet Augusta County turned down a request by local residents to name the school after a local man who had donated considerable amounts of time, wanting to call it instead the County Training School.

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Geographic Data/Acreage: two and one-third acres

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point on N side of VA 693 approx. 900' NE of intersection of said route with VA 704; thence extending approx. 300' NNW; thence (continued)  
Boundary Justification: The bounds have been drawn to include the school complex, including the main classroom building, an industrial arts/agricultural shop, and a primary (continued)  
UTM: 17/663700/4223550

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Prepared By: Ann McCleary, Architectural Historian

Date Prepared: September 1984

Physical Description continued

Despite its remodeling into a lodge hall, many of the interior characteristics remain to suggest its educational function. The large auditorium and stage have wood floors, plaster walls, and plasterboard ceilings. The partitions for the two front classrooms on the west and front classroom and office on the east have been removed, opening these rooms into the auditorium. The northwest room has been remodeled into a kitchen while the northeast room has been altered the least. The plasterboard wainscoting has been retained in most rooms, but wallpaper has been added on the walls.

The shop building east of the main school, built in the early 1940s, retains much of its original character and integrity. The long rectangular frame building, underpinned with cinder-blocks, incorporates two classrooms on the west end and a shop to the east. The two classrooms were used for carpentry, manual training, and later home economics classes. Both classrooms were finished with plasterboard wainscoting and ceiling and plaster walls, and still have some of the chalkboards. The shop room has the concrete floors and unfinished walls and ceiling usually found in such buildings. On the exterior, the original small gabled porticos still shelter the entrance into each of the classrooms.

The two-room cinderblock classroom addition was constructed in the early 1950s by the Phillipi Brothers. Now used for storage, these rooms originally housed the first grades.

The two-room school built at this site in 1927 was later converted to a home economics building and eventually razed in the early 1950s.

Statement of Significance continued

Cedar Green School is centrally located in the County in a black community on the southwestern edge of Staunton. The County had built a two-room school here in 1927 on land donated by a black patron. As the need for a new, larger school building became apparent, the County Maintenance Department, responsible for school construction, drew upon the familiar central-auditorium plan popular in the County in the late 1920s and early 1930s. G. G. Shaver and Kellis Bibb, who built most of the county schools after 1927, headed the building crew for this school as well. However, local black citizens contributed much of the land and labor for this building.

Cedar Green School had several related buildings for more specialized use. The older two-room building was retained and remodeled for the Home Economics Department. An additional frame building was constructed for two classrooms and shop space for manual arts and agriculture. In the 1950s, the increased enrollment led to the construction of a two-classroom cinderblock building. Since this school relied heavily on busing, the County built a frame garage which housed twelve buses. Only the shop and cinderblock classroom addition remain.

When the school opened, instruction was provided in all the elementary grades and the first two years of high school. One of the largest county schools, Cedar Green had between 250 and 300 students. To complete high school, students would attend Booker T. Washington School in Staunton. Black students were bused here from all around the County. A 1949 insurance survey indicates that only three additional black schools were being used at that time--two-room schools at Craigsville, Lipscomb, and Round Hill. With the construction of a new black high school in Augusta County, the Cedar Green School became an elementary school. Cedar Green was closed with the integration of Augusta County Schools in 1964. After remaining vacant for several years, the American Legion purchased the building in 1966 and remodeled it for their lodge.

Verbal Boundary Description continued

approx. 350' NE; thence approx. 350' SSE; thence approx. 350' WSW along N side of VA 693 to point of origin.

Boundary Justification continued

classroom building, along with the immediate school yard, which covers the site of the home economics classroom and an earlier school building.

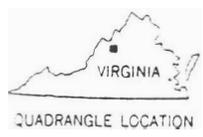
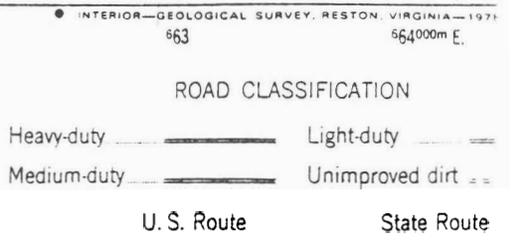
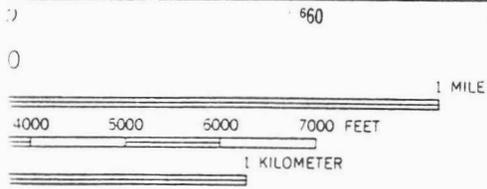
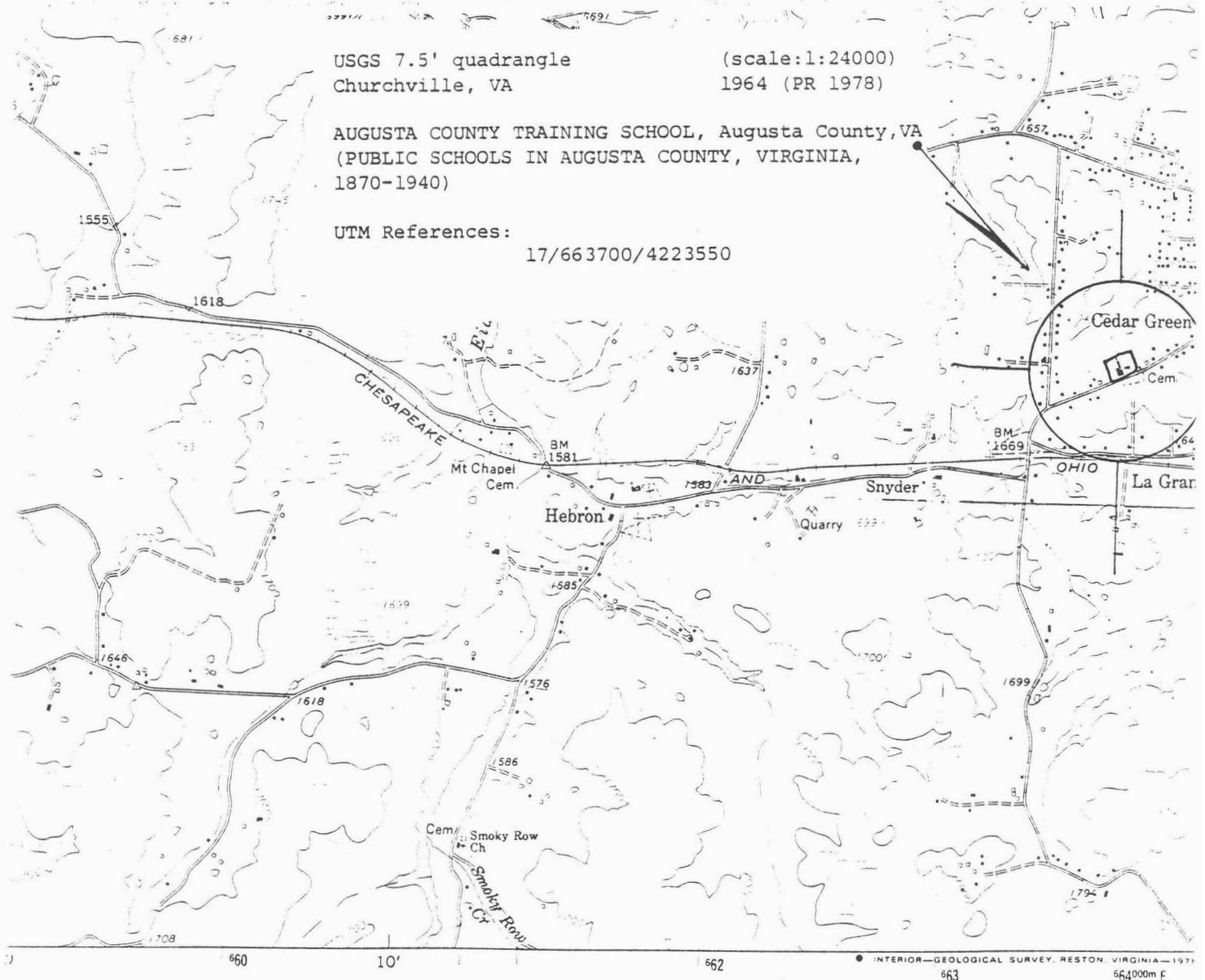
USGS 7.5' quadrangle  
Churchville, VA

(scale:1:24000)  
1964 (PR 1978)

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

UTM References:

17/663700/4223550



MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
Y, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
3, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903  
SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Boundary lines shown in purple compiled from latest  
information available from the controlling authority

**CHURCHVILLE**  
N3807.5—W7907.5  
1964  
PHOTOREVISED  
AMS 5160 II NW—SERIS