

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 Property

Historic name: Roland E. Cook Elementary School
 Other names/site number: Vinton School; Vinton High School; VDHR# 149-0052
 Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

LISTED
 VLR: 3/17/2016
 NRHP: 5/12/2016

2. Location

Street & number: 412 S. Poplar Street
 City or town: Vinton State: VA County: Roanoke
 Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A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:	Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
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

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
County and State

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>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

EDUCATION: school

Current Functions

VACANT/NOT IN USE

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: CLASSICAL REVIVAL

Materials CONCRETE; BRICK; SYNTHETICS: Rubber

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

Built in 1915, Roland E. Cook Elementary School reflects the Progressive Era movement to establish consolidated schools to improve quality of life and education in rural areas. Representative of an early phase of consolidated school construction, its design is consistent with other schools built in Virginia counties between 1910 and 1920. The original T-plan, brick Classical Revival-style school is two stories with a raised basement. Designed by architect G.R. Ragan, the school showcases a full-height pedimented entrance portico supported by monumental columns. On its main and upper floor, the central-passage, double-pile plan features classrooms that retain their original configurations and relationships to the central corridor. The ground floor contains two classrooms, three rooms for mechanical equipment, boys and girls restrooms, an office, a kitchen, and a cafeteria. The rear addition, completed in 1924, reflects the transition in the 1920s and 1930s to larger schools, with more classrooms and specialized spaces—such as a gymnasium and auditorium—for expanded curriculums. The 1924 addition created the building's current symmetrical, H-shape footprint. The interior finishes and features throughout the school remain largely intact and are consistent with other schools of this era. The corridors retain their original terrazzo floors and glazed brick wainscoting on the walls. The chalkboards and cloak rooms, so characteristic of classrooms in historic schools, are intact. Located in the heart of the Town of Vinton, the school is surrounded by residences, churches, and businesses. Its prominent siting on a hill overlooking the town achieves a strong visual impact. A concrete walk meanders from the sidewalk to the monumental front entrance. Behind the school is a paved parking area and a small schoolyard.

Narrative Description

Roland E. Cook Elementary School stands on a grassy knoll in the Town of Vinton. Originally built to serve white students during Virginia's era of Jim Crow segregation, the school is located in the heart of town, near residences, churches, and businesses. Situated at the center of its 1.05-acre lot, the school faces Poplar Street. The front lawn is bordered by dogwood, poplar, and Bradford pear trees. A concrete walk meanders from the sidewalk to the front entrance. Shorter walks originate

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
County and State

from the side entrances. The north entrance is accessed via an alley. A paved parking area and a small, grassy schoolyard contained by a chain link fence are located behind the school. A concrete retaining wall with a pipe railing borders the lot.

Roland E. Cook Elementary School was built ca. 1915, during one of the first phases of consolidated regional school construction in Roanoke County. Its original T-plan design is consistent with other consolidated schools constructed between 1910 and 1920, being two stories—over a raised basement—with a central-passage, double-pile plan. The original school block consists of the western main entrance and a central hall with two classrooms to each side on the main and upper floors. The exterior walls are brick arranged in six-course American bond. The building stands over a raised basement constructed of scored concrete; the basement level of the original block houses two classrooms, three rooms for mechanical equipment, and a restroom. A brick chimney protrudes above the roof parapet on the north side of the school. The school is constructed in a local adaptation of the Classical Revival style, which was popular for governmental, civic, and educational buildings in the early twentieth century. The school's dignified full-height entrance portico is supported by monumental classical columns and topped by a pediment. Dentils adorn the frieze, pediment, and cornice. The frieze contains the name of the school. Other Classical Revival features include the sixteen-light transom and heavy, denticulated entablature above the front door. The arrangement of the fenestration is formal and symmetrical, despite the fact the original sashes were replaced in 1966. It is important to note that the size, shape, and spatial arrangement of the school's original apertures have not been modified, only the window fixtures themselves. The original double-hung wood sashes were rectangular with six to nine panes to each sash.

The rear addition, completed in 1924, doubled the amount of space in the school and created the building's current H-shaped footprint. The number of classrooms on the main floor was increased from four to eight. One of the new rooms was used for administrative purposes. Besides providing classroom space, the addition allowed for a large room that served as a gym and auditorium on the upper floor. The basement level has a kitchen on the north side of the central corridor and a restroom and classroom/office on the corridor's south side, while a cafeteria occupies the rear addition's northeast corner and the southeast corner remains unexcavated. A stair shaft with two staircases was added between the addition and original building. The addition mirrors the original building form, creating a symmetrical H-plan. The exterior walls, foundation, and roof also blend with the original building seamlessly. The Classical Revival style was also incorporated into the design of the addition. The cornice continues along the parapet and the ordered arrangement of the fenestration is maintained. Simple gabled overhangs and multi-light transoms surmount the side elevation doors.

The school retains its historic interior floor plan. The original section of the school reflects trends in consolidated public school construction between 1910 and 1920, with its central-passage, double-pile plan. The eight original classrooms retain their original configurations and their relationships to the central corridor. The 1924 rear addition did not impact the floor plan of the original school. Its design reflects the transition in the 1920s and 1930s to larger schools, with more classrooms and specialized spaces for expanded curriculums. Standardized State plans issued by the State School Board for new schools of this era specified large rooms that would serve as a combined auditorium, gymnasium, and community center.¹ The large multi-purpose room on the second floor of the addition was designed to serve this function. The classrooms and multi-purpose space in the addition retain their original configurations. As the school's student enrollment grew, the basement was also used as functional space, including additional classrooms, a kitchen, and a cafeteria.

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
County and State

The interior finishes and features remain largely intact and are consistent with other schools of this era. The corridors retain their original terrazzo floors and glazed brick wainscoting on the walls. The chalkboards and cloak rooms, so characteristic of classrooms in historic schools, are largely intact. The arched openings to the cloak rooms also remain as significant architectural features. The assembly space retains its original wood floors and plaster finishes, as well as the stage. The proscenium arch of the stage matches the arched openings to the cloak rooms. Most of the historic two-panel interior doors throughout the interior remain in place.

Some modifications were made over time to adapt to the changing needs of the school. The most extensive changes were made in 1966. At that time, the existing metal window sashes were installed, although the original window openings were not altered. Dropped acoustical tile ceilings were installed in the classrooms, but above, the original plaster ceilings still remain. Various non-historic flooring materials were installed over the original hardwood floors in the classrooms. Other changes included the addition of restrooms for administrative office and clinic use, and the conversion of a classroom to a library. The changes made to accommodate these new uses were minimal and reversible and do not diminish the significance of the building as a consolidated public school.

Statement of Integrity

The “Thematic Evaluation of County School Buildings in Southwest Virginia” by Dr. John Kern, Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR), provides helpful criteria for evaluating the integrity of potentially eligible school buildings in Virginia, asserting that eligible schools should retain their historic character of setting, access, and school grounds. Moreover, it stipulates that “eligible school buildings should retain their original massing, floor plans, surface materials, and ornamental detailing; retention of original fenestration is particularly important.” While the assessment mentions the importance of the original fenestration, it is important to note that the National Register Bulletin: “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation” places more emphasis on the original fenestration patterns than the window sashes themselves. In the case of Roland E. Cook Elementary School, the size, shape, and spatial arrangement of the school’s original apertures have not been modified. Therefore, in a sense, the fenestration has not been modified, only the window fixtures themselves.

Roland E. Cook Elementary School, with its relatively unaltered exterior and intact interior plan and finishes that clearly reflect its function, retains the physical integrity necessary to convey its architectural and historic significance as an early consolidated school in Roanoke County. The school retains its integrity of location and setting as it still occupies its original site and acreage in the heart of Vinton. The school’s large parcel retains its open lawn to the west along Poplar Street, with the parking lot and schoolyard located east of the building, and continues to be surrounded by buildings serving residential, commercial, and civic functions.

The 1915 brick building also retains its design, materials, and workmanship. The Classical Revival features of the building remain intact with its monumental and symmetrical form, pedimented entrance porch, and balanced fenestration pattern. The interior plan and finishes also remain largely intact and clearly reflect the historic function, materials, and aesthetics of an early consolidated school. The materials and workmanship reflect the construction practices of the time. With these elements intact, Roland E. Cook Elementary School retains its attributes of feeling and association as it continues to convey its historic function as a consolidated school constructed in the early twentieth century to provide adequate education to students in the Town of Vinton.

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
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

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1915-1965

Significant Dates

1915

1924

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Ragan, G.R. (Architect)

Dickerson O.M. (Contractor)

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
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.)

Built in 1915 and expanded in 1924, Roland E. Cook Elementary School is a representative example of an early consolidated school for white students in Roanoke County. The movement to establish consolidated schools began in response to Progressive Era concerns about the quality of life and education in rural areas. Reformers envisioned that one-room schoolhouses would be consolidated into one central location, which would serve as a center of community life. These new consolidated schools would have multiple rooms to allow for the separate instruction of students grouped by class and age. Most Virginia public schools built between 1900 and 1940 are examples of consolidated schools. The design of Roland E. Cook Elementary School is consistent with other consolidated schools built in western Virginia counties between 1910 and 1920. Roland E. Cook Elementary School is nominated for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and C in the areas of Education and Architecture, with significance on the local level. The period of significance, 1915 to 1965, encompasses the school's construction through the final full year of school segregation in Roanoke County, signaling a major change in the approach to public education statewide. In the summer of 1966, before the next school year, changes were made to modernize the increasingly outmoded school, so to keep pace with the newer and larger consolidated schools of the Cold War era.

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

Criteria Justification

Criterion A: Education

Roland E. Cook Elementary School is significant on the local level under Criterion A in the area of Education as being illustrative of "representative pattern of events that made a significant contribution to the development of education in the state from 1870 to 1950," according to the evaluation criteria provided in DHR's "Thematic Evaluation of County School Buildings in Southwest Virginia." As an early consolidated school, it represents a Progressive Era approach to rural education in the first quarter of the twentieth century. Consolidated regional schools replaced geographically dispersed one-room schoolhouses, leading to improved educational facilities for students living in rural areas. Additionally, the school dates to Virginia's Jim Crow era of segregation and was constructed for the use of white students.

The 1924 addition to the school—with its combined auditorium and gymnasium space—reflects how early consolidated schools adapted to changing trends in consolidated school design. The design of consolidated schools changed significantly after the State Board of Education initiated its School Building Service in 1920. The School Building Service sold plans to counties for a minimal fee, which resulted in the standardization of school designs in Virginia. In the 1920s and 1930s, consolidated schools transitioned from two-story to one-story designs, with the inclusion of specialized spaces to accommodate the more diversified curriculum mandated by the State. Large rooms that served as a combined auditorium, gymnasium, and community center were incorporated into the new consolidated school plans of this era. The inclusion of this multi-purpose room in the 1924 addition demonstrates how the school continued to evolve and adapt to meet changing education standards.

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
County and State

Criterion C: Architecture

The school is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. DHR's "Thematic Evaluation of County School Buildings in Southwest Virginia" specifies that public school buildings may be eligible for historic designation under Criterion C as architecturally significant examples of Virginia Board of Education standard designs. Roland E. Cook Elementary is an example of a consolidated regional school built in the period just before the Virginia Board of Education standardized designs. According to the classification system outlined in the thematic evaluation, it is an example of a "two-story consolidated school of four or more rooms built before 1920."² The school represents the crucial transitional period between the one-room schoolhouse and larger regional schools like its successor, William Byrd High School. Although other consolidated schools have been demolished on account of obsolescence, Roland E. Cook Elementary School continues to survive as a relatively intact example of this era of county school construction. There were two other schools in Roanoke County known to be built in the same period: the Starkey School (NRHP 2002) and Bent Mountain School. The original section of Bent Mountain School was demolished when the school was renovated in 1990. The Starkey School still stands, but has two large 1928 wings added on both sides of the original section. Although it was constructed the same year as Roland E. Cook Elementary, the Starkey School is a different design, as it is one story and originally contained only two classrooms. Therefore, Roland E. Cook Elementary is the oldest and best example of a "two-story consolidated school of four or more rooms built before 1920" in Roanoke County.

Historical Background

The trends in public school construction discussed in the following section are based on the categories identified by Ann McCleary in "Public Schools in Augusta County, Virginia, 1870-1940" and John Kern in "Thematic Evaluation of County School Buildings in Southwest Virginia." These thematic evaluations provide the historic contexts necessary for evaluating public schools constructed in Virginia between 1870 and 1940.

Virginia's Free Public School System

Virginia adopted the Underwood Constitution in 1869, establishing the Commonwealth's first free public school system, but also mandating racial segregation of students. To meet the terms of the constitution, localities created segregated local public school systems for the 1870-1871 school year. Since the constitution mandated that public schools be within walking distance of every student, numerous one-room schoolhouses were built in rural communities, with students of all ages taught in a single classroom. These early schools were usually simple log or frame buildings of vernacular design. Roanoke County established its public education system in 1870. Around 1880, some rural communities began to establish graded schools that contained two or three rooms. These schools were similar in design and form to the one-room schoolhouse, but allowed for some separation of students by age and class.³ Often located in towns or villages, these graded schools were an early attempt to improve rural education.⁴

Consolidated Schools and the Progressive Education Reforms in the Early 1900s

Significant developments in public education at the beginning of the twentieth century had a major influence on the design of schools. Virginia adopted a new constitution in 1902, which extended the powers of the State Board of Education, but maintained the requirement for racial segregation.⁵ The constitution mandated a longer school year, increased school funding, and higher teacher salaries. New

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
County and State

legislation also encouraged the replacement of one-room schools with regional consolidated schools by appropriating loan funds for modern school construction. Directives were attached to the loan funds, allowing the State to have input on the designs of many new schools.⁶ It is important to note that at this point in time, the vast majority of public resources devoted to public education in Virginia went to white students.

The movement to establish consolidated schools began in response to Progressive Era concerns about the quality of life and education in rural areas. Speakers from the Southern Education Board visited Virginia counties in May 1905, advocating for improvements in public education.⁷ The reformers envisioned that geographically dispersed one-room schoolhouses would be consolidated in one central location, which would serve as a center of community life. These new consolidated schools would have multiple rooms to allow for the separate instruction of students grouped by class and age. The reformers believed that consolidated schools would improve country life by providing a better education for rural students.⁸ Most Virginia public schools built for white students between 1900 and 1940 are examples of consolidated schools.

Vinton School

Amidst the education reforms of the early twentieth century arose the need for a new school for white students in the Town of Vinton. The existing two-story frame school, constructed in 1891, had a weak foundation and was feared to be unsafe.⁹ In February 1915, the Mayor of Vinton called a meeting to discuss the construction of a modern school building. After funding was secured from Roanoke County Schools and the Vinton School League, G.R. Ragan was commissioned as architect and O.M. Dickerson contracted as the builder. Construction began in 1915 and was completed in 1916. The first classes in the new Vinton School began in September 1916.¹⁰

The Vinton School, which later became Roland E. Cook Elementary, was representative of the design used for consolidated schools between 1910 and 1920. Using the classification system outlined in the “Thematic Evaluation of County School Buildings in Southwest Virginia,” it is an example of a “two-story consolidated school of four or more rooms built before 1920.”¹¹ These schools were usually two-story buildings constructed of brick with a double-pile, central-passage plan, which allowed for eight classrooms. Schools of this era departed from the frame I-house design used for the earliest consolidated schools. I-house schools usually contained four classrooms and featured a more domestic design and scale.¹² In addition to its modern plan and construction, the Vinton School was also designed in the popular Classical Revival style, commonly used for civic buildings and schools in the early twentieth century. Its monumental porch and classical detailing served as expressions of authority and culture.

1924 Addition

The growth of the school and the curriculum prompted the construction of an addition in 1924. Constructed at the rear of the existing school, the addition doubled the amount of space. Adopting the general plan and materials of the original design, the addition blended seamlessly with the existing school building. The addition also incorporated a key feature of new consolidated schools being constructed in that decade, with the inclusion of a large room that functioned as a combined auditorium, gymnasium, and community center.

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
County and State

The design of consolidated schools had changed significantly after the State Board of Education initiated its School Building Service in 1920. The School Building Service sold plans to counties for a minimal fee, which resulted in the standardization of school designs in Virginia. In the 1920s and 1930s, consolidated schools transitioned from two-story to one-story designs, with the inclusion of specialized spaces to accommodate the more diversified curriculum mandated by the State. Large rooms that served as a combined auditorium, gymnasium, and community center were incorporated into the new consolidated school plans of this era. The community function of these spaces reflects the Progressive Era idea that consolidated schools should serve as the centers for rural life.¹³ The inclusion of this multi-purpose room demonstrates how the addition was used to adapt to new trends in consolidated school design. The same year that the addition was completed, the school graduated its first four-year high school class and became Vinton High School.

Roland E. Cook Elementary School

Vinton High School quickly experienced growing pains in the late 1920s. After the first William Byrd High School was built in Vinton in 1933 to accommodate the growth, the former high school became an elementary school. In 1945, it was named in honor of Roland E. Cook, principal of the Vinton School from 1897-1902 and Superintendent of Roanoke County Schools from 1906-1945.¹⁴

The increase in birthrate after World War II, coupled with the growing number of families in Roanoke County, put a strain on the school system in the mid-twentieth century. Between 1950 and 1955, school enrollment in Roanoke County increased from 8,276 to 10,030 students.¹⁵ The existing schools soon became overcrowded with the surge of new students. To accommodate the projected increases in enrollment, a bond issue was passed to construct new schools and expand existing schools in 1957. Superintendent Herman L. Horn used the funds to lead an extensive school construction program over his ten year tenure. The bonds financed the construction of five new schools and additions to eight other schools. In 1962, another bond issue was approved for the construction of five more elementary schools, including Cave Spring, Masons Cove, Pinkard Court, East Vinton, and East Salem.¹⁶

Although most of the new and expanded schools were for white students, the bonds did finance two new schools and an addition to an existing school for African-American students. The system of segregation remained intact in schools statewide even after the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* finding the legal doctrine of "separate but equal" to be unconstitutional under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The program of "massive resistance" initiated by U.S. Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia became part of the state political agenda, as new state laws and policies were put in place to prevent public school desegregation. However, the new schools constructed during the late 1950s and early 1960s would be the last segregated schools built in Roanoke County. Under court order, a plan to integrate Roanoke County Schools—including Roland E. Cook Elementary—was instituted in 1962-1963. Under the plan, two grades a year were desegregated to facilitate a smooth transition, beginning with seventh and eighth grades and vocational classes.¹⁷ Arnold R. Burton, who became superintendent in 1965, saw the integration plan through to its completion in the 1966-1967 school year. The integration of Roanoke County Schools was achieved without major disruption due to the small (about 3 percent) and evenly distributed African American population in Roanoke County. Local opposition to integration was weaker than in eastern and northern Virginia because race relations between blacks and whites were less strained by the comparative paucity of African Americans in western Virginia.¹⁸

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
County and State

While Roanoke County's school building program was completed in 1962, student population growth would continue to increase over the course of the decade. However, the next major phase of school construction would not occur until the 1970s, after desegregation had been completed.¹⁹ Meanwhile, some of the older County schools were becoming outmoded and needed to be modernized in order to keep pace with the newer schools. In the summer of 1966—prior to the start of the first fully integrated school year—changes were made to Roland E. Cook Elementary School that were intended to modernize the facility. At that time, the existing metal window sashes were installed, although the original window openings were not altered. Dropped acoustical tile ceilings were added in the classrooms and various non-historic flooring materials were installed over the original hardwood floors in the classrooms. Other changes included the addition of restrooms for administrative office and clinic use, and the conversion of a classroom to a library. The changes made were minimal and reversible and do not diminish the significance of the building as a consolidated public school, but do reflect Cold War era changes in school design. Similar to the one-room schoolhouses they replaced, pre-World War II consolidated schools like Roland E. Cook Elementary School became increasingly obsolete as county school systems consolidated again and built newer, larger, and more centrally located schools.²⁰ Roland E. Cook continued in use as an elementary school until 1999. The building was then used as an alternative school for a brief time. After its closure in 2009, the building was mothballed and has been vacant since then.

Although other consolidated schools have been demolished on account of obsolescence, Roland E. Cook Elementary School continues to survive as a relatively intact example of this era of county school construction. There were two other schools in Roanoke County known to be built in the same period: the Starkey School (NRHP 2002) and Bent Mountain School. The original section of Bent Mountain School was demolished when the school was renovated in 1990. The Starkey School still stands, but has two large 1928 wings added on both sides of the original section. Although it was constructed the same year as Roland E. Cook Elementary, the Starkey School is not an example of a “two-story consolidated school of four or more rooms built before 1920” as it was one story and contained only two classrooms. Roland E. Cook Elementary is perhaps the best surviving example of a “two-story consolidated school of four or more rooms built before 1920” in Roanoke County.

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
County and State



Figure 1: Roland E. Cook Elementary, 1938



Figure 2: Roland E. Cook Elementary, 1939

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
County and State



Figure 3: Roland E. Cook Elementary, 1959 (courtesy of Library of Virginia)

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Kagey, Deedie Dent. *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*. Roanoke, Va.:
Roanoke County Sesquicentennial Committee, 1988.

Kagey, Deedie Dent. *Roland E. Cook Preliminary Information Form*. Virginia Department of
Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia. August 1998.

Kern, John. *Thematic Evaluation of County Public School Buildings in Southwest Virginia*.
Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia. October 2000.

McCleary, Ann. *Public Schools in Augusta County, Virginia, 1870-1940*. National Register of
Historic Places, thematic nomination report, 1984. Virginia Department of Historic
Resources, Richmond, Virginia, VDHR File 07-1175.

School Buildings Service Photographs. Virginia. Dept. of Education. School Buildings
Service. Richmond, Va.: Digital Collections, Library of Virginia.

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, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR File No. 149-0052

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property: 1.05 acres (approx.)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
 Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
 County and State

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
 (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 27.27696 Longitude: -79.89563

**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 boundary includes the two tax parcels, 39.00 and 40.00, indicated within the boundary line on the attached tax parcel map entitled "Tax Map Roland E. Cook Elementary School."

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the school building itself and the 1.05-acre property that has been associated with Roland E. Cook Elementary School since its construction in 1915.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Katherine C. Gutshall & Alison S. Blanton
 organization: Hill Studio, PC
 street & number: 120 Campbell Avenue SW
 city or town: Roanoke state: Virginia zip code: 24011
 e-mail: kcoffield@hillstudio.com
 telephone: 540-342-5263
 date: December 2015

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Roland E. Cook Elementary School
City or Vicinity: Vinton (Town)
State: Virginia
Photographer: Katherine C. Gutshall
Date Photographed: October 2015

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

Photo 1 of 12: Front (West) Elevation, view E from Poplar Street
Photo 2 of 12: NW Corner, view SE from Poplar Street
Photo 3 of 12: Front (West) Elevation, view E
Photo 4 of 12: Rear (East) Elevation, view W
Photo 5 of 12: South Side Elevation, view NW from Jefferson Avenue
Photo 6 of 12: North Side Elevation, view SW from alley
Photo 7 of 12: First Floor Corridor, view E
Photo 8 of 12: Second Floor Corridor, view W
Photo 9 of 12: Classroom, view SW
Photo 10 of 12: Classroom, view S
Photo 11 of 12: Music/Drama Room, view SW
Photo 12 of 12: Gymnasium/Auditorium, view SE

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
County and State

ENDNOTES

¹ McCleary, Section 7, Page 6.

² Kern, 6-7. During Virginia's Jim Crow era of segregation, public expenditures to see to the needs of African American students differed considerably from expenditures for white students. Because the Roland E. Cook Elementary School historically served white students, this context focuses on trends for white students' education. Additional information about public education for African American students during the Jim Crow era, please refer to the MPD "Rosenwald Schools in Virginia."

³ Kern, 6.

⁴ McCleary, Section 7, Page 5.

⁵ Kagey, 475.

⁶ McCleary, Section 8, Page 4.

⁷ Kagey, 475.

⁸ McCleary, Section 8, Page 3.

⁹ Kagey, 426-427.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Kern, 6-7.

¹² McCleary, Section 7, Page 5.

¹³ Ibid, Section 7, Page 6.

¹⁴ Kagey PIF, 4

¹⁵ Kagey, 519-520.

¹⁶ Ibid, 519-521.

¹⁷ Ibid, 521.

¹⁸ Ibid, 556-557.

¹⁹ Ibid, 557-558.

²⁰ Kern, 2.



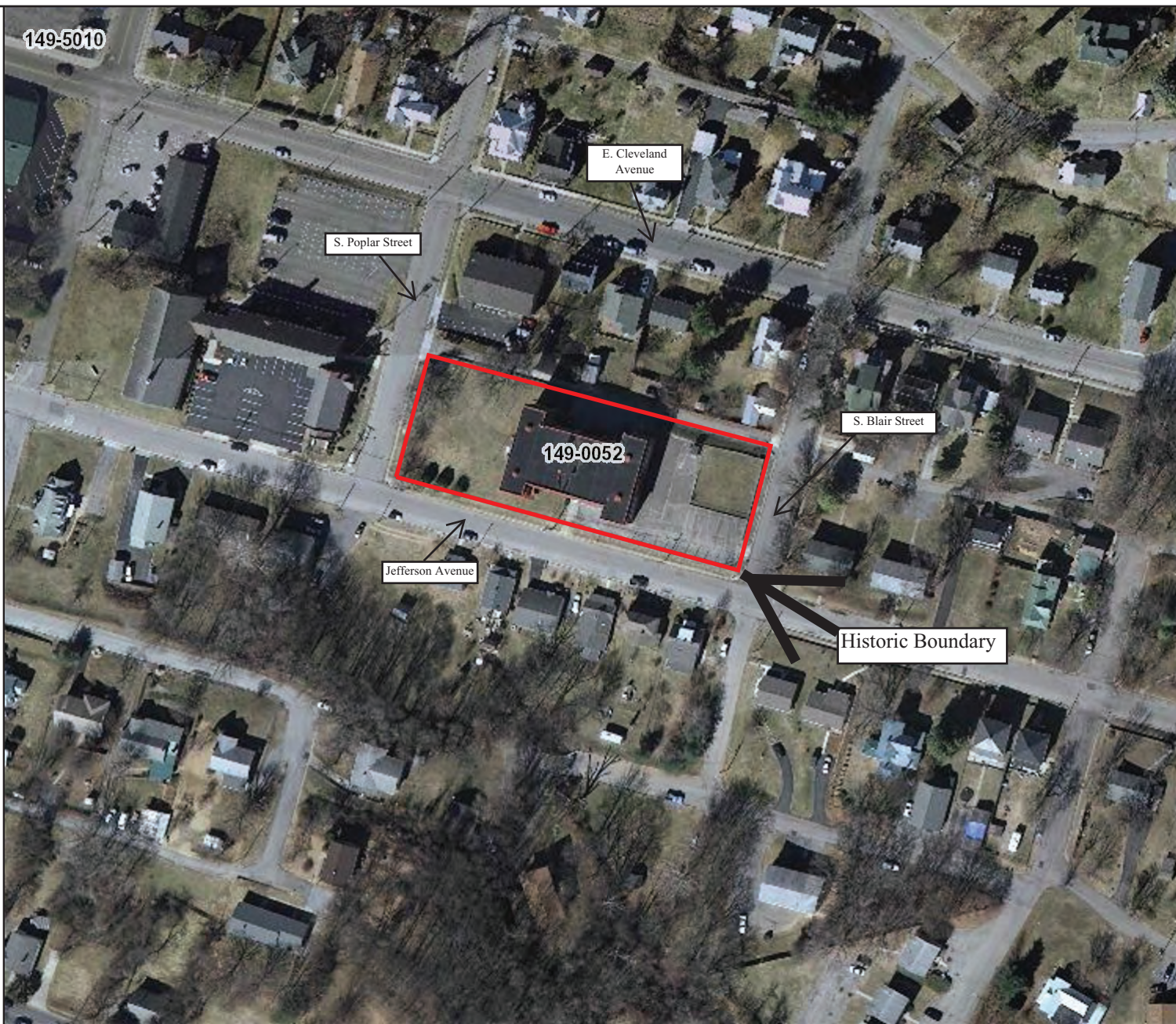
Legend

Location Map

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
412 S. Poplar Street
Town of Vinton
Roanoke County, VA
2015

DHR# 149-0052
Lat: 27.27696
Lon: -79.89563

WGS84
Map Source: VCRIS



Feet



1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet

Title: Roland E. Cook Elementary School

Date: 1/8/2015

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.

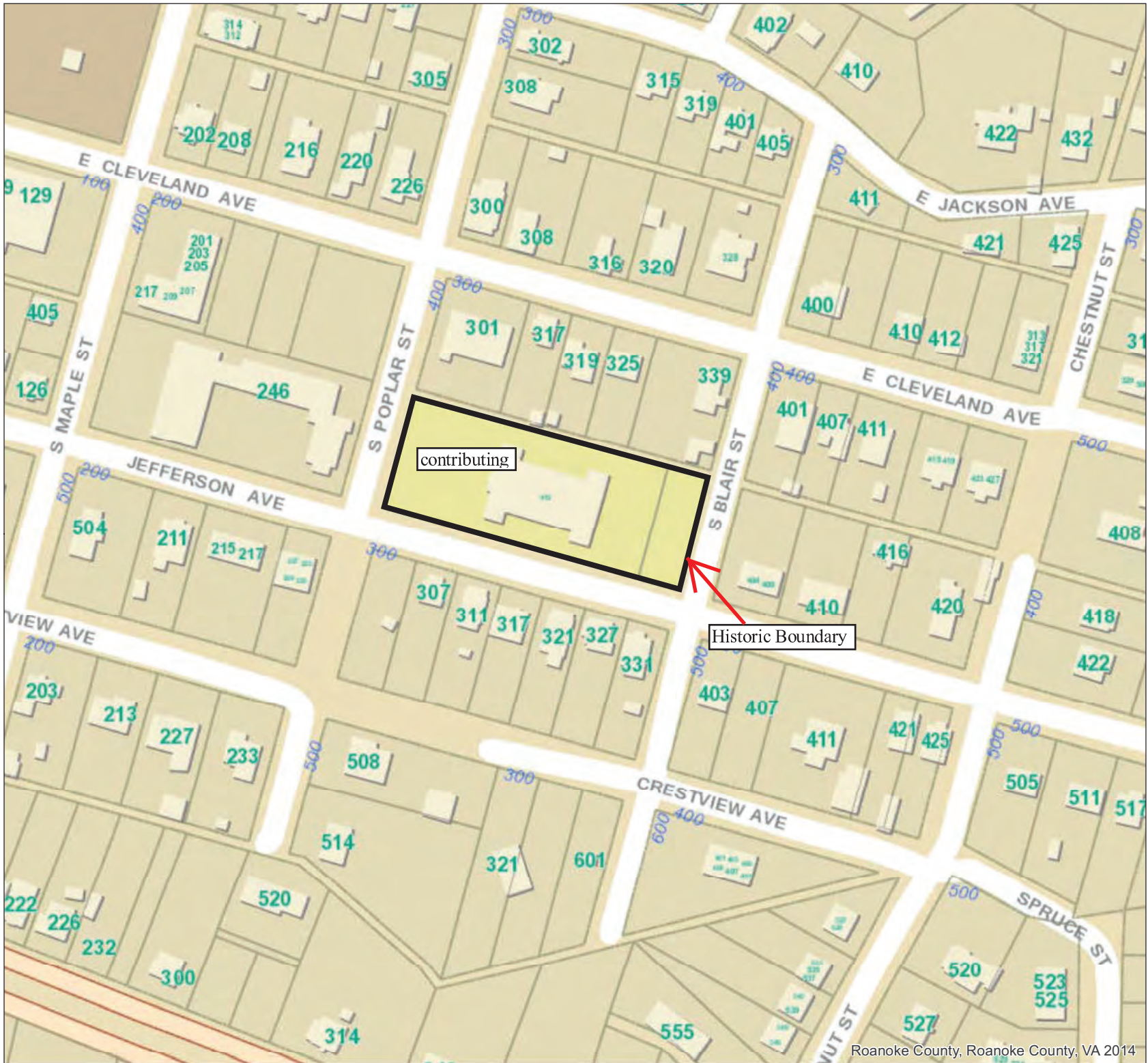
Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



SKETCH MAP

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
412 S. Poplar Street
Town of Vinton
Roanoke County, VA
2015

DHR# 149-0052



Disclaimer: It is understood that the data displayed through this application is subject to constant change and that its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. The maps have been created from information provided by various government and private sources at various levels of accuracy. The data is provided to you as is; with no warranty, representation or guaranty as to the content, sequence, accuracy, timeliness or completeness of any of the information provided herein. It is the responsibility of the user of the data to be aware of the data's limitations and to utilize the data in an appropriate manner.



0 70 140 280 Feet
Date: 12/1/2015 1:2,257

Photo Key and Floor Plans
 Roland E. Cook Elementary School
 Roanoke County, VA
 DHR No. 149-0052



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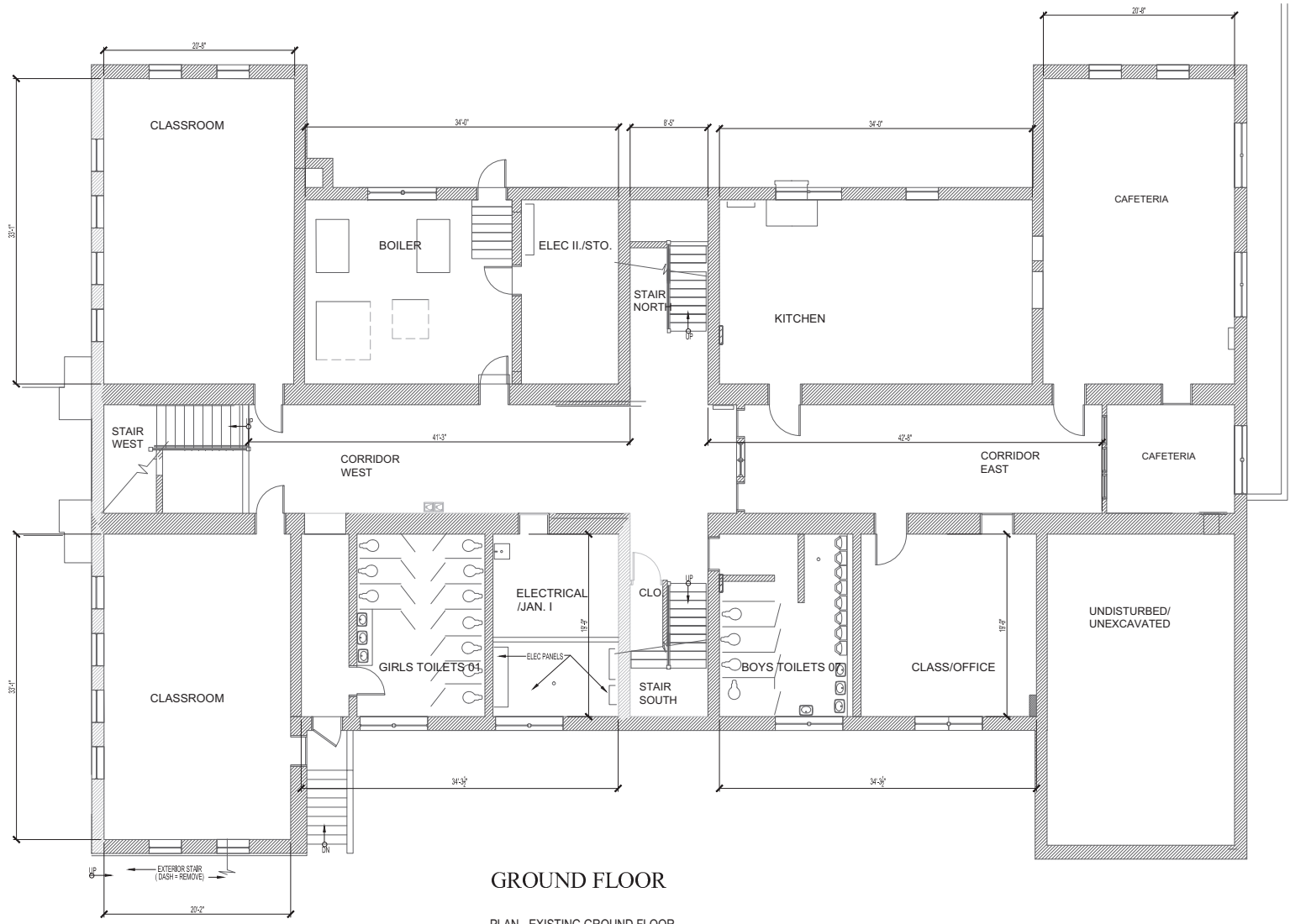
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 Architecture
 Community Planning
 Historic Preservation
 120 W. Campbell Ave. SW
 Roanoke, VA 24011
 tel: 540-343-2583 fax: 540-345-5025
 www.hillstudio.com

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
 Town of Vinton
 Roanoke County, VA
 DHR# 149-0052
 2015

Floor Plans - Ground Floor



Photo Locations



GROUND FLOOR

PLAN - EXISTING GROUND FLOOR

3/16" = 1 FOOT



Photo Key and Floor Plans
 Roland E. Cook Elementary School
 Roanoke County, VA
 DHR No. 149-0052



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 Town of Vinton
 Roanoke County, VA
 DHR# 149-0052
 2015

Floor Plans - Main Floor

1 →
 Photo Locations

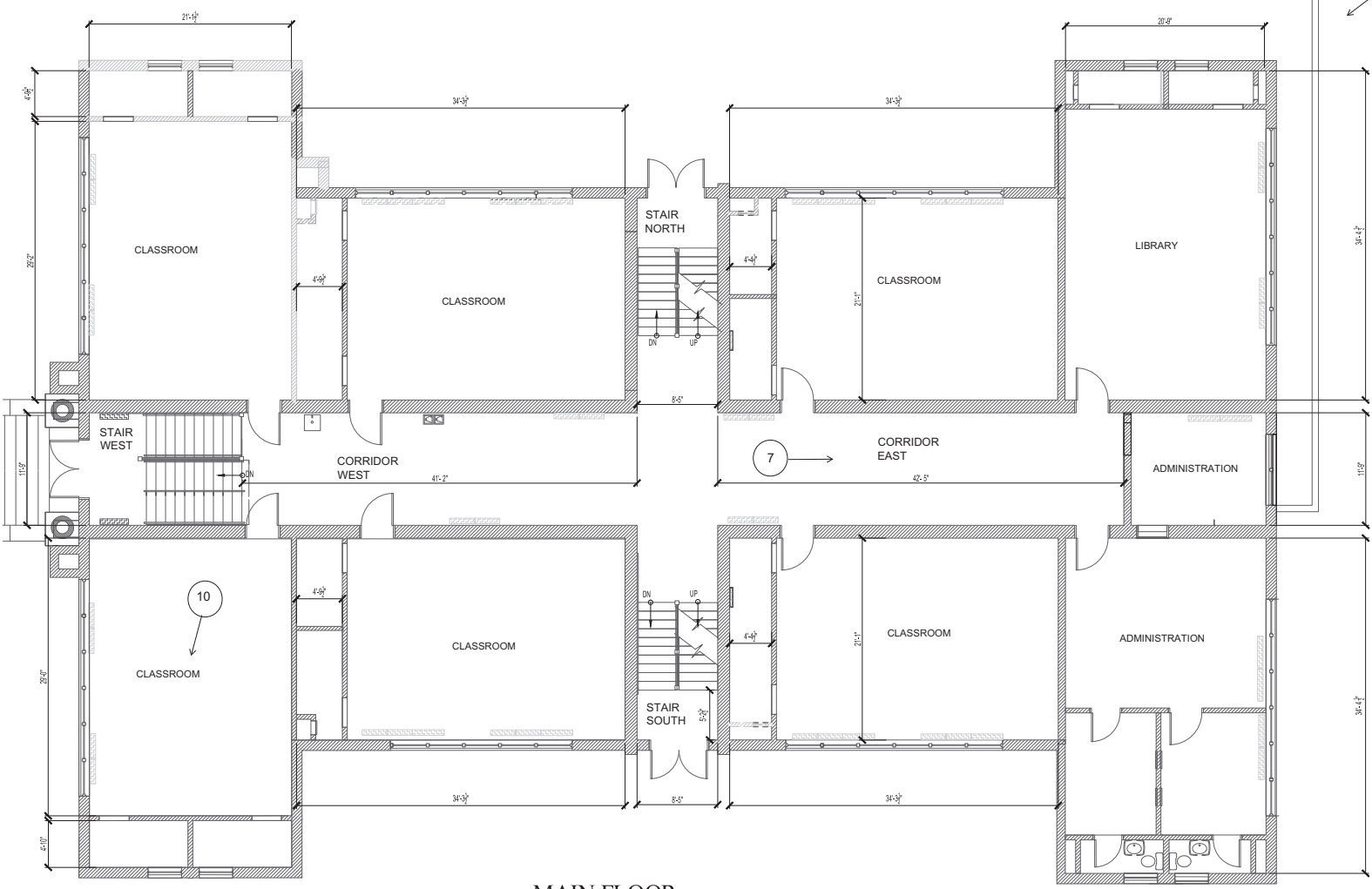
← **4**

← **5**

6 →

2 ↘

1 →
3 →



MAIN FLOOR

PLAN - EXISTING MAIN FLOOR
 3/16" = 1 FOOT



Photo Key and Floor Plans
 Roland E. Cook Elementary School
 Roanoke County, VA
 DHR No. 149-0052



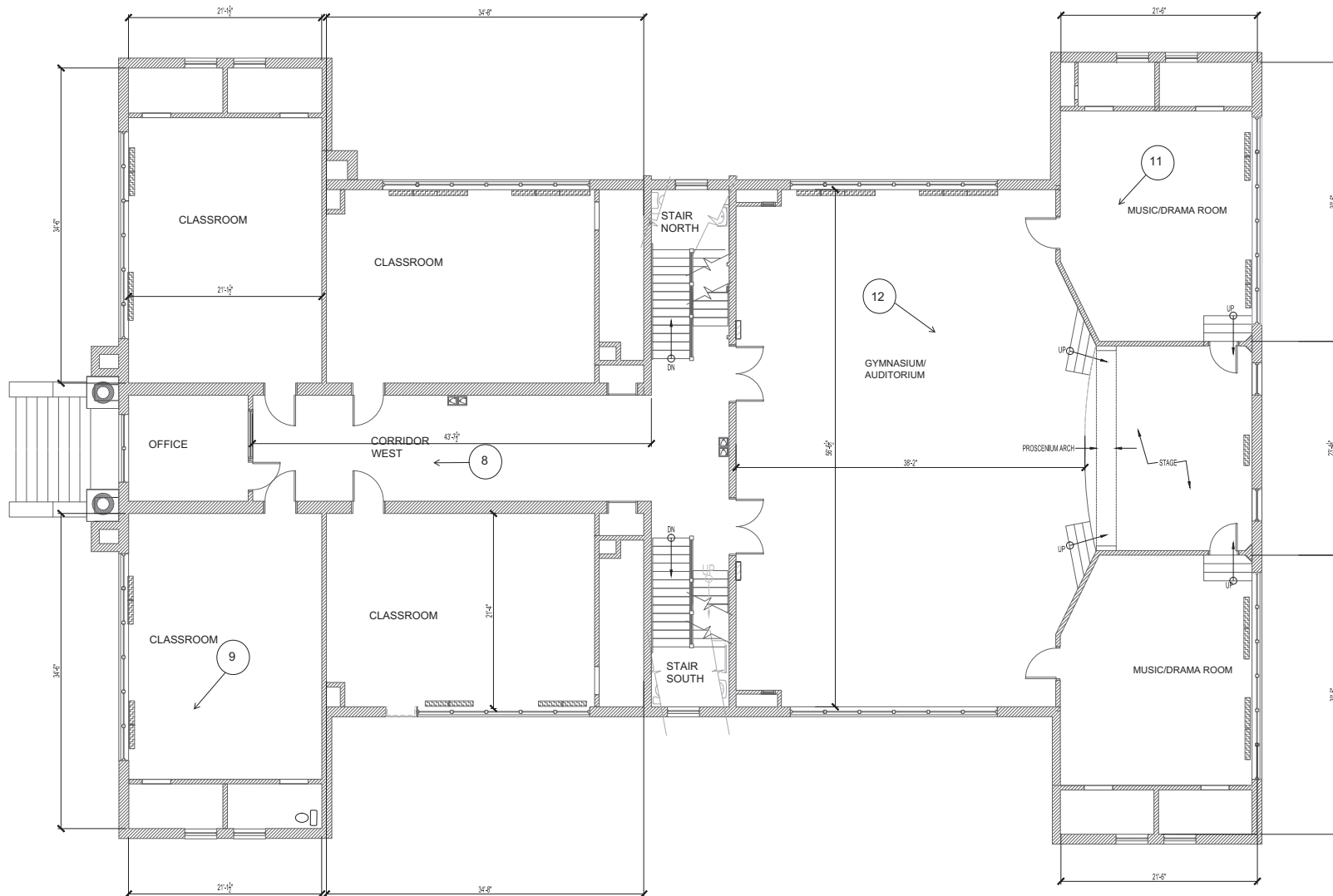
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Roland E. Cook Elementary School
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 Roanoke County, VA
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 2015

Floor Plans - Upper Floor

1 ↗
 Photo Locations



PLAN - EXISTING UPPER FLOOR
 3/16" = 1 FOOT

UPPER FLOOR

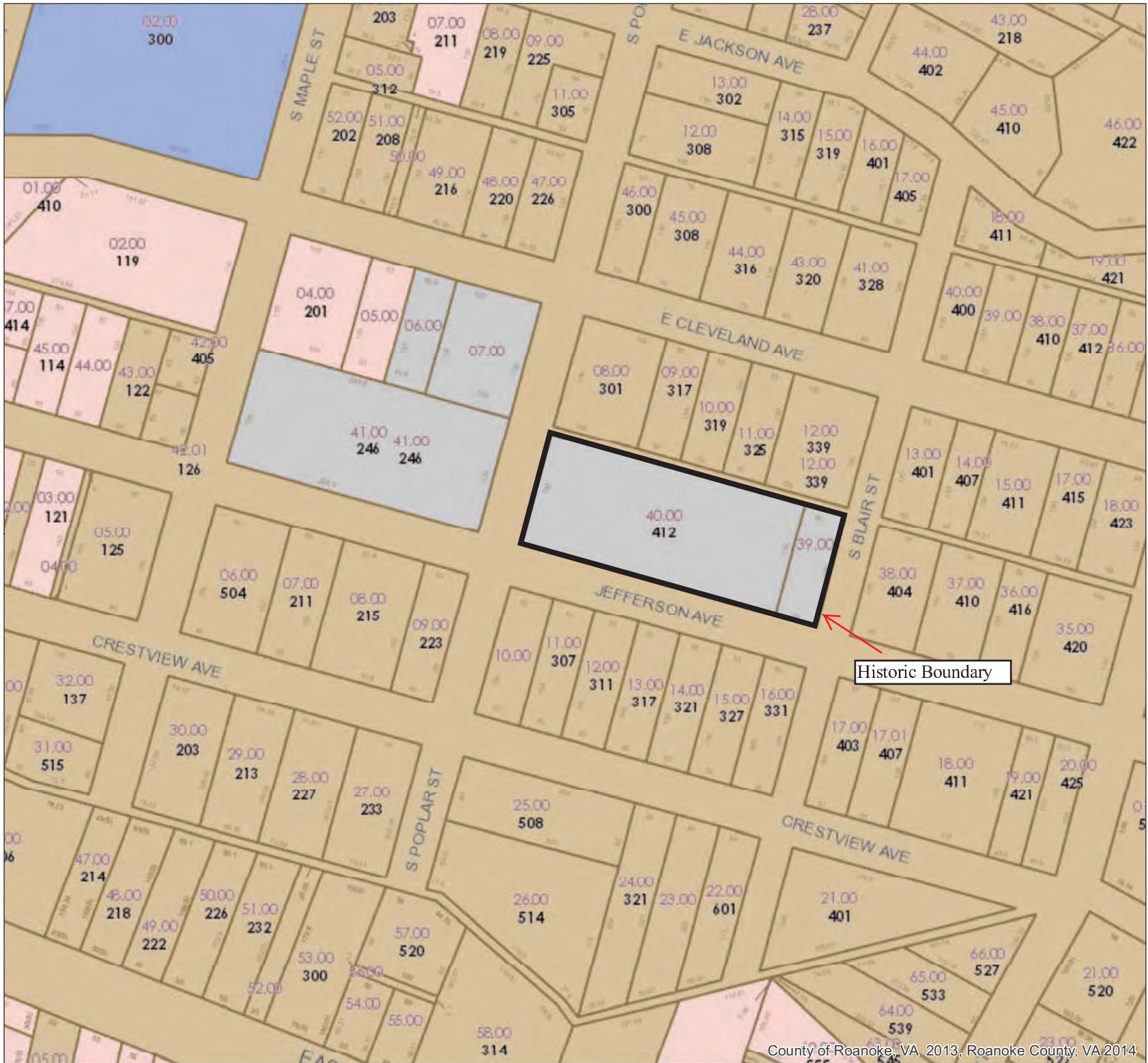




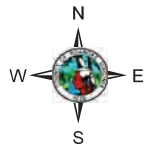
TAX MAP

Roland E. Cook Elementary School
 412 S. Poplar Street
 Town of Vinton
 Roanoke County, VA
 2015

DHR# 149-0052



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 Date: 12/1/2015 1:2,257