

VLR-12/11/84

NRHP-2/27/85

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

Historic Name: West View Schoolhouse	Common Name: West View Schoolhouse
Street Address/Rt. No.: Rts. 774/773	VHLC File Number: 07-426
Vicinity of: Weyers Cave	Owner: Wendell Smith
USGS Quad: Mt. Sidney 7.5	Rt. 1, Box 77, Mt. Sidney, VA
Date(s): 1874-75; 1885-90	Architect/Builder: Unknown
Original Use: Schoolhouse	Style: Vernacular
Present Use: Storage	
Condition: Fair	
Altered <input type="checkbox"/> ; unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Physical Description:

West View Schoolhouse is composed of two rooms, one built around 1875 and the second added by 1890. The first room consists of the southern part, a frame, almost squarish rectangular block resting on a limestone foundation. Although a single entrance door appears most commonly in the surviving one-room schools, West View has two separate gable entrances, each with a transom light. These double entries are found on some of the earlier schoolhouses, such as Sunnyside in Middle River District and the antebellum log school at Walker's Creek in the Riverheads District. Two windows, with replacement 6/6 sash and simple beaded board shutters, pierce the side walls. A central stove flue which once served the school has been removed and a new metal roof has been added.

Around 1890, the second, longer room was added to the north end, off the original facade. Also of frame construction, this room is underpinned with brick. Two windows, again with replacement 6/6 sash and beaded board shutters, line the side walls, but this room has an additional window in the north gable end. At the time of the addition, a new outside door was cut in the south-east side wall of the old room, alongside the outside door to the addition. A pent roof porch was constructed around this new paired entryway. The original outside doors to the old school were kept to provide interior access between the two rooms. A central stove flue has also been removed from this addition.

The most remarkable feature at the West View School is the interior, which is the least altered and best preserved of all the surviving one- and two-room schools. Wide horizontal board sheathing, which has never been painted or whitewashed, covers the walls in both rooms. Blacked strips have been painted on the siding in both rooms, with the strip being lower in the south, or primary, rooms. These strips stretch across the north and south ends and on the adjacent walls to the first window piercing. The ceilings have similar unpainted wood sheathing. The floors in the original room have been covered with wide boards, while the addition has an unusual  
(continued)

Statement of Significance:

One of the least altered and best preserved of Augusta County's small rural schools, West View is significant for its history both as a one-room school and later as a two-room school. The first room was built ca. 1875 in the first wave of new school construction. The school displays the plan and frame construction that characterized these early free schools. By 1890, West View had been enlarged into two rooms. The resulting form clearly demonstrates the additive character of many of Augusta County's early graded schools. Its survival without any additions or alterations is clearly remarkable for this type of educational resource, making this one of the most important schoolhouses included in this nomination. Although now used for storage, the building has been well maintained and is in good condition.

The Augusta County School Board purchased this property November 11, 1874, and probably built the first room soon afterwards. By 1890, the Annual Report lists two unnamed two-room schools in Middle River District, and the construction of this second room suggests that West View may have been one of these two schools. Although commonly called West View School House in many of the County records as well as the 1885 Atlas, the sale deed for this property indicates that the school was locally called "Cross Roads," due no doubt to its location at the intersection of three country roads.

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Geographic Data/Acreage: one and one-half acres

Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point on the E side of VA 773 at the intersection of said route with VA 774; thence extending approx. 250' SSW on E side of VA 773; (continued)  
 Boundary Justification: The bounds have been drawn to include the schoolhouse and the immediate school yard.  
 UTM: 17/682390/4237330

Prepared By: Ann McCleary, Architectural Historian

Date Prepared: September 1984

Physical Description continued

diagonal board flooring. Other features remain here as well, including simple wooden shelves along the central wall and a wooden ladder along the partition leading to the steeply-pitched attic.

Statement of Significance continued

Local residents recall that the south room served the primary grades one through three and the north room grades four through seven. With the construction of a new, larger consolidated school in Weyers Cave in 1915, Augusta County closed West View and sold the building in 1929.

Verbal Boundary Description continued

thence approx. 300' E to a point on W side of VA 774; thence approx. 250' NW along W side of VA 774 to point of origin.

