NRHP Approved: 5/12/2023

NPS Form 10-900 OMB Control No. 1024-0018 expiration date 03/31/2022

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.

Virginia Department of Historic Resources State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Go In my opinion, the property meets does Signature of commenting official:	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Go	
	vernment
Virginia Department of Historic Resources	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
Julie V. Sangan	3/28/2023
<u>X</u> A <u>B</u> <u>C</u> <u>D</u>	
nationalstatewideX Applicable National Register Criteria:	local
In my opinion, the property _X meets does n recommend that this property be considered signific level(s) of significance:	
I hereby certify that this additional documentate name change (additional documentation) o registering properties in the National Register of Hi professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part of	ther meets the documentation standards for storic Places and meets the procedural and 60.
As the designated authority under the National Hist	oric Preservation Act, as amended,
5. State/Federal Agency Certification	
 2. Location 3. Street & number: 5221 Glencoe Street 4. City or town: Chesapeake State: VA C Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A 	ounty: <u>Independent City</u>
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple pro-	operty listing
N/A	
Historic name: Cornland School 2023 Update Other names/site number: DHR No. 131-0111 Name of related multiple property listing:	

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Cornland School 2023 Update
Name of Property
City of Chesapeake, VA
County and State
15000546
NR Reference Number

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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
Xadditional documentation accepted
X other (explain:) Accept final move location

James Gabbert	5/12/2023
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

Introduction

Located in the City of Chesapeake, the Cornland School was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 2015 under Criterion A (Education). Built in 1903, it is a one-story frame building and is among the oldest still-extant examples of a rural, segregated school in Virginia. Cornland School was built for African American students and is a significant representation of African American elementary schools of the Jim Crow segregation era. The school closed in 1952.

During the latter half of 2022, the school building was moved from its original location to its new location in the manner described by the Department in July 2021. Located about 3 miles away, the selected new location is within an undeveloped 9-acre parcel off Glencoe Road and the Dismal Swamp Canal (NRHP 1988). Also nearby is Wallaceton (NRHP 1994), which also is a contributing resource to the directly adjacent Dismal Swamp Canal. The Cornland School now stands approximately 205 feet south of Glencoe Road and is oriented to face north, as shown on the attached Sketch Map of the property.

The following sections of the Cornland School's 2015 NRHP nomination form have been updated to document the building's current location and condition. Only those sections with updated information are included herein. The updated address for the building is in Section 2 of the cover sheet, and remaining sections are below.

		/	- ()
NPS Form	10-900-a	(Rev	8/20021

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

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Section 5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes Private:	as apply.
Public – Local	X
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Section 6. Function or Use

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.) **WORK IN PROGRESS**

Section 7. Description

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.)

Summary Paragraph

Cornland School originally stood at 2309 Benefit Road in what historically was a rural area in Norfolk County, Virginia. The County and the City of South Norfolk merged in 1962 to form the City of Chesapeake. Cornland School is located in a portion of Chesapeake that continues to have a largely rural character. In 2022, the school building was moved in two pieces, the main block and the roof, to its current location at 5221 Glencoe Street in Chesapeake. At its original site, the building faced south toward Benefit Road. At its new location, the building is approximately 205 feet south of Glencoe Street and has been turned to face north toward the road. The building stands on new concrete piers that measure 2 feet 9 inches in height. Landscaping around the schoolhouse at its new site has yet to be completed (see Sketch Map attached hereto), and is planned to approximate the original site's partially wooded setting with mown grass around the building. The schoolhouse's original site was prone to recurrent flooding, whereas at the new location, the City of Chesapeake installed a new storm pipe and culvert to drain water to existing roadside ditches. The building's original fenestration has been retained.

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A new flight of wood steps leads up to the primary entry on the now north-facing façade. Temporary wood bracing was installed on all of the exterior walls to maintain the building's structural integrity during its relocation, but this bracing will be removed as rehabilitation work on the building proceeds. The historic wood window sash along the east and west walls, weatherboard siding, and main entry's paneled wood door have been retained. The wood sash have been temporarily covered with plywood ahead of the rehabilitation project. The rear entry also continued to be covered with plywood. The roof was temporarily removed during the relocation of the building. It has been reattached and the deteriorated metal roofing on the building at the time of Register listing has been replaced with new metal roofing that is similar in appearance. The methods and materials used to reattach the roof are concealed on the interior by the ceiling and are not visible from the exterior. Having been moved, the Cornland School has lost integrity of location and setting. The building retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship as a rural, one-room school built for African American students during the Jim Crow era of segregation in Virginia's public school system. The school's integrity of feeling and association are somewhat altered. Although its rural setting has been retained, the events and activities associated with the school's historic uses occurred at the original location. It is impossible to recreate these at the building's new location. The building is planned to be rehabilitated and interpreted to the public as a museum that focuses on historic Norfolk County's Black communities and education during its period of operation as a public school from 1903 to 1952.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Cornland School now is located at the north end of a still largely undeveloped 9-acre parcel off Glencoe Road and the Dismal Swamp Canal (NRHP 1988). A short distance west stands Wallaceton (NRHP 1994), a property with a mid-19th century dwelling that includes a detached late-19th century kitchen, a frame dairy building, and three sheds that postdate 1932. In addition to being individually listed, Wallaceton also is a contributing resource to the directly adjacent Dismal Swamp Canal. The canal is a 22-mile land cut that extends into North Carolina. The 100-foot wide canal was manually dug between 1793 and 1805. During the 20th century, two lift locks, two bascule bridges, and three spillways were added to the canal, which continues in use today as Route #2 of the Intracoastal Waterway.

The schoolhouse stands approximately 205 feet south of Glencoe Street. The surrounding acreage generally is flat. Although the lot surrounding Wallaceton features mature trees, Cornland School is within a field that remained in agricultural use until the very recent past. The City of Chesapeake has acquired the 9-acre parcel that includes the school building and is currently in the midst of a multiple-year project to build a new municipal park that will include interpretation of Wallaceton, the Dismal Swamp Canal, and the Cornland School concerning their importance to the area's history.

When the National Park Service approved relocation of the school building, the following concerns were raised. First, the manipulation of the landscape as proposed (which were to include a retention pond) and the proposed east/west orientation of the school in relation to either US 17 or Glencoe St. was less than ideal. Additionally, reconsideration of the exact placement of the school on the 9-acre property could prevent

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future negative evaluations of the property in the event of a compliance action. In response, the City of Chesapeake decided to place the relocated school building to a site approximately 207 feet south of Glencoe Street and maintaining a north/south orientation as at the original location, although now the building faces north instead of south. Therefore, the building's orientation with its gable-end façade facing the road has been retained, albeit flipped 180 degrees. Although its proximity to Wallaceton is closer than originally proposed, the landscape design around the schoolhouse will screen it from the unassociated resources associated with Wallaceton and the Dismal Swamp Canal. The City of Chesapeake has directed the landscape design firm working on the park's master plan to include appropriate plantings around the school building that are similar to those found at the original site. Landscaping around the schoolhouse at its new site has yet to be completed. It is planned to approximate the original site's rural setting and will appear appropriate per the school's historic context.

The National Park Service noted that the potential "historical village" idea, as the municipal park originally was conceived, may have the potential to create a false sense of history and they recommended further research into the historical development around Wallaceton to guide final planning. With involvement from the Cornland School Foundation, an alumni organization, the school, in its new setting, will have interpretive displays and the school's history will be made available to the public through a cooperative agreement between the City and the Foundation. Although the Cornland School is now within a public park that includes two other National Register-listed resources, its historical use as a segregated school will not be conflated with the history of the Dismal Swamp Canal or of Wallaceton, which do share a historical relationship.

Schoolhouse – Detailed Description

Recurrent flooding at the building's original site contributed substantially to its deterioration over a lengthy period of vacancy. At its new location, the Cornland School has taller piers. The piers at the Benefit Road site were approximately 11.5" from grade to underside of the sill plates, which was out of compliance with current code requirements that a crawl space height be at least 18". At the building's new location on Glencoe Road, the building's piers are approximately 2'-9" above grade, which meets the code-requirement. This increased height also allows for better access underneath the building, which will facilitate future maintenance tasks, including installation of a barrier across the sill plates and joists to prevent animals, insects, and moisture from infiltrating the building. Additionally, in 2022, the City installed a new storm pipe and culvert to drain water to existing roadside ditches. Since then, the area has not experienced any localized flooding. The concrete block piers will be veneered with the brick that was salvaged from the piers that were at the Benefit Road site. Approximately 449 bricks were collected from here. The City has identified external vendors who have locally-salvaged historic bricks should the materials on hand not be enough to complete the sheathing of the new piers.

As planned, the school building was moved in two pieces, the main block and the roof. The roof was reattached to the building after the relocation process was completed. New metal roofing was installed on the roof as well. The returned eaves on the north and south gable ends are intact as is most of the wood covering the narrow eaves and soffits. The chimney flue will be reconstructed in its original location with brick salvaged from the original site on Benefit Road. Approximately 243 bricks were collected from the collapsed flue.

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The building's historic weatherboard siding is largely intact. Temporary wood bracing members have been installed on the exterior walls but will be removed as a planned rehabilitation project proceeds. Most of the window sash are intact or partially intact beneath the plywood boards that cover the window openings. On the north façade, the primary entry retains a paneled wood door that is sheltered by a pent roof overhang with knee braces. On the south façade, a boarded-over entry is at the west corner. The historic door is in storage.

The school building's interior has been altered in order to facilitate preparations for a planned rehabilitation project. Over 150 tongue-and-groove wood flooring boards have been measured and inventoried as part of this project. Although the inventoried floorboards are thought to be historic, it is not known when they were originally installed in the Cornland School building. Plywood subfloor is visible in the areas where the flooring boards have been removed. The surviving baseboards were removed along with the wood flooring boards. The partition walls that once enclosed a small restroom in the northwest corner have been removed, as have the plumbing fixtures. Holes for pipes have been temporarily patched with plywood pieces. The plumbing postdated the building's use as a school. In this same area are remnants of electrical wiring installed after the building ceased to function as a school. The low wood L-shaped platform and remnant of a balustrade at the south end of the building have been removed and placed in storage. The pieces of gypsum board that covered portions of the walls and ceiling have been removed to expose the narrow, largely unpainted, wood boards that cover these areas. Furring strips on the ceiling are indicative of the placement of the gypsum boards. The walls have an assortment of wood coverings, including what appears to be roughly mid-twentieth century, thin wood paneling, older vertical boards of which a couple of areas are painted, and some plywood patches over holes that are only on the interior sides of the walls. The older vertical boards on the walls appear to cover the building's framing members. A square opening in the ceiling has been temporarily patched with plywood; the opening originally housed the ventilation pipe for a heating stove.

A rehabilitation project is being planned and will preserve the building's character-defining historic features and fabric. Rehabilitation is needed to prepare the building for use as a museum focused on Norfolk County's history of segregated public education, the alumni who attended the Cornland School, and local Black communities.

Integrity Analysis

Although relocating the Cornland School eliminated its integrity of location and setting, the current setting is similar to the original site's, one important difference being that the new site is not subject to recurrent flooding as the original site was. The building's exterior integrity of design, materials, and workmanship have largely been retained as the character-defining features of weatherboard siding, a pent roof over the primary entry, returned eaves, and symmetrically spaced window openings along the east and west elevations all have been maintained. The unpainted metal roofing is newly installed but is similar in appearance to metal roofing that previously was in place. Much of the historic wood window sash is intact beneath the plywood boards that cover the openings. The rear entry's door was removed at an unknown date, but remains in storage for eventual reinstallation. The integrity of the interior design, materials, and workmanship also are good. The small restroom that postdated the building's use as a school has been

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removed. The L-shaped wood platform that spanned most of the south wall and extended approximately five feet from the wall has been removed along with the remnant of its balustrade. These materials have been stored. Remnants of gypsum boards on the walls and ceiling also have been removed, while the narrow, vertical boards covering the walls are largely intact. Portions of the walls also have a second layer composed of roughly mid-twentieth century thin wood paneling, which may postdate the building's use as a school. Much of the wood flooring has been removed pending repairs to the subfloor but was inventoried and measures before being placed in storage. Rehabilitation of the building will be conducted under the supervision of a historic architect. Despite the loss of integrity of location and setting, the Cornland School retains integrity of feeling as a rural, one-room school that dates to the Jim Crow segregation of Virginia's public school system. The building's integrity of association was lost upon its removal from its original site.

Section 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 36.613870 Longitude: -76.378030

Verbal Boundary Description.

The historic boundary encompasses the full extent of the building's footprint and the new wood steps that access the north façade's entry. The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Sketch Map/ Photo Key, which has a bar scale of 1"=94 feet.

Boundary Justification

The historic boundary is drawn to encompass the footprint of the building itself, thus including the full extent of the historic resource while excluding land not historically associated with the building.

Section 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Lena S. McDonald

organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue

city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 24011

e-mail: lena.mcdonald@dhr.virginia.gov telephone: 804-482-6439 date: May 2023

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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

Name of Property: Cornland School City or Vicinity: City of Chesapeake

State: Virginia

Photographer: Jessica Cosmas Date Photographed: August 2022

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

Photo 1 of 24. View of Cornland School at new location and setting around the building, camera facing south.

Photo 2 of 24. North façade of Cornland School, camera facing south.

Photo 3 of 24. Detail of soffit at west corner of north façade, camera facing southwest.

Photo 4 of 24. Detail of historic pent roof overhang sheltering primary entry, camera facing south.

Photo 5 of 24. Detail of soffit at east corner of north façade, camera facing southeast.

Photo 6 of 24. Northeast oblique view of Cornland School including new front steps and temporary bracing on wall, camera facing southwest.

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Photo 7 of 24. Northeast oblique view of Cornland School, camera facing southwest.

Photo 8 of 24. East elevation of Cornland School including plywood boards covering window openings and temporary bracing on wall, camera facing west.

Photo 9 of 24. Southeast oblique view of Cornland School, camera facing northwest.

Photo 10 of 24. Southeast oblique view of Cornland School, camera facing northwest.

Photo 11 of 24. South elevation of Cornland School including plywood over rear entry and temporary bracing on wall, camera facing north.

Photo 12 of 24. Southwest oblique view of Cornland School, camera facing northeast.

Photo 13 of 24. West elevation of Cornland School including plywood boards covering window openings and temporary bracing on wall, camera facing east.

Photo 14 of 24. Northwest oblique view of Cornland School, camera facing southeast.

Photo 15 of 24. Cornland School, interior, north wall including wood flooring remnants and plywood subfloor, remnants of electrical wiring, later wood paneling over vertical boards on walls, wood ceiling with furring strips, and primary entry door, camera facing north.

Photo 16 of 24. Cornland School, interior, square opening in ceiling patched with plywood; the opening originally housed the ventilation pipe for a heating stove.

Photo 17 of 24. Cornland School, interior, attic access panel in ceiling.

Photo 18 of 24. Cornland School, interior, northeast corner including historic boards on walls and ceiling and wood flooring, camera facing northeast.

Photo 19 of 24. Cornland School, interior, northwest corner showing remnants of electrical wiring and wood wall boards at left, and later wood paneling at right, camera facing northwest.

Photo 20 of 24. Cornland School, interior, east wall showing historic wood sash and trim, wood boards covering walls and ceiling, and wood flooring at left. Later wood wall paneling and exposed plywood subfloor are visible on the right. Camera facing east.

Photo 21 of 24. Cornland School, interior, south wall showing remnants of wood flooring and plywood subfloor, wood sash and trim, the boarded-over door opening, and remnants of wood paneling over the historic boards covering the walls, camera facing south.

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Photo 22 of 24. Cornland School, interior, southeast corner including various wall coverings, wood flooring and ceiling, and portion of historic window trim, camera facing southeast.

Photo 23 of 24. Cornland School, interior, southwest corner showing boarded-over door opening, remnants of later paneling over historic wall boards, remnants of painted wall boards, and portion of historic window trim, camera facing southwest.

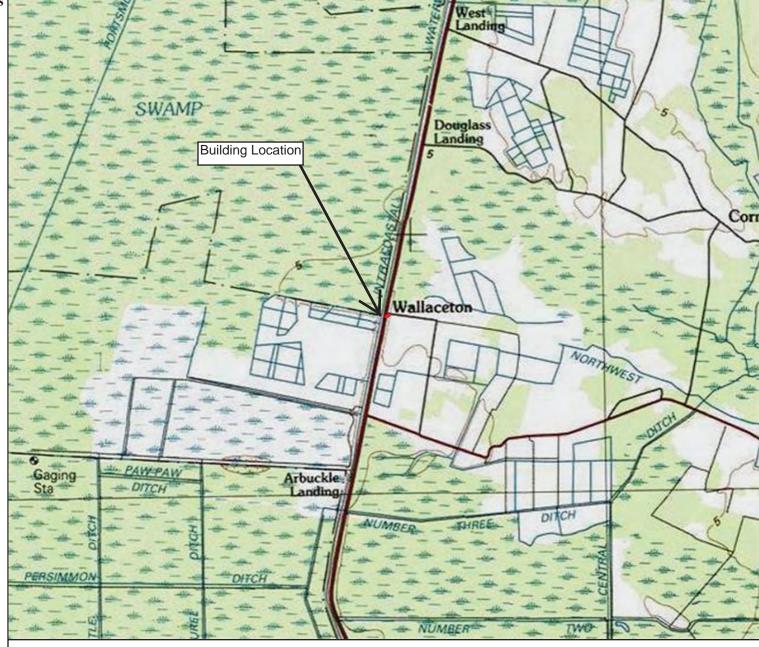
Photo 24 of 24. Cornland School, interior, west wall showing wood flooring and plywood subfloor, wood sash and trim, and wood ceiling with furring strips, camera facing west.

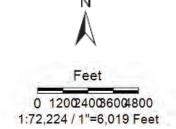


Legend

County Boundaries

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP Cornland School 2023 Update City of Chesapeake, VA DHR No. 131-0111





Title: Date: 3/23/2023

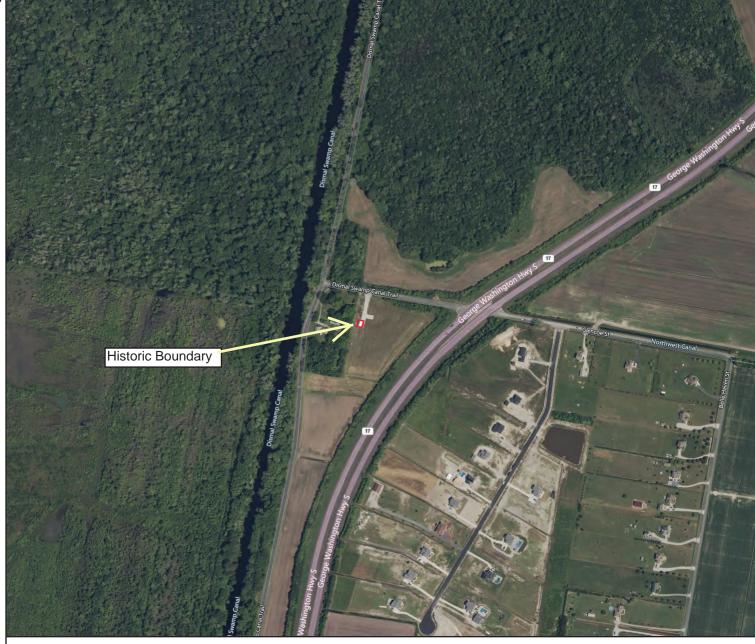
DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

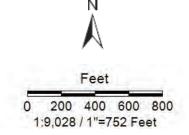


Legend

County Boundaries

AERIAL VIEW - VICINITY Cornland School 2023 Update City of Chesapeake, VA DHR No. 131-0111





Title: Date: 3/23/2023

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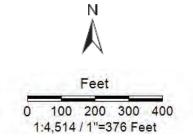
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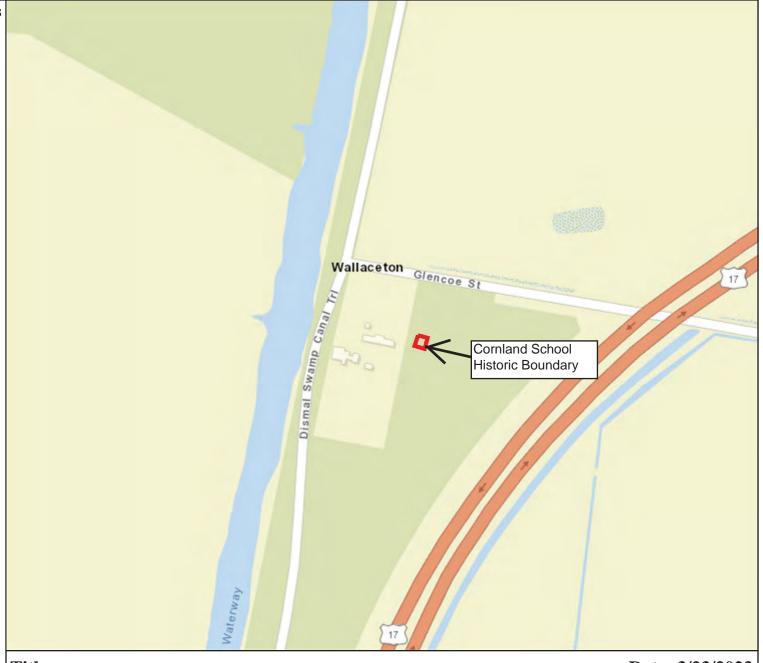
County Boundaries

LOCATION MAP Cornland School 2023 Update City of Chesapeake, VA DHR No. 131-0111

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 36.613870 Longitude: -76.378030





Title: Date: 3/23/2023

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Legend

County Boundaries

SKETCH MAP/ PHOTO KEY (exterior views) Cornland School 2023 Update City of Chesapeake, VA DHR No. 131-0111

A - School Building (contributing)



Photo Locations



Historic Boundary



Feet
0 20 40 60 80
1:1,128 / 1"=94 Feet



Title: Date: 3/23/2023

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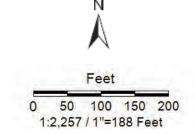
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County Boundaries

AERIAL VIEW - NRHP-LISTED RESOURCES NEAR CORNLAND SCHOOL

Cornland School 2023 Update City of Chesapeake, VA DHR No. 131-0111





Title: Date: 3/23/2023

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