

VLR- 12/11/84
NRHP 2/27/85

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA, 1870-1940
VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
Thematic National Register Nomination Inventory Form

Historic Name: Glebe Schoolhouse	Common Name: Glebe Schoolhouse
Street Address/Rt. No.: Rt. 876	VHLC File Number: 07-706
Vicinity of: Summerdean	Owner: J. Guy Spitler
USGS Quad: Greenville 7.5	Rt. 1, Box 244, Swoope, VA 24479

Date(s): Ca. 1830	Architect/Builder: Unknown
Original Use: Schoolhouse	Style: Vernacular
Present Use: Vacant	
Condition: Fair	
Altered <u>X</u> ; unaltered <u> </u>	

Physical Description:

The Glebe Schoolhouse is the only surviving brick schoolhouse in Augusta County. Nestled into the east side of a ridge between Middle River and Back Creek, the school retains its secluded rural setting in western Augusta County. The Glebe Schoolhouse displays the simple, gable-end form typical for 19th century schoolhouses. A single door provides entry into the east gable end, while three windows with 9/6 sash line each side wall. The choice of brick construction reflects both its pre-Civil War date and the strong masonry tradition which developed in the 19th century in the Summerdean area and influenced the building of stores, churches, and dwellings. The walls are laid in an irregular pattern of four- to five-course American bond with Flemish variant. With its mid-19th century date and brick construction, the school includes a gable-end chimney for heating, whereas central stove flues generally served the later frame schools built in the late 19th century.

After the schoolhouse closed, the building was remodeled into a dwelling and the present frame ell was added.

Statement of Significance:

One of the most important of the extant one-room schools, the Glebe Schoolhouse was included in this thematic nomination as the only extant one-room school of brick construction, the oldest documented schoolhouse, and one of the few surviving private schoolhouses.

The first reference to this schoolhouse appears in a December 27, 1830 deed between Frederick Mizer and George and Jacob Shuey and Thomas Thompson. This deed conveys a parcel of one acre, twenty poles to the three named trustees and their heirs, "being the same lot of land on which a brick building has been lately put up by the direction and under the care of said trustees." The deed specifies that the building is "a house to be used as a school house for the neighborhood around it and also for a place for religious meetings, said house being free to preachers of all Christian denominations who shall be regularly authorized to preach the gospel according to the forms of their own churches except Roman Catholics and Unitarians who are not to be permitted said house may also be used for other public purposes occasionally when the trustees shall permit it."

With the establishment of the free public school system, Augusta County had twelve brick one-room schools in 1871. There were no doubt older schools or buildings that the county rented at this time, since the number of brick school buildings dropped to three by 1880-1, to one by 1889-90, and to three by 1890-1. The county's new schoolhouses built (continued)

Geographic Data/Acreage: one acre

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point at the end of a dirt road approx. 1,100' W of a point on the W side of VA 876 which is approx. 650' S of the intersection (continued)
Boundary Justification: The bounds have been drawn to include the schoolhouse and the immediate school yard.
UTM: 17/655940/4219320

Prepared By: Ann McCleary, Architectural Historian

Date Prepared: September 1984

Glebe Schoolhouse
07-706

Statement of Significance continued

during this period where overwhelmingly of frame construction. It was not until the early 20th century with the development of consolidated schools that brick again became popular because of its expression of permanence.

The Thompson family originally built the Glebe School as a private school for their family and neighbors. With the advent of the free public school system, the County purchased the Glebe Schoolhouse and operated it as a free school. The school closed in the early twentieth century, being consolidated with another one-room school into a two-room school called Swanson in this community.

Verbal Boundary Description continued

of said rout with VA 841, thence extending approx. 50' NW; thence approx. 225' W-SW; thence approx. 200' SE; thence approx. 200' E-NE; thence approx. 100' NW to point of origin.

5160 III NE
(ELLIOTT KNOB)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH

USGS 7.5 quadrangle (scale: 1:24000)
Greenville, VA 1964(PR1972)

CIVIL DIVISION OF M...
L. CALVE
5
(CH)

79° 15'
38° 07' 30"

654000m.E.

655

GLEBE
County, VA
UTM References:

SCHOOLHOUSE, Augusta

Schoolhouse: 17/655950/4219320

4220000m.N.

4219

4218

