

**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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

LISTED  
VLR 9/15/2016  
NRHP 11/22/2016

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name: Locustville Academy  
 Other names/site number: DHR #001-0103  
 Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**2. Location**

Street & number: 28055 Drummondtown Road  
 City or town: Locustville State: Virginia County: Accomack  
 Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
 I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria.  
 I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following  
 level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   X   local  
 Applicable National Register Criteria:  
  X   A     B   X   C     D

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of certifying official/Title:** **Date**  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of commenting official:** **Date**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Title :** **State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government**

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: School

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Folk Victorian

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD; BRICK; ASPHALT

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

Locustville Academy, constructed about 1859, stands on a .49-acre parcel located a quarter-mile north of the unincorporated village of Locustville, in Accomack County, Virginia. The Locustville Academy building, facing south and away from Drummondtown Road, is a Folk Victorian-style frame, two-story building that has small traces of vernacular Greek Revival elements, such as corner boards, a box cornice, plain, austere exterior, and a front-gable entry façade. The school stands on an enclosed brick pier foundation and is covered by a front-gable roof. One significant feature of the Academy is its one-story enclosed belfry, topped by a pyramidal roof, which is sited on the roof's ridge, slightly recessed from the façade. The school's exterior is intact and well-maintained, as is its interior. When the Academy reopened in 1908 after a nearly thirty-year hiatus, its interior had been "reconditioned" the previous year by renovations, without changing the building's two-schoolroom interior plan. Its character remains that of a nineteenth-century rural academy, from its two-story format to the well-lit interior classrooms whose wall sheathing above the chair rail was painted to facilitate as blackboards. The property has two contributing resources, the Academy building and a water pump; a privy on the property postdates the period of significance and therefore is non-contributing. Locustville Academy retains a high integrity of location and setting, as its surroundings remain rural. The building's integrity of design, workmanship, and materials is high as well and, along with setting and location, enhance the integrity of feeling and association.

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#### Narrative Description

##### Setting

Locustville Academy's parcel is bounded by open agricultural fields to its east and south; to the north is a small road that has a small easement into the parcel (Leda Justis Drive). To the east of

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the parcel boundary is a circa-1980 dwelling; both road and house are screened from the school by tall trees and plantings. Its west boundary is Drummondtown Road (Route 605), across from which is the 1923 Locustville Methodist Church, a frame building that faces east. Within the Locustville Academy parcel are the Academy building; a two-room outhouse; a small well pump; mature pine and oak trees, and a few flowering plants and shrubs.

### **Locustville Academy: Contributing Building**

Locustville Academy is a frame, two-bay, two-and-a-half story schoolhouse constructed circa 1859. Its Folk Victorian style contains small traces of vernacularly-derived Greek Revival elements, such as beaded corner boards, a box cornice, plain, austere exterior, and a front-gable entry façade. Folk Victorian-style features include plain, molded exterior window surrounds, the Academy's pyramidal "witch's cap" belfry roof, and mass-manufactured interior elements such as reeded door and window surrounds and embossed corner blocks. The building, which is three bays deep and measures approximately 30 feet by 26 feet, rests upon a now-enclosed masonry foundation, and is covered by a front-gable roof with asphalt shingles. A view of the crawl space shows that the enclosure is of concrete block, faced with brick, completed in the mid-twentieth century. The building's hewn and sash-sawn joists and sills, nearly all of which appear to be original, are supported by brick and replacement concrete block piers. The school's foundation was enclosed and updated in the 1970s but original joists and sills are still in place.

The Academy's braced-frame construction is sheathed by nearly all original beaded wooden weatherboards (probably cypress) at its west, north, and east elevations, and these weatherboards are secured by cut nails, where not replaced. The weatherboard cladding at the façade dates from the twentieth century, but has been carefully rendered to resemble the other elevations. The elevations are framed by beaded, single-board corner boards.

Original fenestration patterns are intact, as are door and window surrounds; the single door on the façade has a plain board surround, and windows at all elevations have a mitred ovolo surround, except for the façade's attic window, which, like the door, is a plain board surround. Remnants of mounts at the surrounds indicate the presence of earlier shutters. In keeping with Greek Revival style, the first floor windows are more elongated than those of the second floor. The side elevations (east and west) are symmetrically pierced by three windows at each floor, and the north elevation by one center window at the first and second floors. The Academy's first-period window sash, dating from 1859-1879, are not on the premises and the current windows, which are two-over-two, double-hung wood sash, date from the school's 1907-1908 renovation. However, the earliest known documentary photograph of the school, taken in the late 1950s by John William Robertson, shows a six-over-six, double-hung wood sash in the attic window [Robertson 1962, 114].

The Academy's gabled roof is covered by replacement asphalt shingles and secured with a box cornice. A truncated brick chimney stack rises from the east gable's slope, between the center and northernmost window. One significant feature of the Academy is its one-story enclosed belfry, topped by a pyramidal roof with flared eaves, which is sited on the roof's ridge, slightly recessed from the façade. A 1960s photograph shows that the belfry's peak once had a wooden

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spire [Robertson 1962, 114]. The belfry is clad with beaded weatherboard siding and has a box cornice. All four sides of the belfry have a louvered opening. Inside, the walls of the belfry are sheathed with vertical manufactured beaded board and painted, but the apparatus for a bell, and the bell itself, are no longer in place. The belfry was likely added during the 1907 refurbishment as it is similar to others in the region on buildings that date to the late nineteenth through early twentieth centuries.

A circa-1980 wood stair and ramp provide access to the primary façade's entry, which is now filled by a single-leaf, elaborate, Italianate-style, molded four-panel door. Between 2014 and 2015, this door replaced what is thought to be the Academy's original door, a six-paneled "cross-and-bible" wooden door [Reiger 2016]. The entrance opening is surmounted by a single-pane glass transom, which is thought to be original. There are no other openings on the primary façade's first floor. Two windows are on the façade's second story, above which is the aforementioned attic window.

The Academy's only entrance opens into a small vestibule and a stairway, both lighted by the overhead entrance transom and the two upper-level sash windows. The straight-run stair, approximately five feet wide, joins the front wall to the east of the entrance door. At its termination, a landing leads to the second-floor classroom. The present stair rails and their brackets date from circa 1980. The vestibule and stairway's north and south walls are sheathed with vertical tongue-and-groove sheathing, and its east and west walls have wide manufactured beaded board. Below this, on all four walls, is a plain chair rail and vertical-board wainscot. Both classroom entrances at the first and second floor are filled by single-leaf, four-panel doors, and their surrounds are plain with central, vertical beading, and "bull's eye" corner blocks. Each entrance retains a hinged, single-pane transom.

Features of the first-floor classroom begin with a chamfered wood beam that runs from north to south at the room's center. It is supported by two metal posts. The room, approximately 25 feet deep and 26 feet wide, has manufactured beaded-board walls and ceiling, with a molded chair rail. Wainscoting below the chair rail varies; along the room's south wall, it is comprised of vertical beaded boards, placed there at the turn of the twentieth century. The other three walls' wainscoting is circa 1859 and consists of flush boards, some of which are marked by students' gouged initials. Above the chair rail and between windows, all four interior walls have painted sections that served as chalkboards for the class; this is also true for the second-floor classroom. Former students from the 1920s recalled such chalkboards being in the classrooms, and it is thought that the painted chalkboards were re-enhanced during the Academy's 1970s restoration [Reiger 2016]. The first-floor classroom has a replica iron stove. Its original flue, sheathed by vertical beaded boards, is still located on the east wall and connected to a twentieth-century oil stove. A former closet at the room's southeast corner was converted in the early 1980s to serve as a small kitchen for museum events.

The second-floor classroom, which is utilized as the school's museum, is of nearly identical size to the downstairs classroom, with its closet located at the room's northwest corner. Its interior floor plan, fenestration, and finish is nearly identical to downstairs—including wall sheathing, flue, and wainscot placement—with the exception of a sloped, manufactured beaded-board

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ceiling, tapering at each corner. The ceiling does not have a support beam. One significant difference between the two rooms is that the second-floor classroom retains its teacher's platform centered upon the north window, approximately 8 feet wide, 4 feet deep, and 6 inches high. The blackboards now serve as exhibit space for documentary photographs of schoolchildren, former Academy teachers, and school papers. The northwest corner closet, which also has manufactured beaded-board siding but no wainscoting, has been reutilized as a small exhibit for Locustville's E. B. Swanger Store, an 1860s general store that also served as the town's post office until the 1980s. A small opening in the closet's ceiling leads to the attic story.

The attic is unfinished. Its support consists of circa-1850 circular-sawn rafters and half-dovetailed cross-braces pegged at the roof ridge. Not all framing members are circular-sawn, however; wall studs and corner posts are both circular-sawn and pit-sawn. Most of the wood is hardwood, probably poplar, and not pine. Newer, circular-sawn ceiling joists and indication of earlier interior lathing and plaster, show that the second-floor classroom ceiling was lowered one foot at the turn of the twentieth-century, and altered to its current appearance. The belfry cupola framing partly covers the original roof shingles; its interior is sheathed with vertical beaded board siding identical to the classrooms, and there is a small tongue-and-groove floor. Original access to the belfry is gone, and neither a bell, nor any sort of apparatus suggesting there was a bell, survives in place [Sandbeck 2016].

### **Outhouse: Non-Contributing Building**

A circa-1973 frame, two-room outhouse stands approximately fifty feet east of the Academy building. The outhouse, standing on an enclosed concrete-block foundation, is clad in plain weatherboards with corner boards, and has a single-pitch roof with a box cornice, covered by asphalt shingles. Its two-bay façade is filled by single-leaf, horizontal five-panel wood doors, each framed by a plain wood surround with a molded edge. The outhouse's north and south elevations each have a single-light hopper window located slightly above the door surround. Each window has a plain board surround. There are no windows at the east elevation. There is a small side-shed pump house attached to the south elevation. Although the building looks as though it could have been constructed in the twentieth century's first quarter and utilizes older materials, such as the doors, it was constructed as a two-room outhouse between 1973 and 1974 for visitors, but has not been used since 2000, due to its septic field being displaced by a neighbor's new well [Reiger 2016].

### **Well: Contributing Structure**

Approximately fifteen feet southeast of the Academy is the school's well, which retains a pump dating from the early twentieth century. The iron pump's handle and connecting rod are gone, but part of its spout remains in place. The pump stand is enclosed by T1-11 siding.

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## 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.
- 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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1859-1926

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1859

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

As an intact example of a nineteenth-century rural academy, with many original interior and exterior elements, still within a traditional, rural setting, and the only such school known to survive within the Eastern Shore's Accomack County, Locustville Academy is significant under Criterion C at the local level in the area of Architecture, and under Criterion A, likewise at the local level, in the area of Education. Constructed circa 1859, Locustville Academy served its seaside rural community as a local school from 1859 to 1879 and then reopened in 1908, teaching local students until Accomack County schools consolidated in 1926. As such, its period of significance extends from 1859 to 1926, encompassing the period of its construction and educational history.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Criterion A: Education**

In December 1800, heirs of deceased landowner Thomas Bagwell created a half-acre property at the intersection of the seaside road (now Drummondtown Road) and a no-longer-extant road to a local wharf on Burton's Bay [Turman 1977, 1]. Widow Peggy Bagwell and her son Isaac deeded this parcel to five local trustees to build a Methodist church and a school "for the benefit of the neighbors." The Bagwell family had lived in this agrarian and maritime community since their direct ancestor had purchased a 400-acre tract within Locustville's future premises in 1668 [Turman 1977, 1]. The grantees, Asa Shield, Robert Ashby, James Shield, Parker Copes, and James Ashby, were entrusted to erect a single building that was "fit to preach and teach a school in," with the provision that "when the said house is no longer fit to preach and teach school in, the said piece of ground shall return to the heirs of the land from which it was taken" [ACLR, DB 1817-1818, 93]. The deed was officially recorded in July 1817.

This was a step away from what had been the common practice for eighteenth-century primary education on Virginia's Eastern Shore, that of the "old field school," whereby a group of neighboring landowners and farmers would employ a teacher for their children, using an existing, vacant building in the community for that purpose [Wise 1968, 45]. But Accomack County citizens were increasingly desirous to secure superior education for their offspring; Margaret Academy, a private school for boys near Onancock, chartered in 1787 for that purpose, was instructing its pupils in Greek, Latin, and English grammar by 1807 [Wise, *ibid.*; ACEA 1963, 5]. The early Locustville school was likely run by the Methodist pastor, but church minutes that would confirm this are lost [SPLA 1980]. By 1852, a surveyor's sketch indicates that there were two buildings on the parcel; the "Methodist Episcopal Church," a larger building, was located at the intersection of Drummondtown Road and the "Road Leading Down the Neck," and a smaller "School House" stood to its east [ACLR 1852].

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In 1846, Virginia's state assembly enacted legislature with far-reaching effects that would change statewide education, and this had direct results on the Eastern Shore. On February 25 of that year, the Assembly passed a bill whereby communities in the state could form school districts and fund them by local taxes. These school districts served only white students, as it was illegal to teach enslaved African Americans to read and write, and free blacks did not attend schools with whites. Schools for white and black children, although separate, would not be established until the state Constitution of 1869 [Salmon and Campbell 1994, 257]. Pungoteague Academy on Accomack County's bayside came out of the 1846 legislation, as well as an academy on Tangier Island in the Chesapeake Bay [ACEA 1963, 6]. In 1847 Accomack County formed twenty-six school districts for the purpose of creating schools; Locustville was within St. George Parish's District Two [Turman 1977, 2]. So many districts within such a relatively small county may not have proved efficient for creating schools, however; in 1853, after Accomack County was divided into six magisterial districts, a corollary was created whereby magisterial districts could levy taxes for schools within their boundaries [Turman 1977, *ibid*; ACEA 1963, 6].

Another key piece of legislation was in March 1856, when the General Assembly designated local magisterial districts to charter academies [Turman 1977, *ibid.*]. Shortly thereafter, a group of local farmers and businessmen, including one attorney, secured a charter for Locustville Academy between 1857 and 1858 and began raising funds by private subscription [*ibid.*]. The present-day building, a braced-frame edifice measuring 30 by 26 feet, was built in the middle of the lot by 1859, before the Academy opened its doors that October [*ibid.*]. The original teachers for that first session have not been definitely identified, although an A.S. Fureron, a school teacher from Chesterfield County, Virginia, who was boarding with Locustville merchant S. S. Parramore in 1860, is a likely suspect as he is the only school teacher listed in the Locustville area [1860 Census].

The 1857-1858 charter for the school has not been located, nor have early prospectuses, but the surviving 1862-1863 school year prospectus for Locustville Academy's fourth session lists John A. Graves as Principal and his sister Mary Z. Graves as Principal of the Female Department, with Stephen C. Brown as Professor of Ancient and Modern Languages [Turman 1977, Appendix 4]. The three teachers divided the fourth session into "two terms of five months each," the first running from October until February, and the second from March to late July. Curriculum was organized with "common English Branches," or basic skills such as spelling, reading, writing, and math, for \$5.00 per term, or approximately \$120.00 in today's currency [Turman, *ibid*; Manuel 2015]. Higher-level curriculum including Geography, Grammar, History, and Philosophy, came to \$8.00 per term, and the overall total for "Latin, Greek, French, and Higher Mathematics" came to \$20.00. Additional courses included instruction on the pianoforte or melodeon (small pump organ), and drawing [Turman, *ibid.*]. The prospectus did not state which courses were specifically oriented to males or females. According to oral history, the female students used the first-floor classroom and the male students the upper classroom [Turman 1977, 3].

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In 1860, John A. Graves and his sister were employed as teachers at a school in Berlin, Maryland, fifty-nine miles north in Worcester County [1860 Census]. By 1862, they had their positions at Locustville Academy, where they continued to teach till December 1863, in spite of the disruptions of the Civil War following the Union Army's occupation of the Eastern Shore of Virginia on November 17, 1861 [VFH 2011, 2]. But on March 10, 1864, Mary Z. Graves wrote Major General Benjamin F. Butler, who oversaw the Eastern Shore military district for the Union, regarding the Oath of Allegiance mandatory for the district's citizens:

My school has been closed since Christmas, because as I understood the oath required of us, I could not conscientiously take it. Having heard since then that one of your officers explains the oath as meaning simply that we *consent* to the acts of the United States government, and pledge *passive obedience* to the same, I take the liberty of addressing this to you to ascertain if you so construe the oath. I cannot understand how a woman can "support, protect and defend the Union," except by speaking or writing in favor of the present war, which I could never do, because my sympathies are with the South.

If by those words you understand merely *passive submission*, I am ready to take the oath, and abide by it sacredly.

Butler's March 14 reply was scathing. Beginning with "I am truly sorry that any Union officer of mine has attempted to fritter away the effect of the oath of allegiance to the government of the United States, and to inform you that it means nothing more than passive obedience to the same," he concluded his letter more or less confirming that the school would continue to be closed so long as her support was with the South [Kirkland 81-82].

Locustville Academy was open again by September 1865, according to a receipt in the Academy's collection [Turman 1977, Appendix 4]. In 1869-1870, Locustville resident John Edmonds taught at the Academy, then started Accomack County's newspaper, *The Peninsula Enterprise* [US 1870 Census; Turman 1977, 5]. Mary Z. Graves continued her teaching career there as well, returning to Locustville Academy for the 1870-1871 term as Principal of the Female Department, before becoming a teacher-missionary in the Dakota territory [Locustville Academy Collection; Alexander 1994, 181]. Although Virginia's Reconstruction Era included reforms such as the 1869 "Underwood" constitution, whereby separate public schools were established statewide for African Americans, whites, and Virginia's American Indian children, Locustville Academy, which continued in operation until the spring of 1879, apparently remained a private school, financed by subscriptions [Turman 1977, 4; Von Lindern 2016, 11].

The Methodist church on the Academy parcel was vacated in 1876, when a new sanctuary was constructed on the west side of Drummondtown Road. In 1878, the former church building was let to the Order of Good Templars and used as a "Temperance Hall" in the 1880s and 1890s while the former school stood empty [ACCC]. On September 1, 1907, the Lee Magisterial District School Trustees filed a condemnation petition in order to acquire the Academy site and its building for a public school; a September 1907 plat drawn by Fred Ruediger, the county

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surveyor, showed the Academy building and, to its northwest, the old Methodist church building, which was destroyed shortly thereafter [ACCC] (Figure 1).

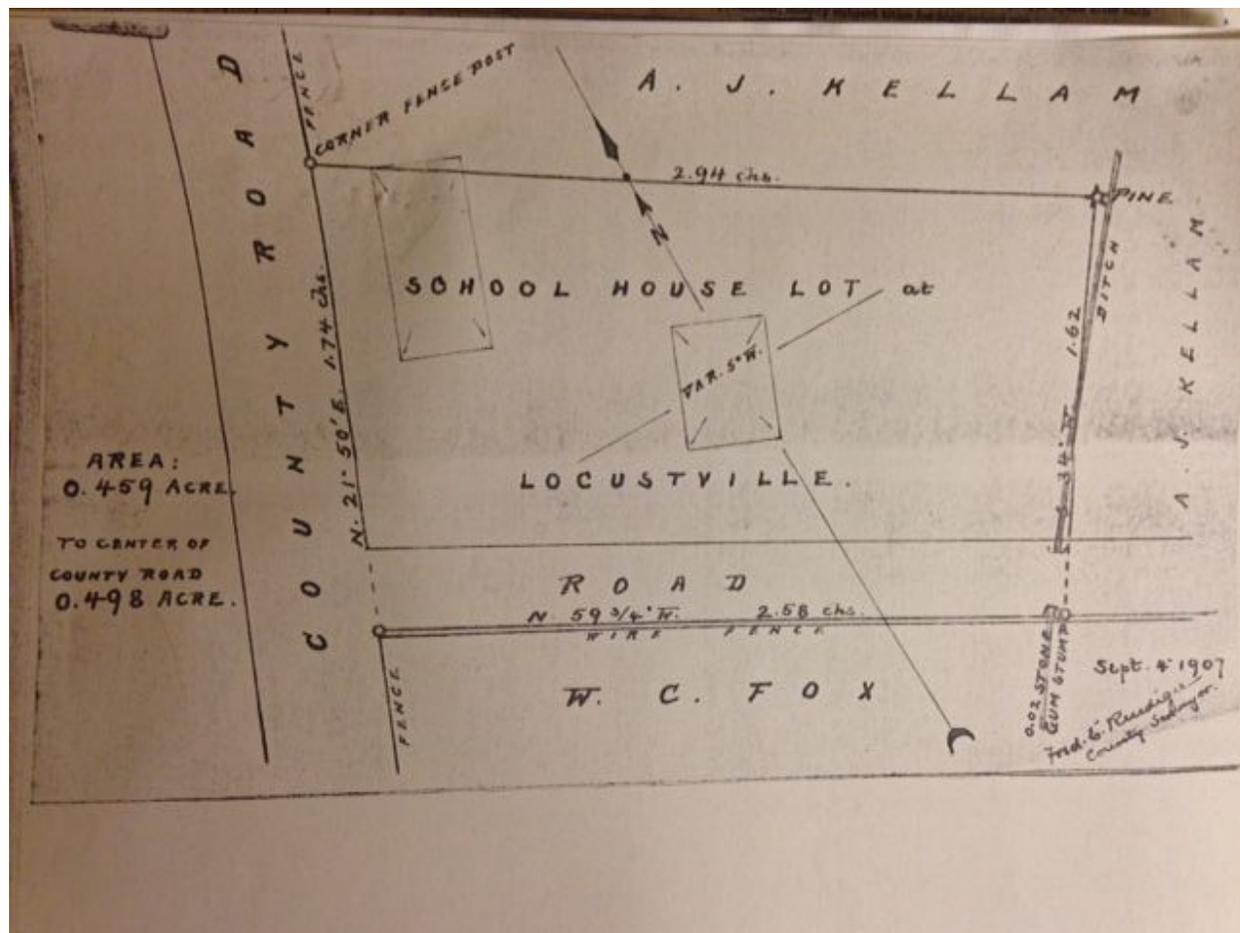


Figure 1. Locustville Academy, September 1907 plat drawn by Fred Ruediger.

According to Eastern Shore historian Nora Miller Turman, the Academy building was “reconditioned” between 1907 and 1908, and open for school that fall [Turman 1977, 5]. Locustville Academy remained in use as a public school until 1926. The students were white children of local residents; legislation at the turn of the century had expanded the state’s public school system, but enshrined Jim Crow segregation in all aspects of Virginia life, including segregated schools that served white, black, and Virginia Indian students.

When the Accomack school system converted from magisterial districts to county units in 1922, the Accomack County School Board became the sole owner of the Academy [ACLR, DB 127:159]. Four years later on May 12, 1926, the Accomack County School Board voted to close the Locustville School and transfer the pupils to Onley [Turman 1977, 6]. During the subsequent forty-seven years, although still owned by the school board, the Academy building was initially maintained and used as a social hall for the Methodist Church, as well as a community gathering

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place [Turman 1977, 6]. After the church ceased using the school building, neighbors maintained the grounds and kept the building painted [ibid.].

On November 21, 1972, a group of Accomack County citizens and former Locustville Academy students met at Locustville Methodist Church to discuss restoring the Academy building. This meeting proved productive; nearly a year later, on December 13, 1973, the Accomack County School Board deeded the .49-acre parcel to the Society for the Preservation of Locustville Academy (SPLA), who still own and operate the building; the former Methodist chapel was no longer standing by this time [Turman 1977, 6, 7]. To date, the SPLA have stabilized and restored the building, created temporary and permanent exhibits regarding the history of the school, and opened the building for tours and special events.

### **Criterion C: Architecture**

Of several documented nineteenth-century schools on Virginia's Eastern Shore—including Margaret Academy, Harborton School, Craddockville School, Pungoteague Academy, and the Atlantic Female Academy—Locustville Academy is the only extant building of this group. It is remarkable for having retained its original form, and nearly all of its original exterior cladding, as well as its interior rooms and elements. Although it was a public school from 1908 until its 1926 closure, Locustville Academy remains particularly significant as a rare, extant example of an antebellum nineteenth-century rural academy east of the Chesapeake Bay. Compared to images of Margaret Academy, shown in an early twentieth-century photograph as a transitional Georgian-Federal style, two-story, five-bay brick building with a basement story and a hipped roof, Locustville Academy is more modest [Mariner 2008, 54]. Documentary photographs of the no-longer-extant Harborton School (c. 1882) or Craddockville School (c. 1902) show them to be designed from prescriptive plans of the period, comparable to suggested designs seen in Virginia's *Fifth Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction* on pages 88 and 111, with less of a vernacular appearance [Mariner 2008, 35, 47].

The property, given that it includes part of the original site of the circa 1817 Locustville Methodist Church and a nineteenth-century road trace along the parcel's south border, may have potential archaeological resources, but it is not known how intact these resources are, given the changes over time, such as small alterations to the land with the inception of Vida Justis Lane and that the road trace is now part of an agricultural tract.

Physical alterations to Locustville Academy have not impacted its integrity, as they have been sensitively done, and with its essential integrity in mind. In 2011, the roof was replaced and small repairs made to the belfry [Reiger 2015]. The school's foundation was enclosed and updated in the 1970s but original joists and sills are still in place.

Locustville Academy has no counterparts, or comparable school buildings, in either Accomack or neighboring Northampton County. Comparable buildings can be found further afield, however, on Maryland's lower Eastern Shore. Constructed around 1865, Fairmount Academy, located in Somerset County, Maryland, is a frame, Italianate-style two-story schoolhouse with a

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comparable interior plan and exterior belfry [Touart 1990, 122; Touart 1983]. Other extant, nineteenth-century schoolhouses, such as Worcester County's Mt. Zion Schoolhouse, tend to be smaller and more modest. Mt. Zion was moved from its original rural location to Snow Hill, Maryland, in 1959 [Touart 1994, 352]. As with Locustville Academy, Fairmount Academy remains on its original location.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Locustville Academy  
Name of Property

Accomack County, VA  
County and State

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\_\_\_\_\_. 1860 Population Schedule for Locustville Post Office, St. George's Township, Accomack County, VA (A. S. Fureron in Smithy S. Parramore household, 406/442).

\_\_\_\_\_, 1870 Population Schedule for St. George's, Locust Mount Township, Accomack County, VA (John W. Edmonds, 1073/1110).

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Wise, Henry A. *Yesteryears on the Eastern Shore*. Onancock, VA: The Eastern Shore News, Inc., 1968.

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

Locustville Academy  
Name of Property

Accomack County, VA  
County and State

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA; Locustville Academy, Accomack County

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR No. 001-0103

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** .49 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- 1. Latitude: 37.657950 Longitude: -75.675150
- 2. Latitude: Longitude:
- 3. Latitude: Longitude:
- 4. Latitude: Longitude:

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- 1. Zone: Easting: Northing:
- 2. Zone: Easting: Northing:
- 3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
- 4. Zone: Easting: Northing:

Locustville Academy  
Name of Property

Accomack County, VA  
County and State

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic boundary of Locustville Academy encompasses all of Accomack County tax parcel 103A-A-33. This .49-acre parcel is all of the land historically associated with the school. The true and correct boundaries are shown on the attached Location Map and Tax Parcel Map.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is drawn to encompass the historic setting, the school building, and surrounding land that has historically been part of Locustville Academy since 1859.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Penne Sandbeck  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: 2404 Bane Road  
city or town: Efland state: NC zip code: 27243  
e-mail: penne.sandbeck8@gmail.com  
telephone: 919-621-5500  
date: 5-11-2016

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Locustville Academy  
Name of Property

Accomack County, VA  
County and State

Name of Property: Locustville Academy

City or Vicinity: Locustville

County: Accomack State: Virginia

Photographer: Penne Sandbeck (and Peter Sandbeck , where asterisked)

Date Photographed: April 9, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

**Photo 1 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0001  
**View:** Exterior, facade of Academy (south) and west elevation oblique (camera pointed to north-northeast)

**Photo 2 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0002  
**View:** Exterior, facade of Academy(south) and east elevations (camera pointed to northwest)

**Photo 3 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0003  
**View:** Exterior, Academy, west elevation (camera pointed to east)

**Photo 4 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0004  
**View:** Exterior, Academy, north elevation (camera pointed to south)

**Photo 5 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0005  
**View:** Exterior, Academy, belfry, west and south elevations

**Photo 6 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0006  
**View:** Exterior, Academy, façade, entrance bay (camera pointed to north)

**Photo 7 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0007  
**View:** Exterior, Academy, west elevation , first floor window (camera pointed to east)

**Photo 8 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0008  
**View:** Exterior, Academy, north and west elevations, corner board (camera pointed to southeast)

Locustville Academy  
Name of Property

Accomack County, VA  
County and State

- Photo 9 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0009  
**View:** Academy, Interior, hall stair to second floor landing  
(camera pointed to east)
- Photo 10 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0010  
**View:** Academy, Interior, hall stair to first floor vestibule  
(camera pointed to west)
- Photo 11 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0011  
**View:** Academy, Interior, first floor, north and east walls  
(camera pointed to northeast)
- Photo 12 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0012  
**View:** Academy, Interior, first floor, south wall  
(camera pointed to southeast)
- Photo 13 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0013  
**View:** Academy, Interior, first floor, north and east wall, supports  
(camera pointed to east)
- Photo 14 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0014  
**View:** Academy, Interior, first floor, support beam, north wall terminus.  
(camera pointed to north)
- Photo 15 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0015  
**View:** Academy, Interior, first floor, west wall, student initials  
(camera pointed to west)
- Photo 16 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0016  
**View:** Academy, Interior, second floor, east wall, stair landing  
(camera pointed to east)
- Photo 17 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0017  
**View:** Academy, Interior, second floor, east wall, S end  
(camera pointed to east-southeast)
- Photo 18 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0018  
**View:** Academy, Interior, second floor, south wall  
(camera pointed to south)
- Photo 19 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0019  
**View:** Academy, Interior, second floor, north wall  
(camera pointed to north-northeast)

Locustville Academy  
Name of Property

Accomack County, VA  
County and State

- Photo 20 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0020  
**View:** Academy, Interior, second floor, west wall  
(camera pointed to west)
- Photo 21 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0021  
**View:** Academy, Interior, second floor, detail of teacher platform  
(camera pointed to north)
- Photo 22 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0022\*  
**View:** Academy, Interior, attic, detail of former second floor classroom ceiling  
(camera pointed to west)
- Photo 23 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0023\*  
**View:** Academy, Interior, attic, detail of ca. 1860 roof shingles  
(camera pointed to west)
- Photo 24 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0024\*  
**View:** Academy, Interior, attic, framing of roof  
(camera pointed to north)
- Photo 25 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0025\*  
**View:** Academy, Interior, attic, half-dovetailed collarbeams  
(camera pointed to northwest)
- Photo 26 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0026\*  
**View:** Academy, Interior, attic, belfry ceiling and openings  
(camera pointed to southeast)
- Photo 27 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0027  
**View:** Outhouse, Exterior, west elevation  
(camera pointed to east)
- Photo 28 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0028  
**View:** Outhouse, Exterior, south elevation  
(camera pointed to north)
- Photo 29 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0029  
**View:** Outhouse, Exterior, south and east elevations  
(camera pointed to northwest)
- Photo 30 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0030  
**View:** Outhouse, Exterior, north and west elevations  
(camera pointed to southeast)

Locustville Academy  
Name of Property

Accomack County, VA  
County and State

**Photo 31 of 31:** VA\_AccomackCounty\_LocustvilleAcademy\_0031  
**View:** Well, Exterior, west and south elevations  
(camera pointed to northeast)

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

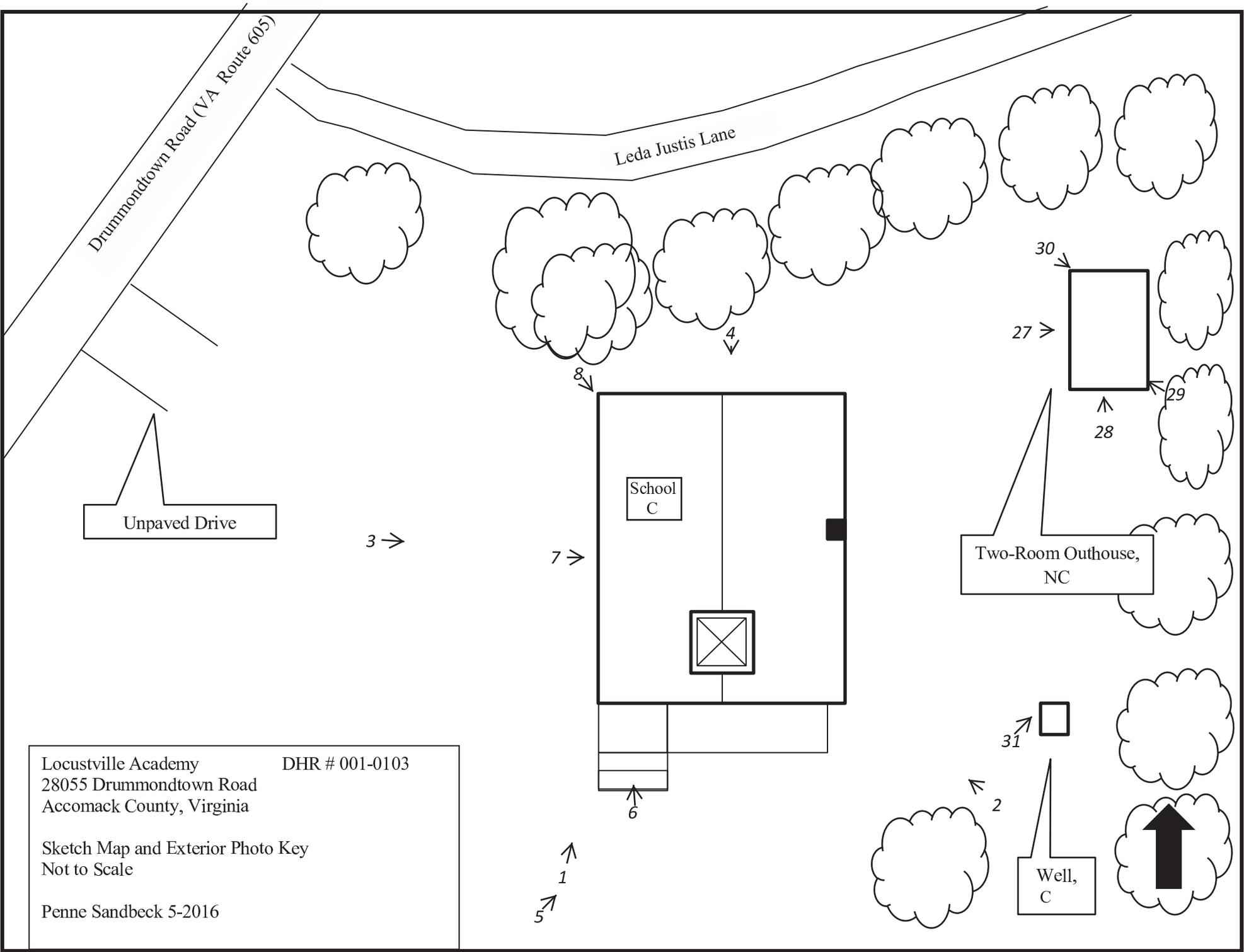


### Location Map

Locustville Academy  
DHR # 001-0103  
28055 Drummondtown Road, Locustville  
Accomack County, Virginia

Lat: 37.657950  
Lon: -75.675150

Scale: 1 inch = 50 feet



Leda Justis Lane

Drummondtown Road (VA Route 605)

Unpaved Drive

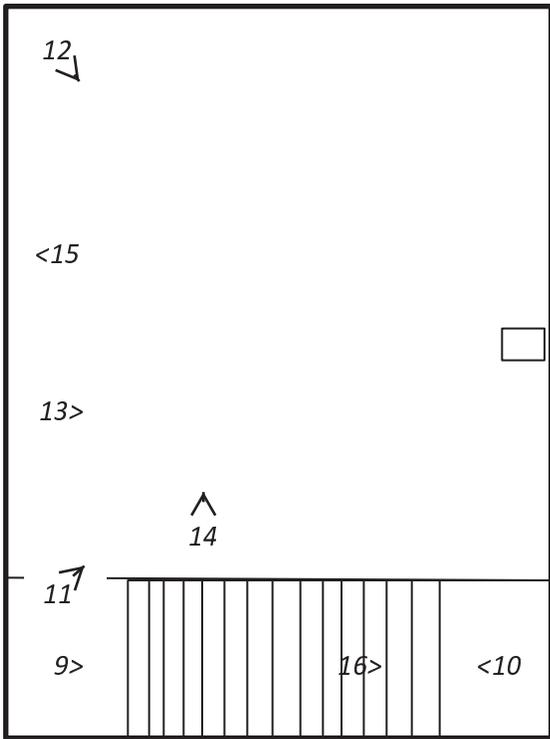
School C

Two-Room Outhouse, NC

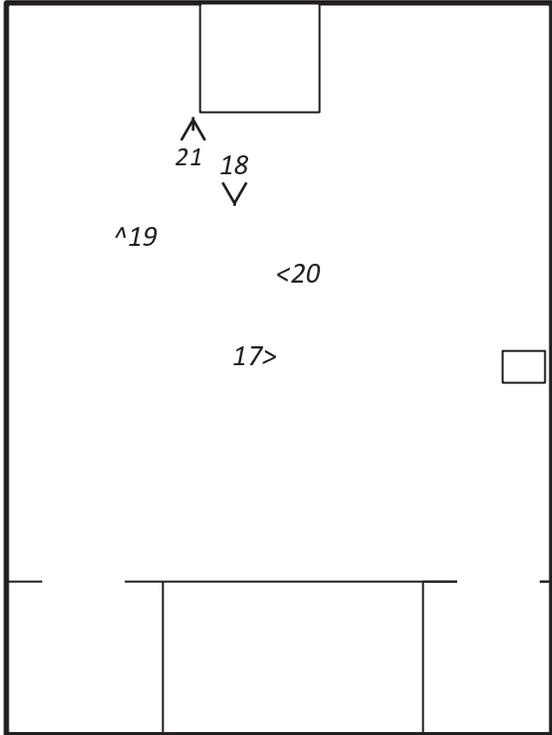
Well, C

Locustville Academy DHR # 001-0103  
 28055 Drummondtown Road  
 Accomack County, Virginia  
 Sketch Map and Exterior Photo Key  
 Not to Scale  
 Penne Sandbeck 5-2016

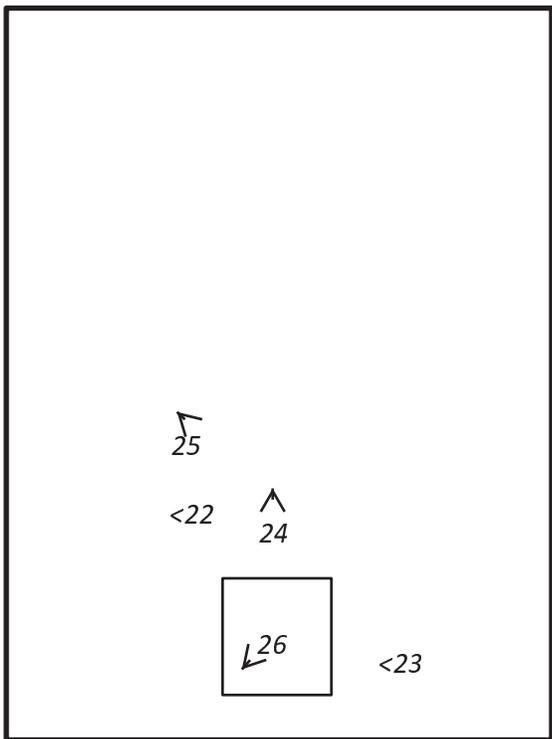
First Floor



Second Floor



Attic and Belfry Space

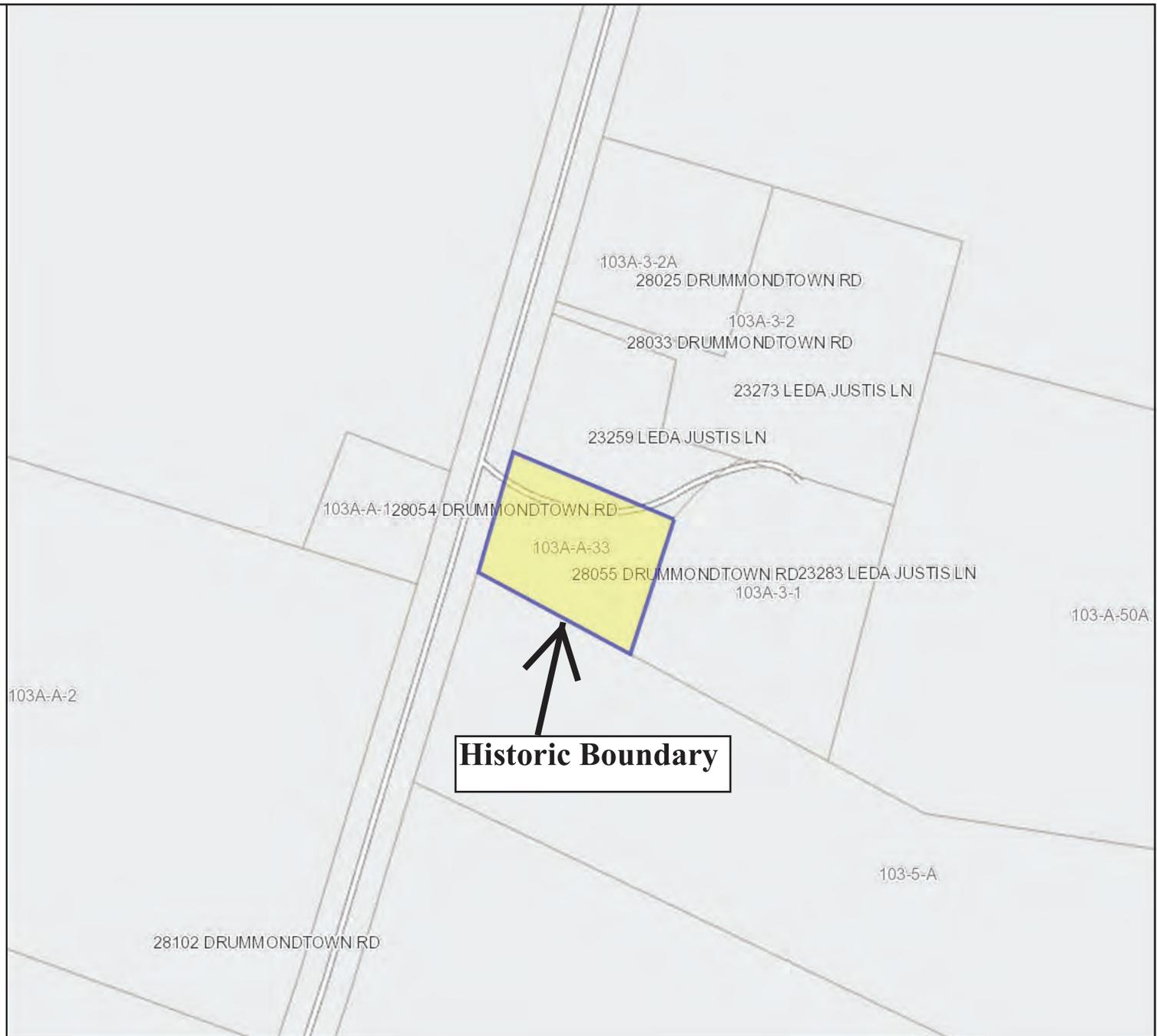


Locustville Academy      DHR  
 # 001-0103  
 28055 Drummondtown Road  
 Accomack County, Virginia

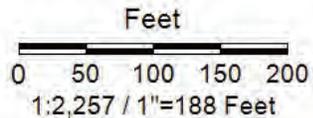
Interior Photo Key Map 5-2016  
 Penne Sandbeck      NTS

↑  
 N

**Tax Parcel Map  
Locustville Academy  
Accomack County, VA  
DHR No. 001-0103  
Parcel #103A-A-33**



Map Printed from AccoMap  
<http://accomack.mapsdirect.net/>



**Title: 28055 Drummondtown Road**

**Date: 6/9/2016**

*DISCLAIMER: This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as such. The information displayed is a compilation of records, information, and data obtained from various sources, and Accomack is not responsible for its accuracy or how current it may be.*