

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.

1. Name of Property


Historic name: Cape Charles Rosenwald School
Other names/site number: Cape Charles Elementary School, DHR #182-0003
Name of related multiple property listing:
Rosenwald Schools in Virginia

2. Location

Street & number: 1500 Old Cape Charles Road
City or town: Cape Charles State: VA County: Northampton
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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

	<u>9/27/23</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>	
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
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>	
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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: school

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Rosenwald School

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE; BRICK; ASBESTOS

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

Located in a lightly wooded area on the west side of Old Cape Charles Road, the Cape Charles Rosenwald School is removed from the denser core of the town of Cape Charles, accessed by a high curving bridge over the railroad tracks in an area known as “over the hump.” The school is a one-story masonry building, T-shaped in plan, with a cross-gable roof. It is the four-teacher with auditorium Rosenwald school plan, as adapted by the Division of School Buildings of the Virginia Department of Education. The east facade has a brick arched opening within a central cross-gable entrance bay. The school’s large banks of windows are currently infilled or boarded over. Subsequent use of the building as a seafood processing plant has resulted in alterations to the classrooms; the addition of a concrete block machinery room, now in ruins; and new entrances to serve a concrete loading dock and vehicle ramp. Despite these later changes, the school continues to have sufficient integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its historic use as a Rosenwald Fund school during the Jim Crow era of segregation in Virginia’s public education system.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Cape Charles Rosenwald school is located “over the hump,” which is south of the town center, the railroad tracks, and the harbor. It stands east of Old Cape Charles Road in an area that has been largely undeveloped until recently, with a few residential subdivisions to its south, which replaced open fields between 1994 and 2005. New development is buffered by trees. The town’s sewage treatment plant, also buffered, was built ca. 2010 to the east. Although the school lot has been partially cleared, it is still slightly wooded. A 1957 aerial photo shows an unpaved

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semicircular drive that surrounded the building, and a baseball diamond at the northwest of the school in an area now overgrown.¹

Detailed Description

The school is a one-story building of masonry construction based on a standard Rosenwald Fund plan for a four-teacher community school with an auditorium, as adapted by the Virginia Department of Education, Division of School Buildings. The exterior walls are laid in six-course American bond with red stretchers and purple hue headers. Exposed interior walls, including in the attic, suggest that the school is concrete block with a brick veneer. The poured concrete foundation is offset by a soldier course water table with horizontally stacked bricks at the building corners. The cross-gable entrance bay, which is centered on the east façade, has an arched opening framed by a soldier course and header course with a concrete keystone and springers. Each of the four gable ends has a round masonry opening with a soldier course frame and four concrete “keystone” accents. Currently infilled, historic photos suggest they all housed wagon wheel windows.² Other rectangular masonry openings have concrete sills and thresholds, and most abut the flat wooden cornice.

The predominant window type is six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash. Some can be seen from the interior in the auditorium wing. On the core of the school, the windows have been infilled with concrete block. The attic appears to hold several wood sash windows in storage. The auditorium wing had two sets of paired windows on the north and south elevations with an additional single window on the west end of the north elevation, offset on the opposite elevation by an exterior brick flue. A single window on the west gable end with a soldier course lintel is set toward the south.

The rear auditorium wing has what appear to be brick buttresses on the north and south elevations between what were originally two sets of paired windows. Later additions to the school, likely from the building’s tenure as an eel packing plant, are a ruinous concrete block addition with a failed roof at the southwest corner where the main block and rear wing meet, a concrete ramp on the east end of the rear ell’s north (side) elevation, and a concrete loading dock structure at the main block’s north gable end.

The cross-gabled roof is clad in diamond-shaped asbestos shingles. The roof has exposed rafter tails. The terminal rafters are carved with an ogee profile. The gable ends have what appear to be exposed projecting wood purlins.

There are six exterior entrances: the primary entrance in the east façade’s central bay; entrances on the north and south (side) elevations of the rear ell, adjacent to the side-gable portion of the main block; a door centered on the west (rear) elevation; a basement level door on the west elevation; and a door set west of center on the north gable end that is accessed by the

¹ “Aerial photo, Cape Charles, 1957,” <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>.

² “Cape Charles, Northampton County,” two photos, southeast and northeast corners Virginia. Dept. of Education School Buildings Service, no date, in the Collection of the Library of Virginia.

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mentioned concrete ramp. The entrances on the east and west elevations are original and the others later additions.

The primary entrance has paired two-panel, four-light doors with a ten-light transom above them (currently board over). They are accessed by concrete steps that lead to a landing within the arched opening. The entrance on the west (rear) elevation is missing a door, but the masonry opening is boarded and has a metal lintel with a soldier course and a concrete threshold. The entrance on the rear ell's south (side) elevation has been added at the lower portion of an original window opening. Part of the upper sash has been retained above the two-panel, single-leaf door. On the north elevation of the auditorium wing, a vehicular door is cut into the masonry. The roll-up door is missing, but the masonry opening remains. Likewise, a masonry opening cut on the main block's north gable end servicing the concrete block loading dock remains, though its door is missing. A sixth entrance is on the rear ell's west (rear) elevation, leading to what was a basement mechanical room. Its door is missing but its soldier course lintel remains. To the north of this entrance is a void in the foundation that may have serviced a vent.

The recessed primary entrance leads to a small vestibule that has a short flight of steps and is flanked by small rooms of equal depth accessed at the top of the vestibule steps. To the west is a transverse corridor that services the classrooms at the north and south and the auditorium at the east.

Historic interior finishes, where extant, are consistent: plaster walls on lath, wood floors, wood chair rail with beadboard wainscoting, two-panel doors, and six-light transoms for each door.

The entrance vestibule has a wood chair rail and beadboard wainscoting, and wood steps to the main floor level. At this level are single-leaf, two-panel doors with six-light transoms at the north and south, each leading to small rooms. The northern room has typical interior trim and finishes. Noted in drawings as the Industrial Room, it was later converted to a bathroom with frame partitions. It retains a pair of windows on its east wall. The room south of the vestibule, labeled on the plan as "Office & Library," has a blackboard along its north wall above the wainscoting not noted in the original plan. An open shelving unit with a tall beadboard backing is mounted to the south wall. The floor is covered in vinyl tile. This room also retains its original window sash on the east wall.

Both small vestibule rooms have a gridded ceiling, as does the corridor. The chair rail and beadboard continue in the corridor, but the original floor has been covered or replaced with a thick layer of poured concrete. At the north and south ends of the hall are large rooms that were originally divided by walls to form four classrooms altogether. I-beam headers located at the ceilings were added to reinforce the structure when the plan was altered and converted to industrial use. These two large rooms have concrete floors. In both, concrete blocks fill the banks of window openings. It is unknown if original finishes remain encapsulated in situ or if they were removed to accommodate later insulating materials on the ceiling and walls.

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A cased opening with simple but damaged trim leads from the hall east into the auditorium. The auditorium floor is missing though it appears that some joists remain, and the void has been infilled with dirt. At the west end of the space is a proscenium stage with a broad frame. The beadboard and chair rail continue in this space and the angled railing flanking the stage suggests there were steps leading from the north and south to the stage level. Exposed concrete block below the stage level was once clad in beadboard per plans. The ceiling in the auditorium is canted and clad in panels set within a wooden grid.

In addition to backstage windows, there were originally four windows on both the north and south walls of the auditorium. On the north wall, one has been converted to a door retaining part of the upper sash, and on the south wall a vehicular door has replaced the two east windows. While light fixtures are missing, the chains for several pendant fixtures remain in this room. The stage has wood flooring. Behind the proscenium are two small dressing rooms located stage right and stage left. Both have plaster walls, with beadboard wainscoting and a tiled ceiling.

Northampton County School Board meeting minutes provide some insight as to changes in the building during its period of significance. Coal-fired heat was replaced with an oil burner and underground tank in 1949, indoor plumbing with bathrooms were added in 1951, and tile installation in the hall and principal's office (presumably flooring) was approved in 1963.³

Statement of Integrity

The Cape Charles Rosenwald School has not been moved and retains its integrity of location. Though there have been some alterations, most notably later additions that can be removed, the removal of two interior walls and classroom closets, as well as removal of some window and interior trim, the building largely has its original footprint, massing, form, and basic interior plan, thus having a moderate integrity of design. The setting is largely unchanged and given that copious landscaping buffers later construction, it is well screened, giving the school a high integrity of setting. Much of the original material remains, including exterior brick and roofing materials, large swaths of interior trim, some original flooring, the decorative auditorium ceiling and proscenium, and several window sash—some in situ and others in storage. Thus, the school has moderate integrity of materials. The integrity of workmanship likewise has been impaired by the later adaptation for industrial use, but remaining fabric and the construction details in terms of foundation, framing, and roof structure bolster the integrity of workmanship. The integrity of feeling and association are supported by the previous aspects of integrity and the building clearly is an example of a Rosenwald Fund standardized school plan, with some customization made by the Division of School Buildings of the Virginia Department of Education at the time of construction. The exterior alterations, consisting of the ruinous concrete block addition, concrete ramp, concrete block loading dock, and extra doors, all of which date from the school's subsequent use as a seafood processing facility, are reversible. The original architectural drawings and historic photos are available to inform future rehabilitation of the building on the interior and exterior.

³ School Board minutes, October 20, 1949; June 21, 1950; July 3, 1951; June 10, 1963.

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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.)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

Period of Significance

1929-1966

Significant Dates

1929

1966

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Russell, C. F.

Division of School Buildings, Virginia Department of Education

Smith, Samuel L.

Godwin, T. L.

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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.)

The Cape Charles Rosenwald School is being nominated under the Rosenwald Schools in Virginia Multiple Property Documentation Form and meets the registration requirements set forth therein. In 1928, the School Board of the Town of Cape Charles purchased the land on which the Cape Charles Rosenwald School now stands. Eastern Shore contractor C. F. Russell built the school in 1929. The school is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black as one of the thousands of schools constructed for African Americans in southern states during the first part of the twentieth century with the support of philanthropist Julius Rosenwald and the Rosenwald Fund and the expertise of the Tuskegee Institute under Booker T. Washington's leadership. In Virginia, 366 schools and 16 auxiliary buildings were constructed with assistance from the Rosenwald Fund between 1917 and 1932, of which 126 remain.⁴ Four schools were built on Virginia's Eastern Shore, of which three remain. The Cape Charles school was the only such building erected in Northampton County. Also significant at the local level under Criterion C for Architecture, the school follows a "four-teacher" standard plan developed by architect Samuel L. Smith, a director of the Rosenwald Fund, as adapted by the Virginia Department of Education, Division of School Buildings. The period of significance, 1929-1966, spans the period from the construction of the school until its closure.

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

Criterion A: Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black

A formalized system of public education for African Americans in Virginia was nonexistent prior to the Civil War, and beginning in the 19th century, legislation was passed explicitly to prohibit educating enslaved African Americans. After the Civil War, Reconstruction Era policies and efforts by groups such as the Freedmen's Bureau began to establish schools to provide education to the newly liberated population, often with assistance from northern philanthropic and missionary organizations. In 1870 the Commonwealth of Virginia passed legislation creating a public school system, albeit racially segregated, and a State Board of Education, and providing state funding for public schools.⁵ Requirements for a statewide public education system were included in a new state constitution, ratification of which was a necessary step in Virginia's readmission to the United States. State revenue was augmented by local revenue, and local school boards organized the schools within their jurisdictions. Inequities in funding of schools quickly

⁴ "Rosenwald School Architectural Survey," Preservation Virginia, <https://preservationvirginia.org/our-work/architectural-rosenwald-school-survey/>.

⁵ Ronald E. Butchart, "Freedmen's Education in Virginia, 1861-1870," Encyclopedia Virginia, <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/freedmens-education-in-virginia-1861-1870/#:~:text=In%201870%2C%20the%20General%20Assembly,teachers%20for%20the%20new%20schools.>

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developed, with those for White children receiving the majority of public funds while expenditures for schools for Black and Virginia Indian students were considerably lower.

Virginia's public schools remained separate and unequal throughout the Jim Crow era. Across the state, Black educators were paid less than their White counterparts, and facilities for Black and Virginia Indian students were generally smaller and less substantial than those for White children. Racial integration of public schools as mandated by the U. S. Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* came slowly but ultimately provided for integrated facilities, generally at the expense of the schools that were built for African Americans and Virginia Indians, and that often had become centers of community pride. The minority teachers, administrators, and staff who had spent their careers at their community schools also suffered following integration, with many demoted or their jobs eliminated in favor of White educators.

Beginning in 1917, the Rosenwald Fund provided funding and design assistance for the construction of schools for African Americans across the south. Rosenwald funding was only partial and required a community match. In the case of the Cape Charles Rosenwald School, part of the funding came from an organization known variously as the Colored School League, the Negro School League, the School Improvement League, and others. While there appears to be little scholarly work devoted to these leagues, a cursory search through period newspapers shows evidence of similarly titled organizations across Virginia in Portsmouth, Big Stone Gap, Henrico County, Henry County, Vienna, Pulaski, Gloucester County, and Buena Vista.⁶ The establishment and cooperation of these organizations statewide is a topic that merits further study. However, the efforts in Cape Charles were reflective of many African American communities in Virginia that were willing to make sacrifices to insure a better education and improved educational facilities and resources for their children.

Additional developmental history and historic context information are available in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, Rosenwald Schools in Virginia.⁷

Criterion C: Architecture

The Cape Charles Rosenwald School is significant in the area of Architecture as an adaptation of the Rosenwald Fund's Floor Plan No. 4, a Four Teacher Community School that includes an auditorium. This floor plan is one of the standard plans designed by Samuel L. Smith and published in 1924 in a volume entitled *Community School Plans*. These plans were a retooling of earlier standard plans designed at Tuskegee Institute. The new plans continued to be revised through the 1940s. In all cases, the standard Rosenwald school plans were noted for their large banks of windows to provide ample natural light and ventilation, and large rooms to maximize the space devoted to instruction.

⁶ It is unclear if these leagues were associated with Robert Russa Moton's Negro Organizational Society.

⁷ Bryan Clark Green, "Rosenwald Schools in Virginia (012-5041)," Multiple Property Documentation Form (Richmond: Department of Historic Resources, 2004).

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The Rosenwald plan as published in 1924 is schematic and includes a single rendering of the façade of the design in wood frame construction. The School Buildings Division of the (Virginia) State Board of Education produced eight sheets of drawings for this school based on the Rosenwald plan, including a foundation plan; floor plan; roof plan; wall sections; building sections; a chimney footing; front, rear, and side elevations; and details of roof framing, ceilings, and trusses (see continuation sheets).⁸ As the Cape Charles Rosenwald School currently stands, it is largely intact in terms of form, massing, and footprint. The main block's character-defining banks of large windows are extant, although the openings currently are boarded over and most wood sash have been removed. Enough sash are in situ and are documented on historic plans and photos to permit accurate fabrication of new sash. The central entrance bay's gable roof, round window in the peak, round-arched opening with recessed entry, concrete steps, and wood double-doors surmounted by a transom are present. The rear auditorium wing remains in place and, despite later alterations to accommodate a seafood processing function, its original fenestration is clearly evident. The building's interior plan is somewhat intact, with the biggest change being the removal of walls that divided the two classrooms at each end of the main block. Installation of concrete flooring and interior insulating materials have obscured, or possibly replaced, the original finishes in the former classrooms, but remain extant elsewhere in substantial enough quantities to indicate how the school appeared historically.

The School Building Division was established in 1920 during an active period of statewide school consolidation and construction. In its first year of operation, it produced twelve building plans and, by 1926, was anticipated to create drawings for 65 buildings.⁹ The service was touted as cost saving to local school boards.¹⁰ By the late 1920s, the division had developed a code for new school construction projects.¹¹ In the 1930s, the division began to prepare studies on building-related issues, such as insurance coverage and siting, and to serve as a conduit for newly available New Deal era federal funds.¹² Its scope was described in 1934: "The division of school buildings not only inspects to see that every building complies with requirements of law as to sanitation, ventilation, lighting and other matters, but also furnishes building plans to local officials who request them."¹³

The efforts of the Division to provide plans were not without criticism. In 1934, the Virginia chapter of the American Institute of Architects complained that the service was tantamount to unfair competition for private sector architects, and that the service was a wasteful use of

⁸ Specifications may have been prepared but were not located during research for this project.

⁹ Anonymous, "Progress Shown by State Board," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, December 14, 1926.

¹⁰ Associated Press, "160 Fewer Schools Point To Progress In Virginia," *The Daily News Leader*, September 20, 1927.

¹¹ Anonymous, "Education Board Defers Action On Science Textbook," *The Roanoke Times*, June 18, 1928.

¹² Anonymous, "School Building Fire Insurance Needs Stressed," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, March 11, 1931; Anonymous, "Planning Seen as School Need," *The Roanoke Times*, November 29, 1936; Anonymous, "\$2,324,966.56 is Lent to Aid State Schools," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, December 17, 1933.

¹³ Warren A. McNeill, "Supervision Of State Schools Is Close; Is Handled By Departments," *The Roanoke Times*, December 11, 1934.

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taxpayer monies that should be devoted to actual education.¹⁴ Whether for political or practical reasons, the plan service was discontinued in 1946.¹⁵

Context

Cape Charles and Early Years of Public Education

Located in Northampton County of Virginia's Eastern Shore, the Town of Cape Charles was established as a result of the introduction and confluence of major transportation infrastructure. Designed as the terminus of the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad, its harbor allowed for shipping of cargo from the railroad across the Chesapeake Bay to Norfolk on Virginia's western shore. In 1883, William Lawrence Scott, an owner of the railroad, purchased 2,650 acres in southern Northampton County, 40 of which were transferred to the railroad. An additional 136 acres were reserved for the new town, which was laid out by engineer William Bauman in a grid pattern with a central park.¹⁶ The planned town is north of the harbor and the rail lines. Dredging for the harbor began in 1883. The rail line was completed in 1884 and the town was incorporated. Commercial and residential buildings began to be developed soon thereafter.

According to dentist and historian W. D. William, in his history of the town, African Americans were represented early in the town's history, opening the town's first barbershop and a grocery store in 1885.¹⁷ Educational offerings were segregated, as was the norm for Virginia's public school system from its establishment in 1870 until the mid-1960s.

Bethany Methodist Church, completed in 1885, housed the town's first school for White children, who used this facility for one year until a one-room schoolhouse was built on Tazewell Avenue, which began to house White students starting with the 1886-1887 academic year. The Bethany church building then served as a school for African American children beginning in 1888. This school was sponsored by Black grocer Taylor D. Jefferson, whose wife, Mattie Kellam Jefferson, taught there.¹⁸

In July 1891, the county Superintendent of Schools recommended to the Town Council that they form a distinct school district, which they did on April 29, 1892, having made certain financial arrangements.¹⁹ This district was variously considered a "separate" or a "special" district to be eligible for financial incentives and comply with local laws. An annual appropriation financed by a school tax added to the local property taxes that funded the system, which operated independently as one of the state's smallest systems until 1987, when it was re-consolidated with the county system.

¹⁴ Anonymous, "Architects Rap School Building Unit of State," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, February 25, 1934.

¹⁵ Anonymous, "Division of School Buildings Will no Longer Prepare Plans," *The Daily News Leader*, January 15, 1946.

¹⁶ David A. Edwards and John Salmon, National Register nomination Cape Charles Historic District, 1989.

¹⁷ As quoted in Dr W. D. William Latimer, *A History of Cape Charles*.

¹⁸ "The Heart of a Community-Cape Charles Elementary," Cape Charles Rosenwald School Restoration Initiative, <https://ccrosenwaldschool.org/rosenwald-schools>.

¹⁹ Cape Charles Town Council minutes, July 17, 1891; October 9, 1891; April 15, 1892.

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The Cape Charles district coordinated with the Northampton County system, charging for county students who attended schools in Cape Charles and paying tuition to the county for town students who attended schools outside of the town's boundaries. Arrangements and negotiations with the county fluctuated and continued throughout the Cape Charles district's history, and are noted in School Board and Town Council minutes.

In Cape Charles, increasing White student enrollment spurred the construction in 1893 of a new two-room brick school building on Monroe Avenue, which was expanded in 1906 with two additional rooms. A frame building was erected on an adjacent lot to try to address the overcrowding, which was so severe that in 1910, some classes for White children were offered in the town hall.

Meanwhile, the African American students who had studied in the old Bethany Church building were moved to a new purpose-built frame building, Cape Charles Elementary School, at the corner of Washington Avenue and Peach Street in 1912, when the Bethany building was moved to a new location to serve a new congregation.²⁰ Black children used this building on the north side of Cape Charles until the new Rosenwald School was built in 1929 "over the hump" from the town proper.

In 1912, the (White) Cape Charles High School building opened. Though called a high school, it also housed elementary grades for White students. A public high school for Black students in Northampton County and Cape Charles did not exist. According to state historical highway marker WY-2, the private Tidewater Institute was incorporated in 1903 with the stated purpose of establishing an industrial, academic, collegiate, and seminary board school for the education of Black youth. Founded by the Reverend George E. Reid, and supported by the Northampton/Accomack Baptist Association, the institute attracted student from both Virginia and other Atlantic seaboard states. Between 1907-1935, the school educated young Black men and women of Virginia's Eastern Shore.²¹ Such private schools often were the only option available for Black students, particularly those in rural areas, who sought to continue their education beyond seventh grade.

Building the Cape Charles Rosenwald School

As early as 1921, the African American community recognized the need for a new school facility. The Black-owned *Journal and Guide* newspaper noted, "the public school improvement league of this town is keeping busy trying to raise their money for a new school building which is much needed in this town."²² The newspaper also noted musical programs and other fundraisers for the school in 1921, 1922, and 1928, though doubtless other efforts continued without media attention.

²⁰ The former school was demolished in the 1970s.

²¹ Department of Historic Resources, State Historical Highway Markers Database, "Site of Tidewater Institute," WY-2, marker text published online at <https://vcris.dhr.virginia.gov/HistoricMarkers/>.

²² Anonymous, "Cape Charles," *Journal and Guide*, February 19, 1921.

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In July 1924, Town School Board minutes note that “(A) Committee from the Colored School League, composed of Elias Clarke, Chairman, William Tabb, Taylor Jefferson and Rev. P.W. Cooke came before the Board to discuss the matter of securing a location for a new Colored School for Cape Charles.”²³ A joint committee of School Board and school league members was appointed.

In February of the following year, it was reported that the initial choice of the committee for a new school site was “highly impractical inasmuch as lots selected were so located that the Scott estate would not consent to their sale for the purpose of erecting a negro (sic) school.”²⁴ Later that month, the committee continued to negotiate with agents for the Scott estate to fund a suitable parcel. These plans were foiled in July when the Town Council rejected the 2½ acre parcel that was to be donated for the school: “council felt it would be undesirable for the town to build a negro school at the gateway of the town,” and suggested the School Board contact the railroad company to secure a property. The railroad was amenable to a lease, though negotiations with the railroad were delayed briefly when the town’s waterworks site was considered.²⁵

In January 1927, the School Board appeared to be pursuing a lease. They asked the staff to confer with Raymond Long to procure plans and cost estimates.²⁶ By September of that year, the negotiations had shifted from a lease to a real estate purchase.²⁷

Anticipating the land purchase, in early February 1927, the School Board again instructed staff to contact Raymond Long and “request him to draw up plans for a building, conforming to the Rosenwald requirements, containing four standard class rooms (sic), an auditorium with seating capacity of not less than 250, and two industrial rooms . . . (and) to request also an estimate of the cost of this building and to obtain Mr. Long's opinion concerning the best type of heating to use and concerning the possibility of having a cellar in which the industrial rooms can be located.”²⁸ The School Board was eager to receive the deed in order to be able to apply for a Literary Fund Loan. The Fund provided low-interest loans for public school construction and continues to operate today.

In February 1928, the School Board of the Town of Cape Charles purchased a parcel of just over two acres from the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad Company for \$600. The location was across the railroad bridge from downtown (“over the hump”) and was located beside the town dump. Placement of public schools for Black children in such undesirable locations along the outskirts of a town was not unusual and represented another aspect of the

²³ Taylor Jefferson was the sponsor of the earlier school for African Americans; P. W. Cooke, a native of Detroit, was the pastor at First Baptist Church. He taught at the school on Washington Avenue and at Tidewater Institute. Frances Bibbins Latimer, *Remembering Cape Charles* (Eastville, Virginia: Hickory House, 1996); Town School Board minutes, July 21, 1924.

²⁴ Town School Board minutes, February 4, 1925.

²⁵ Town School Board minutes, July 6, 1925; January 29, 1926; March 16, 1926.

²⁶ Raymond V. Long, Director of the Division of School Buildings, Virginia Department of Education; Town School Board minutes, January 26, 1927.

²⁷ Town School Board minutes, September 16, 1927.

²⁸ Town School Board minutes, February 6, 1928.

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discriminatory and unequal status of Black schools compared to those for White students. In April 1928, the School Board met again with a committee of the School League of the Cape Charles Colored School to review the plans for the new building, which the committee approved.²⁹ The committee was charged to take some responsibility for clearing the land.

In May 1928, the School Board met with the Town Council to discuss plans for the building with a cost of an estimated \$16,000, \$2,000 of which would be provided by the Colored School League and \$1,000 by the Rosenwald Fund. Organizations such as the Colored School League typically raised funds across years of effort through small private donations, most often provided by Black community members who also paid property taxes to fund the local school system. The Town Council authorized the School Board to secure plans and specifications for bid.³⁰ Bids for the school were open on July 10th, 1928, with Raymond Long and Mr. Dixon of the school building department of the State Board of education present.³¹ Disappointingly, the bids were all higher than the allocated funds available.³²

In August 1928, the School Board staff met again with the Town Council to discuss the school. After reviewing bids and considering the possibility of having the School Board or the Town act as a general contractor with subcontractors, it was proposed that the lowest bid—from Mr. Charles Russell, in the amount of \$16,361.21—be accepted. The motion was rejected. Those who voted against it noted that “they were in favor of a suitable building for the Colored School (sic), but felt that the plans and specifications should be revised to cover frame instead of brick construction which such other modifications of specifications (sic) as is necessary to reduce the cost to a more economical basis.”³³ The School Board and Town Council met later that month in a called meeting where School Board staff informed the council that the savings from building a frame school were negligible. Staff also read from a letter from R. V. Long extolling the virtues of a masonry structure. The Town Council ultimately approved a brick building and approved the application for a \$10,905 loan from the literary fund.³⁴

By November, the School Board had received new bids and contracted with Charles F. Russell to build the school with a credit for the replacement of school flooring, specified to be maple, with less expensive pine. The board also acknowledged receipt of \$2,000 from the Colored School League.³⁵ The league understood the need for their continued involvement and support of the school, as noted in a newspaper article: “The school improvement league of this city met at the Saint Stephens AME church on Tuesday evening last and constructive plans were outlined, whereby a greater amount of work may be done by the citizens of the community to be ready for the dedication of the new public school.”³⁶ Donation of materials and labor by the Black

²⁹ Town School Board minutes, April 23, 1928.

³⁰ Town Council minutes, May 7, 1928.

³¹ Possibly W. I. Dixon, architect for the school building division who left in 1946 to form Dixon and Noman, Architects.

³² Town School Board minutes, July 19, 1928.

³³ Town Council minutes, August 4, 1928.

³⁴ Town Council minutes, August 16, 1928.

³⁵ Town School Board minutes, November 13, 1928.

³⁶ Anonymous, “Cape Charles,” *Journal and Guide*, January 26, 1929.

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community toward school construction was another common tactic used by local school boards to limit costs for building schools for Black students; White community members were not expected to offset costs in this fashion when schools for White children were being constructed.

By February 1929, the loan from the Literary Fund had been approved and \$10,905 deposited with the Town. Insurance to cover that amount was taken out on the building. The school was not yet finished, and the board urged its completion, as it was supposed to be finished on February 1. The board approved some details about fixtures; asbestos boards with a special coating would substitute for slate backboards (hazards of exposure to asbestos were not yet widely known). Also, the board reported that Mr. Gresham, the State Supervisor of Negro Education, had approved an allocation of \$1,400 toward construction costs rather than \$1,200, as this was the first Rosenwald school in this division. The board planned to buy used desks for the school from the City of Richmond system, which was replacing theirs.³⁷ The practice of furnishing schools for Black students with used equipment and textbooks was commonplace in Virginia. Newly built schools for White students typically had newly acquired furnishings, textbooks, and equipment. When rural White schools were consolidated, their materials often were transferred to schools for Black children; sometimes the outmoded buildings themselves were moved to Black communities to continue in use.

The local community took responsibility not only for the physical plant but also for underwriting operating expenses, as noted: “The school improvement league of this city is gathering interest at each meeting, and plans are being made to beautify the new school grounds, and to raise a substantial amount to help lengthen the school term.”³⁸ These improvement tactics, again, were expected of Black communities but not White communities. Although discriminatory in nature, the efforts made by Black community members endowed their schools with a sense of pride and ownership that persisted despite the obstacles that Jim Crow segregation posed to everyday life.

It appears that the school building was opened and dedicated in May 1929, prior to its operation in the fall of that year. The *Journal and Guide* reported: “the new public school of this city was dedicated on Thursday last, Mr. Gresham and lawyer T.C. Walker were principal speakers for the occasion.”³⁹

In June 1929, the board contacted the Negro School League expressing the expectation that the league would be responsible for preparing the school grounds, including leveling the yard, removing stumps, and providing a “cinder driveway and a cinder walk from the front of the yard to the building.”⁴⁰ The sidewalk and exterior concrete steps were installed by an African American contractor from Cape Charles, Thomas L. Godwin, whose stamp “T L GODWIN” can be found in the sidewalk.

³⁷ Town School Board minutes, February 20, 1929.

³⁸ Anonymous, “Cape Charles,” *Journal and Guide*, February 2, 1929.

³⁹ Thomas Calhoun Walker, Gloucester County native, born enslaved, lawyer, politician, and advocate for Black education; Anonymous, “Cape Charles,” *Journal and Guide*, May 18, 1929.

⁴⁰ Town School Board minutes, June 14, 1929.

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In their September 5th meeting, the board approved the opening of the school on September 16th.⁴¹ In October of that year, the league provided \$50 for school equipment.⁴²

The new school building cost \$16,362, of which \$1,000 came from the Rosenwald Fund, \$10,905 from the state's Literary Fund, \$2,457 from the Town of Cape Charles, and \$2,000 from the Negro School League.⁴³

The masonry building was constructed by Charles Franklin Russell (1887-1963). A native of Accomack County, he was a brick mason and concrete manufacturer who advertised concrete block and burial vaults, until he began work as a general contractor in the 1920s. He built the Matthews Building in Parksley, Parksley High School (demolished 2007), Parksley Shirt Factory, Morrison High School near Newport News, Webb Packing Company in Salisbury, a high school in Pittsville, Maryland, and the Greenbush Manufacturing Company. In the wake of the Great Depression, Russell abandoned contracting for hospitality, opening the Whispering Pines Motel, co-founding the Ocean Highway Association to promote hotels along Routes 13 and 17, and founding the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce in 1953.⁴⁴

Cape Charles Rosenwald School, Equalization, and Closure

"We enjoyed it, we enjoyed ourselves. It was great, we loved it." Odell Johnson Collins

Extensive oral history interviews with former students and at least one former teacher provide an understanding of the operation of the school over the years. Grades were combined in classrooms with teachers teaching first and second, third and fourth, and fifth and sixth grades, and the principal teaching seventh grade.⁴⁵ The school initially had no plumbing, and had a privy and a water pump on grounds.⁴⁶ Often only three of the four classrooms were used.⁴⁷ The auditorium was used for morning devotions and plays.⁴⁸ Other Black community groups often used the

⁴¹ Town School Board minutes, September 5, 1929.

⁴² Town School Board minutes, October 23, 1929.

⁴³ Established by the legislature in 1811.

⁴⁴ An Eastern Shore landmark, the motel was sold and later was the victim of the extended Eastern Shore arson spree of 2012-2013.

⁴⁵ "Alice Brown, Retired Teacher, November 25, 2014," Voices from Over the Hump — An Oral History of the Cape Charles Elementary School — A Rosenwald School, <https://esplheritage.org/home-esva-heritage-center/learn/oral-histories/cape-charles-rosenwald-school-voices-from-over-the-hump/>; "Odelle Johnson Collins, January 22, 2014," Voices from Over the Hump — An Oral History of the Cape Charles Elementary School — A Rosenwald School, <https://esplheritage.org/home-esva-heritage-center/learn/oral-histories/cape-charles-rosenwald-school-voices-from-over-the-hump/>.

⁴⁶ "Alice Brown, Retired Teacher;" "Jacobs Family," Voices from Over the Hump — An Oral History of the Cape Charles Elementary School — A Rosenwald School, <https://esplheritage.org/home-esva-heritage-center/learn/oral-histories/cape-charles-rosenwald-school-voices-from-over-the-hump/>.

⁴⁷ "Bishop' James Edward Davis Jr., October 26, 2013," Voices from Over the Hump — An Oral History of the Cape Charles Elementary School — A Rosenwald School, <https://esplheritage.org/home-esva-heritage-center/learn/oral-histories/cape-charles-rosenwald-school-voices-from-over-the-hump/>.

⁴⁸ "Diane Davis, November 2, 2013;" "Jacobs Family;" Voices from Over the Hump — An Oral History of the Cape Charles Elementary School — A Rosenwald School, <https://esplheritage.org/home-esva-heritage-center/learn/oral-histories/cape-charles-rosenwald-school-voices-from-over-the-hump/>.

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auditorium for meetings and presentations.⁴⁹ The industrial room was used for teaching cooking and woodworking, but later was converted to a lunch room where parents, or cooks, or perhaps the school league made sandwiches.⁵⁰ Eventually this room became a bathroom.⁵¹

In oral history interviews, alumni of the Cape Charles Rosenwald School expressed the pride and affection they had for the school as well as the importance of the educational opportunities it made available. Odell Johnson Collins recalled

Regardless to how far your parents went to school you knew that you had to go to school and your focus was on becoming something else besides what that your mother or father was. Your employment would be different. And they kept before you that education was the most important thing. If you don't have an education then there's nowhere you're going to go. You can't move forward see because first of all we were in the segregation era so we didn't have the books, we didn't have things that they had in the other school in Cape Charles but we had teachers that told us and taught us about decision making, what you have to do, you have to read, you have to know how to do math, you have to know some history.⁵²

During the 1940s, lawsuits began to be filed in Virginia challenging the state's "separate but equal" educational system due to the clear absence of equality in the provision of public education to all children.⁵³ In response, many school districts began to try to compensate for decades of inequality; their efforts resulted in what are often known as "equalization schools," which included newly constructed buildings as well as upgrades to existing schools. In 1949, an oil burner for heating was added to the Cape Charles Elementary School, and in 1951, indoor plumbing and a bathroom were added.

Northampton County built a new, public, purpose-built African American high school in 1953, the first of its kind in the county. In 1955, the school superintendent conducted an inspection of the Cape Charles Elementary School, noting the need for painting and carpentry repairs.⁵⁴ The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), perhaps an evolution of the Negro School League, addressed the School Board in May of 1956. Mrs. Edna Mae Scott and Mrs. Alice Sample met "to ascertain the progress made on meeting the deficiencies at that school which they presented at the last meeting. The School Board advised the committee that several items had already been taken care of and that other items would be taken care of as soon as possible."⁵⁵ By June, contracts had been let for painting, rewiring, and the hiring of a fourth teacher at the school, and the School

⁴⁹ "Alice Brown, Retired Teacher."

⁵⁰ "Alice Brown, Retired Teacher;" "'Bishop' James Edward Davis, Jr.;" "Odelle Johnson Collins." /

⁵¹ "Jacobs Family."

⁵² Odelle Johnson Collins, January 22, 2014, "Voices from Over the Hump – An Oral History of the Cape Charles Elementary School – A Rosenwald School," <https://esplheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/OdelleCollins4museum-converted.pdf>.

⁵³ Grace Schultz, "Equalization and its Role in Dismantling Racial Segregation in Virginia Schools," *Rediscovering Black History*, <https://rediscovering-black-history.blogs.archives.gov/2022/05/04/equalization-and-its-role-in-dismantling-racial-segregation-in-virginia-public-schools/>.

⁵⁴ School Board minutes, January 24, 1955 and June 27, 1955.

⁵⁵ School Board minutes, May 28, 1956

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Board was working with the Department of Transportation to pave the road to the school.⁵⁶ Repairs noted in the early 1960s include 65 windowpanes and “general overall improvements . . . so that the building would be comparable with the high school.”⁵⁷

Despite the Supreme Court’s 1954 *Brown v Board of Education* decision, it appears that the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964 was the impetus for the beginning of school integration in Northampton County. In February 1965, the School Board minutes noted that the Virginia Department of Education had advised they hire legal counsel to ensure compliance with the new federal law.⁵⁸ In 1965, the Board considered a “freedom of choice plan,” a scheme used elsewhere across Virginia that was later ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court’s 1968 *Green v. New Kent County* decision. By December 1966, however, Northampton County Schools were consolidated, and the Cape Charles Elementary School building was closed. Students were taught in segregated classrooms at the Cape Charles High School building until 1970-1971, when the schools were truly integrated.

Alumnus Richard Bland attended Cape Charles Elementary School from 1961 through 1966. He recollected the inadequate education materials provided to Black students compared to White students and the difficulties that accompanied integration of the local schools.

We got the hand-me-downs usually from the white school but they (teachers) used those books and they taught us from those books and I mean, they really gave us what they could from those hand-me-downs. I remember when I went to the white school...I went from an A and B student to a C and D student... The books were harder, I mean... it was newer stuff but eventually ...we’d catch up.

...I had one teacher in the seventh grade when ...the schools were integrated, and this lady was just ...a stone- in my opinion, racist. I mean she couldn’t say the word negro, she had to say nigga – niggars not negros...I’d sit there and I’d look at her and I’d be angry and I couldn’t do anything, I’m just a kid sitting in the class ...never will forget that anger.⁵⁹

The Cape Charles Rosenwald School was sold in 1968 for \$17,500 to George W. J. Robberecht, and the next year it was passed to George Robberecht Seafood Incorporated. Robberecht and his family had an established business in Mt. Holly on the Northern Neck, catching and processing eels largely for export to Europe.⁶⁰ Established in 1963, the company added the Cape Charles Plant to expand capacity. Robberecht was originally from Holland and moved to Nova Scotia in the 1950s.⁶¹ He continued from Canada to the United States to capitalize on the fact that the U.S. imposed no catch limits on eels. By 1975, Robberecht was a multimillion-dollar enterprise, processing and exporting more than two million pounds of eels caught along the entire eastern

⁵⁶ School Board minutes, June 25, 1956; August 6, 1956

⁵⁷ Unclear if this is cumulative damage over time or a result of vandalism; School Board minutes, August 22, 1960; School Board minutes, November 26, 1962.

⁵⁸ School Board minutes, February 22, 1965

⁵⁹ “Richard Bland, student, December 6, 2014,” Voices from Over the Hump – An Oral History of the Cape Charles Elementary School – A Rosenwald School, <https://esplheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Richard-Bland.pdf>.

⁶⁰ Preston Grady, “Seafood Value Spurs Experimentation,” *Daily Press* February 23, 1966

⁶¹ Richard Schweid, *Consider the Eel* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010).

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seaboard.⁶² That the Cape Charles School had originally been built for about \$16,350 forty years prior to its sale to Robberecht likely is indicative of its poor condition after decades of under-investment by the local School Board, a situation that was endemic of Black schools in Virginia during the Jim Crow era.

After the seafood operation shut down, the building was vacant. In 2018, Geo. Robberecht Seafood Inc. sold the building to Cape Charles Rosenwald School Restoration, Inc., which plans to rehabilitate the building.

Registration Requirements

A well-preserved Rosenwald School built between 1917 and 1932 using funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, the Cape Charles Rosenwald School fulfills the registration requirements provided by the Rosenwald Schools in Virginia (012-5041) Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPD). The one-story building is of masonry, not frame construction, which is unusual, but the design is based on a Rosenwald standard plan from Samuel L. Smith's *Community School Plans* (referred to as Subtype #2 Schools in the MPD). The MPD states:

a Rosenwald school in Virginia must have been built between 1917 and 1932 utilizing funds provided personally by Julius Rosenwald or the Julius Rosenwald Fund. The extant schools will also meet registration requirements because of their design, floor plans, workmanship and materials. Stylistic details are minimal, although some schools display Craftsmen or Colonial Revival influences. In general, to qualify for registration, the schools should retain their original location in a rural setting and the design, floor plans, workmanship and materials that evoke their period of construction and the conditions of the time. They should retain a high degree of architectural integrity. The integrity of their association and feeling is greatly bolstered by their rural setting.

The Cape Charles Rosenwald School retains its original location in a rural setting, bolstering its integrity of association and feeling. The design, floor plans, workmanship and materials that evoke their period of construction and the conditions of the time are slightly impaired, but still relatively intact. Of brick construction, with a round-arched entry bay, brick water table, concrete window sills and flat brick arches, and round windows with concrete keystones at each gable peak, the building displays the influence of Colonial Revival style that has been one of the most popular styles in Virginia since the late 19th century. The Cape Charles Rosenwald School meets the MPD's registration requirements for listing under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: African American and Education and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

⁶² Lazarus, Jerry, "Mount Holly Dutchman Creates Multimillion-dollar Business," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, June 8, 1975.

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Virginia Department of Education School Buildings Service. "Cape Charles, Northampton County," 2 photos, southeast and northeast corners. Virginia. No date, Collection of the Library of Virginia.

Williams, Ida Jay. *A History of Education for African Americans, During the Segregation Period 1886-1970 in Northampton County, Virginia*. Morgantown, PA: Mastof Press. 2007.

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: Northampton County Clerk's Office; Northampton County School Board Office; Town of Cape Charles Clerk's Office; Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #182-0003

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.5

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
County and State

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: 37.263234° Longitude: -76.009692 °

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: |

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

The boundary is as follows: beginning at a point in the westerly line of a Public Road (which runs northwardly, crossing the railroad of the said New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad Company by an overhead bridge to Mason Avenue) at a distance of two hundred and eighty-eight feet and four-tenths of a foot measured north nineteen degrees five minutes; west along the said line of road from a stone monument at the southeasterly corner of land, conveyed by Matthew H. Taylor, et al., Trustees, to the said Railroad Company, by deed dated August 4th, 1904, and recorded in Deed Book 55, page 152, the said stone monument being also in the northerly line of a private road and opposite an angle in the easterly line of the said Public Road; extending from the said beginning point by other land of the said Railroad Company as follows: First, South eighty-four degrees forty-five minutes West on a line parallel with and two hundred and eighty feet Northwardly from the Southerly line of the land acquired from Matthew H. Taylor et al., Trustees as aforesaid, four hundred and twenty-five feet; Second, North five degrees fifteen minutes West two hundred and eighty feet; and Third, North eighty-four degrees forty-five minutes East three hundred and fifty-six feet and one-tenth of a foot to a point in the said Westerly line of the Public Road; and thence South nineteen degrees five minutes East along the last mentioned line two hundred and eighty-eight feet and four-tenths of a foot to a place of beginning. The boundary contains approximately two acres and five hundred and ten thousandths of an acre. The land is a portion of Cape Charles Tax Parcel 83A3-A-14D that was previously known as 83A4-A-23, as indicated on a survey dated September 10, 2021, and submitted as the National Register

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
County and State

boundary map. The true and correct boundary is shown on the attached Location Map, which has a bar scale of 1"=400'.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary contains all that property as conveyed to the Cape Charles School Board in 1928 and historically associated with the Cape Charles Rosenwald School. All known associated historic resources and the historic setting are included in the boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary Ruffin Hanbury
organization: Hanbury Preservation Consulting
street & number: P. O. Box 6049
city or town: Raleigh state: NC zip code: 27628
e-mail: maryruffin@hanburypreservation.com
telephone: (919) 828-1905
date: August 14, 2023

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: Cape Charles Rosenwald School
City or Vicinity/ County/ State: Cape Charles, Northampton County, VA
Photographer: Mary Ruffin Hanbury
Date Photographed: Listed below

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
County and State

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

Date Photographed: November 4, 2022
Exterior, Façade, View to W
1 of 29

Date Photographed: November 4, 2022
Exterior, Southeast corner, View to NW
2 of 29

Date Photographed: November 4, 2022
Exterior, Southeast corner, View to N-NW
3 of 29

Date Photographed: November 4, 2022
Exterior, South elevation, View to NE
4 of 29

Date Photographed: November 4, 2022
Exterior, Southwest corner, View to NE
5 of 29

Date Photographed: November 4, 2022
Exterior, West elevation, View to E
6 of 29

Date Photographed: November 4, 2022
Exterior, Northwest corner, View to E-SE
7 of 29

Date Photographed: November 4, 2022
Exterior, Northwest corner, View to SE
8 of 29

Date Photographed: November 4, 2022
Exterior, North elevation, View to S
9 of 29

Date Photographed: November 4, 2022
Exterior, Roof detail, View to N
10 of 29.

Date Photographed: November 4, 2022

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
County and State

Exterior, Main Entrance, View to W
11 of 29

Date Photographed: November 4, 2022
Exterior, Sidewalk Stamp, View to W
12 of 29

Date Photographed: May 11, 2023
Interior, Main Entrance, View to SE
13 of 29

Date Photographed: May 11, 2023
Interior, Vestibule, View to W
14 of 29

Date Photographed: May 11, 2023
Interior, Office/Library, View to NE
15 of 29

Date Photographed: November 4, 2022
Interior, Corridor, View to SE
16 of 29

Date Photographed: May 11, 2023
Interior, Industrial Room/Bathroom, View to SE
17 of 29

Date Photographed: November 4, 2022
Interior, Corridor, View to N
18 of 29

Date Photographed: May 11, 2023
Interior, North Classrooms, View to NW
19 of 29

Date Photographed: May 11, 2023
Interior, North Classrooms, View to W
20 of 29

Date Photographed: May 11, 2023
Interior, South Classrooms, View to SW
21 of 29

Date Photographed: May 11, 2023

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
County and State

Interior, South Classrooms, View to SE
22 of 29

Date Photographed: May 11, 2023
Interior, Corridor, View to SE
23 of 29

Date Photographed: May 11, 2023
Interior, Auditorium, View to W
24 of 29

Date Photographed: November 4, 2022
Interior, Auditorium, View to N
25 of 29

Date Photographed: May 11, 2023
Interior, Auditorium, View to NE
26 of 29

Date Photographed: November 4, 2022
Interior, Auditorium, View to SE
27 of 29

Date Photographed: May 11, 2023
Interior, Auditorium, View to SW
28 of 29

Date Photographed: May 11, 2023
Interior, Auditorium, View to E
29 of 29.

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure Number	Caption
1	Figure 1. Division of School Buildings, Virginia State Department of Education, <i>School for Cape Charles, Va, Northampton County</i> , Plan No. 364, June 1928, Drawing #1.
2	Figure 2. Division of School Buildings, Virginia State Department of Education, <i>School for Cape Charles, Va, Northampton County</i> , Plan No. 364, June 1928, Drawing #2.
3	Figure 2. Division of School Buildings, Virginia State Department of Education, <i>School for Cape Charles, Va, Northampton County</i> , Plan No. 364, June 1928, Drawing #2.
4	Figure 4. Division of School Buildings, Virginia State Department of Education, <i>School for Cape Charles, Va, Northampton County</i> , Plan No. 364, June 1928, Drawing #4.

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
County and State

Figure Number	Caption
5	Figure 5. Division of School Buildings, Virginia State Department of Education, <i>School for Cape Charles, Va, Northampton County</i> , Plan No. 364, June 1928, Drawing #5.
6	Figure 6. Division of School Buildings, Virginia State Department of Education, <i>School for Cape Charles, Va, Northampton County</i> , Plan No. 364, June 1928, Drawing #6.
7	Figure 7. Division of School Buildings, Virginia State Department of Education, <i>School for Cape Charles, Va, Northampton County</i> , Plan No. 364, June 1928, Drawing #7.
8	Figure 8. Division of School Buildings, Virginia State Department of Education, <i>School for Cape Charles, Va, Northampton County</i> , Plan No. 364, June 1928, Drawing #8.

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
 Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
 County and State

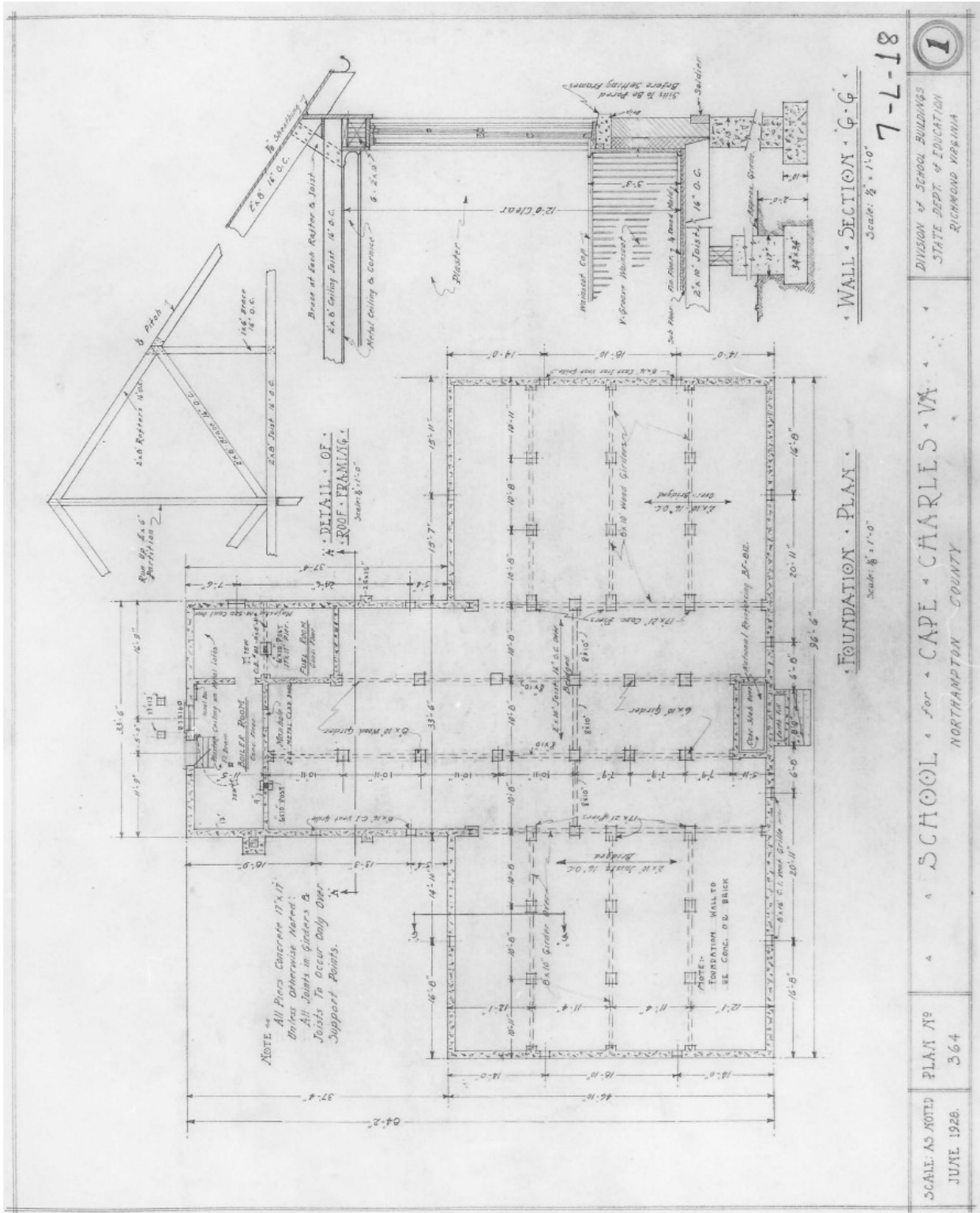


Figure 1. Division of School Buildings, Virginia State Department of Education, School for Cape Charles, Va, Northampton County, Plan No. 364, June 1928, Drawing #1.

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
 Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
 County and State

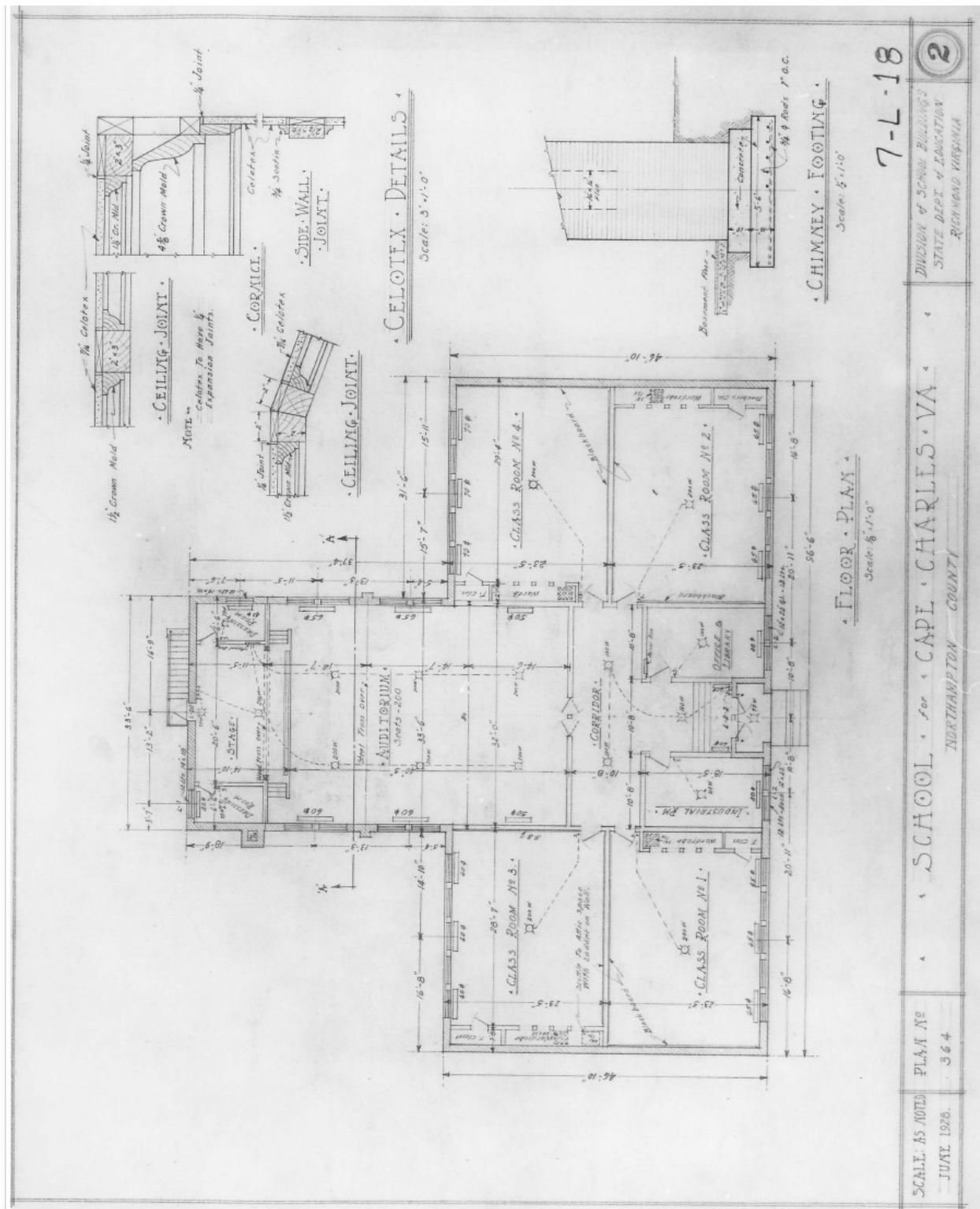


Figure 2. Division of School Buildings, Virginia State Department of Education, School for Cape Charles, Va, Northampton County, Plan No. 364, June 1928, Drawing #2.

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
County and State

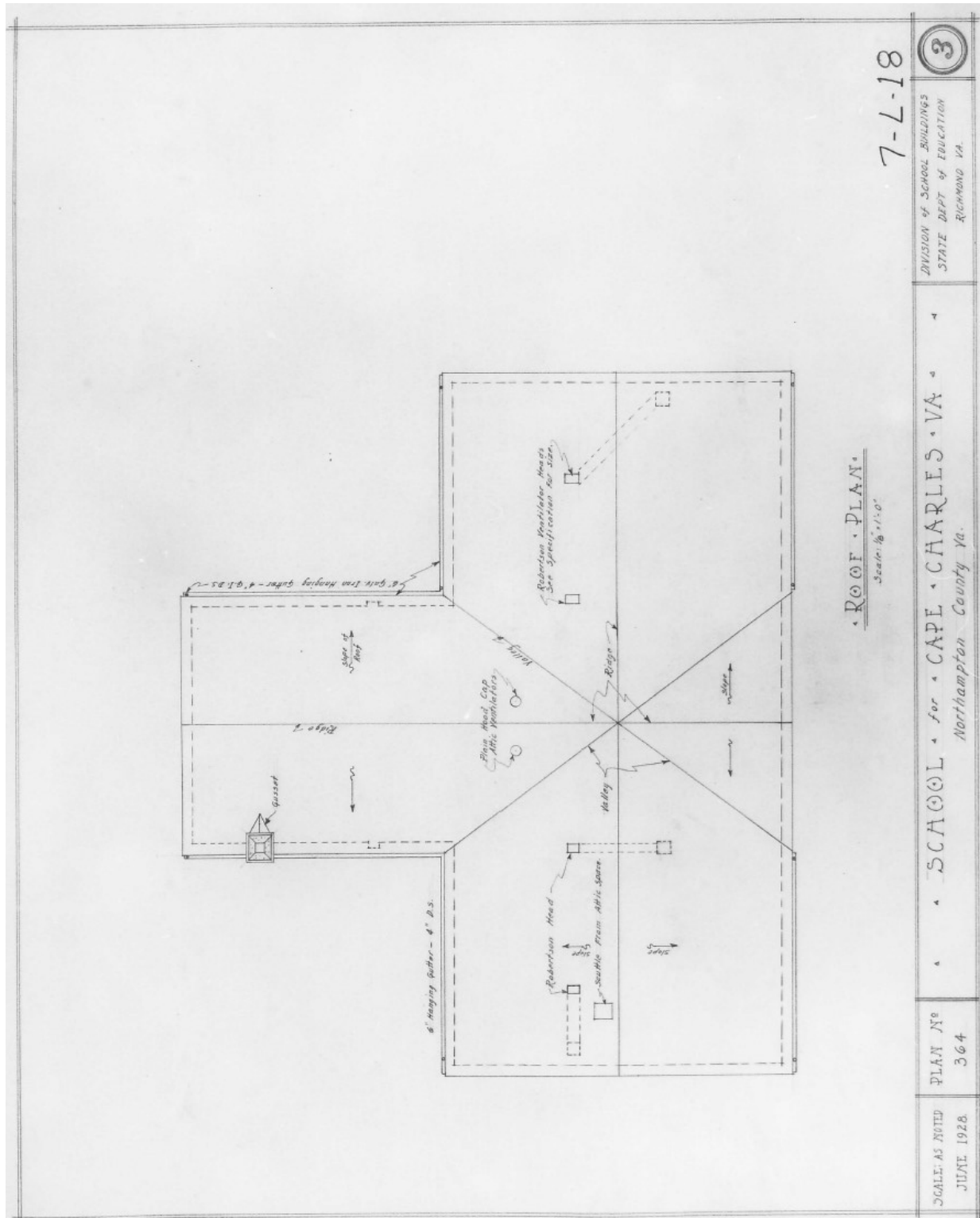


Figure 3. Division of School Buildings, Virginia State Department of Education, School for Cape Charles, Va, Northampton County, Plan No. 364, June 1928, Drawing #3.

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
County and State

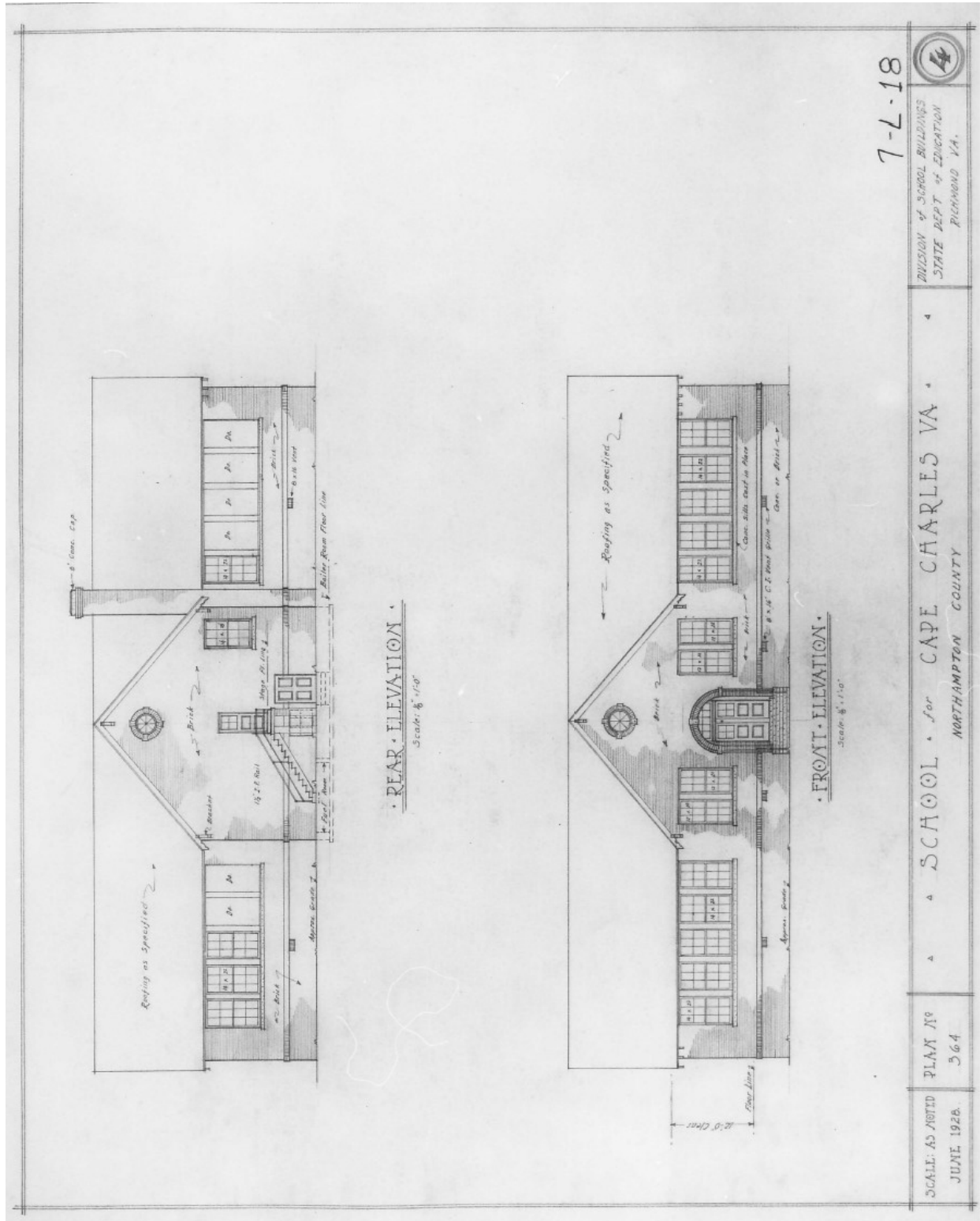


Figure 4. Division of School Buildings, Virginia State Department of Education, School for Cape Charles, Va, Northampton County, Plan No. 364, June 1928, Drawing #4.

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
County and State

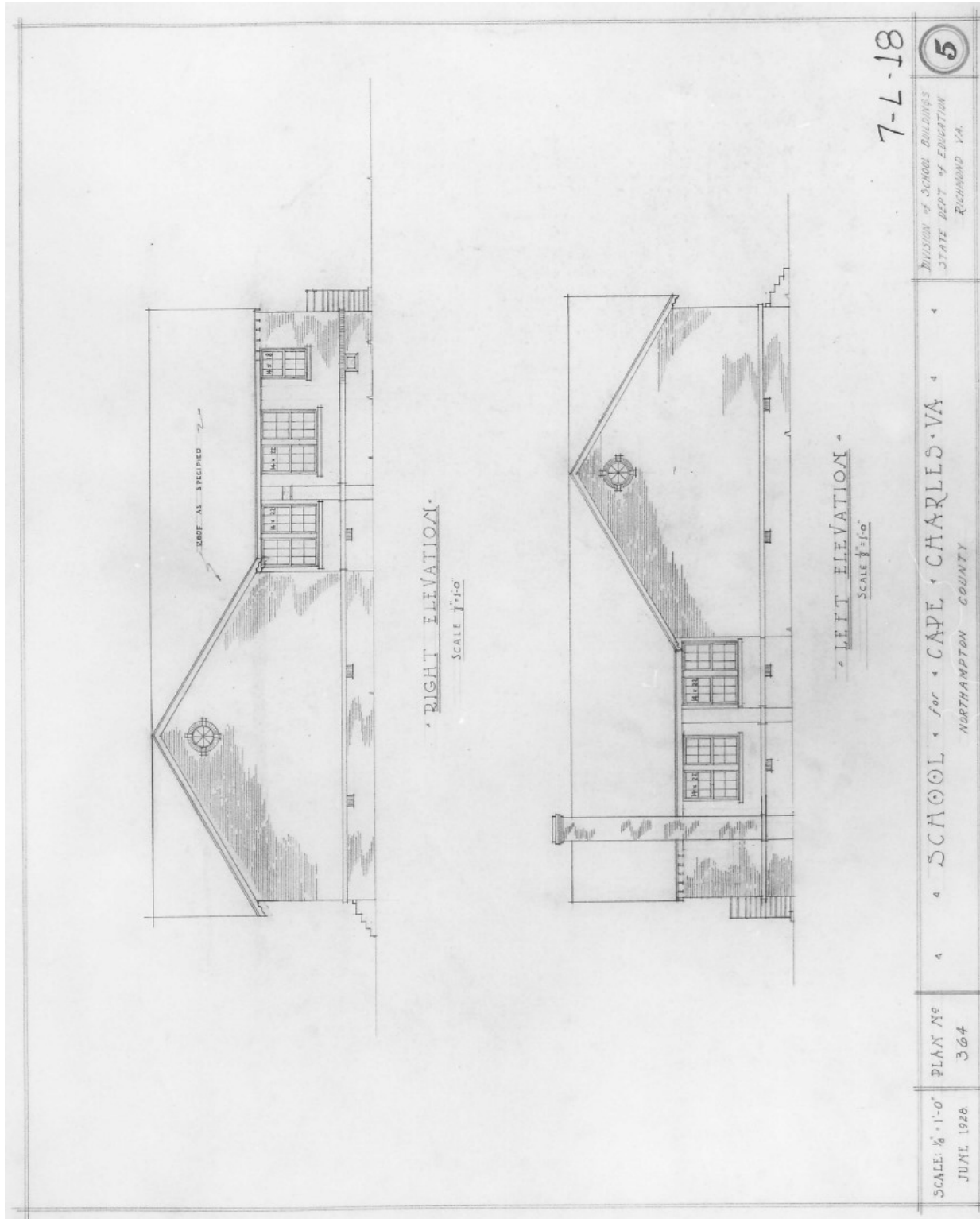


Figure 5. Division of School Buildings, Virginia State Department of Education, School for Cape Charles, Va, Northampton County, Plan No. 364, June 1928, Drawing #5.

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
County and State

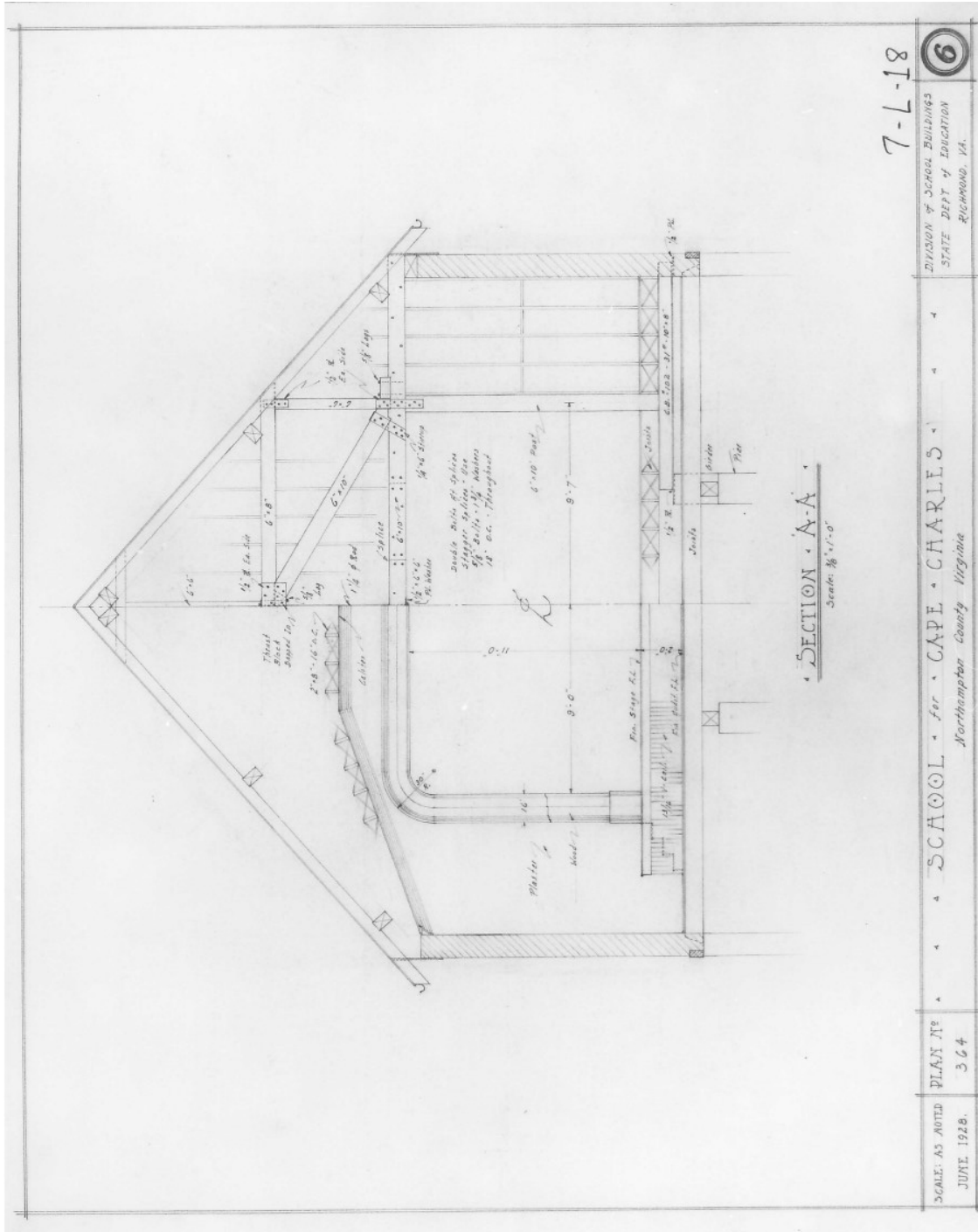


Figure 6. Division of School Buildings, Virginia State Department of Education, *School for Cape Charles, Va, Northampton County*, Plan No. 364, June 1928, Drawing #6.

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
 Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
 County and State

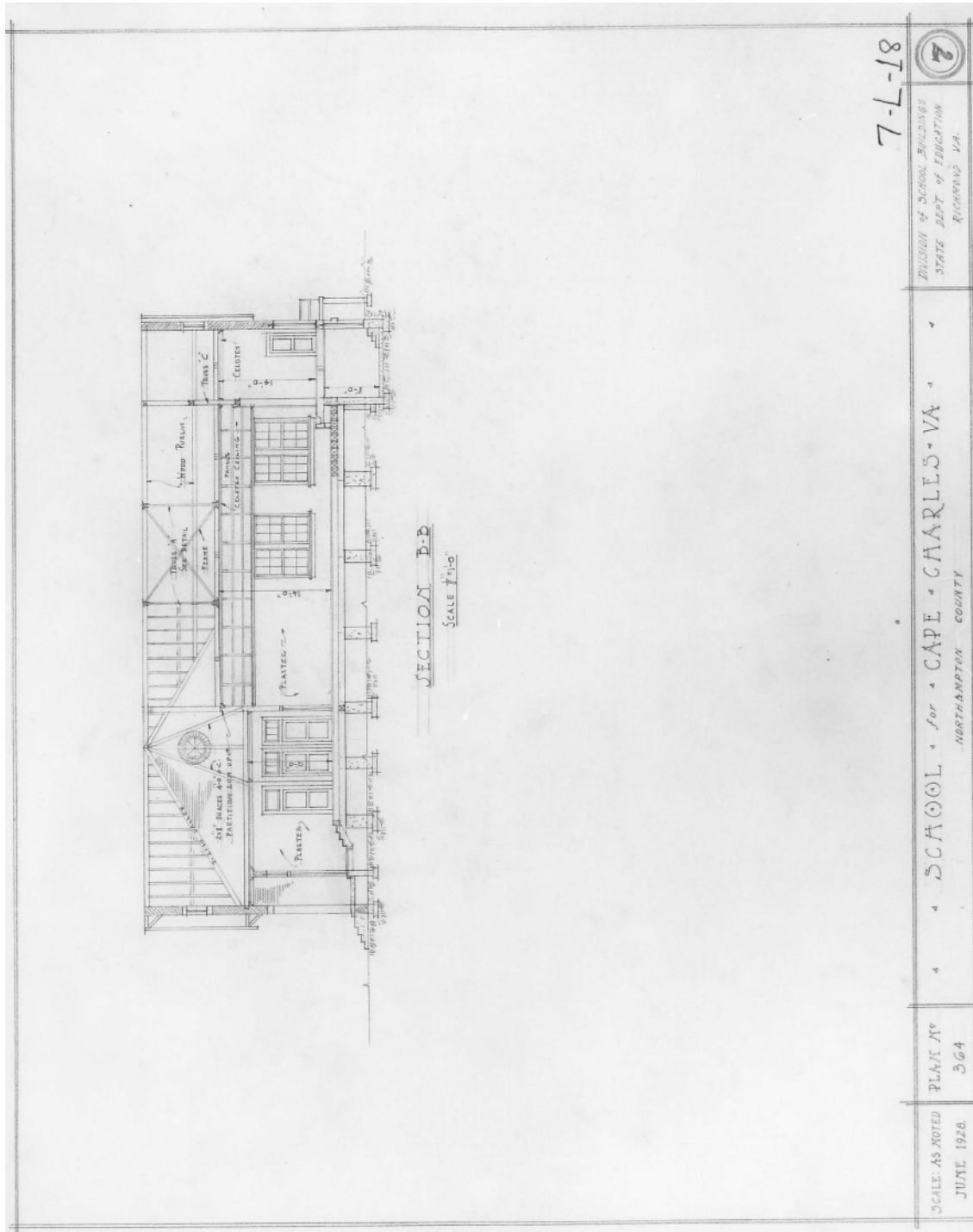


Figure 7. Division of School Buildings, Virginia State Department of Education, *School for Cape Charles, Va, Northampton County*, Plan No. 364, June 1928, Drawing #7.

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
 Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
 County and State

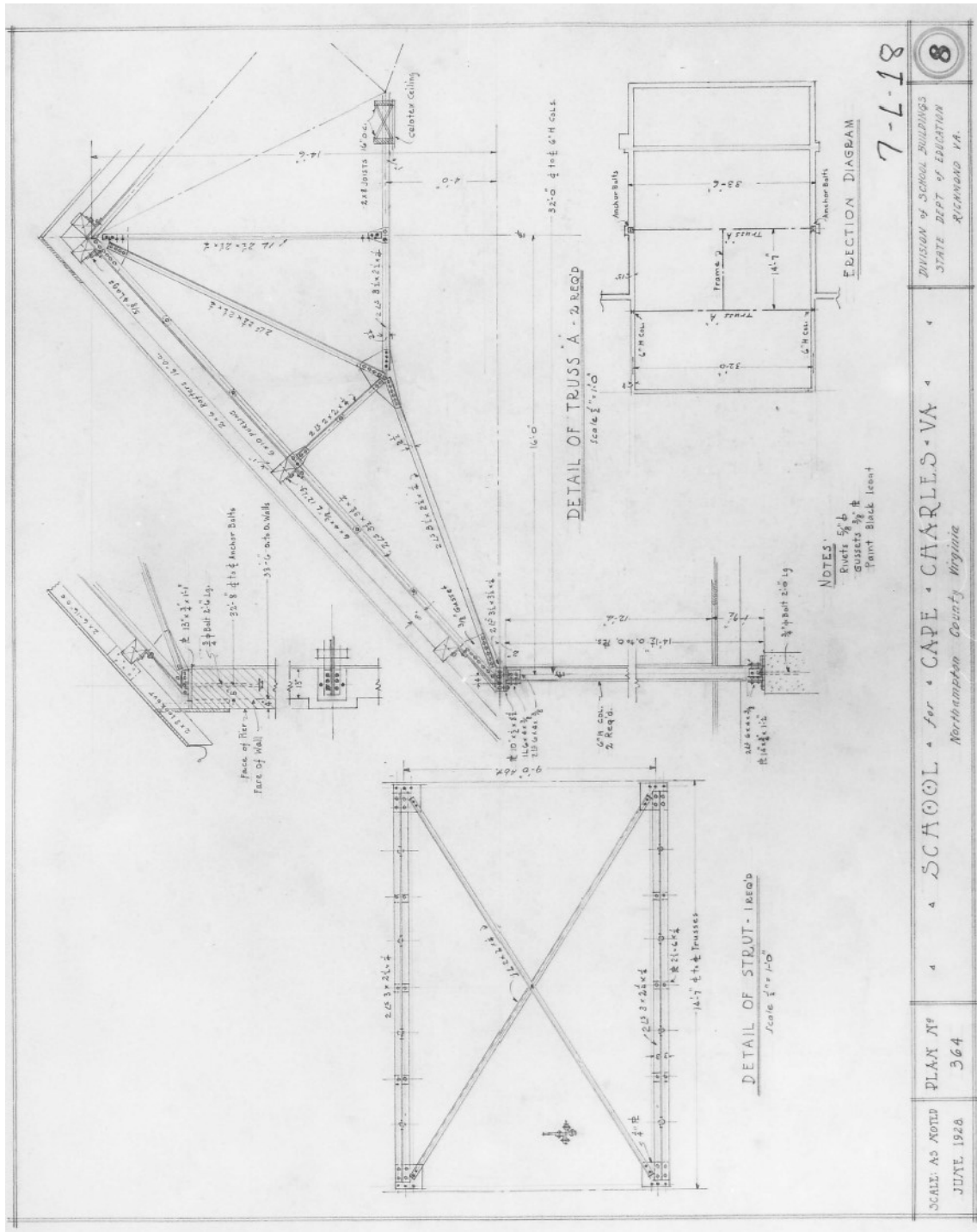


Figure 8. Division of School Buildings, Virginia State Department of Education, *School for Cape Charles, Va, Northampton County*, Plan No. 364, June 1928, Drawing #8.

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
Name of Property

Northampton County, VA
County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Legend

 County Boundaries

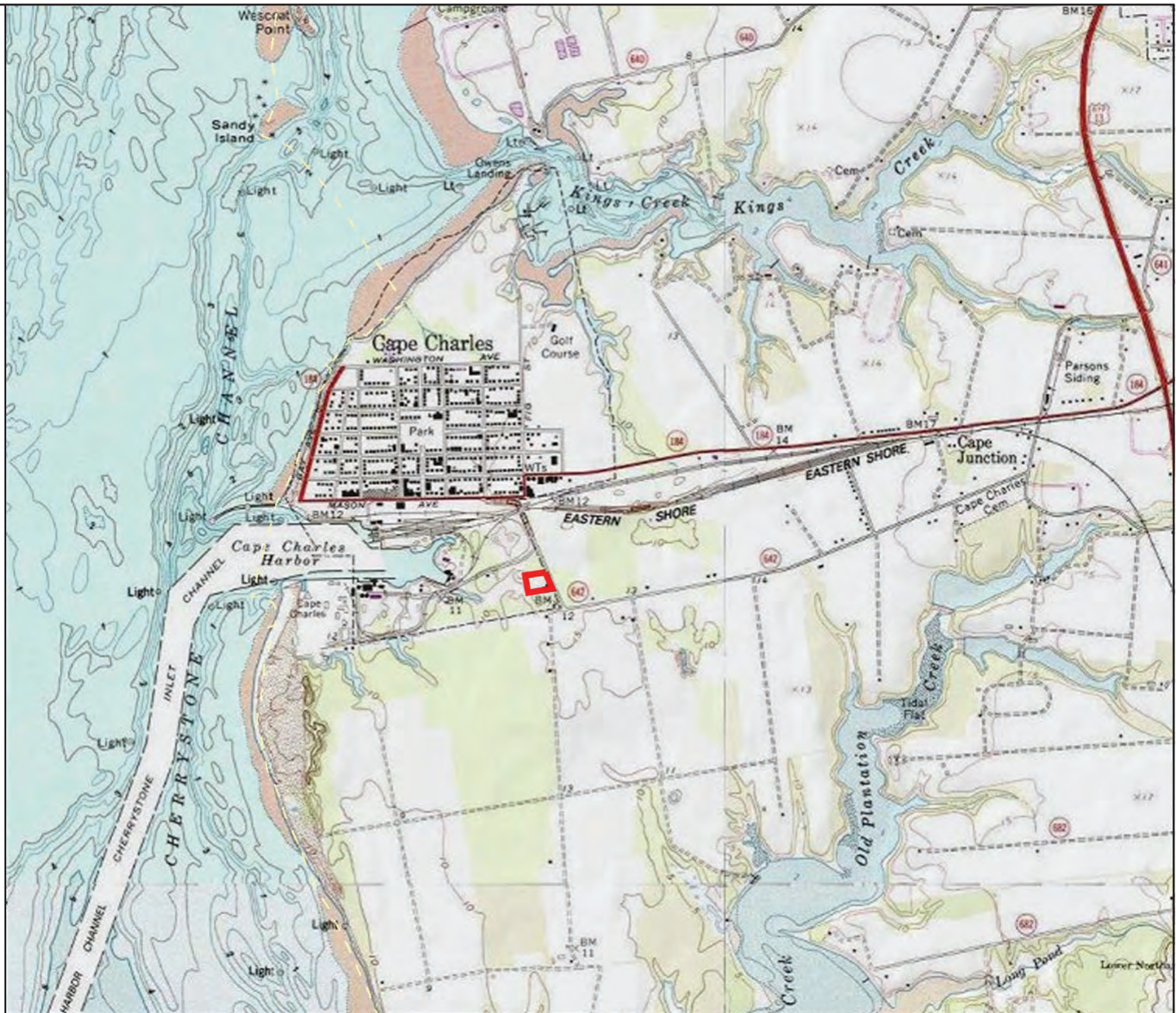
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Cape Charles Rosenwald School

Town of Cape Charles

Northampton County, VA

DHR No. 182-0003



 Historic Boundary



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400

1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

Title:

Date: 7/26/2023

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.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



Legend

County Boundaries

AERIAL VIEW - VICINITY
Cape Charles Rosenwald School
Town of Cape Charles
Northampton County, VA
DHR No. 182-0003

Historic Boundary



Feet



0 120 240 360 480
1:72,224 / 1"=6,019 Feet



Title:

Date: 7/26/2023

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.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



Legend

County Boundaries

ROAD MAP

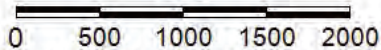
Cape Charles Rosenwald School
Town of Cape Charles
Northampton County, VA
DHR No. 182-0003



Historic Boundary



Feet



1:18,056 / 1"=1,505 Feet

Title:

Date: 7/26/2023



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.

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Location Map

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
206 Old Cape Charles Road
Cape Charles, Northampton County, VA
VDHR# 182-0003

Legend

-  37.263234° -76.009692°
-  Boundary



Google Earth

400 ft




Old Ca

Sketch Map

Cape Charles Rosenwald School
206 Old Cape Charles Road
Cape Charles, Northampton County, VA
VDHR# 182-0003

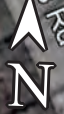
Legend

 School



Google Earth

100 ft



Old Cape Charles Rd

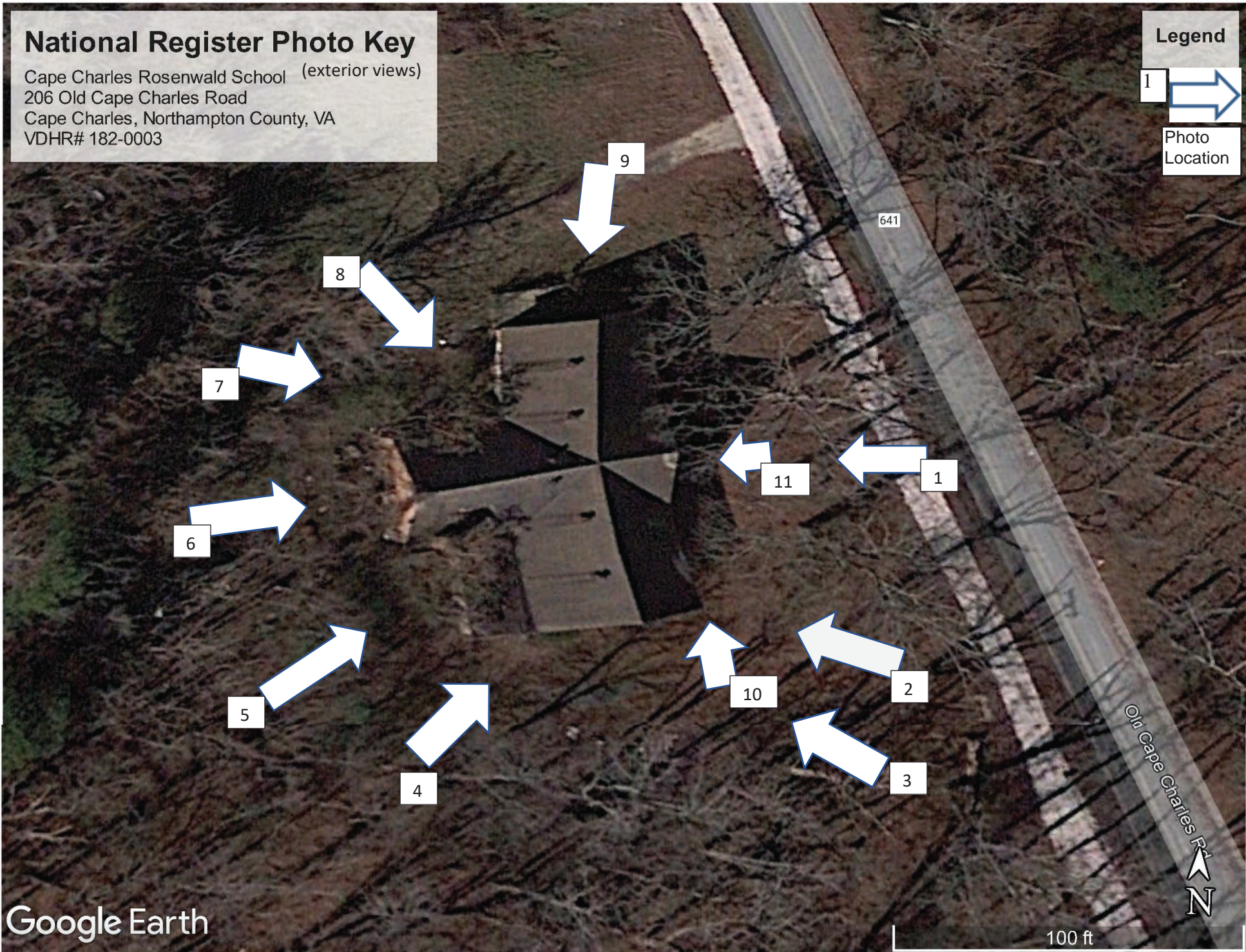
National Register Photo Key

Cape Charles Rosenwald School (exterior views)
206 Old Cape Charles Road
Cape Charles, Northampton County, VA
VDHR# 182-0003

Legend

1 

Photo Location









Google Earth

100 ft

© Old Cape Charles Rd
N

Northampton County, Virginia

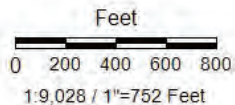
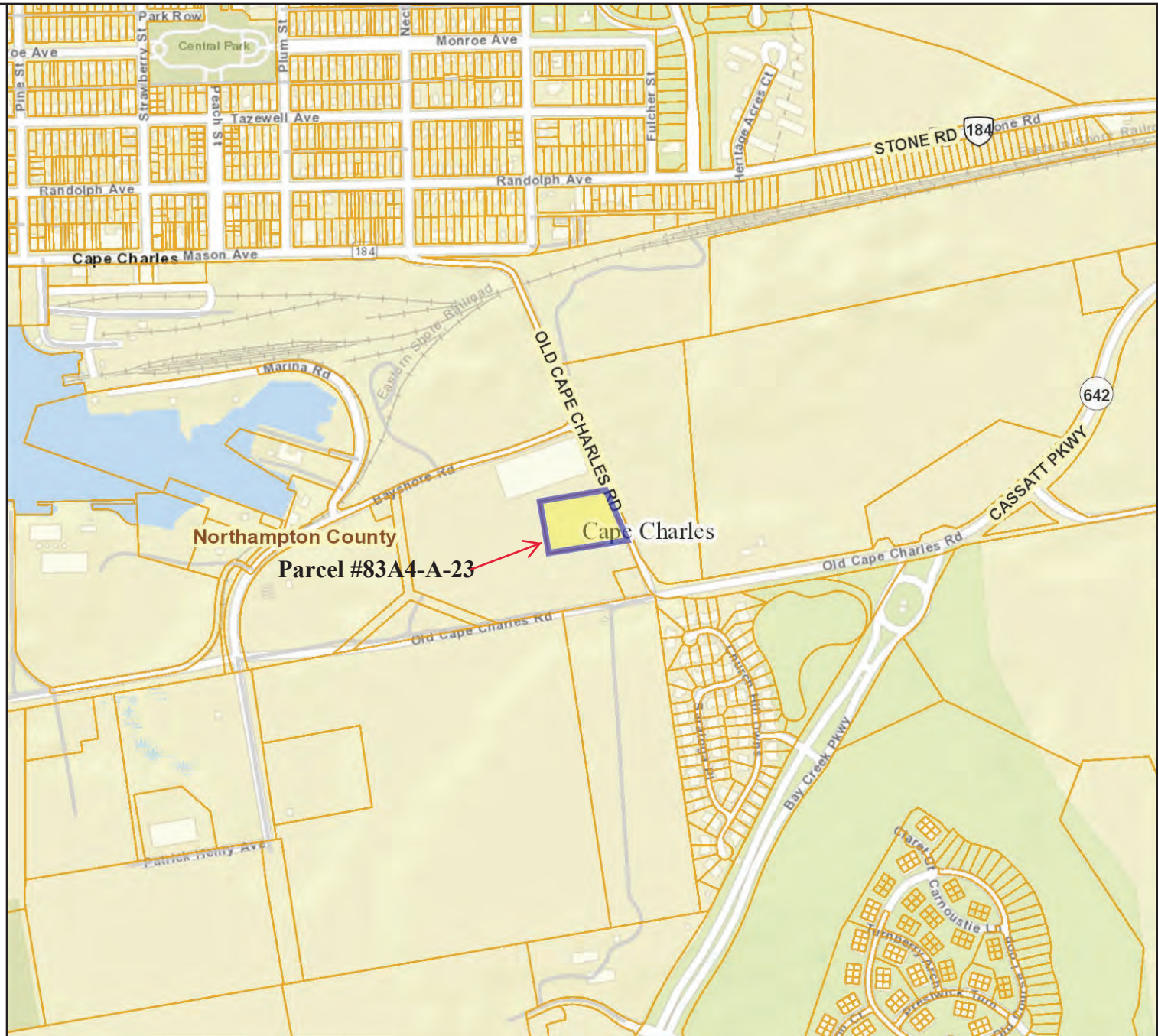
Legend

-  County Boundaries
-  Town Names
-  Route Numbers
-  Road Labels
-  Parcels
-  Driveways

TAX PARCEL MAP
Cape Charles Rosenwald School
Town of Cape Charles
Northampton County, VA
DHR No. 182-0003

Tax Parcel #83A4-A-23

 **Historic Boundary**



Title: Parcels <https://parcelviewer.geodecisions.com/Northampton/>

Date: 10/28/2022

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 Northampton is not responsible for its accuracy or how current it may be.