

VLR-2/14/95 NRHP-4/7/95

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Josephine city School

other names/site number VDHR File No. ~~21117~~ 168-5027

2. Location

street & number 301-A Josephine Street net for publication N/A
city or town Berryville vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county Clarke code 043 zip code 22611
city

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide x Locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James A. Spang 3.1.95
Signature of certifying official/Title, Date
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF SURVEY & REGISTER
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 for additional comments.)

signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. 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 Keeper _____ Date _____
of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
[x] public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows include buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION Sub: School

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: WORK IN PROGRESS Sub:

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls STUCCO
roof METAL
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets,)

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 a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION
ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

Period of Significance 1882-1945

Significant Dates 1882
1930

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- 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
Name of repository:

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	242460	4336420	2		
3				4		

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Maral S. Kalbian, Architectural Historian
organization _____ date Nov. 28, 1994
street & number Route 1, Box 86 telephone 703-837-2081
city or town Boyce state VA zip code 22620

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state VA zip code _____

=====
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. 470 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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CLARKE COUNTY, VIRGINIASection number 7 Page 1**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

Located in the community of Josephine City on the outskirts of Berryville, Josephine City School is a rare example of a Reconstruction-era black schoolhouse constructed as part of a self-contained community. Built around 1882, Josephine City School was used as an elementary school until 1930, when it was moved a short distance from its original location, consolidated with the new Clarke County Training School, and used as the school's home economics and agriculture classrooms. The structure continued to be used for classrooms until 1971, when it was turned into storage space. The two-room frame building represents the oldest element of the larger black school complex that has been recently converted into low/moderate-income elderly housing. The building is owned by Clarke County but is held in a long-term lease agreement by the Josephine Improvement Association, Inc., which plans to restore the building for use as an African-American museum and cultural center.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Josephine City School is part of the old Johnson-Williams School located at the end of Josephine Street on the southeast edge of the town of Berryville, Virginia. The complex is composed of the following buildings: the rectangular, one-story Josephine City School that was originally located on Josephine Street; the 1930 brick Clarke County Training School that was greatly enlarged in 1951 and has recently been converted into low/moderate-income elderly housing; and the 1941 frame building that was constructed as additional agriculture classrooms and is now used as offices for the housing project. (Photo 1) The land on which this complex of buildings stands was annexed by the town of Berryville in January of 1994.

The black community known as Josephine City was created in the early 1870s. Although many of the houses along Josephine Street today date to the period of the community's establishment, a number have fallen into ruin and have been replaced with modern buildings. However, Josephine City strongly retains its identity as a black community, due in a large part to the survival of some of its earliest buildings

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including the old Josephine City School, two original churches, and the community cemetery.

The Josephine City School faces south on a small lot just north of the two later structures. A few bushes and two large pine trees provide the minimal landscape features. Measuring approximately 40' long by 30' wide and set on a low foundation, Josephine City School is a rectangular, one-story, frame building with a gable roof and a four-bay side-gable entrance facade. (Photo 2) The building, believed to have been constructed in 1882, was moved from its original site, some 100 feet to the north, around 1930. Old photographs indicate that the exterior stucco walls were originally clad in weatherboard, and the present corrugated-metal gable roof was originally sheathed in standing-seam metal. The stucco was probably added and other slight modifications made to the building when it was moved to its current site in 1930.

The symmetrical entrance facade consists of two central doors with single transoms above flanked by large six-over-six double-hung windows. The doors consist of three horizontal wooden panels topped by a large rectangular pane of glass (originally four-light). The west end features triple six-over-six double-hung windows and a lunette-shaped wooden louvered vent centered above the windows in the attic story. The north side of the school building has no openings. (Photo 3) The east end of the school also has triple six-over-six windows and a louvered vent. A small, ca. 1961, one-story, two-bay, stuccoed bathroom wing, with a gable roof clad in standing-seam metal, is attached to the east end of the building. (Photo 4) Josephine City School has little exterior ornament except for slightly overhanging eaves and a central brick flue. The applied false batten shutters are a modern addition. The foundation of the school is covered by stucco, but in some areas piled limestone and formed concrete are evident.

The interior of Josephine City School consists of two large rooms divided by a wall that carries the blackboards. (Photo 5) The rooms are entered through one of the two main doors. There is access between the two rooms from inside the building through a doorway on the north end of the dividing wall. Other doors in that wall lead to two small rooms used

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for storage. (Photo 6) Old photographs indicate that the building always had two front doors. During the early and mid-twentieth century the school was used to teach home economics and agriculture. Former students of the school recall that the room to the west was used by the girls as a home economics class and that the room to the east was used by the boys as an agriculture class. The room to the west (or left side), used as a home economics classroom, still features a sink with base and overhead cabinets. (Photo 7) The other room, presumably used for the teaching of agriculture, has no such feature. The restroom is located in the small addition off the east end of the building, and is accessible through the agriculture classroom.

For the past twenty years, the building was used to store old desks, books, and other school-related items. Members of the Josephine Improvement Association have recently cleaned out the building and are in the process of restoring it. The interior of the building, like most schoolhouses of the period, is very plain. The school was remodeled when it was moved to its current site in 1930. It has had only a few modern alterations since then. The narrow wooden floorboards are still evident in the east room, but have been covered in linoleum in the west room. The ceilings have been dropped, and room heights currently measure about fifteen feet. Both rooms have beaded tongue-and-groove wainscoting and plain trim with plain corner blocks. (Photos 5,6,7) The blackboards that hang on either side of the central wall are still intact in both rooms. (Photos 5,8) Except for the dropped ceilings and the linoleum in one of the rooms, both of which are easily removable, the interior of Josephine City School is in a relatively unaltered condition.

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CLARKE COUNTY, VIRGINIASection number 8 Page 4**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Josephine City School is a one-story, frame, two-classroom schoolhouse located in the African-American community of Josephine City on the southeast edge of the town of Berryville, Virginia. Constructed around 1882 on land owned by the Clarke County School Board, Josephine City School was erected with contributions of labor and money from the local black community. When it was constructed, it was one of only seven African-American schools in Clarke County, none of which taught at a level higher than the seventh grade. Josephine City School was used as an elementary school until 1930, when it was moved a short distance from its original location, consolidated with the new Clarke County Training School, and used as the home economics and agriculture classrooms. It continued to be used for classrooms until 1971, when it was turned into storage space. The two-room frame building stands today as the oldest element of a larger black school complex that has recently been converted into low/moderate-income elderly housing. The building, owned by Clarke County, is held in a long-term lease by the Josephine Improvement Association, Inc., which plans to restore the building for use as an African-American museum and cultural center. Josephine City School is a rare example of a late-nineteenth-century black schoolhouse constructed as part of a self-contained community, and stands today as a testament to the efforts of Clarke County's African-American community to continuously improve its educational facilities and opportunities.

JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA

Josephine City School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. Its local significance is in the areas of Education and Black Ethnic Heritage. The building is believed to have been constructed in 1882, and was moved approximately 100 feet north to its current location in 1930. Although the building was moved, it still retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of the Josephine City School dates back to 1870 and the creation of Josephine City. This self-contained African-American community, located on the southeast end of Berryville, was founded through the generosity of a local farmer and former slaveholder named Edward McCormick. McCormick died on March 25, 1870, and left his entire estate to his wife Ellen. In his will dated May 11, 1861, McCormick states that his wife may "sell any part or the whole of my real and personal estate, whenever she may think it necessary."¹

On September 19, 1870, about six months after McCormick's death, thirty-one acres of land belonging to his estate were auctioned to black residents of the county. They were sold as one-acre lots for the price of \$100 per acre. The deed was recorded on September 30, 1870, and in it Ellen McCormick, acting as executrix of the will of Edward McCormick, states that, "a lane or street at least 16 feet wide should be dedicated, and kept open by the purchasers for their common use and benefit so as to give access at all times as a common right to each."² The plat that was recorded with the deed identifies the purchasers of each lot and shows the axial arrangement of fifteen lots on either side of a street. (Figure 1) This road was eventually named Josephine Street. The map is entitled "Map of Josephine City," indicating that the community was named at that time. Although the exact origin of the name of the community is lost, one surmises that it was named after Josephine Williams who purchased lots 1 and 2 along the south side of the new road. The deed shows that the Bank of Clarke County, Ellen McCormick, and other individual whites in the community helped some of the black families purchase the lots along Josephine Street.

According to an article in the local newspaper, the Clarke Courier, dated October 12, 1870, this action created some concern among white citizens of the county, though it was generally accepted. According to the article titled "New Settlement,"

About 31 acres of land belonging to the estate of Major Edward McCormick,

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dec'd., adjoining the toll gate on the Millwood and Berryville turnpike, was put up for public sale a few weeks ago, and "knocked off" to Robert Hall, (colored) at \$100.01 per acre. Robert represents some thirty-three colored families, as he informs us. They intend to run a street the whole length of the lot and build. It is a question how such a settlement will affect the interests of this community, and especially of those living in that part of the village. The few whom we have heard mentioned as part purchasers, are among the most respectable colored men of the county, and we believe that during their lives, at least, they will be no injury to the community, but rather an advantage, in that they will be a valuable addition to the labor supply. But an introduction of so large a number into so small a space, all of whom cannot be among the best, is a natural cause of some uneasiness. We trust that those people as they settle here may feel the responsibility that rests upon them to sustain a good character. The white people may do a good deal by considerate kindness to give them³ an impulse in the right direction.

Virtually nothing is known of Josephine Williams or why this community may have been named for her. Elizabeth Rust Williams, Edward McCormick's great-granddaughter, has a large collection of McCormick family papers that she has organized and indexed. She lives outside of Berryville at Cleremont, the McCormick family home, and recently allowed the author of this nomination to view some of the family records in the hopes of finding out who Josephine Williams was and why the McCormicks decided to sell off this land to members of the black community. Her collection of family papers is very impressive, but unfortunately tells little about the formation of Josephine City. It does, however, paint a

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picture of Edward McCormick as a man who was fair and cared for his slaves. There are dozens of receipts for things such as shoes, caskets, and medical bills for them. Two receipts were found that deal specifically with a woman named Josephine. The first is a bill to Edward McCormick from a Dr. S. S. Neil for medical services rendered from January 6, 1851, to November 23, 1852. The costs are itemized and show four visits to a slave named Josephine (no last name). The first is a \$2 charge for a night visit on June 5, 1851; the second is a \$4 charge for three visits and medicine for her between October 31 and November 7, 1851; the third is a \$2.50 charge for a visit and medication on August 15, 1852; and the last is a \$3.50 charge for a visit with Josephine and delivery of afterbirth on November 23, 1852.⁴ The other receipt is dated November 30, 1867, and is between Edward McCormick, acting as Taylor Stribling's guardian, and Josephine Williams for \$1 for making a shirt for Stribling.⁵ This indicates that after the Civil War Josephine Williams made her living as a seamstress. One can assume that McCormick's slave named Josephine is the same person as Josephine Williams.

Oral tradition in the community of Josephine City and also in the family of Elizabeth Rust Williams implies that Josephine City was laid off in accordance with the wishes of Edward McCormick.⁶ Although there is no written evidence in his will that he wanted part of his land sold off to the black community, other written evidence and oral traditions suggest that he had an unusually benevolent approach to his slaves. Elizabeth Rust Williams has an interesting theory as to why McCormick may have had this attitude. Williams has records indicating that Edward McCormick graduated from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton) around 1845. A page from a yearbook lists him as coming from the "Valley of Virginia". Williams thinks it somewhat unusual that, although McCormick was born and raised in Virginia, he was not sent to William and Mary but instead to a northern school. She further suggests that perhaps his attitude towards slavery was influenced by the time he spent in the north. It is interesting that McCormick's wife sold off the land for Josephine City only six months after his death. This implies that McCormick himself had wanted to do this and had probably talked it over with her. Whatever the reasons, there is no other person in Clarke County who is

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known at this time to have gone as far as McCormick did to ensure, once slavery was abolished at the end of the Civil War, that an organized black community be created for, and owned by, the newly freed slaves.

During the 1870s, people began building houses on their land in Josephine City. Around 1880, adjacent land was purchased for a cemetery. Since its conception, the Josephine City community has centered around its churches, and its ministers have provided much of its leadership. According to the older citizens of Josephine City, the community was a fairly self-sufficient one, having its own grocery store, gasoline station, two churches, a cemetery, a boarding house, a restaurant, and a ladies' hat shop.⁸ The commercial buildings have closed but many of the houses along Josephine Street today date to the period of the community's establishment. Although some have fallen into ruin and have been replaced with modern buildings, Josephine City still strongly retains its identity as a black community. This is in a large part due to the survival of some of its earliest buildings, including two of its oldest churches and the old Josephine City School.

Lot number 5 on the south side of Josephine Street was the eventual location of Josephine City School. According to the records at the county courthouse, this lot was purchased by Thomas Laws. In a deed dated January 30, 1882, lot number 5 in Josephine City was conveyed to the School Trustees of the Battletown District of Clarke County for \$150. The deed further states that this is to be done "for the purpose of building a public school house thereon and for the exclusive use and benefit of the public schools in District number 3 in Clarke County."⁹ An article in the Clarke Courier dated June 15, 1882, about six months after the purchase of the land, states the following:

By referring to our advertising column, it will be seen that the Board of School Trustees for Battletown District will receive sealed proposals until the first of July for a school house in Berryville. The specifications may be seen at the office of Mr. C. M. Louthan, Superintendent, and communications

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should be addressed to Maj. P. H. Powers at Wickliffe. The building, we understand, will be erected in the settlement known as Josephine City, which is inhabited by colored people.

The advertisement further states that the bids need to be sent in by July 1 and the building is to be erected by October 1, 1882.¹⁰ Oral tradition in the community of Josephine City suggests the money used to construct the building was raised by its citizens. No evidence was found in either the local newspapers or the school board records as to who received the bid for the construction of the school or when the building was completed. Also, no state or local records were found that show any expenditure of public money for the school. The written evidence does verify that the school board provided the land for Josephine City School and at least part of the building expenses since they were soliciting bids for its construction.

William Link's book, A Hard Country and A Lonely Place, has shown that the overriding theme in Virginia education before 1920 was local control.¹¹ Unfortunately, none of the nineteenth-century Clarke County school board records survive to give us that detailed local information. Instead, most of the early history of Josephine City School comes from oral tradition passed down among local residents. The Virginia school reports of the nineteenth century provide a general picture of the condition of education in Clarke County at the time that Josephine City School was built.

Jarvis Jennings was appointed the first superintendent of schools in Clarke County after the 1870 establishment of public schools in Virginia. For the first year of public schools, Clarke County opened thirteen schools for white youths and three for black youths.¹² By 1874, there were nineteen schools for whites and only four for blacks. The next available school report is for 1888 and shows that Clarke County had twenty-four schools opened for white youths and ten for blacks. There were only two graded schools listed that year for Clarke County: one for whites and one for blacks, both in Berryville. George W. Lightfoot was listed as the principal of the black school that had two

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grades, two teachers, 128 students, and an average daily attendance of ninety-three. Although the school's name was not listed, it appears to be the Josephine City School. In contrast, the white school had four grades, four teachers, 181 students, and an average daily attendance of 110 students.¹³ These numbers support William Link's statement that, "conditions in black schools were almost uniformly worse than those in white schools. A common problem was overcrowding."¹⁴

Since no pertinent Clarke County school board records from the nineteenth century survive, most of the early history of Josephine City school comes from oral tradition passed down among the residents of Josephine City, especially a few surviving students who attended the school before it was moved to its current location. Mrs. Mary Bell Howard, a former student, recalled that

It was near Josephine St. with a foundation that you had about 7 or 8 steps to go up to get in. There were 2 rooms one on the left was for the primer children to 4 grade. Their reading books were Will & Nell & Spot their dog. The teacher was Mrs. Estella Mitchell. There were slate Boards for our work. Also cloth Black Boards . . . painted with glossy black paint and when you wrote on it the chalk would skip. . . . The room on the right had grades 5 to 7 it had slate Black board all around except the wall that was in the middle of [the] school divide[ing] the rooms it was a black cloth board. . . . It had cold[coal] stoves for heat and a small room inside each door for our coats. . . . Water was gotten from neighbors [in] a fifty pound Lard can on a bench that had a dipper tied to one of the handles on the can. Every one was to bring their own drink cups . . . There were shutters that were closed for week ends. There

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were two outside Toilets marked Boys and Girls.¹⁵

The Clarke County school board minutes from the 1920s document several improvements to the Josephine City School. At the March 6, 1923, meeting, Dr. Harris, the trustee for the Battletown District, stated that the water at the school was not pure and that the board would have to pay one half of the water rent for good water from a nearby spring.¹⁶ At the April 3, 1923, meeting Dr. Harris stated that Cora Powell, principal of Josephine City School, had raised enough money to put up a fence along the front of the school lot. There was also discussion of putting a foundation under the school. The board thought they should pay for the cement if the patrons furnished the sand and stone.¹⁷ At the October 6, 1925, meeting Dr. Harris was authorized to buy a stove for the Josephine City School.¹⁸

By the early 1920s, the Josephine City School was one of only six black schools in Clarke County. None of them taught at a level higher than the seventh grade.¹⁹ The closest high school for black youths was in Manassas.¹⁹ In 1922, the citizens of Josephine City, headed by the Reverend E. T. Johnson, principal of the school, banded together and led a campaign that brought the need for higher education of blacks to the attention of many Clarke County citizens. There was also a movement to improve the current facilities at black schools. Emma Weeks, now ninety-three years old, taught at several black schools in Clarke County including Josephine City School. She recalls that interior conditions were so dingy in one of the schools that on a cloudy day the children couldn't see the teacher.²⁰ She further states that Josephine School was in such poor condition in the mid-1920s that some of the classes were held in local churches and halls.²¹ At a called meeting of the school board on August 11, 1927, the board authorized the purchase of five acres of land directly south of the Josephine City School for the purpose of building a "colored high school."²² The minutes noted that, "The Board took this action with the distinct understanding that the colored people of the county were to get together on the location of the school and support the school."²³ At the November 6, 1929, meeting the board directed that "the name Josephine Colored School be discontinued, and that the official name of the colored

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school at Berryville shall be the Clarke County Training School," although at this point the new school was not yet built.²⁴ At the March 4, 1930, meeting the superintendent reported that the State would be willing to reimburse the school board up to \$400 for the remodeling of the old two-room school building in order to provide an agriculture shop.²⁵ In addition, some money would come from the Rosenwald Fund and donations from private individuals.²⁶

This school was to be located on five acres of land just south of the Josephine City School, and was to be called the Clarke County Training School. Part of educational reform in Virginia involved the lack of secondary schools for blacks. William Link addresses this issue in his book and states that in rural Virginia in 1920, 22,061 white students attended high schools, while only 297 black pupils did so.²⁷ As a solution to the need for black high schools, advocates of industrial education endorsed the establishment of black secondary schools, generally known as "training" schools.²⁸ The Reverend E. T. Johnson described the school as featuring the instruction of vocational agriculture, with home gardening and poultry also emphasized.²⁹

Members of the black community signed bonds amounting to \$8,000 for the construction of the school and helped raise money by soliciting funds, conducting pageants, and holding fairs. They also held several digging bees to dig out the foundation in order to save money. The Reverend E. T. Johnson, principal of the school and one of the leaders in initiating the new school project wrote a poem which appeared in the Clarke Courier of April 17, 1930. It read:

Digging Spree Again Friday
Bring along your pick and shovel
And try
For most assuredly impatient dirt
must fly.
And the good colored women already
in the lead
Can't do much digging, so they will
feed
The men at noon,
Who have need the shovel rather
than the spoon.

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Then on Pageant-day our corner
stone we stay
And right in her hollow a thousand
dollars we lay.

The cost of the school was about \$18,000 and the building contract was awarded to Kelley and Kelley of Bluemont, Virginia. The cornerstone of the school was laid on June 6, 1930, at which time the citizens of Josephine City held their sixth annual "Rally Day Drive" to help raise the \$500 that they pledged to give annually toward the new school. The Reverend E. T. Johnson was a very capable and charismatic man. He wrote several articles for the local newspaper about the construction of the training school, and in them, he always thanked the community for their support. On June 5, 1930, he wrote:

Again we are thanking the public in general for its support in perfecting this very needy plant, without which in a few years nobody will be left in this county but a few of the older residents, for most assuredly the birds do migrate, following the inviting breath of better chimes and situations.³⁰

The Clarke County Training School was opened on September 12, 1930, less than five months after groundbreaking. The new, one-story building was of concrete block construction faced with four-inch brick veneer and featured four classrooms and an auditorium that could be divided into two additional classrooms. (Figure 2) With the opening of the Clarke County Training School, came the fulfillment of a dream for improved educational facilities and opportunities for the black youth of Clarke County. This had not come easily, but had taken years of hard work and friendly persuasion under the leadership of the Reverend E. T. Johnson.

According to a history of the school written by Emma Weeks, a ninety-three-year-old retired school teacher who taught there, plans were under way to get rid of the old Josephine City School when the new school was completed in 1930. In 1951, she writes:

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CLARKE COUNTY, VIRGINIASection number 8 Page 14

After the completion of the building the late Mrs. A. Moore Jr., saw an additional need, so when the old Josephine School was in the process of being sold, she interceded and it was converted into the present Home Economics Cottage. This building was moved and remodeled by the County League.³¹

Presumably, the stucco now found on the exterior of the building and the interior remodeling were done at this time. In 1941, the school board assumed responsibility for the outstanding bonds and constructed another agriculture building on the property. In 1944, the name of the school was changed to W. T. B. Williams, in honor of a Clarke County native and dean of Tuskegee Institute. The name was again changed in 1949 to the Johnson-Williams Training School in honor of W. T. B. Williams and in memory of the Reverend E. T. Johnson. Several large additions and improvements were made to the school complex in 1951 and it became known as Johnson-Williams High School. This included an addition to the 1930s training school that consisted of five classrooms, a library, a teacher's lounge/clinic, a gymnasium/cafeteria, a utility room, modern toilets, and shower rooms.³² A bathroom wing was added to the old Josephine City School around 1961. The schools in Clarke County were integrated in 1966. The old Johnson-Williams High School became the Clarke County Intermediate School and housed all the seventh and eight graders in the county. The original Josephine City School building continued to be used as a home economics classroom until 1971, when it was converted into storage space. The Johnson-Williams School was closed in 1987 after a new high school was built and the intermediate classes moved into the old high school.

The Johnson-Williams School has been recently renovated and converted into forty low/moderate-income elderly apartments. It is held in a long-term lease agreement by the Johnson Williams Community Apartments, Inc., whose offices are located in the old agriculture building. Until recently, the old Josephine City School was used for storage. It is still owned by Clarke County but has been leased to the Josephine Improvement Association, a local community

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organization composed primarily of Josephine City residents. It is its desire to restore the old Josephine City School and convert it into an African-American museum and cultural center. Rosetta B. Clay, a long-time resident of Josephine City and current chairman of the Josephine Improvement Association, Inc., summed up the importance of the old school in the community by saying, "Knowing that Josephine City now is the legacy which our foreparents have left us, we are surely proud of how far we have come and of knowing how far we are going. The old Josephine City School is a symbol of that legacy."³³

ENDNOTES

¹ Clarke County Will Book A, p.134. Will of Edward McCormick dated May 11, 1861 and recorded July 13, 1870.

² Clarke County Deed Book K, pp.104-110. Deed of Bargain and Sale and Plat between Ellen S. McCormick Executrix of the will of Edward McCormick to Charles Miles and others.

³ Clarke Courier. Berryville, Virginia: October 12, 1870, p.3.

⁴ Records of medical services by Dr. S.S. Neil to Edward McCormick from January 6, 1851- November 23, 1852. Personal papers of Elizabeth Rust Williams.

⁵ Receipt for making 1 shirt from Taylor Stribling to Josephine William dated November 30, 1867. Personal papers of Elizabeth Rust Williams.

⁶ Van Meter, Val. "Josephine City Remembered". Clarke Courier. Berryville, Virginia: December 25, 1986, p.1.

⁷ Interview by Maral S. Kalbian with Elizabeth Rust Williams. November 22, 1994.

⁸ Van Meter, Val. "Josephine City Remembered". Clarke Courier. Berryville, Virginia: December 25, 1986, p.1.

⁹ Clarke County Records, Deed Book 2, p.227.

¹⁰ Clarke Courier. Thursday, June 15, 1882. Berryville, Virginia.

¹¹ Link, William A. A Hard Country and a Lonely Place: Schooling, Society, and Reform in Rural Virginia. 1870-1920. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986. pp.3-10.

¹² Pope, George Henry. Education in Clarke County to 1946. Thesis for Master of Arts degree at the University of Virginia. April, 1947. p.76.

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- 13 Virginia School Report, for the year 1888. p.112.
- 14 Link, p.51.
- 15 Letter to Clarke County Planner's Office from Mrs. Mary Bell Howard, Berryville, VA. Postmarked November 3, 1993.
- 16 Clarke County School Board Minutes. March 6, 1923.
- 17 Clarke County School Board Minutes. April 3, 1923.
- 18 Clarke County School Board Minutes. October 6, 1925.
- 19 Interview by Maral S. Kalbian with Rosetta B. Clay. October 4, 1994.
- 20 Interview by Maral S. Kalbian with Emma Weeks. October 13, 1994.
- 21 Ibid.
- 22 Clarke County School Board Minutes. August 11, 1927.
- 23 Ibid.
- 24 Clarke County School Board Minutes. November 6, 1929.
- 25 Clarke County School Board Minutes. March 4, 1930.
- 26 Link, pp.188-189. The Rosenwald Fund was established in 1914 by Julius Rosenwald, a Chicago philanthropist and businessman, to provide educational facilities for blacks. The amount of the grants could not exceed half the total cost of the school. Although the exact amount of Rosenwald funding for the Clarke County Training School is not known, the funding is referred to several times in the School Board Minutes and by Rev. E. T. Johnson. Also, Mr. B.B. Jones, a private citizen, donated \$1,000 to the construction of the new school.
- 27 Link, p.189.
- 28 Link, pp.189-190.
- 29 Clarke Courier. Berryville, Virginia. April 17, 1930, p.4
- 30 Clarke Courier. Berryville, Virginia. June 5, 1930, p.7.
- 31 Weeks, Emma. Copy of speech she gave about history of the school at a the Johnson-Williams High School dedication in 1951. (n.d.)
- 32 Ibid.
- 33 Interview by Maral S.Kalbian with Rosetta B. Clay. November 18, 1994.

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SECTION 9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Annual Reports of Division of Superintendent of Schools, 1886-1888, Department of Education records. Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Clarke Courier. Berryville, Virginia: October 12, 1870; Thursday, June 15, 1882; April 17, 1930; June 5, 1930.

Clarke County Land Deed Books, K and 2, Clarke County Courthouse, Berryville, Virginia.

Clarke County School Board Minutes, October 1891-1892; 1922-1930. Clarke County School Board Office, Berryville, Virginia.

Clarke County Will Book A, Clarke County Courthouse, Berryville, Virginia.

Department of Education Records, Schools- photographs. ca.1930 photograph of Clarke County Training School. Archives Branch, Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Interview by Maral S. Kalbian with Rosetta B. Clay. October 4, 1994.

Interview by Maral S. Kalbian with Rosetta B. Clay. November 18, 1994.

Interview by Maral S. Kalbian with Emma Weeks. October 13, 1994.

Interview by Maral S. Kalbian with Elizabeth Rust Williams. November 22, 1994.

Kalbian, Maral S. Clarke County Rural Reconnaissance Survey Report, 1989.

Letter to Clarke County Planner's Office from Mrs. Mary Bell Howard, Berryville, VA. Postmarked November 3, 1993.

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Link, William A. A Hard Country and a Lonely Place: Schooling, Society, and Reform in Rural Virginia. 1870-1920. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986.

Pope, George Henry. Education in Clarke County to 1946. Thesis for Master of Arts degree at the University of Virginia. April, 1947.

Tiger, The. Johnson-Williams yearbook. Berryville, VA. 1959, 1987.

Van Meter, Val. "Josephine City Remembered". The Clarke Courier. Berryville, Virginia: December 25, 1986, p.1,8,9.

Virginia School Report, for the years 1871, 1873, 1874, 1888. Archives at Handley Library. Winchester, Virginia.

Williams, Elizabeth Rust. Private collection of McCormick family papers. Berryville, Virginia.

Weeks, Emma. Copy of speech she gave about history of the school at the Johnson-Williams High School dedication in 1951. (n.d.)

SECTION 10: GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nominated boundaries include a rectangular plot measuring approximately 80' by 70' in the eastern corner of Clarke County School Board Property Parcel A, Lot 1, with the 80' side along the northern property line and the 70' side along the eastern property line.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property includes the land on which the building sits and with which it has been associated since its move to the site in 1930. Not included are the two other school buildings on the parcel which do not have historical significance. One, built in 1930, has been substantially altered and does not have historic integrity, and the other, built in 1941, has no significance in connection with Josephine City School.

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CLARKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Section number PHOTOS Page 19

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are of:

JOSEPHINE CITY SCHOOL
Clarke County, Virginia
VDHR File Number: 21-177
Date of photograph: October, 1994
Negative number: 13874
Maral S. Kalbian, photographer

All negatives are stored with the Department of Historic Resources collection at the Virginia State Library and Archives.

SUBJECT: School Complex
VIEW: Facing south.
PHOTO 1 of 8

SUBJECT: Schoolhouse
VIEW: Facing northeast.
PHOTO 2 of 8

SUBJECT: Schoolhouse
VIEW: Facing southwest.
PHOTO 3 of 8

SUBJECT: Schoolhouse
VIEW: Facing north.
PHOTO 4 of 8

SUBJECT: Schoolhouse
VIEW: Interior, east room, looking south.
PHOTO 5 of 8

SUBJECT: Schoolhouse
VIEW: Interior, east room, looking northwest towards other room.
PHOTO 6 of 8

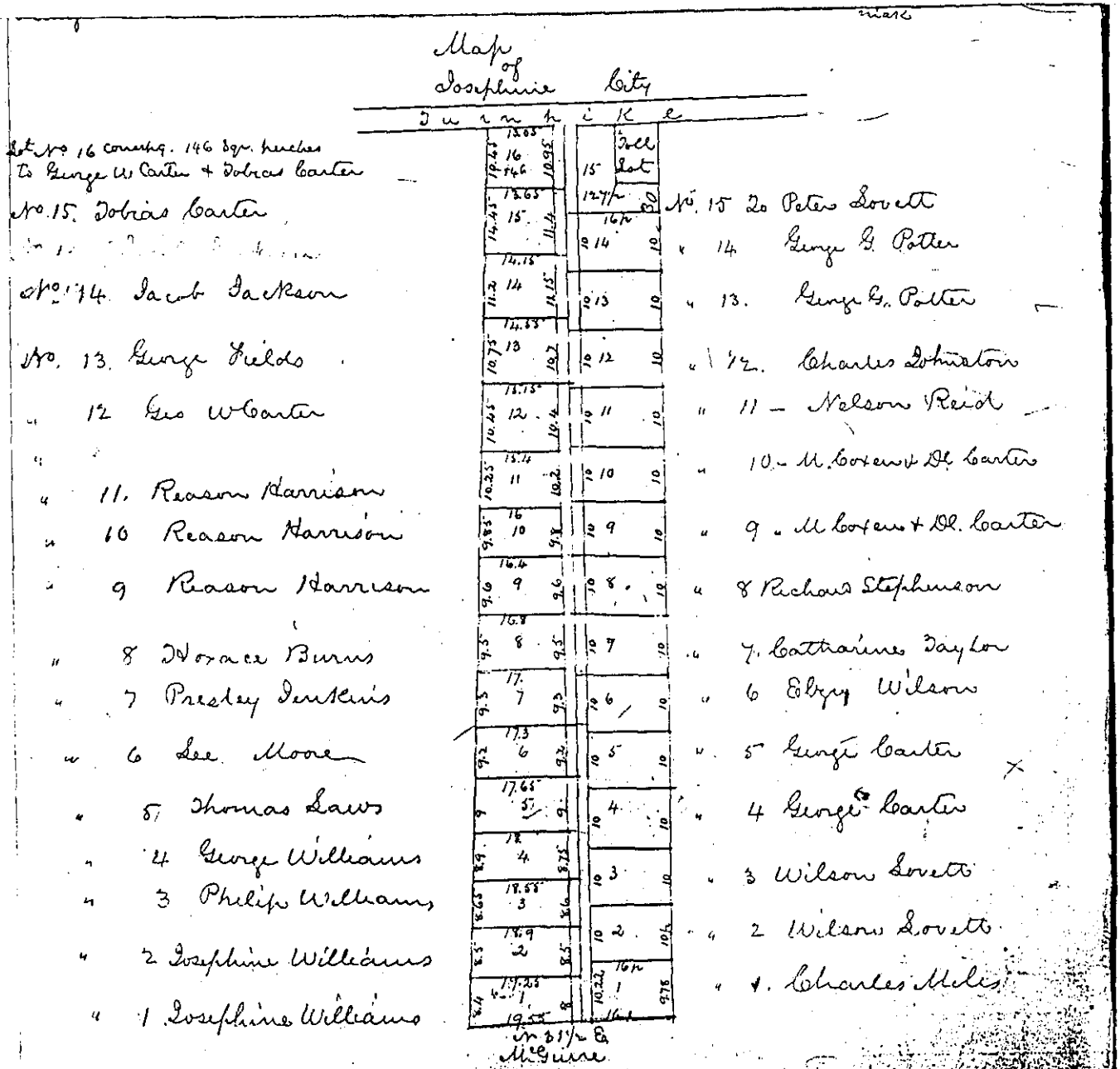
SUBJECT: Schoolhouse
VIEW: Interior, west room, looking north.
PHOTO 7 of 8

SUBJECT: Schoolhouse
VIEW: Interior, west room, looking south.
PHOTO 8 of 8

JOSEPHINE CITY SCHOOL CLARKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

FIGURE 1

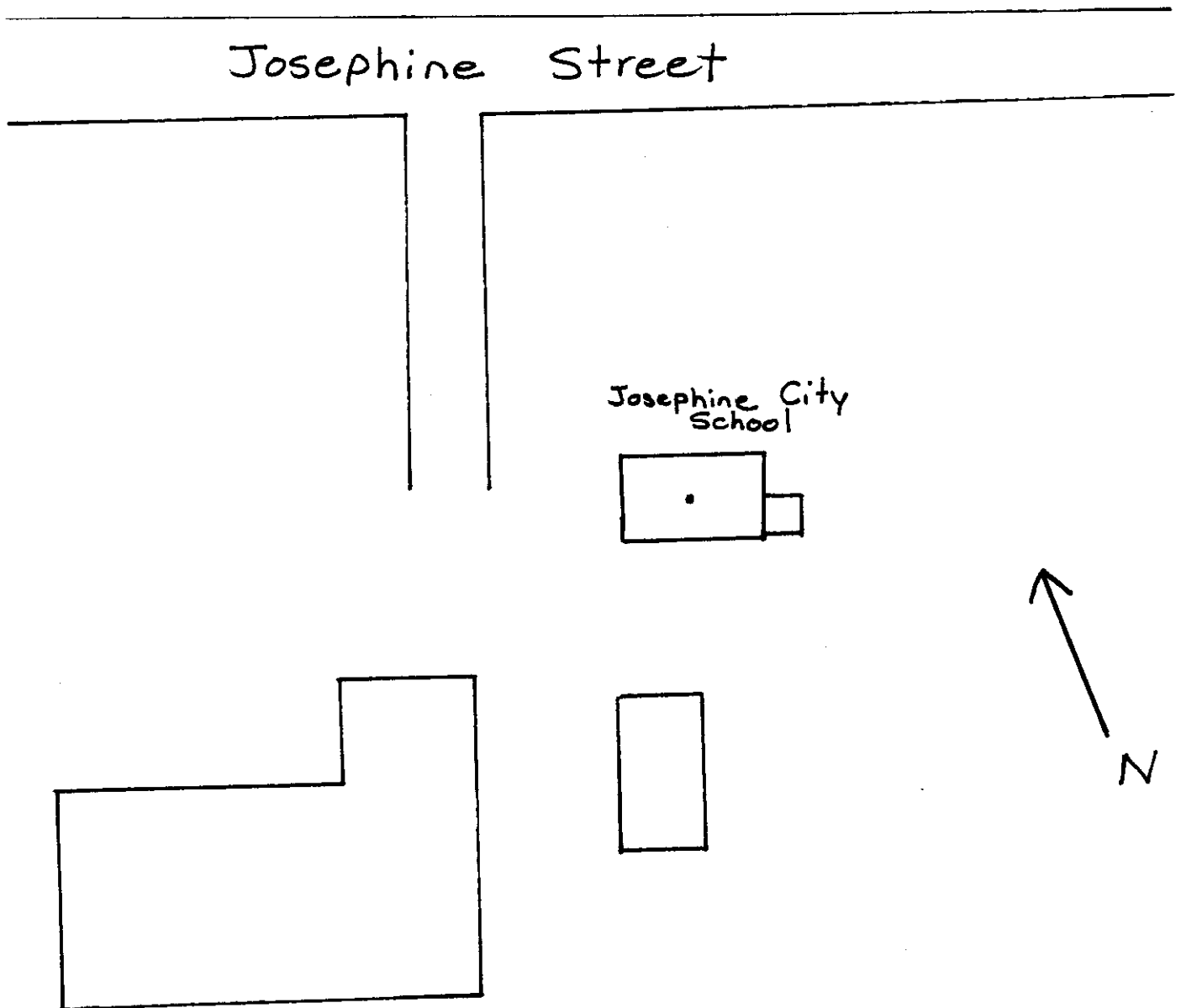
PLAT FROM CLARKE COUNTY DEED BOOK K, PAGE 109: MAP OF JOSEPHINE CITY



JOSEPHINE CITY SCHOOL CLARKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Site map showing school
in relation to the other two
buildings that make up the school
complex, but that are not included
in the nomination.

NOT TO SCALE: November 1994



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USCGS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1968

Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1955

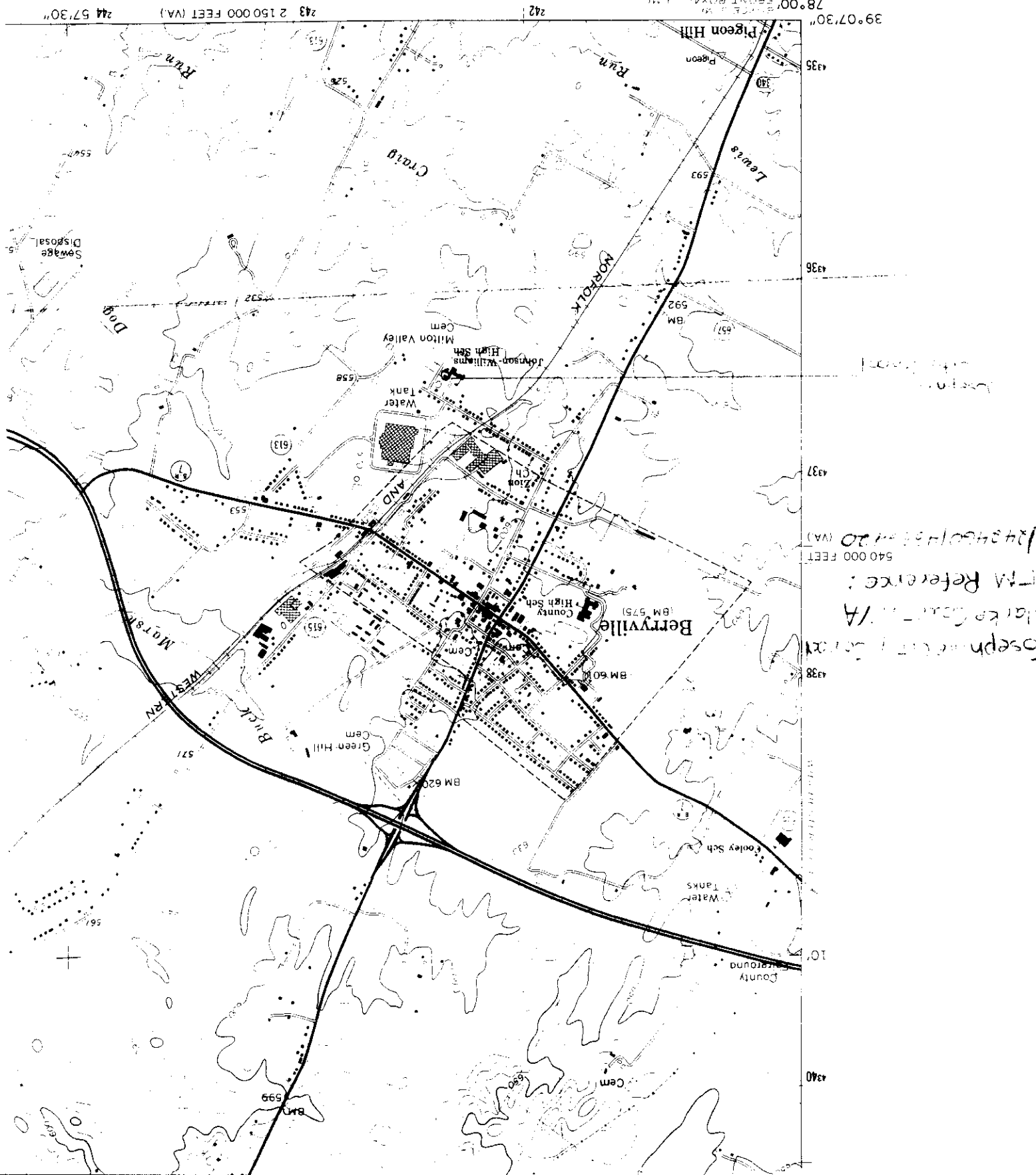
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum and West Virginia coordinate system, north zone 10,000-foot grids based on Virginia coordinate system, north zone, 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18 shown in blue

UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH

1.51' 133 MILS
7/4" 33 MILS



BOYCEI
5362 II SE



Josephine ...
Stark County VA
VA Reference:
3/24460/55420 (VA)
540 000 FEET

244 57'30"

243 2 150 000 FEET (VA)

242

39°07'30"

4335

4336

4337

4338

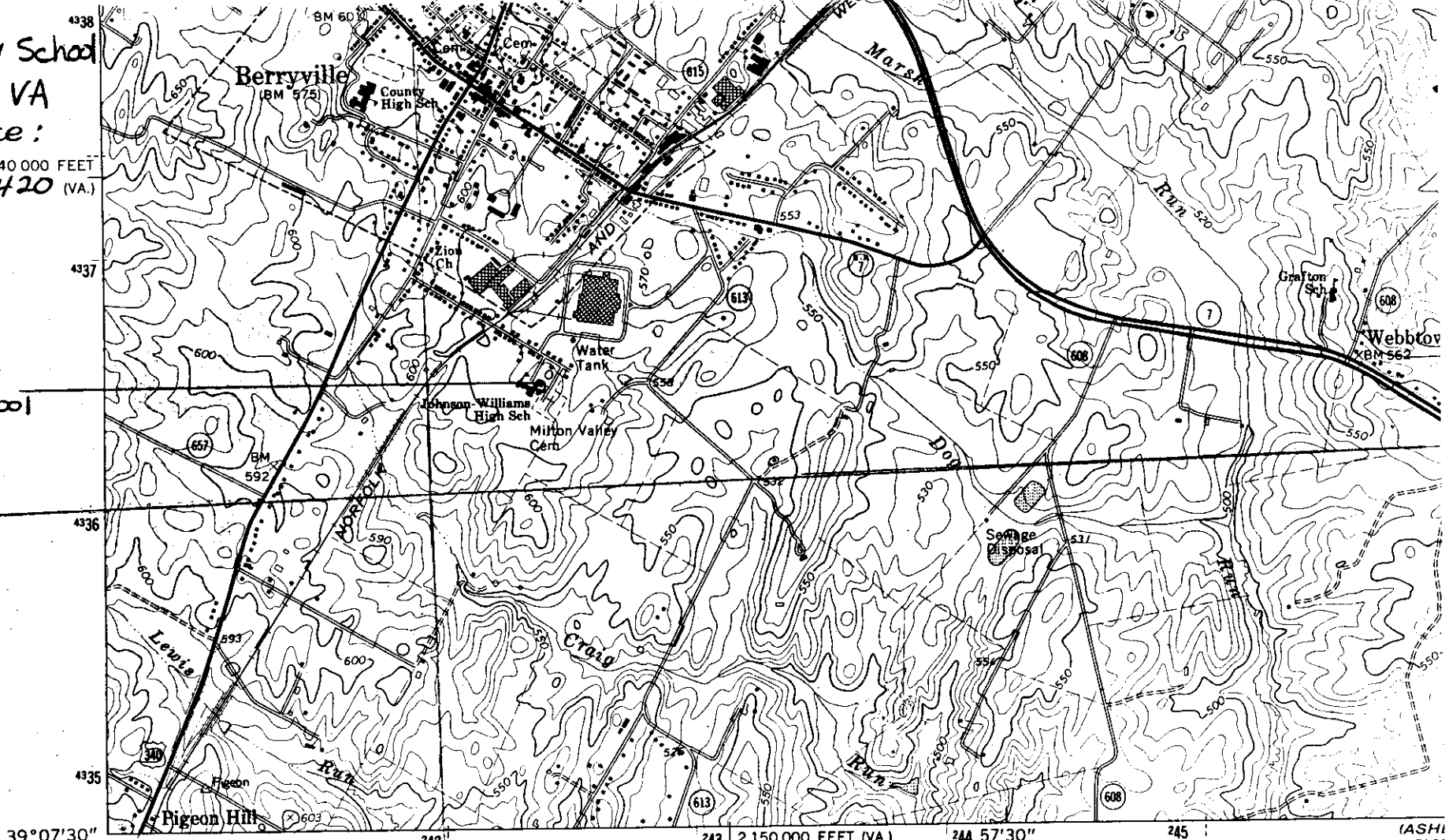
4340

4340

Josephine City School
 Clarke County, VA
 UTM Reference:

540 000 FEET
 18/242460/4336420 (VA.)

Josephine
 City School



4338
 4337
 4336
 4335
 39°07'30"
 78°00' BOYCE 3 MI. FRONT ROYAL 19 MI.
 242 | 2 150 000 FEET (VA.) | 243 | 244 57'30" | 245 | (ASHI 5462)

(BOYCE)
 5362 II SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

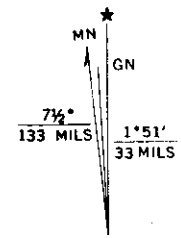
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1968
 Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1955

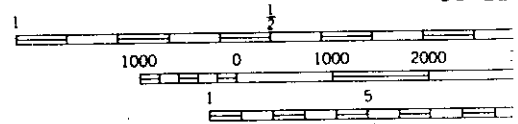
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grids based on Virginia coordinate system, north zone, and West Virginia coordinate system, north zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



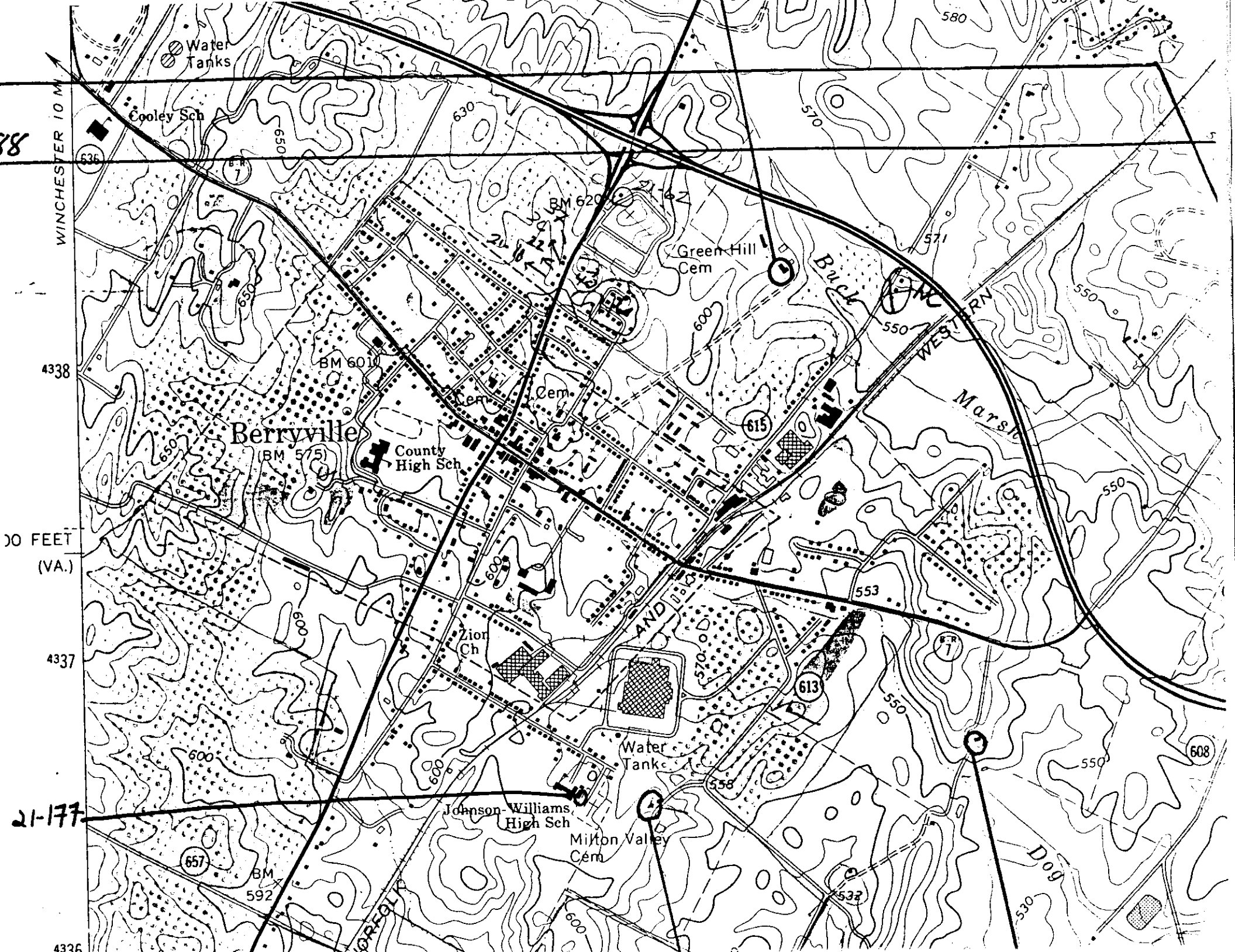
UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INT
 NATIONAL GEODETIC V

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIC
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 OR RESTON, VA
 AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Map photoinspected 1981
 No major culture or drainage changes observed



88

WINCHESTER 10 M

4338

30 FEET
(VA.)

4337

21-177

4326