



**PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES**

*Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.*

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 032-0228

**1. General Property Information**

Property name: Evergreen School

Property address: 1433 Rising Sun Rd

City or Town: Palmyra

Zip code: 22963

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Fluvanna County

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building x                      Site \_\_\_\_\_                      Structure \_\_\_\_\_                      Object \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Physical Aspects**

Acreage: 2.3

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban \_\_\_\_\_ Suburban \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Village \_\_\_\_\_ Hamlet \_\_\_\_\_ Rural x

Briefly describe the property's overall location and setting, including any notable landscape features:

Evergreen School is a two-classroom schoolhouse in a rural setting on the west side of Virginia State Route 608 (Rising Sun Rd) about 3 miles east of U.S. Route 15 and 7.5 miles south of Interstate 64. It is set back about 60 feet from Rising Sun Road with its windows and access doors facing east towards the road. There is a wooded area to the west of the school, and a smaller wooded area to the north of the school. There is a clearing to the south of the school, and a smaller clearing to the east of the school between the school building and Rising Sun Rd, with a scattering of trees within the grass clearing between the school and road. There is a small gravel driveway for the property southeast of the school. There is a private residence across the road from the school, and there are additional private residences, wooded areas, and clearings along Rising Sun Rd. There is a derelict store building about ¼ mile south of the Evergreen school building. The county parcel ID# is 7571.

### 3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Vernacular

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: Virginia Dept. of Education Staff Architects

If the builder is known, please list here: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1935

#### **Narrative Description (Please do not exceed one page in describing the property):**

Briefly describe the property's general characteristics, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions or other major alterations.

Evergreen School is a well-preserved example of schoolhouses designed by the Virginia Dept. of Education in Virginia for the education of African-American children. This building conforms to the Virginia Department of Education Plan #599 design. The building is a rectangular plan, sitting parallel to the road, with the east facade closest to the road. The orientation of the building was chosen to best utilize natural daylight for class time, as the building was without electricity. The building sits on brick masonry piers. The gable roof has asphalt shingle roofing, and all roof eaves are open with exposed rafter tails. The building was constructed using platform framing, in lieu of balloon framing, the more common framing method at the time of construction. The clapboard siding is original to the building. The east facade is symmetrical, with a covered porch entrance to both the north and south classrooms. The five panel doors and three pane clerestory windows above are original to the building's construction. The north porch is a modern replacement of an earlier raised wood stoop. Based on photographic evidence, the south concrete stoop appears to be original. Ten 12-pane windows in two banks of five provide light for each classroom on the east facade. The west facade has two symmetrically placed 6-over-6 double-hung wood windows providing light to the classrooms' cloakrooms at each end.

Both classrooms have blackboards on the west wall of the classroom, with chalk trays. An operable blackboard partition between the classrooms is a unique feature to the school, not included in the original Virginia state plans. A door located on the east side of the blackboard partition connects the two classrooms. A built-in bookcase was constructed in the north-west corner of each classroom; both retain their original glass doors. The hardware to operate the double-blinds of the windows is extant to the historic buildings. The north classroom's cloakroom is located north of the classroom, behind the blackboard. The south classroom's cloakroom is located south of the classroom. Both classrooms have concrete pads centered on the cloakroom wall where iron stoves were located to heat the classroom. The interior of the building features early gypsum board walls and ceilings as interior finishes, with the lower portion of the walls being finished with bead board.

Based on photographic evidence, it is believed that the school originally had asphalt shingle roofing, though the original roof has been replaced. This is notable as the state prototype plan of the building was based on calls for a standing seam metal roof. Located on the property behind the building is a shed, construction date of which is unknown, though it is not original to the school's construction. A privy original to the building's construction was located behind the school to the west, however the structure no longer exists. In recent years, the building has been used as a storage facility for family and community members. Included with these items are fully intact, original desks that currently exist within the building.

In a bullet list, include any outbuildings or secondary resources or major landscape features (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

- A shed exists to the west of the building. Its use and construction date are unknown. Based on oral history and aerial photography, the shed is understood to not be from the original construction period of the schoolhouse.
- Based on oral history, a privy stood to the west of the building. The structure no longer remains, but wooden boards mark its approximate location
- A flagpole once stood at the front of the school. It no longer remains, but its location is marked by a remaining cavity.
- A well existed to the west of the building, but its location is unclear. A water pump was utilized in later years and is still standing behind the northwest corner of the building.
- During recess, students would play among the pine trees to the west, and a dirt basketball half-court allowed pickup games. No traces of the basketball court remain.
- Consistent with early 20<sup>th</sup> century African-American school buildings, Evergreen had a maypole at one time, but its location is unknown.

#### 4. Property's History and Significance (Please do not exceed one page)

Briefly explain the property's historic importance, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property.

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

The current Evergreen school began construction in August 1935 and was completed in September 1935. The first students attended class on September 30<sup>th</sup> and a formal dedication occurred on October 15. This two-room schoolhouse was one of many Virginia state-funded schools built during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, similar to the Rosenwald Fund efforts to provide accessible education for African-American students during the era of segregation. Evergreen was closely connected to the nearby Dunbar-Rosenwald School constructed in 1924, located in the New Fork community of southern Fluvanna County. Evergreen school was built as a direct response to the original one-room schoolhouse burning in 1934. Starting in 1950, students were bused from Dunbar to Evergreen due to Dunbar's overflow of students, and others walked from between 1/8 of a mile to 2 miles to attend. Evergreen maintained an active Parent-Teacher Association until its closing, and local families initially contributed between \$200 and \$500 total toward its construction, with the county and other organizations supplying the remainder.

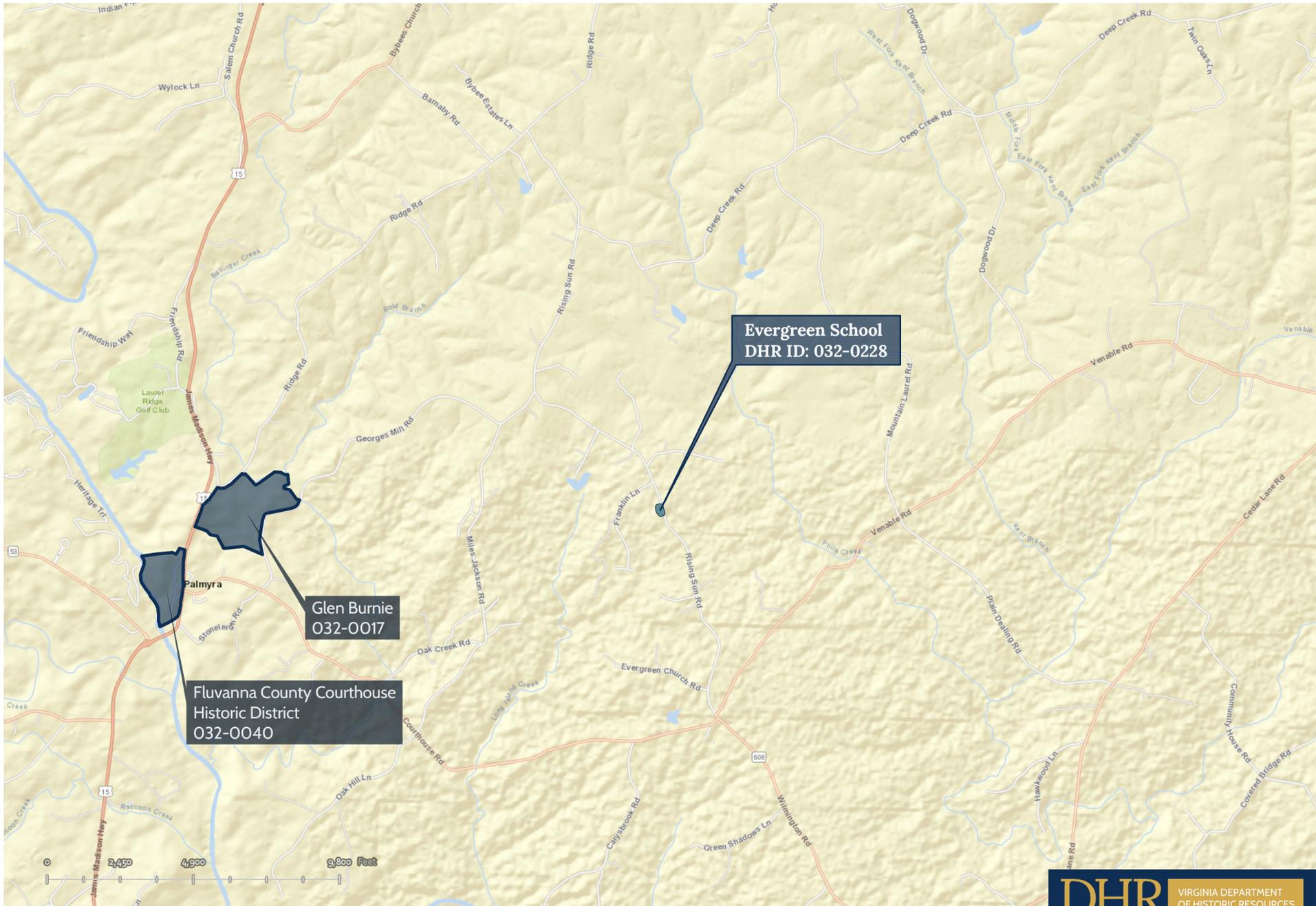
While the existing building dates to 1935, Evergreen's educational legacy extends much earlier. Evergreen schoolhouse was built to replace the aforementioned earlier one room schoolhouse. School rosters document instruction as early as 1886–1887, when teachers like H. T. Melton taught at this earlier schoolhouse. This was a one-room structure situated northeast of the current school, and it reportedly burned in December 1934, prompting the construction of the larger present school.

The wood frame structure was built on 2.3 acres acquired by the state in 1930 after the original state-funded purchase of private land in 1920-1922. The site was heavily wooded, and a former stagecoach road ran to the west of the building, adjacent to Rising Sun Road. The building contained two classrooms: a primary room for first through third grades, identifiable by blackboards mounted closer to the floor, and a second room for fourth through sixth grades. The operable blackboard partition between classrooms slid upward into a wall pocket to connect the two classrooms for combined activities. Evergreen is an excellent example of the variances in prototype decisions used to construct many of the rural Virginia schools. Two teachers staffed the school, instructing all grades in shared spaces that fostered close relationships across age groups. Montchell Brice, Evergreen's chief historian, recalls that one former student, interviewed at age 97, remembers Evergreen as "where I learned to write my name."

Daily life at Evergreen followed a structured routine shaped by limited resources. The school had no electricity or running water; heat was provided by wood stoves, and students drank water carried in buckets from nearby homes or, later years, from the hand-operated well pump behind the schoolhouse. Some former students recollect packed lunches, hand-me-down textbooks, and teachers who worked diligently with the larger classes despite lacking training to address learning differences. Recess was supervised by older students, and a hand bell signaled the return to class. Children played freely across the surrounding forest of pine trees and open yards, and recently, chalked names of former students practicing their letters were discovered beneath the joists in the crawlspace.

The school closed in 1958 following the construction of Central Elementary School, marking a period of consolidation in African American schools. After its closure, the building was auctioned to the highest bidder, current owner Willie Monroe's aunts and uncles, the same family that originally sold the land to the state for the construction of the school. The family resumed use of the site with family reunions and community activities. Though slightly renovated over time, including a roof replacement and repainting likely before 1991, Evergreen





**Evergreen School**  
**Fluvanna County, Virginia**  
**DHR ID: 032-0228**

- 032-0228
- VLR/NRHP/NHL Listed



Created By: D. Bascone, 2/3/2026  
 Sources: VDHR 2026, ESRI 2026, VDOT 2026, VGIN 2026  
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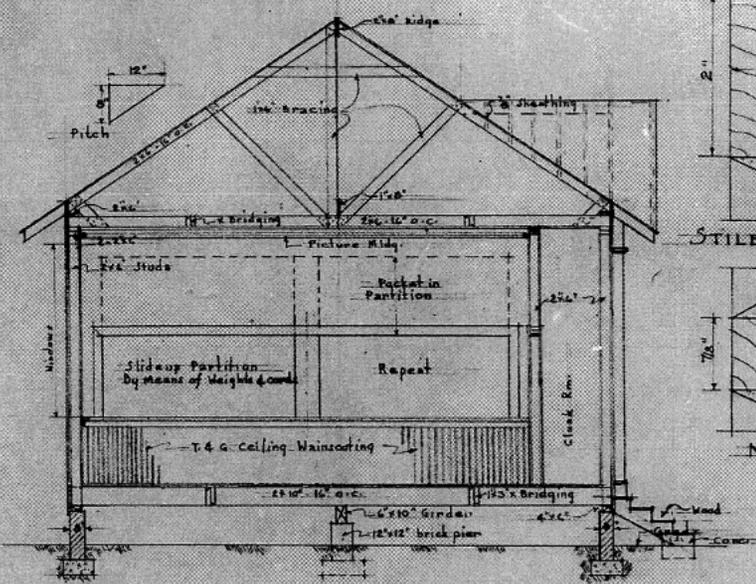


**DHR** VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT  
OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

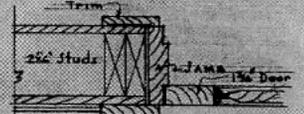
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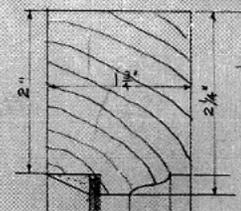




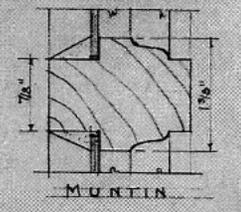
CROSS SECTION  
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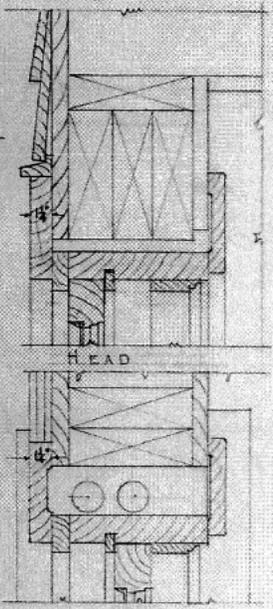
OUTSIDE DOOR FRAME  
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



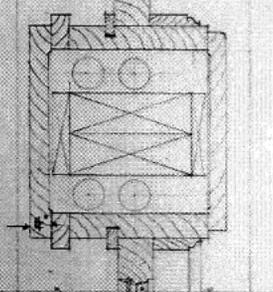
STILE & TOP RAIL



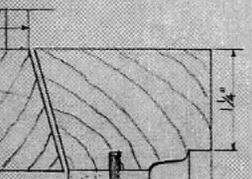
MUNTIN



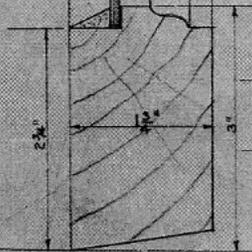
JAMB



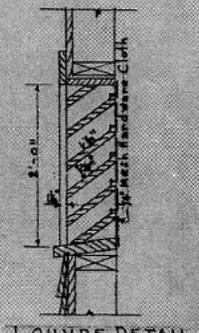
MULLION



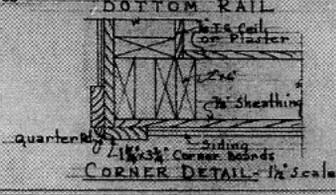
MEETING RAILS



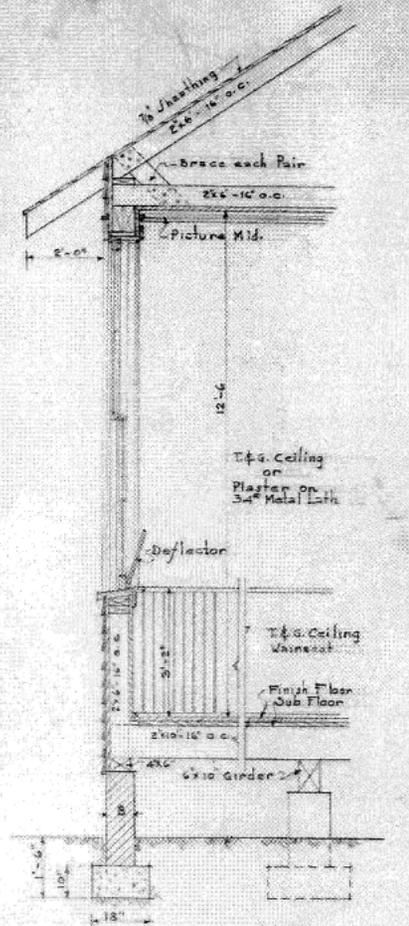
BOTTOM RAIL



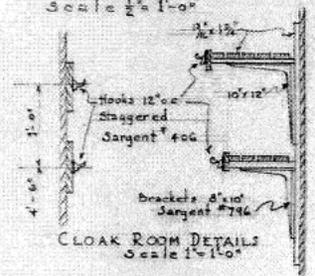
LOUVRE DETAIL  
Scale 1/2" = 1'-0"



CORNER DETAIL - 1/2" Scale



WALL SECTION  
Scale 1/2" = 1'-0"



13-L-2

STANDARD TWO ROOM  
FRAME SCHOOL BUILDING

PLAN 599-D OCT 37	DIVISION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS STATE DEPT. OF EDUCATION RICHMOND, VIRGINIA	2
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