

VLR-6/19/91 NRHP-1/22/92

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name SHILOH SCHOOL  
other names/site number DHR File No. 66-34

### 2. Location

street & number Jct. SR 605 and SR 606 N/A  not for publication  
city, town Kilmarnock  vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Northumberland code 133 zip code 22482

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private <input type="checkbox"/> public-local <input type="checkbox"/> public-State <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	Category of Property <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> district <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> object	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
		<u>0</u> objects	
		<u>0</u> Total	

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 12/12/91  
Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICKwalls WOOD: Weatherboard

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roof METALother 

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

Located in the vicinity of Kilmarnock in Northumberland County, Shiloh School is a rare survival of the simple rural schools once plentiful throughout Virginia. Built in 1906, it is an axial-fronted frame building that, along with its rural setting, has been little altered in the years since its construction.

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

In the Ball Neck area of Northumberland County, Virginia, surrounded by woods and fields, stands a schoolhouse built in 1906 that is both common and unique. Shiloh School is located on slightly less than one acre on the north of County Route 606 from Rehobeth Church, at the point where it intersects with County Route 605. The side-gable building is unusual for a one-room school. Yet, the largely unaltered building displays many features common to one-room schools throughout Northumberland County.

The school lot is bounded on the north and west by a corn-field. The yard is stark without bushes or trees. There is no fence separating the building from the corn-field or the road from the school lot. Nor is there a well or remains of the two privies that once stood behind the school. Water for the students was carried to the school from the well at the Diller home across the road.

The schoolhouse is common because it is like most one-room schools, simple frame construction with no adornment. The one-room school measures 20' x 34', and is a one-story, three-bay structure clad in weatherboards with a standing seam metal roof. It is unique because, unlike other one-room schools in Northumberland County, the building is a side gable structure, with an exterior chimney located in the center of the north elevation between paired windows.

Shiloh School stands on a brick foundation. The original piers, five-bricks high, are distributed around the building's perimeter, three under the north and south elevation and five on the east and west elevations. Recently, these have been augmented by in-fill between the piers with new bricks. This was done in an effort to help stabilize the building.

There have been no alterations to the building except the recent addition of a 7' x 7' wood stoop supported on two brick piers attached to the foundation just below the entrance. The

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1906-1907

Significant Dates

1906

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kent, Elliot F.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Shiloh school is a frame, one-room school located on an isolated tract in the Ball Neck area of Northumberland County, Virginia. The schoolhouse was erected by men whose children were subsequently educated there. Jessie Ball (later duPont, a well-known local philanthropist) taught at Shiloh the first two years the school was open, 1906 and 1907.

Shiloh school is being nominated to the register under Criterion C as the only remaining unaltered example of the once-numerous one-room schools built throughout Northumberland County in the early years of public education. This unusual axial-front building was erected to replace a smaller Reconstruction-era school, also called Shiloh, and is largely unaltered, never having been used for domiciliary or business purposes. Interior walls still clearly reveal where blackboards, now removed, were hung. Only the recent addition of an entrance stoop and the loss of one shutter compromise the original appearance of the exterior. Little change is apparent in the area of the building, standing on its original site, surrounded by fields and forest. Today, sixty years after the last lessons were taught at Shiloh--during which time it was used for farm storage--the building is being rehabilitated for community use by the owners, Northumberland Preservation, Inc.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Shiloh School is a one-room building erected in 1906 on land deeded to the Wicomico Magisterial School District by W. S. and Lena J. Diller on 20 December 1905. For fifty dollars, the Dillers sold "one square acre, in the South East corner of the field across the road from W. S. Dillers residence & bounded on the East by the main road leading to Shiloh".<sup>1</sup> The six Diller children provided one-quarter of the student body in the early years.<sup>2</sup> Constructed of wood cut from the surrounding Diller property and milled at the small Diller sawmill, the school was built by local men under the direction of Elliott F. Kent, one of the school trustees of the Wicomico District.<sup>3</sup> Erected to replace a smaller nearby Reconstruction-era school, also called Shiloh, the new building had more and larger windows. Unlike its predecessor or any of the other ten examples of one-room schools that can be identified in Northumberland County, the second Shiloh School is a three bay, axial-front structure.<sup>4</sup>

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Hudnall, Ada K. "The Story Told By The Register," *The Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society*, Vol. XXV (Heathsville, Va.: Northumberland County Historical Society, 1988.

Jett, Carolyn H. "History . . . Three Hundred Years of Education," *The Good Life of Northumberland, A Supplement to The Northumberland Echo*, 1 March 1984.

Northumberland County Deed Books Q, RR and 274, Northumberland County Courthouse, Heathsville, Va.

"Northumberland Teachers," *The Northern Neck News*, 24 August 1906.

Pardoe, Elizabeth Spencer James. "Four Outstanding Women," *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine*, Vol XXXII. Montross, Va.: Northern Neck Historical Society, Dec. 1982.

Robert E. Lee Memorial Association. Pamphlet printed on the occasion of the dedication of the Jessie Ball duPont Memorial Library, 11 October 1980.

School Ledger, Ball Museum, Northumberland County Historical Society, Heathsville, Va.

See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository:

Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources  
221 Governor St., Richmond, VA 23219

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property .9 acres

UTM References

A 18 382790 4180720  
Zone Easting Northing

B \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Shiloh School property is shown on the accompanying plat entitled "Boundary Survey of the Land of James W. Hudnell . . ."

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the entire acreage historically associated with the Shiloh School.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Helen Lee Fletcher

organization N/A

street & number Route 1, Box 603

city or town Lottsburg

date December 1990

telephone 804-529-6856

state Virginia

zip code 22511

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Shiloh School, Northumberland County, VA

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thirty inch high stoop is reached by a 6" x 8" beam used as a step. This addition was made after the rehabilitation committee studied a photograph in the possession of the last person to teach at Shiloh School. An earlier photograph shows a simple wooden two step entrance.

The building's exterior is austere and has minimal detailing. Windows are surrounded by four-inch board trim, and measure 32" x 60". Six-over-six double-hung sashes have been replaced in all ten windows; two on the facade, three on the east elevation, four on the north elevation and one on the west elevation. With one exception all the windows have Z pattern batten shutters. A five-inch metal strip has been placed between the paired windows which flank the chimney on the north facade. The entrance has double batten doors. Each door measures 24" x 70", and has common six inch double hinges. The door is fastened with a hasp and padlock.

Weatherboard cladding was milled by Mr. Diller, from trees cut on his property which surrounded the school. It is in fair condition, and those boards that need to be replaced are being skillfully matched with the originals. Photographic evidence shows that the weatherboard was whitewashed and the trim painted but neither is currently visible. The gable ends have broad overhangs and plain fascia boards. Corner boards complete the exterior trim.

The school still has the original standing seam metal roof. There are no gutters or downspouts. Located in the center of the north elevation is a single-stack, exterior, brick chimney which served the wood-burning stove used for heat. The chimney is badly deteriorated.

Inside, the schoolhouse is as plain as it is on the exterior. Interior walls and the ceiling are covered with 2 1/2" vertical paneling. There are signs that the interior was first whitewashed and later painted yellow. Although the blackboards have been removed, shadows indicate their size and placement on either side of the door and also on the west wall. The blackboards were placed three feet above the floor and were three feet high. The shadow of a removed shelf three feet high is visible in the southeast corner.

Windows are only twenty inches from the floor, which allows a greater amount of light at the level where the double desks once stood. The floor has been partially removed so the committee can replace and repair the 6" x 8" beams and 2" x 10" joists set at two-foot intervals. The floor is being replaced as needed with regular 2 1/2" tongue-and-groove hardwood to match the original flooring. One-inch shoe mounding completes the floor and has been used to trim the wall corners.

The only interior fixtures that remain are a twelve-inch metal stove pipe surround with a piece of the pipe inserted and a metal lantern hook in the middle of the ceiling.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

Shiloh School, Northumberland County, VA

Construction began soon after the property was conveyed to the school district. Mrs. Addie Belle Diller Harding, the eldest daughter, recalls her father asking the men to cease work when her invalid mother, who died in 1906, was disturbed by the noise.<sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, the school was completed in time for classes to begin in the fall at the new location and the Wicomico Trustees sold the old school to E. F. Kent on 27 September 1906 for twenty-five dollars.<sup>6</sup>

Standing alone on a slight rise with forest, fields and the Chesapeake Bay all in sight, the school recalls the early isolation of the lower Northern Neck, a true example of William Link's *A Hard Country and A Lonely Place*.

Jessie Dee Ball had taught the previous two years at the first Shiloh school and this new building represented a real improvement.<sup>7</sup> The area had been home to the Ball family since the early seventeenth century and Jessie Ball was born 20 January 1884 at the nearby family home, Cressfield. Her father was a lawyer and commonwealth's attorney, and she is said to have helped collect his fees.<sup>8</sup>

Jessie Ball, one of her two brothers, and her two sisters attended the local country school. Further educated at Wytheville (Va.) Seminary and Farmville Normal School, now Longwood College, Ball was awarded a life certificate to teach in Virginia schools.<sup>9</sup>

Records show that Jessie Ball began teaching at the old Shiloh school in 1904, and that she taught for two years at the new school, 1906 and 1907, before the family moved to California.<sup>10</sup> During these years, Jessie Ball and Aldred I. duPont were developing a friendship that resulted in their marriage 22 January 1921. This happy union and her extraordinary business sense put her in control of one of America's largest fortunes after duPont's death in 1935.<sup>11</sup> Throughout the years of her marriage and widowhood, until her death in 1970, Jessie Ball duPont devoted her time to managing both the Nemours Foundation, which was created "to benefit the orphaned, the crippled, the elderly and the poor," and the later Jessie Ball duPont Religious, Charitable, & Educational Fund.<sup>12</sup> She awarded hundreds of scholarships, and made significant gifts to schools, colleges, universities, museums, and churches. Each year she sent between sixty and seventy-five young men and women to college. "Among her myriad interests education remained dominant. Her years as a teacher had given her an unshakable faith in the power of learning to free the individual spirit for first class citizenship".<sup>13</sup>

The building represents what for generations was the only education Northern Neck children would receive. Together with the earlier Howland and the later Holley Graded schools, both recently nominated to the National Register, the Shiloh school helps complete the early education picture in the Northern Neck. Shiloh is an exceptional example of the later one-room schools built at the turn of the century. Although Northumberland County citizens began to build larger graded schools after 1906, one-room schools were used to educate both black and white children until the County School Board ordered all the white ones closed in 1929.<sup>14</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

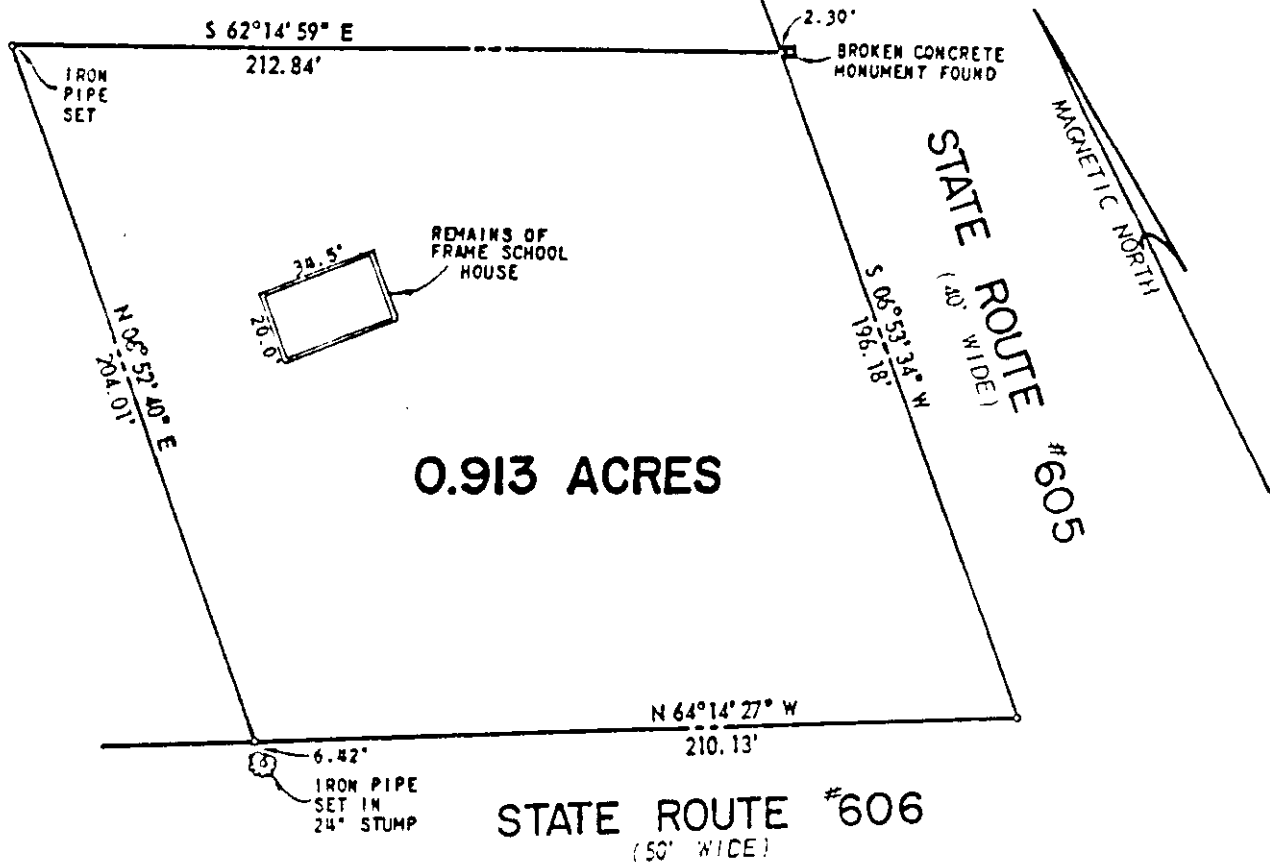
Section number 8 Page 3 Shiloh School, Northumberland County, VA

Shiloh school was sold by the school board to Raymond L. Haynie in 1939.<sup>15</sup> Other white one-room schools were given over to the education of black children and some were used until desegregation was accomplished, but Shiloh was used only for farm storage, until it was given in 1987 to Northumberland Preservation, Inc., by Mr. and Mrs. James W. Hudnall in 1987.<sup>16</sup> A rehabilitation committee was formed and funds from outside sources are being sought. Work is currently progressing so that Shiloh can once again be used for the benefit of the community.

ENDNOTES

1. Northumberland County Deed Book Q, p. 337. Northumberland County Clerk's Office, Heathsville, Va.
2. Mrs. Bea Jones of Kilmarnock, Va., a former student at both the old and new Shiloh schools, listed all the family names, and each child within the family who attended the school during the time she did. (This information, together with the tape recording of the interview conducted by Helen Lee Fletcher will be part of the material stored at the school when rehabilitation is completed.)
3. Mrs. Addie Belle Diller Harding, Lancashire Nursing Home, Kilmarnock, Va., the daughter of W. S. and Lena J. Diller was born in 1895. Her memory is good when asked specific questions. Interview tape recorded by Helen Lee Fletcher will be available at the school when rehabilitation is completed.
4. Carolyn Jett, "History . . . Three Hundred Years of Education," *The Good Life of Northumberland, A Supplement to The Northumberland Echo*, Heathsville, Va., March 1, 1984, pp. 3B-23B. (Using information from this article as a starting point, Helen Lee Fletcher, located and photographed all the school buildings in Northumberland County in 1990, and prepared a booklet of the information for an independent study at Mary Washington College, Department of Historic Preservation.)
5. Harding interview.
6. School Ledger, Ball Museum, Northumberland County Historical Society, Heathsville, Va.
7. Ada K. Hudnall. "The Story Told By The Register," *The Bulletin of the Northumberland County Historical Society*, Vol. XXV. Heathsville, Va.: Northumberland County Historical Society, 1988. p. 49.
8. Pamphlet printed for The Robert E. Lee Memorial Association, Stratford, Va., on the occasion of the dedication of the Jessie Ball duPont Memorial Library, 11 October 1980.
9. Elizabeth Spencer James Pardoe. "Four Outstanding Women," *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine*, Vol. XXXII, Dec. 1982, 3652.
10. "Northumberland Teachers," Northern Neck News, 24 August 1906, p.3.
11. Pardoe, "Four Outstanding Women."
12. *Ibid.*
13. Dedication Pamphlet.
14. Jett.
15. Northumberland County Deed Book RR, p. 15. Northumberland County Clerk's Office, Heathsville, Va.
16. Northumberland County Deed Book 274, p.611. Northumberland County Clerk's Office, Heathsville, Va.

LUTHER E. WELCH  
(DEED BOOK 175, PAGE 57)



0.913 ACRES

NOTES

1. THE PROPERTY SHOWN HEREON IS NOW IN THE NAME OF JAMES W. HUDNALL AND EMILY HUDNALL AS RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 100 AT PAGE 508 AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, VA.
2. THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF A TITLE REPORT AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE ALL ENCUMBRANCES ON THE PROPERTY.

BOUNDARY SURVEY  
OF THE LAND OF  
**JAMES W. HUDNALL**  
AND  
**EMILY HUDNALL**

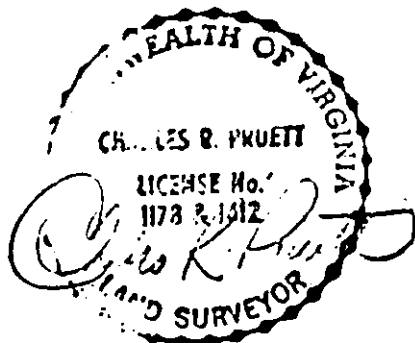
WICOMICO MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT  
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA

SCALE 1" = 50'

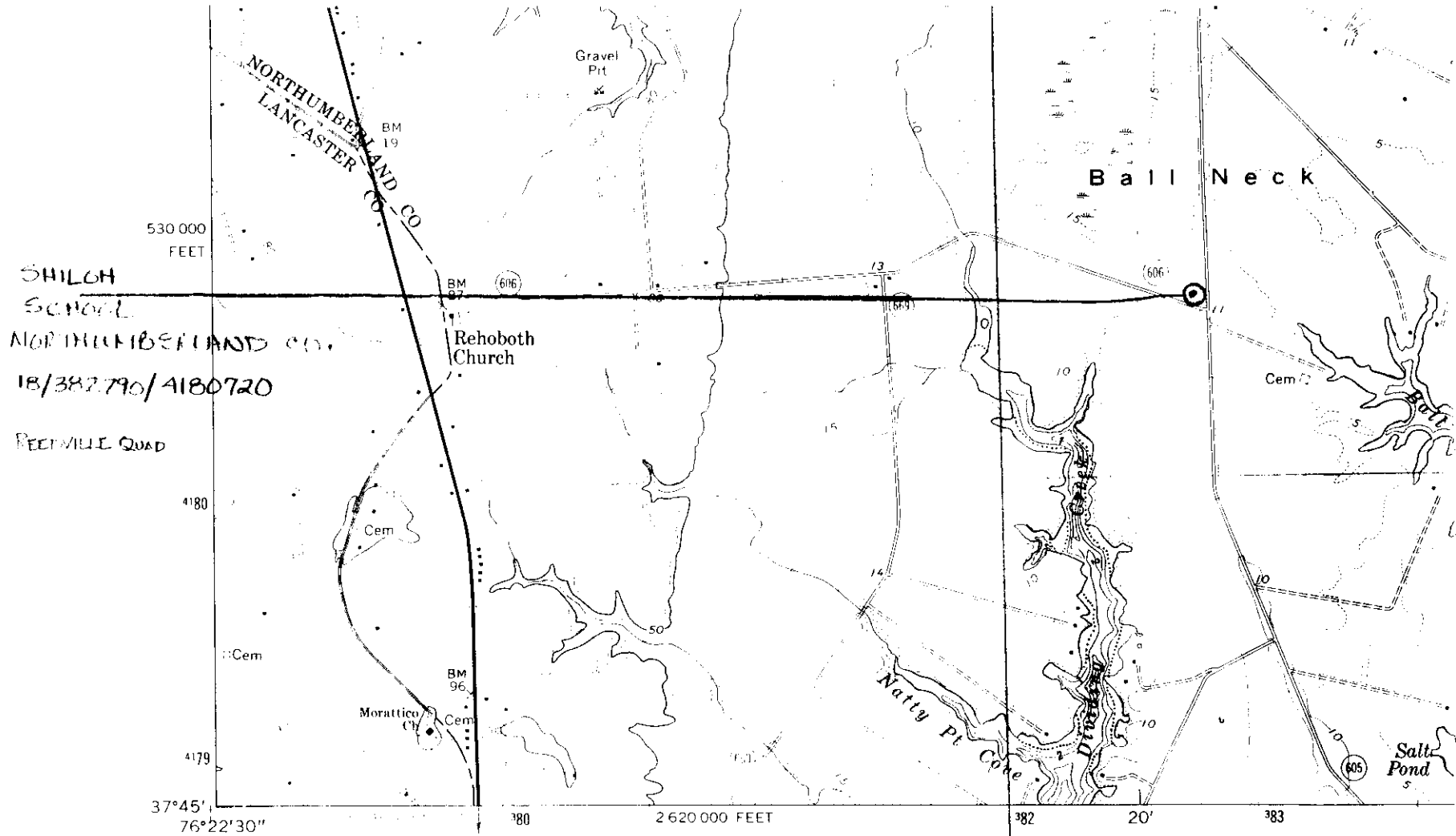
JUNE 26, 1987

CHARLES R. PRUETT  
CERTIFIED LAND SURVEYOR  
LANCASTER COURTHOUSE, VIRGINIA

(804) 462-7797

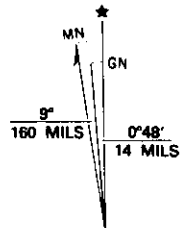
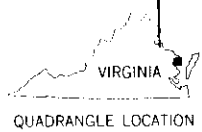




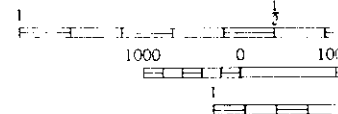


(IRVINGTON)  
5759 III NW

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
and the National Ocean Service  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968  
Bathymetry compiled by the National Ocean Service from  
tide-coordinated hydrographic surveys. This information  
is not intended for navigational purposes  
Mean low water (dotted) line and mean high water (heavy solid)  
line compiled by NOS from tide-coordinated aerial photographs  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American Datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18  
shown in blue  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
move the projection lines 9 meters south and  
29 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1986 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



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AND VIRGINIA DIVISION O  
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