

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 PropertyHistoric name: Montvale High SchoolOther names/site number: DHR #009-0306Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 11555 Lynchburg Salem Turnpike West (US 460)City or town: Montvale State: VA County: BedfordNot For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D
Signature of certifying official/Title:5/28/26
DateVirginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

Montvale High School
Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia
County and State

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 ☐

Montvale High School
Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

EDUCATION: library

Montvale High School
Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; CONCRETE; SYNTHETICS: vinyl

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 at 11555 Lynchburg Salem Turnpike West (US 460), Montvale High School stands on a 13.92-acre site in the Montvale area in Bedford County, Virginia. Situated in a rural area of the county, the immediate area around Montvale is largely industrial to the north, west, and south of the school, and residential to the east. Built in 1930, Montvale High School is an excellent example of a one-story consolidated school with classrooms organized around a central auditorium/gymnasium according to standardized plans provided by the School Building Service of the State Board of Education. Designed in the Colonial Revival style with Art Deco influences, Montvale High School reflects Virginia's early 20th-century reliance on traditional school architecture alongside the gradual adoption of modern stylistic features. The one-story, red brick school features a three-part symmetrical façade with decorative brickwork, large window banks framed by brick pilasters, contrasting cast-stone details, and a monumental central entrance. The interior comprises a small entrance vestibule at the front, flanked by an office and a storage room. Six classrooms line the sides of the large central auditorium/gymnasium. Behind the auditorium/gymnasium, two corridors, two toilets, and two additional classrooms are arranged around a large cafeteria and kitchen. Primary historic finishes include hardwood floors, plaster walls and ceilings, and beadboard wainscoting.

In 1953, two classrooms were seamlessly added to the rear elevation, one on the east side and one on the west side. In 1963-64, a sizeable one-story addition was built behind the school to accommodate the growing student body. This modest addition features a flat roof, a red brick exterior, and large banks of multi-light steel windows with central awning sections and lower hopper sections. At the time, it was connected to the earlier school building by a breezeway. The

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

interior consists of a central corridor flanked by six classrooms. In 1982, another one-story addition was constructed west of the 1963-64 addition to provide additional classroom space and a new library. This red brick addition features a flat roof, fixed metal windows, and a prominent porte-cochere. The building is in fair condition and retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship to convey its historic significance as a one-story consolidated school built in 1930 and expanded over the years to provide public education to Bedford County residents.

Narrative Description

Inventory

1. Montvale High School. 1930, 1953, 1963-64, 1982. Contributing building.
2. Picnic Shelter. Ca. 1990. Non-contributing building.

Setting/Site

Montvale High School stands on the northwest corner of Lynchburg Salem Turnpike West (US 460) and Goose Creek Valley Road in the Montvale village of Bedford County. Montvale is in the viewshed of the Blue Ridge Parkway. However, due to its location between a major vehicular route (US 460) to the south and the Norfolk & Western Railway line to the north, the property is predominantly surrounded by industrial properties, although there is a residential neighborhood to the east. The current Montvale Elementary school stands further east along US 460.

The 1930 school is situated on a 13.92-acre parcel, surrounded by mature trees, grassy fields, and a basketball court. Set back approximately 50 feet from US 460 by a narrow, landscaped island and paved drive, the school is located towards the south end of the parcel. A circular drive approaches the east side of the school from Goose Creek Valley Road, and a substantial paved parking lot is sited along the school's west side, accessed directly from US 460. A tall metal flagpole stands in front of the building. Two additional metal flagpoles and a brick pedestal with a bronze plaque stand at the front of the west parking lot amidst a small grassy area with manicured shrubs. A brick monument sign stands at the entrance from US 460. A non-historic picnic shelter stands northwest of the school. There is a brick book drop in front of the entrance to the 1982 addition.

Exterior

Built in 1930, Montvale High School is a one-story red brick building with a symmetrical façade and a prominent central entrance tower. It is a good example of a 1930s-era school designed in the Colonial Revival style with Art Deco influences. Typical of other schools constructed around the Commonwealth during this period, the one-story school of masonry construction exhibits defining features such as decorative brickwork, including diapered and basketweave patterned

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

panels; large window banks defined by brick pilasters; cast-stone detailing in the sills, panels, and corner blocks; and a prominent central entrance.

The one-story brick school features a flat roof with a brick parapet capped in sheet metal. A clerestory with a flat roof and multi-light wood windows originally extended above the main plane of the roof over the central auditorium/gymnasium and kitchen. It was likely removed in 1964, when a major fire destroyed the roof over the stage and kitchen as well as those interior spaces. According to local newspapers, the repairs to the roof, auditorium/gymnasium, and kitchen cost \$91,000.¹

The exterior brick walls are laid in three-course common bond with an alternating course of Flemish variant bond. The symmetrical three-part façade is anchored by a central projecting pavilion that incorporates an entrance tower with a flat roof, parapet, and stepped buttresses. Above the entrance, a masonry sign reads, "MONTVALE HIGH SCHOOL," surmounted by a window opening, resting on a concrete sill, that has been infilled with non-historic materials. Diapered and basketweave-patterned panels accentuate the entrance tower and side wings. Brick stringcourses wrap around the building at the water table and the roofline. The window banks on the front and side elevations have concrete sills and are infilled with replacement vinyl windows and vinyl siding. A decorative brick segmental arch accentuates the recessed front entrance, which contains double-leaf wood doors with four lights over three panels. A segmental-arched, multi-light wood transom surmounts the entrance doors.

In 1953, two classrooms were added to the rear elevation, one on the east side and one on the west side. These classrooms blend seamlessly with the original school, featuring flat, parapeted roofs, alternating Flemish variant brick walls, brick stringcourses, and window banks with concrete sills. Two entrances, each containing double-leaf wood doors with six lights over nine panels and a multi-light wood transom, were added to the rear elevation in 1953. The eastern entrance remains intact, although the transom is covered with T1-11 siding. The western entrance is now enclosed by the concourse connecting the 1930 building to the 1963-64 and 1982 additions. In 1963-64, a small rear loading dock was added to the rear elevation. A flat awning supported by round metal columns shelters the loading dock and the small brick trash room at its east end. As part of this renovation, a single-leaf entrance containing a two-panel wood door was added to the rear elevation, along with two metal awning windows with four lights each. These window openings are covered or infilled with non-historic materials.

Interior

The interior of the 1930 building comprises a small entrance vestibule at the front, flanked by two offices. Six classrooms flank a large central auditorium/gymnasium. Behind the auditorium/gymnasium, two corridors, boys' and girls' toilets, and two additional classrooms are arranged around a large cafeteria and kitchen. In 1953, two classrooms were added to the rear of the 1930 building, one along the east elevation and the other along the west elevation. These

¹ Rebecca Novak, "Not Again! Another School roof sags," (*Bedford Bulletin*, June 2, 1982), p. 1; "School roof funds OK'd," (*The Roanoke Times*, June 3, 1982), p. 12.

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

classrooms have slightly larger footprints than the original classrooms and feature single toilets. The rear corridors were slightly extended to provide interior access to each classroom. The 1930 and 1953 addition plans remain largely intact, although several alterations were made in the fall of 1963. Originally, the kitchen footprint was smaller with a classroom to the rear. In May 1963, a major roof fire damaged the roof over the auditorium/gymnasium and kitchen as well as the corresponding interior spaces. The footprint of the auditorium/gymnasium remains intact; however, the kitchen was combined with the rear 1930 classroom to provide a larger kitchen with updated stainless-steel appliances and a new cafeteria space. Historic finishes include hardwood floors, plaster walls, plaster ceilings, beadboard wainscoting, and simple wood door and window trim. The classroom doors have transom openings that historically contained six-light wood transoms; however, most have since been covered/infilled with plywood. Historic closets and blackboards remain intact in most of the classrooms. The auditorium/gymnasium features basketball goals and a historic stage at the north end. Historic two-panel, wood doors are extant in some classrooms, although many have been replaced with wood slabs. Several of the historic doors were damaged in the 1963 fire and replaced. As part of the 1963-64 remodel, quarry floor tiles were installed towards the front cafeteria section, and asbestos tiles were installed in the enlarged rear cooking and food storage area. The kitchen and toilets also feature ceramic tile wainscoting. The steel truss ceiling system in the auditorium/gymnasium was installed in 1982, coinciding with the replacement of the roof due to water damage. This structure is exposed with acoustic panels above. At some point after 1963, a few additional partition walls were installed in the front east classroom to provide toilets for the administration office and utilitarian/mechanical closets, and the historic closets were modified. Non-historic dropped ACT ceilings, replacement wainscoting, wood paneling, carpeting, and asbestos tile flooring have been added irregularly throughout the building.

1963-64 Addition

A one-story classroom addition, begun in 1963 and completed in early 1964, stands approximately thirty-five feet behind the original school. A breezeway, later replaced by an enclosed concourse as part of the 1982 addition, originally connected the addition to the 1930 school. The modest 1963-64 addition is characterized by a flat roof, red brick exterior, and large window banks that extend the entire length of the north and south elevations. The flat roof features exposed metal beams, and the exterior brick walls are laid in stretcher bond. The window banks contain multi-light steel windows with central awning sections and lower hopper sections. The windows are covered with plywood on the exterior. This addition originally had two entrances, one at the east end and the other at the west. The east entrance remains intact and contains double-leaf metal doors with tall, narrow vision lights surrounded by sidelights and a transom in metal frames. The 1982 addition now encloses the west entrance.

The interior consists of a central corridor flanked by six classrooms. The corridor features a quarry tile floor, ceramic tile wainscoting, and an applied acoustical tile ceiling. The classrooms have CMU walls, concrete floors, and acoustical panel ceiling tiles. The floors were historically covered with asbestos tiles, which have been removed, likely for abatement purposes. Each classroom contains a toilet and closet as well as blackboards, tackboards, and cabinets. Entrances

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

to the classrooms have wood doors with narrow vertical vision lights, surmounted by cement-asbestos panel transoms. The rest of the doors are wood slabs.

1982 Addition

A one-story addition was constructed in 1982 immediately west of the 1963-64 addition, behind the original school building. The breezeway connecting the 1963-64 addition to the original school was replaced with a masonry concourse that now connects directly to the 1982 addition. Defining exterior characteristics include a flat roof, walls faced in stretcher bond and stack bond, and vertically and horizontally oriented, recessed, metal "slot" windows. A wide concrete band extends across the west elevation below the roof line. A large porte-cochere clad with EIFS extends from the west elevation to shelter a paved drive. The porte-cochere features brick columns and a metal gable roof, providing access to the freestanding book drop. The west elevation comprises an aluminum-frame storefront system with double-leaf doors. Secondary entrances on the east and south elevations contain metal storefront systems with flush metal doors.

The interior includes a library, two classrooms, toilets, and a mechanical room. A concourse connects the 1982 addition to the 1930 school and the 1963-64 addition. Interior finishes include dropped ACT ceilings; painted CMU walls or walls finished with drywall; and floors covered with carpeting, LVT, or ceramic tile.

Statement of Integrity

The 1930 Montvale High School retains the physical features that define its historic character as a rural, Colonial Revival-style consolidated school constructed in 1930 to provide standardized education to students in grades one through twelve. Its significant additions reflect the growth of the school's student body and expanded curriculum. The property retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association as it remains on its original site along US 460 in the Bedford County community of Montvale. Although several historic auxiliary buildings have been demolished, the historic landscape features remain intact, albeit in poor condition. These features include a circular drive, a metal flagpole, a basketball court, and a large grassy field. Several non-historic landscape features and structures on site include a brick monument sign, additional flagpoles, a brick pedestal with a plaque, and a brick book drop. These features do not detract from the school's setting or character as a significant educational facility in a rural community.

The school retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The 1930 school and historic 1953 and 1963-64 additions retain their exterior character-defining features, including the monumental central entrance towers, red brick walls, flat roofs, stylistic detailing, and entrances. Although the windows in both sections have either been replaced or covered with non-historic materials, the historic fenestration pattern remains intact. The historic floor plans of the 1930 school and 1963-64 addition also remain remarkably intact, with only slight modifications to secondary spaces such as the cafeteria/kitchen and front office in the 1930 school. A substantial

Montvale High School
Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia
County and State

amount of interior features and finishes remain intact, with some irregular modifications to ceilings and floors.

The 1982 classroom and library addition does not negatively impact the integrity of the school as it is compatible with its scale, massing, and materials, and is located at the rear, connected by a narrow concourse that is not visible from the road.

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

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

Montvale High School
Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1930-1964

Significant Dates

1953 (two-classroom addition)

1963-64 (fire and six-classroom addition)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

L.W. Bishop, Division of School Buildings, Virginia Department of Education (architect, 1930 school)

W.L. Brown and Company of Appomattox (builder, 1930 school)

Stanhope Johnson (architect, 1953 addition)

Smithey & Boynton (architect, 1963-64 and 1982 additions)

George M. Overstreet (builder, 1953 and 1963-64 addition)

C.L. Lewis and Co. (builder, 1982 addition)

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

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 1930 Montvale High School is eligible for NRHP listing under Criteria A and C, with significance on the local level in the areas of Education, Social History, and Architecture. Designed as a one-story brick school for white students in grades one through twelve based on plans provided by the Virginia Department of Education, the school represents efforts to improve public education in rural Virginia during the Progressive Era through the consolidation and standardization of schools. The inclusion of a central auditorium for both school and community events, the subsequent construction of the 1935 Home Economics Cottage and 1941 Manual Training Building (both since demolished) to provide skills training for students and adults, and the numerous partnerships and programs involving local residents all illustrate the expanding role of the school as a vital center of community life in a rural area. L.W. Bishop, Supervising Architect of the State School Building Services Division, designed the school and oversaw the bidding and construction process. His work reflects the State Department of Education's push to improve school facilities through standardized plans and designs. The school's symmetrical red brick Colonial Revival design, together with the Art Deco influences, exemplifies the transformation of Virginia's traditionally favored academic architectural style toward a more progressive aesthetic during the second quarter of the 20th century. The period of significance for Montvale High School begins in 1930, with the construction of the original building, and extends to 1964 to encompass the construction of the 1953 and 1963-1964 rear additions. It terminates with the final year Montvale High School served its original purpose of educating grades one through twelve.²

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

Criterion A Justification: Education

Montvale High School is eligible under Criterion A, with significance on the local level in Education, as it embodies the State Department of Education's efforts to promote Progressive Era reforms in rural Virginia through the consolidation and standardization of schools. Beginning with the 1870 establishment of public education in Virginia and continuing into the early 20th century, most rural schools consisted of scattered, one- and two-room buildings that lacked uniformity in facilities, curriculum, or administration. During the Progressive Era of the early 1900s, reformers believed that education was fundamental to improving rural life and advocated for fewer, larger schools to provide a more comprehensive education at an efficient

² While a formal MPD for Bedford County public schools has not been prepared, this nomination relies heavily on the historic context, architectural analysis, and integrity requirements outlined in the "Public Schools in Augusta County, Virginia" NRHP nomination and John Kern's "Thematic Evaluation of County Public School Buildings in Southwest Virginia" (see bibliography for full citation details).

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

cost.³ The General Assembly passed legislation to support educational reform through improved schools in the 1906 Mann High School Act to fund the development of high school programs, the 1906 Williams Building Act that required state approval of building plans and furniture, and the 1908 Strode Act that established minimum requirements for lighting, ventilation, and sanitation.⁴ This legislation, combined with loans available through the Literary Fund, enhanced the quality and uniformity of new school construction by regulating state funding. Although the Department of Education began providing school planning services as early as 1911, the establishment of the School Building Service Division in 1920 expanded this support by providing standardized plans as well as bidding and construction oversight.

In 1922, the State Department of Education, under the supervision of Superintendent Hart, introduced the County Unit Plan, which replaced individual school districts. This reorganization with a single school superintendent and school board for each county served to improve efficiency and uniformity across the state – especially in rural areas.⁵ During the first quarter of the 20th century, these various Progressive Era reform efforts to consolidate and standardize schools in Virginia resulted in a dramatic decrease in the overall number of schools by 1915 from a peak in 1901, while the total value of school buildings increased from \$8 million in 1910 to \$39 million in 1923.⁶ The number of high schools also increased exponentially from seventy-four in 1905 to 575 in 1917.⁷

In Bedford County, the eight autonomous school districts were consolidated into a single county-wide system with centralized school administration and budget. R.A. Gilliam of the Lisbon District served as the first chair of the Bedford County School Board.⁸ The County Unit Plan resulted in the consolidation of smaller schools into larger, centrally located facilities, which were designed according to standardized plans provided by the School Building Service. It also established transportation systems, expanded educational programs, and standardized school terms.⁹

Constructed in 1930 in northwest Bedford County, the consolidated Montvale High School replaced several smaller schools in the areas of Montvale, Goose Creek, Irvington, and Villamont. The plan for the one-story brick school, featuring a central auditorium/gymnasium surrounded by classrooms, an office, and a library, was provided by the School Building Service

³ Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff, “Public Schools in Augusta County, Virginia, 1870-1940,” (DHR File No. #007-1175, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, June 1986), sec 8, p. 4.

⁴ Margaret B. Gunter and Margaret L. Watson, *A History of Public Education in Virginia*, (Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Education, 2003), p. 11; Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff, “Public Schools in Augusta County,” sec 8, pp. 3-4.

⁵ Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff, “Public Schools in Augusta County,” sec 8, p. 4.

⁶ Gunter, *A History of Public Education*, p. 11; Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff, “Public Schools in Augusta County,” sec 8, pp. 3-4.

⁷ *Ibid*, p. 4

⁸ Bedford County School Board and Bedford County Principals’ Association, *2 Centuries of Bedford County School Days*, (Bedford, VA, 1952), p. 40.

⁹ Annie S. Pollard, *Bedford Black History, 250 Years*, 2nd ed. (Bedford, VA: The Bedford Museum & Genealogical Library, 2015), p. 136.

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

of the State Department of Education as a standard plan made available after 1920 for consolidated schools with four or more classrooms.

Criterion A Justification: Social History

As a consolidated school with a central auditorium/gymnasium that served as a gathering and event space for the surrounding rural community and the school, Montvale High School is also eligible under Criterion A with local significance in Social History.

Following the mass migration to cities during the Industrial Revolution of the late 19th century, many reforms of the early 20th-century Progressive Era focused on improving life in rural areas. The Commission on Country Life, established in 1908 by the Theodore Roosevelt administration, recognized schools as playing a crucial role in fostering a strong sense of community and educating residents, as well as students, in the skills necessary to achieve a high quality of life in rural areas.¹⁰ As new and larger consolidated schools were built during the early 20th century, the plan typically included an assembly space for both school and community events. The introduction in 1908 of vocational education in home economics and agriculture to the high school curriculum in Virginia further promoted the goal of making “country schools fit country life.” The 1916 Smith-Hughes Act and the 1928 George Reed Act made federal funds available to construct new buildings and purchase equipment for vocational education.¹¹

In addition to the central auditorium/gymnasium that was used by numerous community organizations, Montvale High School included a 1935 Home Economics Cottage and a 1941 Manual Training Building, which was built with labor provided by the National Youth Administration (NYA). Not only did these departments educate the high school students in domestic arts, agriculture, and industrial skills, but they also trained young adults from the surrounding rural area for employment and provided services to the community. The NYA offered classes for young women to learn domestic skills and provided them with a small salary. (14) The school also ran a canning operation during harvest season and offered cafeteria credit in exchange for donated fruits and vegetables.¹² Students in the Agriculture Department learned on the job as they repaired farm equipment and tended livestock for area farmers. The shop building was also open late one night a week for local farmers to make their own repairs using the school equipment. During World War II, a Defense Class was organized to teach young men metalworking skills for jobs in the production of wartime supplies.¹³ Although the Home Economics Cottage and Manual Training Building have been demolished, the positive impact of their programs on the quality of life for both students and residents, as well as the communal use of the auditorium/gymnasium, demonstrates the integral connection between the school and the surrounding community.

¹⁰ Liberty Hyde Bailey et al., *The Report on the Commission on Country Life*, (Washington, DC: Printing Office, 1909).

¹¹ Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff, “Public Schools in Augusta County,” sec 8, pp. 5-6.

¹² “Montvale Hi School News,” (*The Bedford Bulletin*, August 21, 1941), p. 3.

¹³ “Farm-Crop Agricultural Program at Montvale,” (*The Bedford Democrat*, May 21, 1942), p. 1.

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

Criterion C: Architecture

Montvale High School is eligible under Criterion C, with local significance in the area of Architecture, as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a one-story consolidated school built in 1930 according to standardized plans and specifications provided by the State Department of Education's School Building Service Division.

To achieve uniformity in school facilities and curriculum during the early 20th-century Progressive Era of social reforms, the Department of Education became increasingly involved in funding, designing, and constructing of public schools. The Department began offering school plans as early as 1911. The establishment of the School Building Services Division in 1920 significantly expanded this role, providing detailed plans and specifications for efficient, cost-effective school designs. These designs supported a comprehensive curriculum for grades one through twelve and incorporated essential features such as ample natural light, proper ventilation, and sanitary facilities with indoor plumbing. In addition to the standardized plans, the School Building Service Division assisted with site selection, plan modifications, cost estimating, bid review, and construction supervision. These services not only increased uniformity in rural school facilities but also supported local school administrations' efforts to plan for comprehensive improvements to their school systems through quality new school construction.¹⁴

Upon request by the Bedford County School Superintendent, Supervising Architect L.W. Bishop of the State Department of Education School Building Service provided the standardized plan and specifications for the proposed new Montvale High School in 1929. Based on the standard plan for a one-story consolidated school with four or more classrooms, the new school featured a central auditorium/gymnasium surrounded by classrooms, a principal's office, and a library located around the perimeter to take advantage of natural light and ventilation. The utility spaces of toilets, a kitchen, and a cafeteria are concentrated at the rear. Clerestory windows originally projected above the roof to provide light and ventilation to the interior spaces of the auditorium/gymnasium and the cafeteria. On the interior, the plan and finishes demonstrate the typical school design promoted by the state Division of School Building Service during that period.

Typical of educational buildings constructed throughout Virginia during the first half of the 20th century, the design of Montvale High School employs the traditional symmetry and red brick construction characteristic of the Colonial Revival style. However, indicative of its 1930 construction date, influences of the more progressive Art Deco style are evident in the projecting entrance tower with its buttresses and parapet, as well as contrasting cast-stone detailing, including a sign reading "Montvale High School" over the front entrance.

In 1946, the School Building Service Division stopped providing standardized plans due to the dramatic increase in school construction following World War II. As a result, local school boards

¹⁴ Harris Hart, *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Commonwealth: School Year 1925-1936*, (Richmond, VA: Davis Bottom, Superintendent of Public Printing, 1927), p. 31.

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

hired private architectural firms to design new schools and additions.¹⁵ Stanhope Johnson, a well-known Lynchburg architect, designed a rear addition in 1953 to accommodate the growing school population with two additional classrooms. Although Johnson's portfolio includes numerous distinguished designs for school buildings, his design for the rear addition to Montvale High School seamlessly expands the 1930 school building by two classrooms without altering the original plan. The red brick rear addition, with its flat roof and similar windows and doors, also succeeds in enlarging the building without altering the architectural character of the original design.

The architects for the larger 1963-1964 addition, Smithey & Boynton, based in Roanoke, VA, approached the design differently. Physically separated from the 1930 building and the 1953 addition, the free-standing building was connected by a breezeway (later replaced by an enclosed concourse). Reflecting the changing trends in architectural styles after World War II, the one-story wing is minimalist in design with a focus on functional and cost-effective construction. Simple in form and devoid of detailing, the one-story addition features a flat roof, brick veneer walls, and banks of multi-light steel windows that clearly signify its function as a school. The interior plan is also simple and functional, consisting of a double-loaded corridor with six identical classrooms.

Well known for their mid-century academic designs, Smithey & Boynton succeeded in creating a stand-alone design for this rear wing that clearly reflects its period of construction while respecting the original 1930 design in its subsidiary rear location, sensitive breezeway connection, and minimalist interpretation of the Colonial Revival style with its red brick walls accented only by a simple contrasting concrete band at the cornice line.

Historical Background

Situated along Lynchburg Salem Turnpike West (US 460), in the fertile region of Goose Creek Valley in northwestern Bedford County, the development of Montvale has always been closely tied to agriculture and transportation. Large tracts of land in the area were originally granted to the Buford family in the mid-18th century. Henry Buford built a house in the 1790s and operated an ordinary at Buford's Station (later Montvale) along the Lynchburg Salem Turnpike West in the early 1800s. His son, Paschal Buford (1791-1875), continued operating the ordinary after his father died in 1815 and built Locust Level (NRHP 1990) nearby in the early 1820s. A leading entrepreneur and one of the wealthiest and most prominent landowners in Bedford County, Paschal Buford organized the Buford's Gap and Buchanan Turnpike in 1851 to provide access north over the mountains to connect to the James River and the Botetourt County seat of Fincastle.¹⁶ With the construction of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad in 1852, Buford also

¹⁵ Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff, "Public Schools in Augusta County," sec 8, p. 4.

¹⁶ Dr. John A. Kern and Daniel Pezzoni, "Locust Level," (DHR File No.009-0018, National Register of Historic Places Form, December 1990), sec. 8, p. 3; Olliemaye Freeman Hamm, *Montvale: From Indian Trails to Sky Ways*, (Bedford County, VA, 1990), p. 4.

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

donated land to ensure that the line between Lynchburg and Bristol would pass through Buford's Station.¹⁷

Montvale was originally known as Buford's Gap, followed by Buford's Station (or Depot), and then Bufordsville in 1876, before acquiring its current name in 1890. The name "Montvale" was chosen to describe its location in the valley between the mountains and to avoid confusion with the nearby county seat of Bedford. The train depot in Montvale provided access to markets in Bedford, Lynchburg, and beyond for the cash crops (primarily tobacco and tomatoes), cattle, and dairy products from the surrounding farms in the valley, as well as iron ore from the nearby Dewey Mine.¹⁸ In addition to farming and mining, maintenance of the railroad and numerous local canneries employed area residents.¹⁹ By the early 1900s, the village of Montvale consisted of several general stores and hotels, churches, a blacksmith shop, a livery stable, a post office, and the Bank of Bedford in addition to the depot. During this same time, a separate neighborhood for Black residents emerged in the northwest section of Montvale, featuring churches and a school for the Black community.²⁰

The school in Montvale has always been an essential part of the community and the surrounding valley. Located in the Lisbon District of Bedford County, the first school for White students was built as a three-room graded school at the turn of the century.²¹ In an effort to consolidate several one- and two-room schools in the area, a new two-story, frame building with six classrooms replaced the original Montvale School in 1909.²² Similar to other rural areas throughout the South during the Progressive Era of the early 20th century, the new school building also allowed the expansion of the school curriculum to include high school education.²³ The two large rooms on the upper floor provided three years of high school curriculum and also served as an auditorium for school and community events. When public funds were insufficient to cover the \$6,000 cost of this new school, Montvale residents responded with a contribution of approximately \$3,000. As noted in *The Bedford Bulletin*, this "response was not only prompt and liberal, but was marked by a degree of enthusiasm which was positively inspiring." By 1923, a fourth year of high school instruction was added, and the school became fully accredited.²⁴

In July 1929, the Bedford County School Superintendent requested plans for a new Montvale school from the State School Building Service Division. The School Board acted on an option to purchase approximately four acres of land owned by W. H. Buford and committed a maximum of \$25,000 to partially construct the new school on a "unit plan". Community members were expected to raise the remaining funds needed.²⁵ Plans for the new school were provided by L.W.

¹⁷ Kern, "Locust Level," sec. 8, p. 3.

¹⁸ Hamm, *Montvale*, pp. 10, 29.

¹⁹ *Ibid*, pp. 10, 47.

²⁰ *Ibid*, pp. 29, 33-34.

²¹ H.D. McKee, "Group of Montvale High School Buildings," (*The Bedford Bulletin*, May 27, 1937), p. 45.

²² Jennifer Miller, "Alumni get a last look at their school," (*The Roanoke Times*, May 6, 1996), pp. B1, B3.

²³ Susan Cianci Salvatore et al, "Racial Desegregation in Public Education in the United States Theme Study," (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2000), p. 39.

²⁴ Miller, "Alumni get a last look," pp. B1, B3.

²⁵ "Co. School Board Operates as Unit," (*The Bedford Bulletin*, July 18, 1929), p. 1.

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

Bishop, Supervising Architect of the State School Plan Division, in September.²⁶ The standardized plans for the new Montvale High School included ten classrooms for 400 students in grades one through twelve. The plans also featured a library, office, one indoor toilet, central heating, and an auditorium with seating for 450 that also served as the gymnasium.²⁷ After reviewing construction bids, Bishop authorized the School Board in November to proceed with selecting a contractor.²⁸ At their November meeting, the Board decided to contract W.L. Brown and Company of Appomattox to construct the entire school. Rather than relying on community contributions, the Board also decided to fully fund the \$45,500 cost through a combination of accumulated local school funds and a loan from the State Literary Fund.²⁹

By the end of February 1930, the foundation for the new school was completed, and steel framing was underway.³⁰ A ceremony was held on May 2, 1930, with members of Liberty Lodge No. 95 A.F. and A.M. laying the cornerstone.³¹ A large crowd, including all seventy students from the current Montvale School, attended the ceremony. A copper box that contained a list and photos of the students, newspapers, school plans, an industrial brochure, and an autobiographical sketch of the builder was installed in the cornerstone as a time capsule. Although the school was not completed by graduation that spring, the senior class paraded from the current school to hold their commencement in the unfinished auditorium.³²

Montvale High School opened in September 1930 as a model example of the standardized plan for rural schools in the state of Virginia. As noted in *The Bedford Bulletin*, the “whole school denotes efficiency in planning and operation equal to that found in any business operation.”³³ As an outstanding example of high schools in Virginia, the State Superintendent of Schools submitted a photograph of the recently completed school to be included in a publication of the National Educational Association.³⁴

In addition to its “state of the art” plan and amenities, the larger school helped to further the County’s efforts to consolidate its school system with students from smaller schools, including two in Goose Creek, two in Irvington, and one in Villamont, now attending Montvale.³⁵ By 1930, there were a total of six high schools for White students in Bedford County, including Bedford, Huddleston, M.E. Marcuse, Moneta, Montvale, and New London Academy.³⁶ It should be noted that Bedford Training School (NRHP 2022), the only high school for Black students in the county, was also built in 1930 in the town of Bedford. This one-story brick school, built

²⁶ “Regular Session Co. School Board,” (*The Bedford Bulletin*, September 19, 1929), p. 1.

²⁷ Harris Hart, *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Commonwealth: School Year 1929-30*, (Richmond, VA: Division of Purchase and Printing, 1930), p. 81.

²⁸ “Regular Meeting Co. School Board,” (*The Bedford Bulletin*, November 15, 1929), p. 1.

²⁹ *Ibid*; “Exercises To Be Held Friday,” (*The Roanoke Times*, May 1, 1930), p. 2.

³⁰ “Work Progresses On New Montvale School,” (*The Roanoke World-News*, February 26, 1930), p. 9.

³¹ “Cornerstone at Montvale School,” (*The Bedford Bulletin*, May 1, 1930), p. 1.

³² Richard Foster, “Unearthing Memories of History,” (*The Roanoke Times*, February 27, 1996), p. C-1.

³³ “Montvale School Uses New Methods,” (*The Bedford Bulletin*, February 4, 1937), p9. 1, 3.

³⁴ “Compliment for Montvale School,” (*The Bedford Bulletin*, September 18, 1930), p. 1.

³⁵ McKee, “Group of High School Buildings,” p. 45.

³⁶ Hart, *Annual Report of the Superintendent...School Year 1929-30*, p. 30.

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

according to standardized plans from the State School Building Service, consisted of four classrooms and a central auditorium, all of which were constructed at a cost of \$12,200.³⁷

The curriculum and amenities of Montvale High School continued to expand and improve. As enrollment increased, a two-room building for the first and second grades was constructed with funding from the Public Works Administration in the winter of 1933-1934 (demolished).³⁸ Soon afterwards, in 1935, a Department of Home Economics was established with the construction of a four-room cottage (demolished) to instruct students in grades ten, eleven, and twelve in the domestic arts. Described as “completed in every detail as to what a modern and attractive home should be,” the fully furnished cottage included a living room, dining room, bedroom, kitchen, and bath with hardwood floors and ample closets.³⁹ In addition to library books, laboratory supplies, athletic equipment, and scenery and curtains for the stage, a modern radio system was installed in the school in 1937, allowing the principal to communicate directly with each classroom efficiently. Another amenity was the student-operated school store. This mobile store consisted of a cart that students set up in the auditorium/gymnasium during recess or school events. With oversight from the faculty, funds raised supported the school and extracurricular student activities.⁴⁰

³⁷ Katie Gutshall et al., “Bedford Training School,” (DHR No. 141-5018, National Register of Historic Places Form, August 2021), sec. 8, p. 13.

³⁸ McKee, “Group of High School Buildings,” p. 45.

³⁹ “Home Economic Department for Montvale School,” (*The Bedford Democrat*, September 5, 1935), p. 1; “Montvale School Uses New Methods,” p. 1, 3.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*; McKee, “Group of High School Buildings,” p. 45.

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

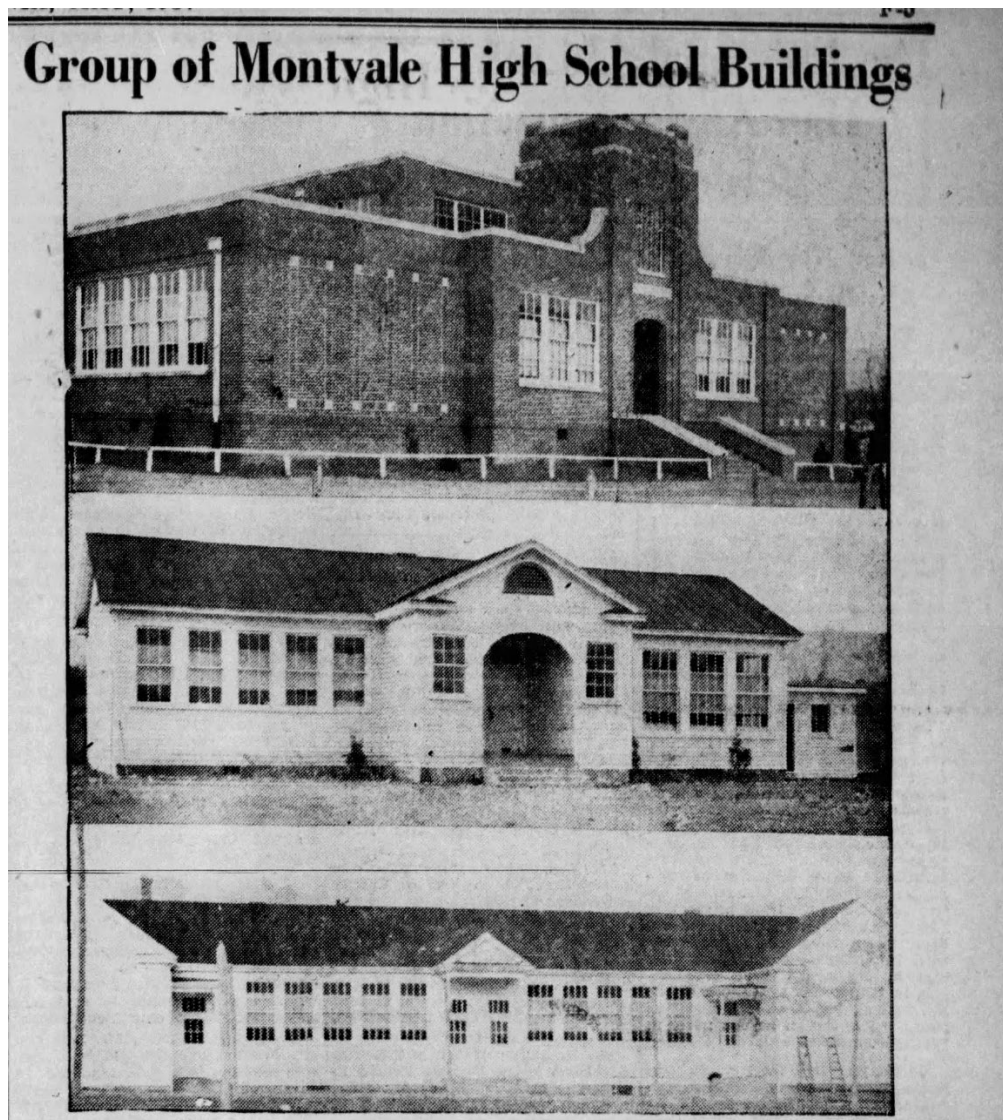


Figure 1: from top to bottom, 1930 Montvale High School Building, 1933-34 classroom building, 1935 Home Economics cottage

By 1937, enrollment at Montvale High School reached 465 students in grades one through twelve with fifteen teachers. Elementary school students from the smaller schools in nearby Quarterwood and Goldberry were relocated to Montvale. Additionally, bus transportation expanded to bring high school students from the surrounding communities of Reba, Moseley Bridge, Wheatland, Johnson, Blue Ridge, and Union. With as many as fifty students per classroom and the auditorium stage serving as a temporary classroom, the 1930 school was quickly outgrown. To alleviate this overcrowding, two additional rooms were added to the Home Economics Cottage by 1937, accompanied by an extra teacher to address the most crowded classes.⁴¹

⁴¹ McKee, "Group of High School Buildings," p. 45

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

The addition of a Manual Training Building (demolished) in 1941 further expanded the school curriculum and community participation. Constructed with a combination of state and community funds, lumber from former school buildings donated by the School Board, and labor provided by the National Youth Administration (NYA), the new building consisted of a classroom, office, tool room, and shop.⁴² The training programs made possible by this building greatly benefited the entire community, providing job skills for employment and services to area residents and farmers. Classes were held for the school students in the morning, NYA members in the afternoon, and adults in the evening. Classes in metal work were taught to train young men for the defense industry in support of the war effort, as well as to provide domestic services to young women, who received a small salary from the NYA. Training in woodworking and agriculture not only helped students gain employment but also directly benefited the community as furniture and farming equipment were repaired and livestock treated. By 1942, the agriculture students had “culled over 1200 chickens, wormed 250 hogs, and treated more than 500 calves for black leg.”⁴³ The shop remained open late on Wednesday nights to allow farmers to come in and use the tools and machinery to repair their own equipment. The school also ran a canning project in the cafeteria during the harvest season, with credit for school lunches given in exchange for donated fruits and vegetables.⁴⁴

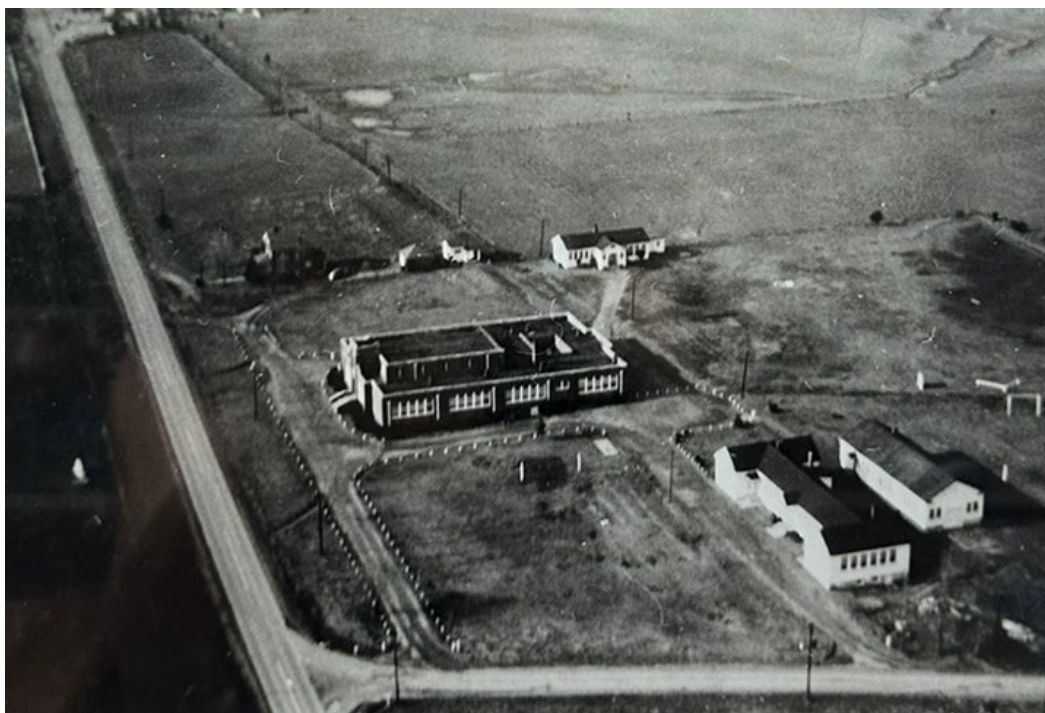


Figure 2: Aerial photograph of the Montvale School Grounds taken some time between 1941 and 1953, courtesy of the Montvale School Preservation Foundation

⁴² “Montvale & Vicinity,” (*The Bedford Bulletin*, February 20, 1941), p. 3.

⁴³ “Farm-Crop Agricultural Program at Montvale,” p. 1.

⁴⁴ “Montvale Hi School News,” p. 3.

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

In the years following World War II, many schools in Virginia, including Montvale and others in Bedford County, experienced overcrowding. In 1950, newly elected Governor John S. Battle delivered on one of his campaign promises by approving a \$7 million budget, known as the Battle Fund, for new school construction and improvements to existing schools for both White and Black students.⁴⁵ In December 1950, the Bedford County School Board endorsed a tentative \$2,375,000 building program for all schools from 1949-54. This resolution was sent to the State Department of Education in hopes of securing approval by the end of the year, so that Bedford County could share in the "equalization fund" portion of the Battle School Construction appropriation.⁴⁶ Ultimately, Bedford County received only \$700,000 in Battle Funds, of which \$350,000, half of the total amount, was allocated to the construction of a new Black high school. The remaining funds were to be used for additions to White schools across the county, including Montvale, Big Island, Thaxton, and Moneta.⁴⁷ The Bedford County School Board commissioned prominent Lynchburg architect Stanhope Johnson to prepare plans for all Battle Fund projects.⁴⁸ Johnson designed two new classrooms to be added to the rear of Montvale High School, which cost \$25,000 to construct. Other White schools in need of expansion, Boonsboro, Stewartsville, Huddleston, and New London Academy, received support through Literary Funds rather than Battle Funds.⁴⁹ When the new Black high school, Susie G. Gibson High School, was completed in 1954, the county requested and received an additional \$15,000 in Battle Funds to convert the Bedford Training School into an elementary school and make necessary upgrades.⁵⁰

A devastating fire at Montvale High School on May 16, 1963, caused the roof over the auditorium/gymnasium and kitchen to collapse, destroying this section of the school. Although the adjacent classrooms were also damaged from smoke and water, the damage was limited as fire departments from at least eleven localities, ranging from Montvale and Bedford to Rocky Mount and Salem, quickly responded to the call for help. Nearby residents also responded to save books, equipment, and furniture in the classrooms.⁵¹ Work began that summer to repair and reconstruct the school. George M. Overstreet of Bedford was awarded the construction bid for the \$91,000 project, with \$70,209.63 covered by insurance.⁵² At the same time, plans were underway for a new addition to alleviate the overcrowded conditions. Although neither the reconstruction nor the addition was completed when the 1963–1964 school term opened, a total

⁴⁵ Gunter, *A History of Public Education*, p. 20.

⁴⁶ "County School Board Approves \$2,375,000 Building Program Including Central High School," (*The Bedford Democrat*, December 20, 1950), 1 & 11.

⁴⁷ "Survey Shows How Battle Fund Is Boosting School Building," (*The Bedford Democrat*, October 1, 1952), p. 10; "Supervisors OK School Plans," (*The Bedford Bulletin*, January 31, 1952), p. 1.

⁴⁸ "Architect Reports Building Progress," (*The Bedford Bulletin*, November 20, 1952), p. 1.

⁴⁹ "Supervisors OK School Plans," p. 1; "Va. Textbooks for Schools Are Selected," (*The Richmond News Leader*, December 16, 1952), p. 38.

⁵⁰ "Council Oks School Board's Proposals; Hicks Reappointed," (*The Bedford Democrat*, June 10, 1954), p. 1.

⁵¹ George W. Smith, "\$100,000 Fire Damages High School At Montvale," (*The News and Advance*, May 17, 1963), p. 17; "Montvale High School Fire Destroys Auditorium-Gymnasium, Cafeteria," (*The Bedford Bulletin*, May 23, 1963), p. 1.

⁵² "School Board Censured on Work at Montvale School," (*The Bedford Bulletin*, July 11, 1963), pp. 1, 6; "Montvale High Labeled Nice As New Structures," (*The Roanoke World-News*, December 19, 1963), p. 29.

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

of 680 students (304 high school and 376 elementary) started school that September.⁵³ The reconstruction of the auditorium/gymnasium and enlarged kitchen and cafeteria, as well as repainted classrooms and new lighting, furnace, and fire alarm system, were completed by the end of the year.⁵⁴ The new addition, designed by the Roanoke architectural firm Smithey & Boynton, included six new classrooms with a breezeway connecting it to the 1930 building.⁵⁵ George M. Overstreet also served as contractor for the new addition and completed the \$84,000 project in January 1964.⁵⁶

In May 1964, the last senior class graduated from Montvale High School, as high school students began attending the newly constructed Liberty High School, located north of Bedford, the following September.⁵⁷ Beginning with the 1964–1965 term, the former Montvale High School became Montvale Elementary School to serve all students in grades one through seven from the northwest section of the county.⁵⁸ Although elementary school enrollment initially totaled 400 in 1964, the number of students increased in 1970 with the integration of all county schools as well as the introduction of kindergarten classes that same year. Although seventh-grade students began attending Bedford Middle School in 1979, additional classrooms were needed at Montvale. The school board began working with parents and architects Smithey & Boynton in 1980 to develop plans for another addition. Designed to be connected to both the 1930 building and the 1963-1964 addition by an enclosed corridor, the addition would include a new library, three new special education classrooms, and a teachers' lounge.⁵⁹ The estimated \$541,137 project also included a new sewage treatment system and upgrades to classroom doors and walls in the original 1930 building to muffle sound from the auditorium/gymnasium.⁶⁰ With a \$550,000 loan from the State Literary Fund, the school board awarded the construction contract to C.L. Lewis and Co. of Lynchburg, and the addition was completed by February 1982.⁶¹

After sixty-six years, the school closed in 1996 when the new Montvale Elementary School opened two miles east of its location on US Route 460. Since then, a branch of the Bedford Public Library has occupied the former school library, while community members and alumni have advocated for renovating the former Montvale High School for adaptive reuse so it can continue to serve the area.

⁵³ "All Around the Town," (*The Bedford Bulletin-Democrat*, September 12, 1963), p. 1.

⁵⁴ "Principal Thinks Montvale Compares With New Schools," (*The Bedford Bulletin*, January 1, 1964), p. 6.

⁵⁵ "Elementary School Plan Given to Supervisors; Cost Put at \$2,468,167," (*The Bedford Bulletin-Democrat*, July 11, 1963), pp. 1, 6.

⁵⁶ "New Montvale School Annex To Be Ready This Month," (*The Roanoke World-News*, January 6, 1964), p. 13;

"Montvale School Is Inspected," (*The Roanoke World-News*, January 17, 1964), p. 4.

⁵⁷ "New Montvale School Annex...", p. 13.

⁵⁸ "Principal Thinks Montvale Compares...", p. 6.

⁵⁹ "New Montvale School Annex...", p. 13; "Loan Authorized: Board splits on Montvale project," (*The Bedford Bulletin-Democrat*, September 10, 1980), p. 1; A. Dionne Waugh, "Community hopes to bring new life to an old building," (*The News and Advance*, December 14, 2003), p. 19.

⁶⁰ "Montvale school work could cost \$541,000," (*The Bedford Bulletin-Democrat*, July 16, 1980), p. 5.

⁶¹ Thomas Bolick, "Montvale," (*The Bedford Bulletin-Democrat*, February 17, 1982), p. 19.

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

Comparative Analysis

Between 1925 and 1933, six schools were built in Bedford County following the State School Building Service Division's introduction of standardized plans for consolidated schools in Virginia in 1920. In addition to Montvale High School (1930), these included Brookhill School (1925; demolished), Bedford High School (1928), Big Island School (1929; demolished), Bedford Training School (1930; NRHP 2021), and Stewartsville School (1933). Of these six schools, only Bedford Training School provided education for Black students.

Four of the six schools remain intact. Montvale, Stewartsville, and the Bedford Training School are examples of one-story consolidated schools constructed from standardized plans for four rooms or more, while the Bedford High School is a larger, two-story school building. Stewartsville School closely resembles Montvale High School, incorporating both Colonial Revival and Art Deco elements, including symmetrical massing, red brick walls laid in a Flemish-bond variant, decorative brickwork, buttressed main entrance towers, and contrasting cast-stone detailing. Bedford Training School shares similarities with both the Montvale and Stewartsville schools, though it lacks an Art Deco-style entrance tower. Stewartsville School and Bedford Training School differ from Montvale High School because they were originally built as smaller, four-room schools, and Stewartsville's auditorium was not added until 1937.

Of these six schools, only Bedford Training School is individually listed on the National Register. Bedford High School is listed as a contributing resource to the Bedford Historic District (NRHP 1984). Montvale High School survives as the best example of a one-story, consolidated brick school built in rural Bedford County, following standardized plans with ten classrooms and a central auditorium.

Montvale High School
Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

"All Around the Town." *The Bedford Bulletin-Democrat*, September 12, 1963, p. 1.

"Architect Reports Building Progress." *The Bedford Bulletin*, November 20, 1952, p. 1.

Bailey, Liberty Hyde et al. *Report on the Commission on Country Life*. Washington, DC: Printing Office, 1909.

Bedford County School Board and Bedford County Principals' Association. *2 Centuries of Bedford County School Days*. Bedford, VA, 1952.

Bolick, Thomas. "Montvale." *The Bedford Bulletin-Democrat*, February 17, 1982, p. 19.

"Co. School Board Operates as Unit." *The Bedford Bulletin*, July 18, 1929, p. 1.

"Compliment for Montvale School." *The Bedford Bulletin*, September 18, 1930, p. 1.

"Cornerstone at Montvale School." *The Bedford Bulletin*, May 1, 1930, p. 1.

"Council Oks School Board's Proposals; Hicks Reappointed." *The Bedford Democrat*, June 10, 1954, p. 1.

"County School Board Approves \$2,375,000 Building Program Including Central High School." *The Bedford Democrat*, December 20, 1950, pp. 1, 11.

"Elementary School Plan Given to Supervisors; Cost Put at \$2,468,167." *The Bedford Bulletin-Democrat*, July 11, 1963, pp. 1, 6.

"Exercises To Be Held Friday." *The Roanoke Times*, May 1, 1930, p. 2.

"Farm-Crop Agricultural Program at Montvale." *The Bedford Democrat*, May 21, 1942, p. 1.

Foster, Richard. "Unearthing Memories of History." *The Roanoke Times*, February 27, 1996, p. C-1.

Gunter, Margaret B. and Margaret L. Watson, "A History of Public Education in Virginia." Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Education, 2003.

Gutshall, Katie et al. "Bedford Training School." DHR No. 141-5018, National Register of Historic Places Form, August 2021.

Hamm, Olliemaye Freeman. *Montvale: From Indian Trails to Sky Ways*. Bedford County, VA, 1990.

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

Hart, Harris. *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Commonwealth: School Year 1925-1936*. Richmond, VA: Davis Bottom, Superintendent of Public Printing, 1927.

Hart, Harris. *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Commonwealth: School Year 1929-30*. Richmond, VA: Division of Purchase and Printing, 1930.

"Home Economic Department for Montvale School." *The Bedford Democrat*, September 5, 1935, p. 1

Kern, John. "Thematic Evaluation of County Public School Buildings in Southwest Virginia." Virginia Department of Historic Places, October 2000.

Kern, Dr. John A. and Daniel Pezzoni, "Locust Level." DHR File No. 009-0018, National Register of Historic Places Form, December 1990.

"Loan Authorized: Board splits on Montvale project." *The Bedford Bulletin-Democrat*, September 10, 1980, p. 1.

McKee, H.D. McKee "Group of Montvale High School Buildings." *The Bedford Bulletin*, May 27, 1937, p. 45.

Miller, Jennifer. "Alumni get a last look at their school." *The Roanoke Times*, May 6, 1996, pp. B1, B3.

"Montvale & Vicinity." *The Bedford Bulletin*, February 20, 1941, p. 3.

"Montvale Hi School News." *The Bedford Bulletin*, August 21, 1941, p. 3.

"Montvale High Labeled Nice As New Structures." *The Roanoke World-News*, December 19, 1963, p. 29.

"Montvale High School Fire Destroys Auditorium-Gymnasium, Cafeteria." *The Bedford Bulletin*, May 23, 1963, p. 1.

"Montvale School Is Inspected," *The Roanoke World-News*, January 17, 1964, p. 4.

"Montvale School Uses New Methods." *The Bedford Bulletin*, February 4, 1937, pp. 1, 3.

"Montvale school work could cost \$541,000." *The Bedford Bulletin-Democrat*, July 16, 1980, p. 5.

"New Montvale School Annex To Be Ready This Month." *The Roanoke World-News*, January 6, 1964, p. 13.

Novak, Rebecca. "Not Again! Another School roof sags" *Bedford Bulletin*, June 2, 1982, p. 1.

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

Pollard, Annie S. *Bedford Black History, 250 Years* 2nd ed. Bedford, VA: The Bedford Museum & Genealogical Library, 2015.

“Principal Thinks Montvale Compares With New Schools.” *The Bedford Bulletin*, January 1, 1964, p. 6.

“Regular Session Co. School Board.” *The Bedford Bulletin*, September 19, 1929, p. 1.

Salvatore, Susan Cianci, Waldo E. Martin, Jr., Vicki L. Ruiz, Patricia Sullivan, and Harvard Sitkoff, “Racial Desegregation in Public Education in the United States Theme Study.” Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2000.

“School Board Censured on Work at Montvale School.” *The Bedford Bulletin*, July 11, 1963, pp. 1, 6.

“School roof funds OK’d.” *The Roanoke Times*, June 3, 1982, p. 12.

Smith, George W. “\$100,000 Fire Damages High School At Montvale” *The News and Advance*, May 17, 1963, p. 17.

“Supervisors OK School Plans.” *The Bedford Bulletin*, January 31, 1952, p. 1.

“Survey Shows How Battle Fund Is Boosting School Building.” *The Bedford Democrat*, October 1, 1952, p. 10.

“Va. Textbooks for Schools Are Selected.” *The Richmond News Leader*, December 16, 1952, p. 38.

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff. “Public Schools in Augusta County, Virginia, 1870-1940.” DHR File No. #007-1175, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, June 1986.

Waugh, A. Dionne. “Community hopes to bring new life to an old building.” *The News and Advance*, December 14, 2003, p. 19.

“Work Progresses On New Montvale School.” *The Roanoke World-News*, February 26, 1930, p. 9.

Montvale High School
Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia
County and State

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: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR ID# 009-0306

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13.92

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

A. Latitude: 37.386822 Longitude: -79.732899

B. Latitude: 37.386445 Longitude: -79.731281

C. Latitude: 37.385503 Longitude: -79.730494

D. Latitude: 37.384636 Longitude: -79.731660

E. Latitude: 37.385201 Longitude: -79.733058

F. Latitude: 37.385922 Longitude: -79.733429

Montvale High School
Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia
County and State

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 current boundary corresponds to the lot lines of 11555 Lynchburg Salem Turnpike West, recorded by Bedford County as parcel number 8704400. The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map and Sketch Map + Photo Key.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the 13.92-acre parcel nominated represents the legal boundaries of the property associated with the former Montvale High School.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kate Kronau, Alison Blanton & Katie Gutshall
organization: Hill Studio
street & number: 120 Campbell Avenue SW
city or town: Roanoke state: VA zip code: 24011
e-mail: kkronau@hillstudio.com/ablanton@hillstudio.com
telephone: (540) 342-5263
date: December 2025

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

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: Montvale High School

City or Vicinity: Montvale

County: Bedford County

State: Virginia

Photographer: Kate Kronau

Date Photographed: July 2025

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

1 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0001
Site, view east

2 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0002
Front, view NE

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

3 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0003
Front, view north

4 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0004
West side, view south

5 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0005
Rear, view south

6 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0006
East Side, view NW

7 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0007
1963-64 Addition, south side, view NW

8 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0008
Additions, rear, view SW

9 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0009
1982 addition, front, view NE

10 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0010
Interior, auditorium/gymnasium, view NE

11 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0011
Interior, classroom, view north

12 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0012
Interior, classroom, view SW

13 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0013
Interior, corridor, view south

14 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0014
Interior, kitchen, view SW

15 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0015
Interior, 1953 addition, classroom, view NE

16 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0016
Interior, 1963-64 addition, corridor, view east

17 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0017
Interior, 1963-64 addition, classroom, view NE

Montvale High School

Name of Property

Bedford County, Virginia

County and State

18 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0018
Interior, 1963-64 addition, classroom, view NW

19 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0019
Interior, 1982 addition, library, view east

20 of 20. VA_BedfordCounty_MontvaleHighSchool_0020
Picnic Shelter

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.

Digital Location Map

Montvale High School (009-0306)
Bedford County, VA

A. Latitude: 37.386822 Longitude: -79.732899

B. Latitude: 37.386445 Longitude: -79.731281

C. Latitude: 37.385503 Longitude: -79.730494

D. Latitude: 37.384636 Longitude: -79.731660

E. Latitude: 37.385201 Longitude: -79.733058

F. Latitude: 37.385922 Longitude: -79.733429

WGS84

Map Source: VCRIS



Feet

0 100 200 300 400
1:4,514 / 1"=376 Feet

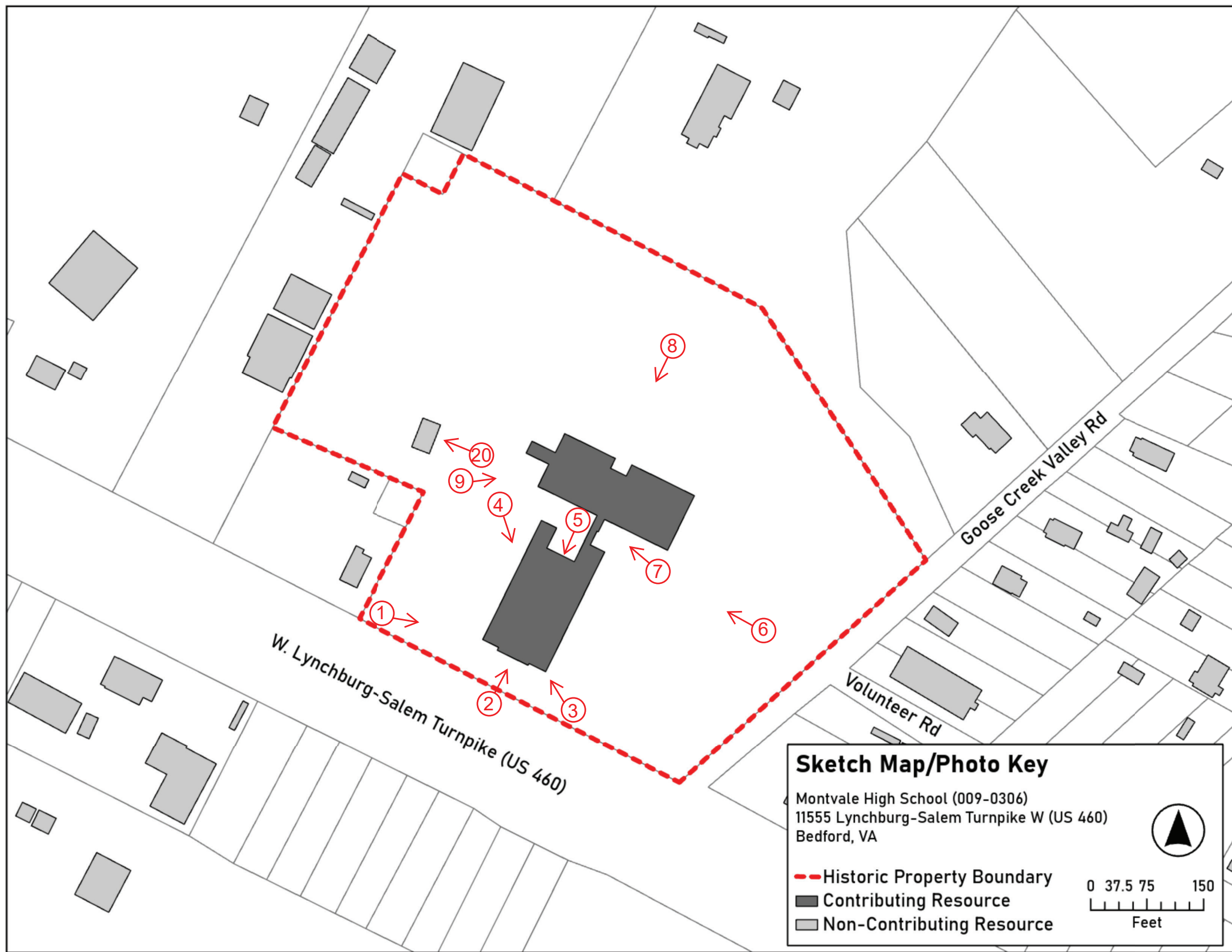


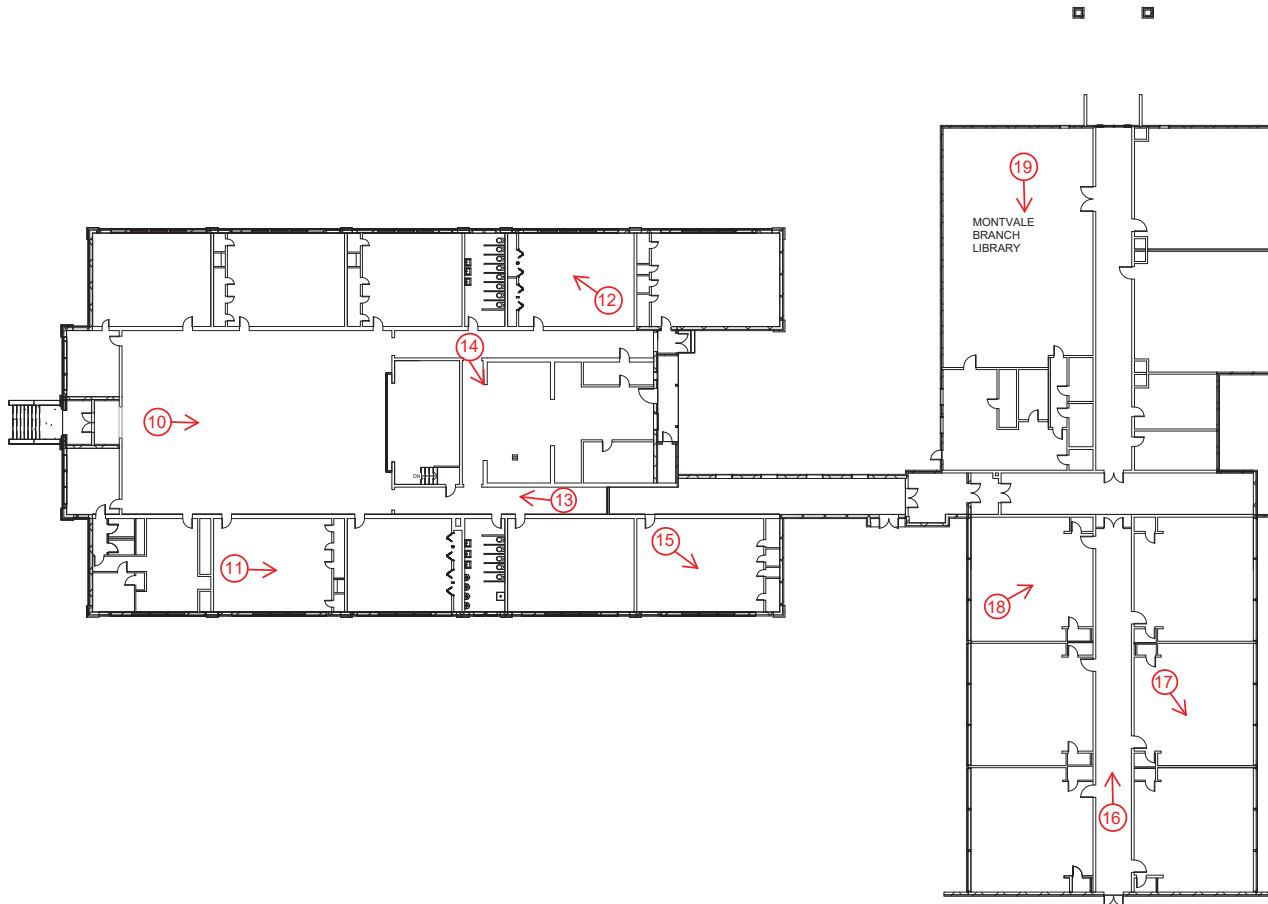
Title: Montvale High School

Date: 10/27/2025

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.





Montvale High School (009-0306)

AS-BUILT

Scale: 1" = 30'-0"

ISSUE DATE: 11/21/25