

VLR 3/13/02  
NR 4/23/03

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: Lovington High School

other names/site number: Lovington Elementary School DHR# 062-5003

#### 2. Location

street & number : 8445 Thomas Nelson Highway not for publication N/A  
city or town: Lovington vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state: Virginia code VA county: Nelson code 125 zip code: 22949

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide X locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
Signature of certifying official Date 4/23/03

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 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 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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 0 objects
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  0

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

NA

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: *Education* \_\_\_\_\_ Sub: *School* \_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: *Work in progress* \_\_\_\_\_ Sub: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Vacant* \_\_\_\_\_ Sub: \_\_\_\_\_**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

*Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revival/Colonial Revival*

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: *Concrete*  
Roof: *Slate/Modified Bitumen*  
Walls: *Brick*  
Other: *Wood windows, doors and trim*

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. **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 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 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

*Education* \_\_\_\_\_

*Architecture* \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1931-1951 \_\_\_\_\_ Significant Dates 1931-opening  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1932-first graduation  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1945(est.)-classroom addition

Significant Person  
 (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder *Architect: C.H. Hinnant, Lynchburg* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Builder: Monroe and Patterson*

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

Name of repository: Nelson County Historical Society

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 7 acres \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1.	17 686760	4180020	3.	_____
2.	_____	_____	4.	_____

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 Stephen K. von Storch/President

organization Stoneking/von Storch Architects date: 9.11.2001

street & number: P.O. Box 1332 telephone: <sup>434</sup>804.295.4204

city or town Charlottesville state: VA zip code: 22902

**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 Nelson County Community Development Foundation-The Nelson Center, L.P.

street & number P.O. Box 57 telephone 434-263-8074

city or town Lovingston state VA zip code 22949

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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   1  

**Lovingston High School  
Nelson County, Virginia**

---

**Summary Description:**

Lovingston High School in Nelson County, Virginia is a building of classically inspired proportion and detail. This familiar landmark's prominent location on Thomas Nelson Highway (Route 29) places the building in the public realm for both local residents as well as passersby. The handsome one-story Colonial Revival-style building is best described as a restrained Adam style. Features of this style are manifested most notably in the front pediment, oculus window and paneled entry doors topped with fanlight transoms and framed by open pediments. The building, opened in 1931 as the Lovingston High School, originally served grades one through eleven. The plan is comprised of a one-and-one-half-story main block with one-story wings facing Thomas Nelson Highway. This block contains three classrooms on the upper level and two classrooms, toilets and mechanical rooms in the basement. Behind this block a central auditorium with a stage and seven flanking classrooms completed the original building. Later additions to the rear include four additional classrooms (circa 1945) and a kitchen (1951). The classroom additions are similar in design, detail and construction to the original structure. The kitchen addition is of inferior design and construction and is not a contributing addition. There are four noncontributing sheds on the property.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   2  

**Lovingston High School  
Nelson County, Virginia**

**Narrative Description:**

The Lovingston High School building in Nelson County, Virginia was constructed in 1931 by Monroe and Patterson Contractors, according to plans prepared by C.H. Hinnant, Architect, of Lynchburg, Virginia. Its design is consistent with the standard plan for consolidated schools provided by the State Board of Education in 1921.<sup>1</sup> The design for Lovingston High School is similar to plans prepared by Mr. Hinnant for schools constructed during the same period in Nelson County at Schuyler (1925), Fleetwood (1934) and Rockfish (1939). A few of the plans for these schools—including final designs as well as preliminary versions—are extant and are available for research.

Lovingston High School is a one-story brick building in the Colonial Revival style. The model or standard plan provided by the State Board of Education and used at Lovingston includes a one-and-a-half-story main block on a partial raised basement. It is flanked by one-story wings. Within these spaces are five classrooms, three on the first floor, two in the basement. Behind the main block is a central auditorium or assembly room surrounded by seven classrooms. While the School Board standard plan provided for classroom exits opening directly on the schoolyard, this is not found at Lovingston High School perhaps owing to the sloping condition of the site.

The principal elevation at Lovingston High School is a symmetrical composition with doors, each with a fanlight transom framed by an open pediment, flanking a block of five windows. The central one-and-a-half story section has a gable end with detailed eave and raking cornice. The gable is accented with an oculus window. Light and ventilation are provided to all classrooms through identical five-unit, double-hung sash windows. The typical unit is six over six with 1½-inch muntin bars dividing a sash opening 7'-11" tall by 3'-5" wide. The units are trimmed with a 2-inch architrave at masonry openings and a 5¼-inch cast concrete sill. Exterior bearing walls are faced with ordinary brick laid in 6-course American bond. The building is entirely on crawl space or over basement. The sloping site reveals increasingly more of the basement level as one moves south. Both the front block and the auditorium/assembly room are roofed with Buckingham slate. The later additions are roofed with built-up asphaltic bitumen.

All of the floors in the 1931 classrooms and auditorium are maple. The typical classroom is fitted with chalkboards and tackboards on two sides. Closets and built-in bookcases once occupied an end wall of each classroom and a majority of this casework remains. Each of the original classrooms was provided with gravity ventilators located in the ceiling of the coat closets. This accounts for the typical closet door with bottom rail six inches above floor level. Entry doors to all classrooms and most offices are six-panel doors with operable transom windows.

The original stage, proscenium, curtain assembly and loft are in place in the auditorium/assembly room. The auditorium's original steel-sash clerestory windows were operated by a chain-pull system. These windows and operators are extant above a retrofitted dropped acoustic ceiling.

The basement is comprised of two classrooms, boys' and girls' toilet rooms, mechanical rooms and storage areas. Later additions to the rear of the building include four classrooms (circa 1945) and a kitchen (1951). The classroom addition is similar in design, detail and construction to the original structure. While it does not compromise the architectural character of the school, the kitchen addition is of inferior design and construction and is a noncontributing addition.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   3  

**Lovingston High School  
Nelson County, Virginia**

The school is set on a seven-acre parcel fronting Thomas Nelson Highway to the east. The property rises steadily westward toward the rear. The school lies in a narrow valley that surrounds the property on all sides. To the south of the school is a baseball field. Paved areas including a bus drop-off loop are in poor repair. Four accessory sheds serve the building. These are insignificant and noncontributing structures. A terraced green space on the north side of the building comprises the remaining open space between the school and the adjacent Nelson County Library.

**Endnotes for Section 7:**

1. Catherine C. Seaman, *A Brief Account of the History of Lovingston Elementary School*. (Nelson County Historical Society, 2000).
2. John Kern, *Thematic Evaluation of County Public School Buildings In Southwest Virginia*. (Roanoke: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2000).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   4  

**Lovingston High School  
Nelson County, Virginia**

**Summary Statement of Significance:**

Lovingston High School, built in 1931 in Nelson County, Virginia, replaced an earlier four-room frame schoolhouse built in 1908 in the town of Lovingston. Its plan is similar to those used for schools constructed during the same period in Nelson County at Schuyler (1925), Fleetwood (1934) and Rockfish (1939). By 1920 Virginia's State Board of Education had established a School Building Service that provided local school boards with plans and specifications for a new standard school building. The model plan was used at Lovingston High School and included classrooms placed around a central study hall/assembly room. The assembly room doubled as space for community activities, thus fulfilling community service functions identified as important by President Theodore Roosevelt's Country Life Commission. At the same time that the Virginia School Building Service began to provide standard school building plans, the State Board of Education was consolidating small school districts, several per county as was the case in Nelson, into a more unified system of countywide school boards, an arrangement that facilitated implementation of State School Board policies and adoption of standard school building plans.<sup>1</sup> Lovingston High School included central heating and indoor toilets, both of which represented significant advancements in the quality of life in rural Virginia for the public school teachers and students and the communities served by the building.<sup>2</sup>

Lovingston High School is eligible under Criterion A as representative of the development of public education in Virginia. The school is also eligible under Criterion C as an architecturally significant example of Virginia Board of Education standard school building designs. These designs are well documented in the Library of Virginia collection of Virginia Department of Education School Buildings Service Architectural Drawings.<sup>3</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   5  

**Lovingston High School  
Nelson County, Virginia**

**Statement of Significance:**

The Lovingston High School has been a significant part of Nelson County history since its construction in 1931. The first class was graduated in 1932 and the last graduation took place in 1955. In that year the school began service as the Lovingston Elementary School serving grades one through eight until 1968 when grades seven and eight were relocated. The school, serving grades one through six, continued in operation until 1995. As such, many Lovingston area residents attended classes here during the 63 years the building was in service. The fine design and solid construction coupled with a prominent location have made this building a Nelson County landmark for 69 years. Through 1955 the school auditorium was the only public auditorium available to Lovingston area residents and the space served to bring all ages together for many occasions. The auditorium and school grounds served as a focal point for school and community activities including:

- School and after-school fitness programs including boxing, dance, clogging, basketball, baseball and football.
- Graduation services including a memorable exercise in 1942 when 15 of the 17 boys were off to war. The community sang *God Bless America* and cried together fearing the loss of classmates.
- *Social programs including the 'Miss Nelson County Pageant', Christmas pageants, May Day celebrations, Halloween dances, magic and music shows and various local and touring theater productions.*
- Community fund-raisers, food and clothing drives, wartime aluminum drives, war bond sales.
- Emergency shelter and other relief services during the flood following hurricane Camille's heavy rains in 1969 and the flood of 1985.
- Club meetings and classes including scout troops, Soil Conservation Club, Red Cross lifesaving, livestock clubs and shows.

In the school's early years teachers were scarce and older students were occasionally recruited to teach the lower classes. The school also was the place where many students listened to the radio at lunch and heard the news of the day. The chance to be educated was so valued by the community that during the war years when gas was rationed, students often walked five miles to school, with some journeys as long as fifteen miles each way.<sup>4</sup>

The school is significant for its association with the development of public education in Virginia. The historic context for education in Virginia begins in 1870 with the establishment of a public school system, a system initially served by one-room schools. Beginning in the 1880s, graded schools of two or three rooms provided education for students grouped by class and age. After 1920 state standard plans for consolidated schools implemented Progressive Era concerns for school reform through the elimination of outdoor privies in favor of indoor toilet rooms and the inclusion of auditoriums that provided communities with public meeting spaces. These designs are well documented in the Library of Virginia's collection of Virginia Department of Education School Buildings Service Architectural Drawings. The social history associated with this building, documented above, illustrates how Virginia schools, auditoriums and grounds served as community centers for rural life.<sup>5</sup>

Lovingston High School is also architecturally significant as a fine example of Virginia Board of Education standard school building designs. It is similar to schools constructed during the same period using the state plans in Nelson County at Schuyler (1925), Fleetwood (1934) and Rockfish (1939), all of which still stand although none are used as schools today. The handsome Colonial Revival-style Lovingston High School retains its original

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   6  

**Lovingston High School  
Nelson County, Virginia**

architectural character, plan and massing almost entirely on the exterior and to a significant degree on the interior. Later additions do not compromise the original massing or details. Its prominent location makes the Lovingston High School a landmark in the area and signifies the central place that the school held in the community for generations of Nelson County residents.

The school is being rehabilitated for use as The Nelson Center, a community center that will bring Nelson County Parks and Recreation programs together with other social services.

**Endnotes for Section 8:**

1. John Kern, *Thematic Evaluation of County Public School Buildings In Southwest Virginia* (Roanoke: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2000).
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. School activities and uses collected from alumni interviews held at an alumni meeting September 21, 2001
5. Kern *Thematic Evaluation*.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9, 10 Page 7

**Lovingston High School  
Nelson County, Virginia**

---

**Major Bibliographical References**

1. Hinnant, H.C. Original blueprints, 1931. Nelson County Historical Society.
2. Seaman, Catherine C. *A Brief Account of the History of Lovingston Elementary School*. Nelson County Historical Society, 2000.
3. Kern, John. *Thematic Evaluation of County Public School Buildings in Southwest Virginia*. Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2000.
4. Personal interviews with school alumni, September 2001.

**Geographical Data:**

The Lovingston High School is described as Tax Parcel 57-(A)-34C on the tax parcel maps for Nelson County, Virginia.

**Boundary Justification:**

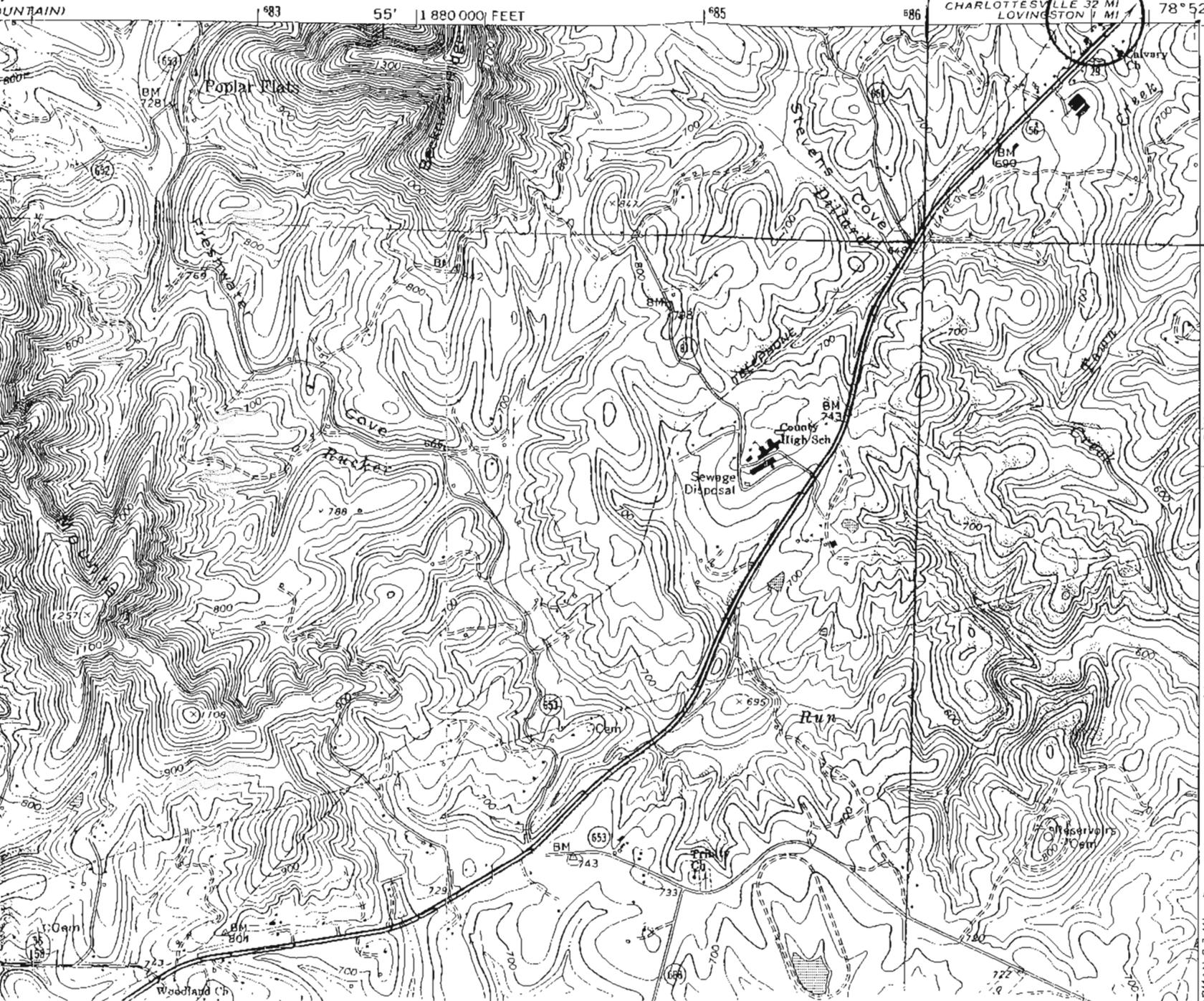
The property is the original tract purchased by Nelson County in 1931. The property includes all the land historically associated with the school.

OF VIRGINIA  
AL RESOURCES

ARRINGTON QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5259 IV SE  
(LOVINGSTON)

NW 1/4 SHIPMAN 15' QUADRANGLE  
CHARLOTTESVILLE 32 MI  
LOVINGSTON 1 MI



Lovingston High  
School  
Nelson Co, VA  
UTM Reference:

Zone: 17  
Easting 686760  
Northing 4180020

510 000  
FEET

4178

4177

4176

SHIPMAN 2.3 MI