

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

Historic Name: New Hope High School	Common Name: New Hope Elementary School
Street Address/Rt. No.: Rt. 608	VHLC File Number: 07-1087
Vicinity of: New Hope	Owner: Augusta County School Board
USGS Quad: Fort Defiance 7.5	Fishersville, VA

Date(s): 1925	Architect/Builder: Eutsler Brothers
Original Use: High School	Style: Art Deco
Present Use: Elementary School	
Condition: Good	
Altered <u>X</u> ; unaltered <u> </u>	

Physical Description:

New Hope School remains as the best-preserved example of the first type of central-auditorium school plans built in the County in the mid 1920s after the establishment of the Division of School Buildings in 1920. In plan and design, this school is very similar to three other schools built by the Eutsler Brothers of Grottoes between 1923 and 1925. The most distinguishing features of this plan is a large central auditorium/gymnasium, identified on the outside in all four examples by a tall hipped roof pierced with low windows. This auditorium provides the core of the design with classrooms around three sides, to the front, and to each side. Several major variations distinguish these mid 1920s plans from the seven later central-auditorium plans, like Crimora and North River, built by the County between 1927 and 1938.

Based on the "Standard One-Story Eight-Room Plan," the New Hope School plan was revised to meet the community's needs. The north side wing of three classrooms was excluded from the original construction, due to financial considerations. Consequently, the original plan consisted of a library and office to the north side of the central corridor, a classroom to the south side, and a string of three classrooms on the main floor of the south wing. The central classroom in the wing doubled as a stage. With four classrooms on the main floor, each could be used as a home room for the four high school grades. Although the original Standard Plan did not call for a basement, the New Hope School plan was revised to include two classrooms, called "laboratories," in the basement below the stage and east rooms in the south wing, and bathrooms for both the boys and the girls. The design lacked an interior basement stairs, so students would have to use the back door off the wing to go outside to reach the basement level. These basement rooms were created primarily for home economics classes, although they were not initially finished and prepared for this use until home economics instruction began in 1929. Since the home economics teacher generally taught science, these rooms were also used for science classes. It was not until 1942 that the standard plan was completed with the addition of a three-room north wing which also included two basement classrooms below the central and east room.

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Statement of Significance:

New Hope School is significant for its historical and architectural role in the development of public education in Augusta County. Historically, this building, costing \$22,000, became one of the first modern high school buildings to be constructed in the County. A prosperous agricultural community along Middle River, New Hope had outgrown its two-story frame school, which had housed both the grades and the high school, by the 1920s. The construction of this new building in 1925 reflects the progressive spirit of this village. **New Hope was also a leader** in vocational education as one of two Smith-Hughes funded agriculture programs to open in Augusta County in 1923. Three years later, the County built the first detached agriculture shop building here, the precursor of many others in the County.

Architecturally, New Hope is the best preserved of the first group of central-auditorium-plan consolidated schools built in the mid 1920s. The school also provides an excellent example of the planning process for school buildings after the establishment of the Division of School Buildings. An extensive collection of school plans preserved by the School Board indicates that the State Division originally sent one of its standard plans, 18-F, entitled "Standard One-Story Eight-Room School, Unexcavated," as the preliminary suggestion for the school design. After considering the particular conditions for this school and community, the Division modified the standard plan to create "18-F Special," which excluded one side wing for the first phase of construction and added basement rooms below the side wing to be initially built. The

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Geographic Data/Acreage: three and one-half acres

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point on the E side of VA 608 approx. 1,000' N of intersection of said route with VA 616; thence extending approx. 300' E; thence (continued)
 Boundary Justification: The bounds have been drawn to include the school complex and the immediate school yard.

UTM: 17/683540/4229990

Prepared By: Ann McCleary, Architectural Historian

Date Prepared: September 1984

Physical Description continued

One of the most stylish examples of these early consolidated schools, the New Hope School, suggests the Art Deco styles popular at this time. Following the elevations provided by the State, the school featured stepped facades on the front and sides, embellished with diamond-shaped concrete blocks along the cornice. Slightly projecting brick pilasters decorate the facade and brick walls of the original design and the addition. With the flat roof of the classroom wings, the windows lining the hipped roof auditorium are clearly visible from the exterior. Like the Hebron and Stuarts Draft Schools, the two bays adjacent to the central transom-lighted entrance at the New Hope School are pierced by large windows, but the end classroom bays have not been broken. The classrooms in each wing are lit by clusters of four-large windows, framed by projecting brick buttresses. While the three other examples of this style and plan boast tall Neocolonial porticos, the New Hope School never had any portico or porch nor does the original elevation for the school show any such design.

The few interior alterations to the New Hope School have not compromised its original character, and it retains the least-altered interior of this group of four schools. The auditorium with its wood floor and painted brick walls is typical of other such gymnasiums. The classrooms have many of their original wardrobes, teachers' closets, and blackboards derived again from State Designs. The continual use of the school has resulted in the need for a new tile floor while the increasing energy costs led to new, lowered ceilings. The classrooms in the addition have been finished with a yellow salt-glazed brick wainscotting used in the late 1930s and 1940s, and specified on the State plans.

Despite changes in the room usage, there have been few structural alterations. On the main floor, the west room of the north wing was remodeled into an office, clinic, waiting room, and secretary space around 1959-60. Also at this time, the library was moved to the west room of the north wing, and the old library and office space was remodeled into a teachers lounge. The back hall of the south wing was extended to accommodate a new inside stairwell leading to the lower rooms. The school now contains a large basement, although much of the central space is used for storage. By 1949, the basement housed a kitchen and cafeteria in the location of the former home economics rooms, a pantry, and a boiler room. With the expansion of the lunch program in the 1950s, the cannery was remodeled into a kitchen.

The agricultural building constructed in 1926 was the first of its type built in the County. Following standard plans provided by the State for these buildings, the building contained classroom space to the front and a larger, unfinished shop space behind. This rectangular brick building, laid in five-course American bond, has a hipped roof covered with metal and concrete foundation. Large double doors, now replaced, once led into the building on the south gable wall, while groups of large paired 6/6 sash flanked the entrance and lined the side and back walls. As with most shop buildings, the interior was not finished, with concrete on earth floors, unfinished brick sidewalls, and exposed ceiling. The building has recently been partly renovated into a scouting club house, with rooms created right off the front door, but the larger back space has been retained and has not yet been dramatically altered, with a new ceiling being the only renovation.

In 1959-60, the present brick-veneered classroom building for the primary grades was constructed north of the original school. This building is not attached to the older school and does not affect the integrity of the original structure.

The school yard retains much of the landscaping including a playground, basketball courts, a baseball field, a cinderblock concession stand east of the new building, and an older metal concession stand north of the new building.

Statement of Significance continued

plan incorporated many of the new specialized spaces suggested for modern high school designs including a library, office, stage, and two home economics rooms.

Before the School Board developed a maintenance department which became responsible for new school construction after 1927, the County contracted out for the construction of these early consolidated schools. The County chose the Eutsler Brothers of Grottoes, known since the turn of the 20th century as some of the finest local builders, to build all four of the mid-1920s central-auditorium-plan schools, including New Hope, Fishersville (1923), Hebron (1923), and Stuarts Draft High (1925). All are remarkably similar in design, although the specifics of the plan were adapted to each community's needs and contained different numbers of classrooms. Their exuberant appearance, compared to the consolidated schools of the 1910s, attests to the optimism accompanying this consolidation drive of the 1920s.

Since the New Hope School has remained in continual use as an educational facility, the building has been enlarged and remodeled. Besides the 1942 enlargement of the original building to complete the "Standard Eight-Room Plan, the County built a cannery addition in 1945. These canneries added to high schools and elementary schools in the 1940s further attested to the philosophy that schools were to serve as community centers as well as merely educational facilities for the children.

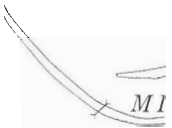
In 1947, after a fire destroyed the older frame elementary school, the high school was converted into an elementary school. High school students were then bused to Woodrow Wilson High School in a post-World War II drive for further consolidation. In 1947, an eight-room frame building was constructed to accommodate the elementary school needs. This temporary building was replaced by a brick-veneer school building further north of the replaced classroom building in 1959 and the 1947 building was razed. The front concrete canopy was added at this time, and some interior changes were made to the older building.

Verbal Boundary Description continued

approx. 500' N; thence approx. 400' W to a point on E side of VA 608; thence approx. 400' S along said side of said route to point of origin.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Fort Defiance, VA 1964 (PR 1978)



NEW HOPE HIGH SCHOOL, Augusta County, VA
 (PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA,
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UTM References:
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