NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

363

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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: Arcola Elementary School

Other names/site number: Arcola Community Center; VDHR No: 053-0982

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 24244 Gum Spring Road

City or town: Sterling State: Virginia County: Loudoun

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A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**

Marc Holma / Deputy, Policy + Planning April 12, 2013

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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:) _____

for Edson N. Beall 6-5-13

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: ☐

Public – Local ☒

Public – State ☐

Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☒

District ☐

Site ☐

Structure ☐

Object ☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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

7. Description

Architectural Classification

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; CONCRETE; ASPHALT SHINGLE; WOOD

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

Constructed in three distinct phases, the Arcola Elementary School was originally built in 1939 as a six-room, one-story school as part of the Public Works Administration building campaign. Built in the Colonial Revival style, the projecting central pavilion with its pediment frontispiece and recessed entrance make up the center bay, which is flanked symmetrically by classroom wings dating to 1939, 1951, and 1956. Brick quoins mark the original corners of the 1939 section. The building has a water table, marked by a solider course, running the length of the building. The interior remains unaltered from its original appearance with high ceilings and simple, architectural details. The hipped roof with front gable was originally covered in tin and is now covered in asphalt shingles. Despite the additions and recent changes, the main block looks much as it did when it was built in 1939.[1] The simplicity of design – horizontal proportions of the building, vertical proportions of the windows, and minimal ornamentation – define its architectural character. The school is a classic example of PWA architecture and the local, state and national civic pride for which it stood. The primary resource is surrounded by five acres of open space.

Narrative Description

The school is elegantly sited on a small rise above the village of Arcola, approximately 0.3 miles to the south. The school is on Gum Spring Road, the major route leading from the village center to the major east-west thoroughfare, Route 50, historically known as the Blue Ridge Turnpike. Originally located in an agricultural community, today the village of Arcola has been consumed by suburban development, both already built communities and farmland marked for future development. In contrast, the school retains its open space, surrounded by its original five acres.

Main School Block, 1939
Exterior

The building's exterior main block is largely unaltered from its original 1939 appearance. The building has a solid masonry exterior skin with interior frame walls and roofing construction. Piers and footings are poured concrete. The façade, facing west, is brick laid in the Flemish-bond pattern with quoins terminating each of the original four corners. The brick water table, capped by a soldier course, runs continuously through the original main block and through both additions. Vents to the crawl space within the water table are decorated with elaborate iron grills with the initials VSBE (Virginia State Board of Education), the entity that designed the school. The projecting center block is three bays; the central entranceway is flanked by double-hung, paired, wood windows. Within the central bay is a recessed entrance with double-leaf, single-panel, wooden, half-light doors topped by a sixteen-light transom. Above each window, the soldier course is repeated as a decorative element, obscuring a steel supporting lintel. The hipped roof is covered in asphalt shingles and is punctuated by vent stacks and a single brick chimney, visible from the rear. The roof was installed in 1997, and shows visible signs of disrepair. [2] The original roof was standing-seam tin.[3] The north and south elevations of the main block are spanned by 1951 and 1956 additions, respectively.

A contemporary concrete stoop extends beyond the main block's entrance with a handicap ramp, installed circa 2000. Three concrete steps to the front sidewalk maintain the central axis of the entrance. An original concrete sidewalk extends to Gun Spring Road, with a contemporary parking lot to the north and lawn to the south. Low data wires run above the front sidewalk.

Flanking the entrance bay, the fenestration of the classroom bays repeats the patterns of the center block; Flemish bond with brick quoins punctuate each corner, along with a brick water table capped by a brick soldier course. Dominating each classroom bay are large, double-hung-sash wood windows with vertical proportions; a center triple window is flanked by a single window on either side. The decorative lintel soldier course is not repeated on the classroom wings; the windows terminate at the three-part wood fascia trim.

On the rear (east) elevation of the original school block, the façade's gabled entry bay is mimicked with two similar gables defining the original 1939 roof line. Similar to the front elevation, the Flemish-bond pattern with the solider course at the water table are repeated at the rear elevation, except at each gable end, which are stucco. Brick quoins mark each original corner of the 1939 structure. Also at the rear elevation is the bulkhead with concrete steps and iron pipe railing leading to the basement.

The original window grouping on the rear elevation varies slightly from the pattern of the front elevation. The windows mimic the tall vertical proportions of the front elevation but are grouped in sets of six. As well, the original double-hung, wood sashes remain. The original window opening of the two bathrooms remain although the sash have been replaced by a one-over-one vinyl window. At the bulkhead, the original sash has been replaced with plywood.

Interior

The interior of the main block also remains largely unaltered from its original appearance. The 1939 school block was originally six rooms – an administrative room, a library, and four classrooms. The plan layout was organized by a short entrance corridor bisecting a long, central corridor, running the length of the building and accessing each classroom. Administrative offices flank either side of the front entrance corridor—on the left were the principal's office and a file room and on the right was the library. Adjacent to what was originally the principal's office is a brass plaque commemorating the school that reads as follows:

FEDERAL EMERGENCY
ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC WORKS

FRANKIN D. ROOSEVELT
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

HAROLD L. ICKES
ADMINSTRAOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

ARCOLA SCHOOL
1939

Interior ceilings heights are exceptionally tall—12 feet, 8 inches—and create a spacious feel for such a small building. Typical of PWA architecture, the interior is minimally detailed with a 2-inch unadorned chair rail, or chalk rail, and plain wainscoting terminated with a 3-inch wood base. Above the chalk rail is a large expanse of wall, designed for bulletin boards in the hall and blackboards in the classrooms. Flooring, in the central corridor and classrooms, is narrow-gauge maple floors.

Hallway and Classroom

The hall retains the original pendant ceiling fixtures with milk glass shades. Ceilings were originally plaster but have since been covered with acoustical tile. Typical interior doors are wood, with nine-light and three-light transoms above, designed to allow natural light into the central corridor. Several panes of the ribbed glass remain although some have been replaced with clear glass. Original brass door hardware remains—a simple brass knob with brass back plate.

The original classrooms are large, measuring 22 feet by 30 feet and 22 feet by 34 feet, ideal classroom sizes espoused by the PWA. Each exterior classroom wall is characterized by windows, which rise from the chalk rail to the ceiling, allowing ample natural light into the classroom. Interior classroom walls (i.e. against the central corridor) have built-in cabinets, sitting below the chalk rail and designed to accommodate students' belongings. At the front wall of the classroom is a blackboard, running the width of the room. At the rear wall of the class room are built-in coat rooms with solid wood doors and one ten-light door to a classroom supply

closet. Original light fixtures have been removed and replaced with florescent strip box fixtures hung from a dropped acoustical tile ceiling.

The original 1939 bathrooms remain but were locked and not accessed for this survey. The school was heated by radiators which were supplied by a boiler located in the basement. Original pipes were insulated in asbestos, a revolutionary material for its time, and which has since been abated.

Gymnasium addition, 1951

Gymnasium exterior

Although the original design for the Arcola School had a gymnasium, this was eliminated in the final design when the construction budget was reduced.[4] In 1951, a gymnasium, cafeteria and two classrooms were added to the main block's north elevation, extending into the playground to form a rear ell. Although the Flemish bond, water table, and soldier course are repeated throughout the gymnasium exterior elevations, the fenestration patterns deviate. On the north and south elevations of the gymnasium are three large single windows, with wider proportions than the classroom windows. Similar to the 1939 original windows, the 1951 gymnasium windows run from the chair rail height to immediately under the roof fascia. Unadorned service doors on the north and south elevations provide utility access to the original kitchen. The doors are double leaf, out-swing, plywood clad, and without lights. At the east elevation of the gymnasium addition, small plywood shed "lean-tos" have been built, obscuring the original layout of fenestration.

Gymnasium interior

The gymnasium was originally built for the combined function of gymnasium and auditorium. The auditorium was originally accessed from two locations off the central corridor, the left and right of the center stage. The north entrance has since been retrofitted to create a recreation room, although the stage with its maple flooring remains. The gymnasium floor is vinyl composition tile laid over concrete slab. The walls are drywall and plaster over concrete masonry unit (CMU) block, with brick exterior. The ceiling is acoustic tile.

The gymnasium is well lit with ample natural light, with 17-foot ceilings and tall vertical windows along both north and south walls. The gymnasium has since been converted to a recreation room, with a climbing wall installed along the east side and brightly painted with palm trees and other fanciful scenery. The gymnasium is currently used for storage, holding bags of road salt.

The original kitchen is accessed from the east end of the gymnasium through two doorways, allowing an 'in' and 'out' for children moving though the cafeteria lines. Each door is a hollow core wood door.

Classroom addition, 1956

Spanning the main block's south elevation, the 1956 south classroom wing repeats the architectural patterns of the 1939 main block. Four classrooms were added, continuing the existing pattern of triple windows flanked by a single on either side. As well, the Flemish-bond, water table capped with a soldier course and brick quoin corners are repeated in the 1956 addition. Window detailing is the same as well, with concrete sills and wood casing. When the replacement asphalt-shingle roof was installed in the 1990s, it was run as one roof, eliminating the junction between the main block and 1956 addition. Only on close inspection are differences visible. Vents to the crawl space within the water table are decorated with plain iron grills and there is a seam in the brickwork between the original structure and the addition.

The south elevation, terminating the 1956 addition, is plain, punctuated only by a single window opening with paired six-over-six wood sashes with atypical square proportions and a side entrance. This side elevation borrows architectural features of the main block including a recessed entrance, double-leaf wood door with nine-light and sixteen-light transoms above, and a projecting concrete stoop with concrete steps and a metal pipe handrail. At the rear (east) elevation, the window pattern reflects the front elevation with the triple windows with vertical proportions and Flemish-bond brickwork with a soldier-course pattern topping the water table.

1956 Addition interior

The interior of the 1956 addition continues the pattern of a long center corridor with flanking classrooms. Interior doors differentiate these newer classrooms; doors are simpler with three horizontal lights and no transom above. Brass hardware – knob and back plate – are the same design and materials as the 1939 original hardware. The maple narrow-gauge flooring is continued through the addition, although the seam between the main block and addition remains visible.

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.)

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
EDUCATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1939-1956

Significant Dates
1939
1951

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Architect Unknown, plans were produced by Division of School Buildings, State Department of Education, Richmond, Virginia

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

Arcola Elementary School, built in 1939, was the fifth PWA (Public Works Administration) construction project and the only PWA school built in Loudoun County, Virginia.[5] Built during the era of public school racial segregation, Arcola was Loudoun's first elementary school for white students with individual classrooms for each grade, marking a major shift in standards of education. Where the traditional one-room school dictated a limited curriculum of math and arithmetic, the multi-room school allowed space enough to offer a varied curriculum. Therefore, the school is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in Education for its association with the PWA's history of educational reform and Loudoun County's transition to modern educational standards, although the county maintained racial segregation in its public school system until the 1960s. Additionally, the Arcola School is locally significant under National Register Criterion C as an excellent example of PWA architecture in the Colonial Revival style. Built as part of the New Deal Public Works Administration building campaign, which lasted only from 1933 to 1939, the Arcola Elementary School demonstrates architectural characteristic of its time. While 1920s architecture focused on style and grandeur, PWA Great Depression-era buildings espouse a practical focus on function and economy of design; ornamentation was restricted to simple lines and classical detailing. Typical of PWA design theory, great attention was given to how the classroom design would impact academic behavior. Classroom design and proportions were specifically dictated and the Arcola classrooms are a typical example.

With a period of significance extending from 1939 when the school was constructed to 1956, when the last classroom wing was added, the original 1939 school building, including the 1951 and 1956 additions, retains its historic integrity and graceful simplicity of proportion and design. The historic property is further supported by retention of its original five-acre tract of open land.

Historical Background

Public Education in the Rural South, 1870

After the Civil War, each of the former Confederate states was required to adopt a new constitution as prerequisite for re-admission to the Union. Part of the mandate of this new constitution was the development of state-funded education, which had not previously existed. In July 1870, Virginia formalized its public school system with the Virginia Legislature passing an act to "Establish and maintain a uniform system of free public schools." At its inception, Virginia's public school system was racially segregated. The 1870 mandate provided that "white and colored persons shall not be taught in the same school but in separate schools." Although the law provided that the separate schools were to be governed under the same 'general regulations" the educational standards were entirely different as white-dominated school boards offered inferior educational facilities and resources to the African American students.[6]

In these formative years, the standard of education, even for the white population was quite low, and only the poorer families attended these schools, with private formal education reserved for the white upper classes. As public transportation for students did not exist and Loudoun County was largely agrarian with a low-density population, multiple schools were opened so as to be within walking distance of students. In Loudoun's 1870-1871 academic year, 46 schools were opened, the total education budget was $8,255 and the academic calendar was roughly three months long.[7]

Public Education in Arcola, 1880

In 1880, Arcola's first public school for white students was built on Evergreen Mills Road and was a one-room school house.[8] The school was closed in 1908 and the building was initially re-purposed as the post office, and then later the one-room school house became the Barton-Pearson Store. The school house was torn down in the late 1970s.[9] In 1910, the second Arcola School was built with two rooms, an atrium and classroom. The school was located on a knoll about 1,000 feet west of the south fork of Broad Run, on the south side of Evergreen Mills Road (State Route 621). The school was later torn down.[10]

Because all students were housed in one room, all grades were taught together. As one Arcola student described, "We had seven grades in one room. The seventh grade sat in one row and the sixth in one row and so on, down to the first. And the teacher would teach first grade for a while, then second, then third, fourth, fifth and on up." Because of the limiting teaching style, the curriculum was confined to spelling, reading and math. [11]

Amenities in the school house were also limited. Water was drawn from the hand pump outside the school house; heat was provided by the wood stove tended by the students; and lighting was minimal, if at all. Because students were often critical labor on family farms, classes were limited from 9 in the morning to 3 in the afternoon and the school year ran only three months. Class size was limited; typically with 30 to 40 students in the school.[12] There was no food service at school; meals were prepared for the students by neighboring families. However, these one-room schoolhouses were also vibrant community centers, acting as gathering places with box-suppers, spelling bees, ice cream socials, and holiday festivities. Even with limited resources, schools even offered a vision beyond Arcola. For a field trip, one of the parents would put children into a cattle truck and drive them to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.[13]

Advent of the School Consolidation Movement Nationwide and in Loudoun County, 1920

During the 1920s, there was a national effort to modernize schools, especially in the rural areas. School boards realized that maintaining multiple one-room schoolhouses limited standards of education. A single classroom limited the curriculum to math and reading in the one-room schoolhouse. In contrast, a multi-room school could allow a more complex curriculum with art, science, nature study, music, and recreation. In addition, school boards began to view the one-room school as unsanitary, with their outdoor plumbing, and as fire hazards, with their frame structures, shake roofs, and stoves. By now, the one-room school, with its limited curriculum and

facilities, was perceived as an impediment to modern educational programs. School boards also realized the individual schoolhouse was expensive to maintain and possibly one larger school would be more cost effective. [14]

Therefore, by consolidating the students of several smaller schools to a larger facility, school boards could provide modern amenities and a varied curriculum, and save money. Racial segregation, however, would continue and Loudoun County followed this trend. By 1928, "To close all one room schools" was a "desirable and practical" objective of the Loudoun School Board. [15] Between 1915 and 1926, the total number of Loudoun one-room schools decreased from 67 to 58, signifying the advent of consolidation. An aggressive campaign by the Loudoun School Board was waged with the argument that consolidation afforded better equipment, better trained teachers, broader circles of friends, and improved teaching methods. Generally, families welcomed consolidation as the advent of modern education; "it is gratifying to see that the consolidation movement is well on its way in Loudoun County" was the view expressed by some school board members.[16]

Although consolidation was generally viewed as forward thinking, this view was not universal among families, "… while many county residents favored the abandonment of one and two-room schools for consolidated schools that offered more comprehensive and improved curriculum and more specialized and instructional staff, others lamented this trend as regressive…" Rural communities were still somewhat insular and families resented their children being bused to school, favoring the neighborhood school.[17]

Consolidation in Arcola School, 1930s

The Great Depression years witnessed a sharp decline in school construction until President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal-era PWA funding revived the building and consolidation trends.[18] Consolidation was the driving force behind the decision to abandon the one-room school on Evergreen Mills Road and build the 1939 Arcola brick school. The Village of Arcola was likely selected as a PWA grant recipient because of the economic make-up of the community. During the Great Depression years, unemployment hovered at 25% and Arcola was no exception. Arcola families struggled. As described by Dolly Hammon, a former student, her father "… plowed and planted corn and fed the horses so they could live to plow so he could have the corn to feed the horses. It was an endless cycle."[19] Almost half of PWA schools were built in the smallest, rural communities, focusing on areas that had been "severely handicapped for years due to their lack of school-building programs." One-third of the 1,965 school buildings were elementary schools. The one-room school was considered inferior; "… many elementary schools… [do] not come up to modern standards of heating, ventilating lighting and sanitation."[20] The nation was ready to abandon the antiquated ways of the one-room school.

By 1938, there were four school buses in operation in Loudoun County to facilitate transporting white students and little opposition to consolidation in the village of Arcola.[21] On June 28, 1938, the Loudoun County School Board passed a resolution to file an application to the PWA to finance the construction of a new Arcola School and build an addition to the existing Lincoln High School. Initial estimates proposed a $30,000 budget; $20,000 for the construction of the

Arcola School, and $10,000 for the addition to Lincoln School.[22] Both Lincoln and Arcola were likely chosen because preference was given to small rural communities where it was determined the need for improved facilities was the greatest.[23] Four schools for white students, Arcola, McGraw Ridge, Carter, and Pleasant Valley, all one- or two-room schools, were identified to be abandoned and students relocated to the new Arcola School.[24]

On August 1, 1938, a Western Union Telegram, addressed to the recipients of the PWA grants was sent and included docket number 1315 for Loudoun County in the amount of $15,930.[25] The news quickly made local headlines in the *Loudoun Times Mirror*:

> *"Loudoun Schools Get $15,930 PWA Grant To be used to Construct New Building at Arcola and to repair and Remodel Lincoln Elementary School. A Loan of $19,338 has also been arranged from the State Literary Fund to supplement the funds received from the PWA. Plans and specifications are being drawn up and construction work is expected to begin in the near future on both buildings"*[26]

On August 19, 1938, O.L. Emerick, Superintendent of the Loudoun County School Board, called for a special meeting of the school board to consider the PWA grant. As per PWA specifications, the federal government offered 45% of construction costs, which had to be matched by local sources, typically through state funding and in Loudoun, through the Virginia State Literary Fund. In addition, by accepting the offer, the school board was required to start construction within nine months of contract ratification .[27]

In September of that year, the land was secured for the construction of the Arcola School. The property was conveyed to the Loudoun School Board on September 6, 1938, by B.B. Hutchison and Effa, his wife, for $600 on the road "leading from Arcola to Little River Turnpike (State Road #659)… containing Five (5) Acres of land" and "being part of that certain tract of land that was conveyed to B. B. Hutchinson by J. F. Ryan, unmarried."[28]

PWA Architecture and Comparison to Other Local Schools, 1925-1946

Even though federal funds were used, PWA buildings were typically designed at the local level. This was true of the Arcola School, designed by the Virginia Department of Education's Division of School Buildings in Richmond. The plans for Arcola were likely pulled from a stock set of plans as the dates on the first and second design for Arcola, July and August 1938, respectively, precede the announcement of the PWA grant, August 1938 and the land purchase, September 1938.[29]

Numerous plans, drawings and specifications were produced by Virginia's Division of School Buildings between 1931 and 1947 and a survey of other Loudoun schools built during this time reveals similarities of architectural detailing. Two schools built in the 1920s, prior to Arcola, were the Lincoln High School (DHR #053-0704; 053-0002-0004, Goose Creek Rural Historic District) and the North Street School (DHR #253-0035-0721, Leesburg Historic District). The Lincoln High School, built in 1926 and now an elementary school, with its centrally located auditorium, windows grouped in fives, and arched main entrance and recessed doorway, is

similar to the first design for the Arcola School and confirms the standardization of design produced by the Virginia Board of Education. As well, many architectural elements of the Lincoln School are shared with the second design for the Arcola School including the Flemish bond brick exterior, the hipped roof, double-leaf front door with sixteen-light transom, and narrow-gauge maple flooring.

Also, there are architectural similarities between the Arcola School and other Loudoun public schools built a decade later, exemplifying a quarter century of standardized school design in Loudoun. The George Washington Carver School (DHR #286-5009), located in Purcellville and built in 1946, shares architectural similarities with the Arcola School. The organization of the floor plans is much the same, with a long central corridor running perpendicular to the main entrance, with classrooms accessed off of this corridor. As well, the Arcola and Carver schools share other architectural defining characteristics such as the 'chalk rail,' vertical windows terminating at the ceiling, milk glass ceiling pendants, six-light doors with triple-light transoms above, and maple floors. The exterior of the buildings are similar, but not the identical; both exteriors are long and horizontal one-story buildings, with a hipped roof and central gable entrance.

The PWA advocated for "modern trends in functional planning of school buildings" and the PWA design theory was very specific in the promotion of their design and the impact on how a space would function. For example, in elementary schools, where only academic activities would be held, the recommended classroom size was 22 feet by 30 feet and where there were different activities, the recommended classroom size was 22 feet by 35 feet.[30] As well, typical of PWA design theory, flexible classroom space was considered important so as to allow flexibility in the curriculum, supporting the theory that "educational programs are always in process of change… [So as to] equip students to operate in a constantly changing civilization." Therefore, "non-supporting walls," or temporary dividers, were a feature in PWA classroom design."[31]

Arcola, although apparently designed by the Virginia School Board, is a built example of PWA design theory. The classrooms measure to these specified dimensions exactly. Classrooms No.1 and 2 were originally designed with a temporary partition between them, which has since been replaced by a more substantial partition wall. These common characteristics are testimony to the national influence of the PWA design.

PWA architecture in the American South often drew from the Colonial Revival style.[32] The Colonial Revival style looked backwards for inspiration to America's founding. Typical of Colonial Revival, early twentieth century architecture was not a true copy of earlier styles. Generally certain design elements, symmetry, pediment front entrances, and classical detailing were borrowed. The Colonial Revival style was most popular for public buildings, including post offices, libraries and schools, in an effort to imbue each with a sense of solidity and permanence.

Arcola School Construction, 1939

In January 1939, a "mandatory request" was submitted by the PWA office to "Reduce Scope and Decrease in Allotment to $13,950" from $15,930.[33] Both the Lincoln School addition and the Arcola School construction had exceeded initial estimates. With this information, the School Board decided to proceed only with the construction of the Arcola School.[34]

The total construction cost was a little more than $31,000. The average cost of a PWA school was $161,000, so Arcola was substantially smaller than average, likely dictated by the small size of Arcola's rural population. The budget included the cost to purchase the building lots, construction cost and professional fees and was broken down as follows:

Preliminary	$ 50
Land	$ 660
Construction Arcola	$28,417
Engineering	$ 685
Inspection	$ 1,000
Contingencies	$ 583
Interest	$ 200[35]

The total PWA grant contribution was $13,950. In January 1939, the Loudoun School Board secured from the Virginia State Literary Fund, a public fund controlled by the Virginia Board of Education, $17,050 for the remaining 55% of construction expenses needed to complete the Arcola School. The School Board superintendent, O. L. Emerick, provided oversight for the construction. L.K. Keller and Son of Fredrick, Maryland, was the builder.[36]

Impact of PWA Architecture and Consolidation at Arcola School, 1939

In 1939, the school opened in July to much acclaim. The *Loudoun Times Mirror* headline announced "Arcola's $31,000 Elementary School is Completed." The school was a great source of pride for the Arcola community as well as the county. The *Mirror* continued, "students rush with pride to the community grade school" and "gather in the handsome new building that has been so painstakingly planned to meet their educational requirements." The school comprised four large classrooms, "designed to give the students greatest possible comfort and convenience. An assembly room may be had by combing two of the rooms [Classrooms 1 and 2]. A library, office and file room, novel design elements by the one-room schoolhouse standards, were included in the design."[37]

The school was dedicated September 6, 1939, in the evening. The guest speaker was former Virginia Governor Westmoreland Davis with School Superintendent. O. L. Emerick presiding. Davis presented the Virginia flag, so that Arcola would be the first elementary school to fly the state flag.[38]

Life at the new school was much celebrated and was the source of local civic pride. As Dolly Hammond reflected in an interview, "…It was beautiful, it really was. We all thought so,

because after all, from a two-room school to this nice school was just wonderful … and inside toilets too." Dolly Hammond continued; "… a lady lived across the road who would fix meals for us… She would cook vegetable soup or potato soup and hot chocolate at her house and come to school and unload this large pot." Until the first addition was completed in 1951, there was no cafeteria and lunches were organized by neighbors. Most families were farmers and donated food to the school and the meals were prepared by neighbors.[39]

Although the Arcola School's completion represented the advent of modern education, the curriculum in the initial years was little changed from the two-room room schoolhouse. Only the core curriculum was taught; there was no art, physical education or music. Operating funds remained tight; students continued to serve as custodians, sweeping floors. Despite improvements in student transportation, there was no public bus service offered for Arcola students, and despite the increased distance to the consolidated schools, most students walked.[40]

The first 'head of faculty' was Miss Dorothy Rollins, who served for four years. There were three other teachers, Miss Virginia Smith, Mrs. Mary Hemsley, and Miss Blanche Hutchinson, for the other rooms with teachers. Although 120 students were enrolled in September 1939, there were 125 students by the end of the 1940 school year.[41]

Loudoun County's Growth Patterns: Need for Additional Classrooms Creates Friction, 1949 - 1970

By the late 1940s, the rural agricultural life in Loudoun had given way to the suburban lifestyle or more typically, the commuter with the small farm. Explosive development in the Washington, D.C., area that began with World War I and accelerated during World War II, transformed life in surrounding counties such as Loudoun. Rapid population growth caused over-crowding in Loudoun schools. This increasing demand for space created friction between the Loudoun County Supervisors, School Board, Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), and taxpayers who would carry the costs. In February 1949, the *Loudoun Times Mirror* ran a letter to the editor titled "School Issue Generates Heat," citing concerns of excessive bussing and temporary classrooms.[42] Further exacerbating the problem, parents relocating from the city expected rural schools to meet the higher standards of the urban schools to which they were accustomed.[43]

In the spring of 1949, the Loudoun School Board advocated for a $167,000 budget increase. The PTA concurred with the proposed budget increase: "We believe that the children of Loudoun are entitled to an education at least equal to the present standards," arguing on behalf of a proposed property tax increase from $1.25 to $2. The increase was to cover additional operating expenditures as well as capital costs, including a request for additional classrooms and an auditorium for Arcola. As expected, this proposed property tax increase was met with much resistance. The farming community, who owned large tracts of land and who would carry the bulk of the property tax increase, perceived the benefit being conveyed to the commuter, who typically owned smaller tracts of land. [44]

Additions at Arcola School, 1951 and 1956

By April 1949, the Board of Supervisors approved a $1.55 tax rate and cutting $112,500 from the 1949-1950 budget.[45] Despite the wrangling, Arcola's addition of two classrooms, a gymnasium, and kitchen was approved in the 1949-1950 budget and was completed in 1951. Again, Arcola quickly outgrew its classroom space and in November 1953, school parents appeared before the school board requesting two additional rooms stating, "the situation is desperate. It is difficult to keep order in the classrooms set up in the auditorium." The Broad Run District had experienced enormous growth; residents were moving westward from Fairfax County. At that time, the school had five rooms and seven grades. During the previous school year, an additional 23 students had matriculated during the school year. "Several students [would] come in each week," said a spokesman for the parents' coalition. The Board moved forward with an agreement to expand, selecting an architect, A. L. Lueders, to prepare plans for its second addition.[46] As a temporary measure, while the addition was in the planning process, students were shipped to Aldie Elementary and temporary frame buildings were installed behind the gymnasium addition to provide temporary classrooms.[47] The second addition was completed in 1956 and added four classrooms. Its design and architectural character were very similar to the original 1939 main block and the 1951 addition.

Integration in Loudoun County and Arcola School, 1940 - 1970

Although consolidation raised the quality of education nationwide, in Loudoun and the rest of the state, improvements in the school system extended to the white population only. By the 1940s, African Americans in Virginia and elsewhere began to protest for equal education. [48] In 1954, the Supreme Court decision *Brown vs Board of Education* mandated desegregation, but Virginia, like other states with segregated public schools, resisted complying with the decision for years, employing a tactic that became known as Massive Resistance. By the late 1950s, federal courts began overturning Massive Resistance and Virginia implemented "Freedom of Choice," the Virginia General Assembly's half-hearted attempt at integration. [49] By design, Freedom of Choice proved to be largely ineffective, as the Pupil Placement Board charged with implementing desegregation placed just 0.1% of the African American student population in a white school in Loudoun by 1960. In 1962, Federal District Court Judge Oren R. Lewis ordered Loudoun to comply with the "free choice plan designed to phase out all negro *(sic)* schools as well as to integrate white schools." However, Judge Lewis gave schools five years to comply, effectively allowing Loudoun's schools to continue to ignore legislation mandating integration.[50]

In 1968, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled "Freedom of Choice" unconstitutional. To comply with federal laws, Virginia had to implement "geographical attendance zones." During the 1968-1969 school year, marking almost 30 years of protests against segregated education, Loudoun County implemented true racial integration in the educational system.[51]

Arcola Elementary remained segregated until the 1966-1967 school year. Although integration had been fiercely fought throughout Virginia and Loudoun County, there is no evidence of overt attempts to block integration at Arcola. According to conversations with Peg Wingfield, integration at Arcola went smoothly. Race was not documented on school rosters, so it has not

yet been determined the number of African Americans who attended Arcola School in these early years of desegregation.[52]

Rapid Suburbanization and Abandonment of the School, 1960s and 1970s

During the 1960s, Loudoun County's growth rate surged. Dulles Airport, started in 1958, triggered land speculation around the airport and paved the way to additional suburban development. A 1958 *Loudoun Times Mirror* headline proclaimed: "Growth Begins, Surge in County Population."[53] By the 1970s, Dulles Airport was well into operation, establishing eastern Loudoun County as a Washington suburb.[54]

By 1972, the Loudoun School Board determined it could no longer handle the over-crowding at Arcola and the school was abandoned as an elementary school in favor of moving students to a new facility to be built on Goshen Road.[55] In 1974, the School Board found a secondary use for the school, using it for student overflow from Broad Run High School. This decision proved to be controversial and the school was closed again five years later. [56] In 1977, the School Board sold the property to the county's Department of Parks and Recreation and in response to a community-lead effort, the facility was re-opened as the Arcola Community Center.

In 2002, the former school was showing signs of disrepair, and in an effort to manage maintenance costs and safety issues, Loudoun County commissioned a study to renovate the former school building. However, by early 2002-2003, the county had built a strong case against renovation of the Arcola Community Center. In a February 2003 memo, Kirby Bowers, County Administrator, citing a study that determined the school would cost $1.9 million to renovate, and recommended abandonment.[57] Bowers concluded that it was more cost efficient to build a new community center in South Riding than to repair the existing facility.[58] In 2006, the former Arcola school building was abandoned as a community center.

By the late 2000s, the local Arcola community organized to lobby the Board of Supervisors and to save the school. Local residents looked to the Carver Center in Purcellville as a model for adaptive reuse.[59] "Friends of Arcola Community Center" formed to seek support to raise awareness and protect the school and lobbied to include the school on the *Preservation Virginia Endangered Sites List for Northern Virginia* when the County announced plans to demolish the school. In their press release "Bad Deal for New Deal Era School," the Friends announced their initiatives to nominate the school to the National Register as a first step to saving the building.[60] In 2011, the Loudoun Board of Supervisors was finally swayed and approved a motion to nominate the Arcola School to the National Register. [61]

Grass-roots efforts continue to advocate on behalf of the Arcola School. In February 2012, the Arcola Community Center Advisory Board spoke again to the Board of Supervisors and gained support from County staff for saving the school.[62] Today, the former school building remains closed, serving as over-flow storage for the County General Services Administration.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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"School Board Adopts Budget of $207, 135," *Loudoun Times Mirror*, March 14, 1940.
"School Issue Generate Heat," *Loudoun Times Mirror*, February 10, 1949.
"PTA Unit Presses for Tax Rate Hike to $2, Mass Protest is Planned by Farmers," *Loudoun Times Mirror*, March 31, 1949.
"$112,500 Fund Cut, $1.55 Rate Stuns School Board, Disturbing Statement Seen Forthcoming" *Loudoun Times Mirror*, April 7, 1949.
"Supervisors Assure Full School Term," Loudoun *Times Mirror,* April 21, 1949.
"School Row Flares Anew as Loan Plea Action is Deferred" *Loudoun Times Mirror*, July 7, 1949.
"Arcola Elementary will Become BRHS Annex," *Loudoun Times,* February 14, 1974.
"Residents Petition for Renovate Community" *Loudoun Times*, January 29, 2008
"Residents Offer to Lease Arcola Property for Community Center, Ball Fields," *Loudoun Times,* archived February 26, 2010

Blue Ridge Herald

"Loudoun Schools Get PWA Grant," *Blue Ridge Herald*, August 4, 1938.
"Arcola Suffers Growing Pains, Two Additional Rooms Asked for School" *Blue Ridge Herald*, November 12, 1953.

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Unknown
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di Zerega, Phillip van Uytandaele. "History of Secondary School Education in Loudoun County, Virginia," Masters Thesis #1469, University of Virginia, 1948.

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Unknown. Arcola Elementary School Students Rosters, 1939-1969. From personal files of Peg Wingfield

Vincent, J., on behalf of Loudoun County Parks Recreation Community Services PRCS FY 05/09 General Government Capital Asset Replacement Program (CARP) CARP Request Form – Priority List. October 10, 2003

Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Reconnaissance Level Surveys: 053-0969; 053-0704; 286-5009; 253-0035-0721; 053-0982

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:

__X__State Historic Preservation Office
__X__ Other State agency
__X__ Federal agency
__X__ Local government
____ University
__X__ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond; Library of Virginia, Richmond; National Archives, College Park, Maryland; Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, Virginia; Loudoun County Courthouse, Leesburg, Virginia.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _VDHR No. 053-0982_____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 5 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 38.947612° **Longitude: -77.537014°**

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The boundary is based on the Loudoun County Real Estate Assessor's office Tract 1: Parcel No. 203208192; Tax Map No.: 101///////109; also known as 24244 Gum Spring Road. The parcel is bounded on the west by Gum Spring Road, on the south and east by other open space owned by Loudoun County and on the north by a privately owned wooded tract.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundary represents the five-acre parcel owned by Loudoun County and occupied by the former Arcola Community Center and historically associated with the former Arcola Elementary School. The boundary is based on the legal description, Loudoun County Deed Book 663 page 141, April 1, 1977. The boundary includes the primary resource and the original five-acre parcel originally associated with the school.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jane Covington
organization: Jane Covington Restoration
street & number: PO Box 741
city or town: Middleburg state: VA zip code: 20118
e-mail: jane@janecovington.com
telephone: 434-960-4678
date: 11-28-2012

Photographs

The following information is common to all photographs:
Property: Arcola Elementary School
VDHR File Number: 053-0982
Location: Loudoun County, Virginia
Photos filed at: Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Richmond, Virginia
Date of Photograph: October 2012
Photographer: Jane Covington

Photo 1 of 12
View: Front view of 1939 main block, west elevation
VA_Loudoun County_ Arcola Elementary_0001

Photo 2 of 12
View: Detail of front entrance, 1939, west elevation
VA_Loudoun County_ Arcola Elementary_0002

Photo 3 of 12
View: Detail of crawl space grill showing Virginia State Board of Education initials on building
VA_Loudoun County_ Arcola Elementary_0003

Photo 4 of 12
View: Detail of 1951 addition, west elevation

VA_Loudoun County_ Arcola Elementary_0004

Photo 5 of 12
View: Detail of 1956 addition, west elevation
VA_Loudoun County_ Arcola Elementary_0005

Photo 6 of 12
View: Detail of 1956 addition, south elevation
VA_Loudoun County_ Arcola Elementary _0006

Photo 7 of 12
View: Rear of 1939 main block, east elevation
VA_Loudoun County_ Arcola Elementary _0007

Photo 8 of 12
View: Rear of 1951 gymnasium addition, east elevation
VA_Loudoun County_ Arcola Elementary _0008

Photo 9 of 12
View: Side entrance of 1951 gymnasium addition, south elevation
VA_Loudoun County_ Arcola Elementary_0009

Photo 10 of 12
View: Interior, main entrance corridor
VA_Loudoun County_ Arcola Elementary _0010

Photo 11 of 12
View: Interior, typical 1939 door
VA_Loudoun County_ Arcola Elementary _0011

Photo 12 of 12
View: Interior, classroom No. 1
VA_Loudoun County_ Arcola Elementary _0012

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.

ENDNOTES

[1] Long-Time Arcola Residents and Arcola Elementary School Fourth Grades, "Voices of Arcola Then and Now" (Loudoun Education Foundation, Leesburg, 1999), 29. As Dolly Hammon, a former student recalled, "The school looks very much now as it did back then, except that it's been added on to. The entrance... was very much like it was in my day."
[2] Building Evaluations LLC, "Building Condition Evaluation Summary Report for Arcola Community Center." (Loudoun County General Services, Leesburg, 2011.)
[3] Virginia Department of Education, Division of School Building, "Architectural Drawings and Plans, 1920-1970" (Miscellaneous Microfilm Reel Number 1834 Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA). Drawing No 6L6
[4] Federal Works Agency Public Works Administration, "Project Files, 1939" (Virginia 1315). Microfilm from National Archives, College Park MD, 1943.) The reason the gymnasium was eliminated was not specifically stated in these files. What is known from correspondence and payment receipts is that the original budget was reduced and the plans altered between July and August 1938.
[5] The other PWA projects completed in Loudoun were the 1936 and 1937 water and sewer system in Middleburg, 1938 Purcellville Library, and 1938 Leesburg sewer system.
[6]Phillip van Uytandaele di Zerega, "History of Secondary School Education in Loudoun County, Virginia" (Masters Thesis #1469, University of Virginia, 1948), 69.
[7] di Zerega, 83-110. Of these 46 schools, it was not indicated if these schools were for white or African American students.
[8] A 1923 map of Loudoun's schools produced by O.L. Emerick, Superintendent of Schools, shows only one colored school in the vicinity of Arcola,, on Braddock Road, near McGraw's Ridge
[9] Eugene Scheel. *Loudoun Discovered, Volume 1. Eastern Loudoun Goin' Down the Country.* (Leesburg: Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, 2002), 11.
[10] Although the 1907 schoolhouse was torn down, the hand-driven water pump, which served the school, remains in its original location on private property on Evergreen Mills Road.
[11] Long-Time Arcola Residents and Arcola Elementary School Fourth Grades, "Voices of Arcola Then and Now" (Loudoun Education Foundation, Leesburg, 1999), 26.
[12] Nancy P. Torregrossa, "History of Arcola Elementary School." (Loudoun County History Course II, Mr. Eugene Scheel, George Mason University, 1993) 6.
[13]Torregossa, 5.
[14] C. W. Short and R. Stanley Brown, *Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and Other Governmental Bodies between the years 1933 and 1939 with the assistance of the Public Works Administration.* (Washington, D.C.: US Government Printing Office, 1939), XVIII.
[15] di Zerega, 113-116.
[16] Patrick A. Deck and Henry Heaton, *An Economic and Social Survey of Loudoun County.* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 1926) 77-81.
[17] Charles Poland, Jr., From Frontier to Suburbia; Loudoun County Virginia One of America's Fastest Growing Counties (Westminster, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2005), 344-345.
[18] Short, XVIII. National expenditure per pupil was $15.27 prior to the Great Depression, and $2.24 at the height of the Depression in 1934. With PWA cash infusion, expenditures per pupil rose to $8.80, quadrupling the per pupil investment, but still half of pre-Depression spending.
[19] Long-Time Arcola Residents, 47.
[20] Short, XVIII.
[21] Torregrossa, 2.
[22] Federal Works Agency Public Works Administration, "Project Files, 1315" (Microfilm from National Archives, College Park MD, 1943) Loudoun County School Board Resolution and supporting documents of construction estimates, June 28, 1938.
[23] Short, XVIII. 47% of the schools constructed with PWA funds were in communities with a population of 25,000 or less.
[24] Torregrossa, 1-2. McGraw's Ridge School, a one-room school built in 1889 south of Arcola on Rte 659; Pleasant Valley School, a two-room school built in 1891 four miles east of Arcola, repurposed to a residence and tavern and

later burned; Arcola, a two-room schoolhouse built in 1909, not repurposed and later torn down although the well pump remains; and Carter.

[25] PWA Project file 1315. Telegram Copy August 1, 1938.

[26] "Loudoun Schools Get $15,930 PWA," *Blue Ridge Herald*, (Purcellville, VA) August 4, 1938, 1.

[27] PWA Project file 1315. "Notice of Special Meeting" August 15, 1938. According to Short on page XVI, the time limit for start of construction was a component of all PWA projects so as to provide "immediate benefit in employment and stimulation of industry."

[28] Loudoun County Deed Book 11B, 180-181 as transcribed by Wynn Saffer.

[29] The original plan for Arcola was drawn in July 1938 but was not built. Mr. Raymond Long, Director of School Buildings, State Board of Education, Richmond, Virginia, is listed as project architect. The floor plan was a "T" shape, with classrooms centrally grouped around an auditorium. According to the as-built drawings prepared by VSBE, plans were revised a month later in August 1938 and were ultimately used for construction. The reasoning may have been budgetary, as the auditorium was eliminated and the floor plan more concise

[30] Short, XXI

[31] Short, XXI

[32] Until July 1939, PWA architectural design administration was delegated to seven national field offices. Virginia was located in Region 3, the southern states headquartered in Atlanta.

[33] PWA Project file 1315. Letter dated January 11, 1939. O.L Emerick, Division Superintendent Loudoun County School Board to H. T Cole, Regional Administrator PWA.

[34] PWA Project file 1315. PWA internal memo dated February 23, 1939. The Lincoln school addition was redesigned in 1940 and re-bid. A lower estimate was received and Loudoun proceeded with this work independent of the PWA. The school board adopted a 1940-1941 budget of $207,135 which included capital expenditures of $78,000 for construction of a four-room addition to Leesburg High School and a two-room addition to Lincoln High School.

[35] PWA Project file 1315. Letter dated January 11, 1939. O.L Emerick, Division Superintendent Loudoun County School Board to H. T Cole, Regional Administrator PWA. Construction costs included furnishings such as desks, shades, etc.

[36] PWA Project file, 1315. PWA Project Audit. January 10, 1939.

[37] *Loudoun Times Mirror,* July 20th 1939.

[38] Unidentified newspaper clipping from files of Peg Wingfield August 1939.

[39] Long-Time Arcola Residents, 29-32.

[40] Torregrossa, 8.

[41] Files of Peg Wingfield, Arcola Elementary School Students Rosters, 1939-1969

[42] *Loudoun Times Mirror*, February 10, 1949. Mrs. Stanley Presgraves wrote an article arguing for one consolidated high school for Loudoun County. The counterpoint to this argument was to enlarge the existing five county high schools: Leesburg, two rooms; Lincoln, two rooms; Lovettsville, two rooms; Aldie, three rooms, and Douglass. (*Loudoun Times Mirror*, July7, 1949) The elementary schools had similar problems of over-crowding due to the rapid and massive suburbanization of Loudoun County.

[43] Torregrossa, 3. "… parents were dissatisfied with the [Arcola Elementary] school."

[44] "PTA Presses for Tax Rate Hike" *Loudoun Times Mirror,* March 31, 1949. Protests were so strong, three members of the school board later resigned. In interviews with Peg Wingfield, these were the meetings that her mother attended and described as "colorful."

[45] "$112,500 Fund Cut, $1.55 Rate Stuns School Board," *Loudoun Times Mirror,* April 7, 1949. This vote on the school budget drew the largest voter turnout to date for a school board meeting.

[46] "Arcola Suffers Growing Pains, Two Additional Rooms Asked for School" , *Blue Ridge Herald* November 12, 1953.

[47] Conversations with Peg Wingfield. "My class went to Aldie Elem School the years of 1955-1956 (5th grade) and 1956-1957(6th grade) due to over-crowding. When we started 7th grade at Arcola in 1957-1958 school year there were trailers out back by the cafeteria. The trailers were used until the new addition was built. If my memory is correct on that."

[48] Poland, 352.

[49] "Freedom of Choice" was a plan implemented in the mid-1960s ten years after the Supreme Court had ruled for racially integrated schools. It was a legal nod towards integration, allowing families to attend the public schools of

their choice. However, intimidation and lack of public transportation allowed public schools to remain largely segregated.

[50] Poland, 352.

[51] Causey, Evelyn D, Ph. D. and Julia Claypool, "Desegregation in Loudoun County Public Schools, 1954-1970. " (Loudoun County Public Schools, Leesburg, VA., 2010), 1.

[52] Conversations with Peg Wingfield.

[53] Poland, 326-327.

[54]"Slow Growth Wins," *Washington Post*, November 12, 2006, B6.

[55] Long-Time Arcola Residents, 10.

[56]"Arcola Elementary will become BRHS Annex," *Loudoun Times Mirror* February 14, 1974. This decision was very controversial but confirmed a repeated theme of rapid growth and over-crowding in Loudoun public schools. In the *Mirror* article, the Loudoun County School Board voted to implement a program to use the 'present Arcola Elementary School' as an annex for the Broad Run High School ninth grade. The "Arcola program" would bus students during their study period to the new facility. English, math and social studies would be taken at Arcola, eliminating the need for trailers at BRHS. The decision was controversial. Lead by PTA president Charles Poland, parents supported a 12-month school year rather than bussing the children during a 9-month school year.

[57] Parks Recreation Community Service, Loudoun County. "Capital Asset Replacement Program Priority List." October 10, 2003. In this memo, staff states renovation for life safety and ADA upgrades of the Arcola Community Center would cost $1.945 million and therefore the prudent course of action would be to close the community center and add onto the Dulles South Recreation Center to absorb the community's needs.

[58] Kirby Bowers, "Community Center Renovation Projects," (Office of County Administrator Memorandum address to Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, February 27, 2003).

[59] "Residents Petition for Renovate Community" *Loudoun Mirror*, January 29, 2008.

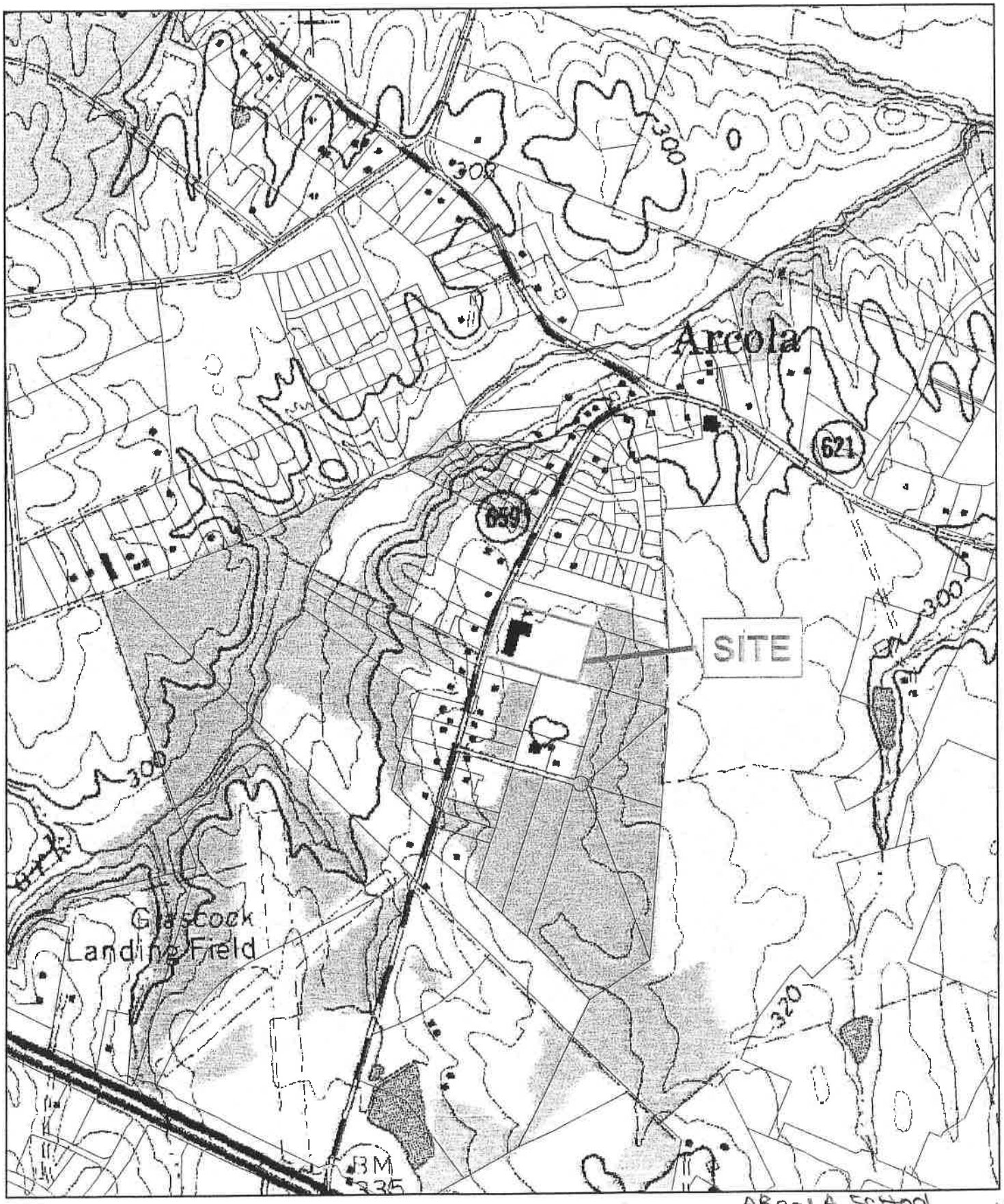
[60] TeKrony, Laura and Steve Carney "Raw Deal for New Deal Era School?" (press release distributed in Loudoun County, May 19, 2008).

[61] Miller, County Supervisor Stevens; "Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Action Item, Board Member Imitative Building on Gump Spring Road Formerly Known as the Arcola Community Center" (memo presented to Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, February 15, 2011).

[62]"Resident Offers to Lease Arcola Property for Community Center, Ball Fields," *Loudoun Times,* archived February 26, 2010.

Site Location Map
Arcola Elementary School, VDHR No. 053-0983
2422 Gum Spring Road, Sterling VA 20116
Loudoun County
Latitude: 38.947612°
Longitude: -77.537014°

USGS Quarter Quad of the Arcola Community Center / School



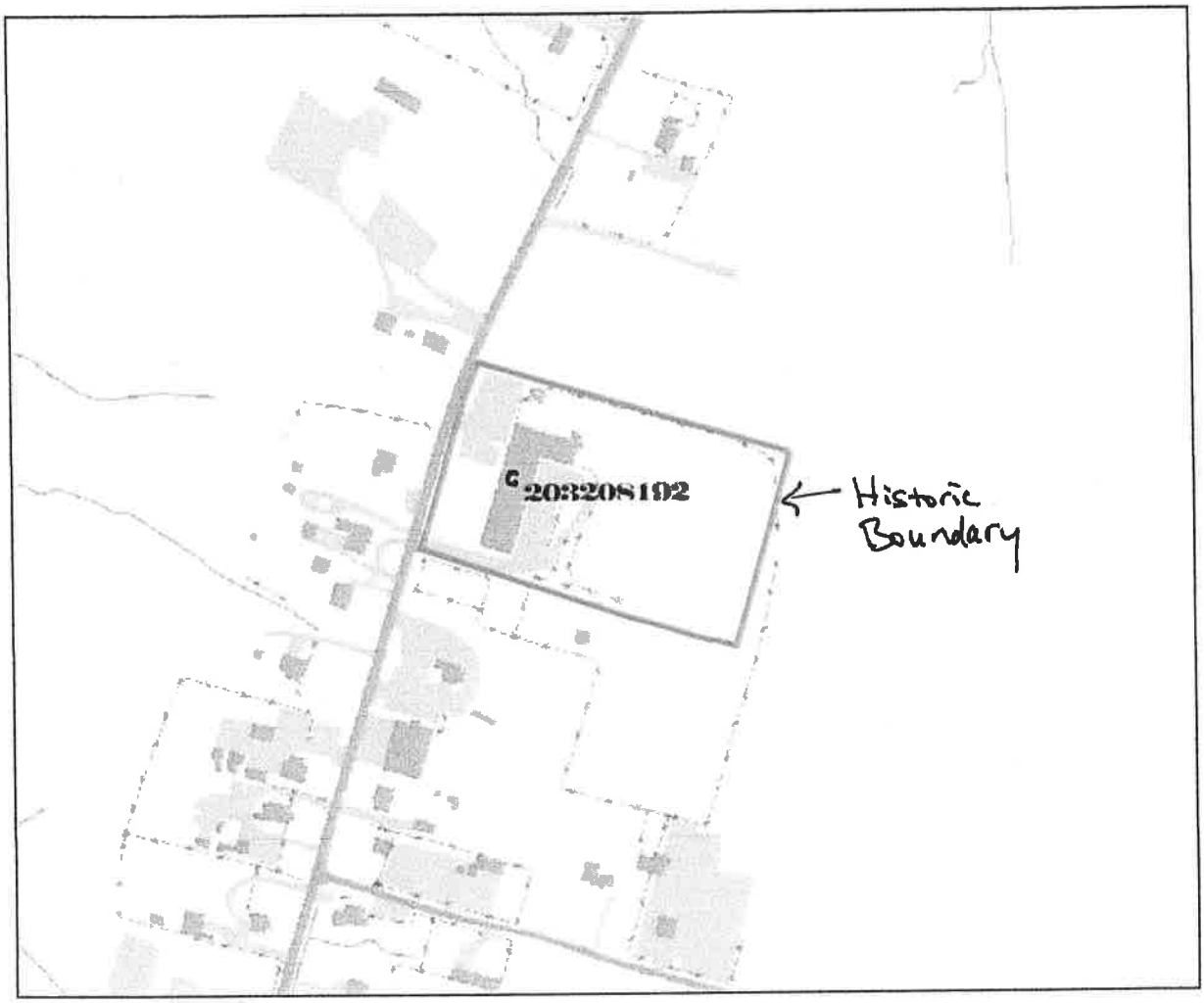
LATITUDE: 38.949612° LONGITUDE: -77.537014°

ARCOLA SCHOOL
LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA

Thursday, November 29, 2012

Loudoun County, Virginia
www.loudoun.gov

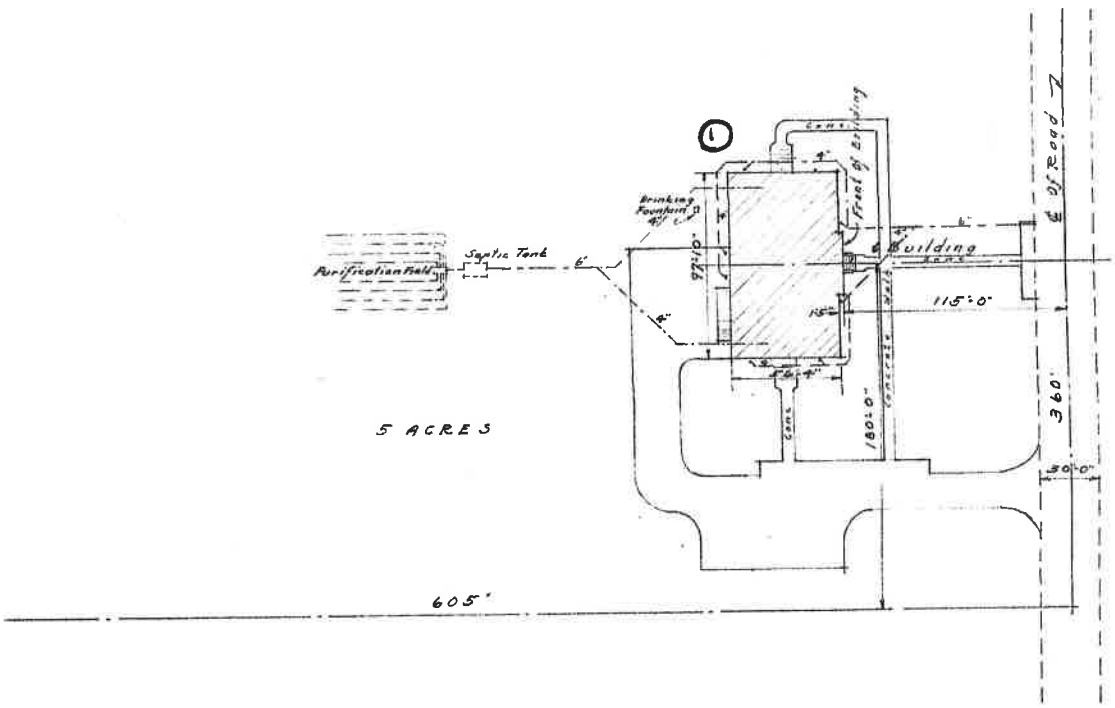
(map not to scale)



Sketch Map

Arcola Elementary School
VDHR No. 053-0983
Loudoun County, Virginia
November 29, 2012
School - Contributing (C)

Exterior Photo Key Plan
Arvila - Elementary
2020 050
Lavidan County.
Pennsylvania Ave
Photo Key
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
N



① Primary Resource
Arcola Elementary
contributing

PLOT PLAN
Scale 1" = 50'

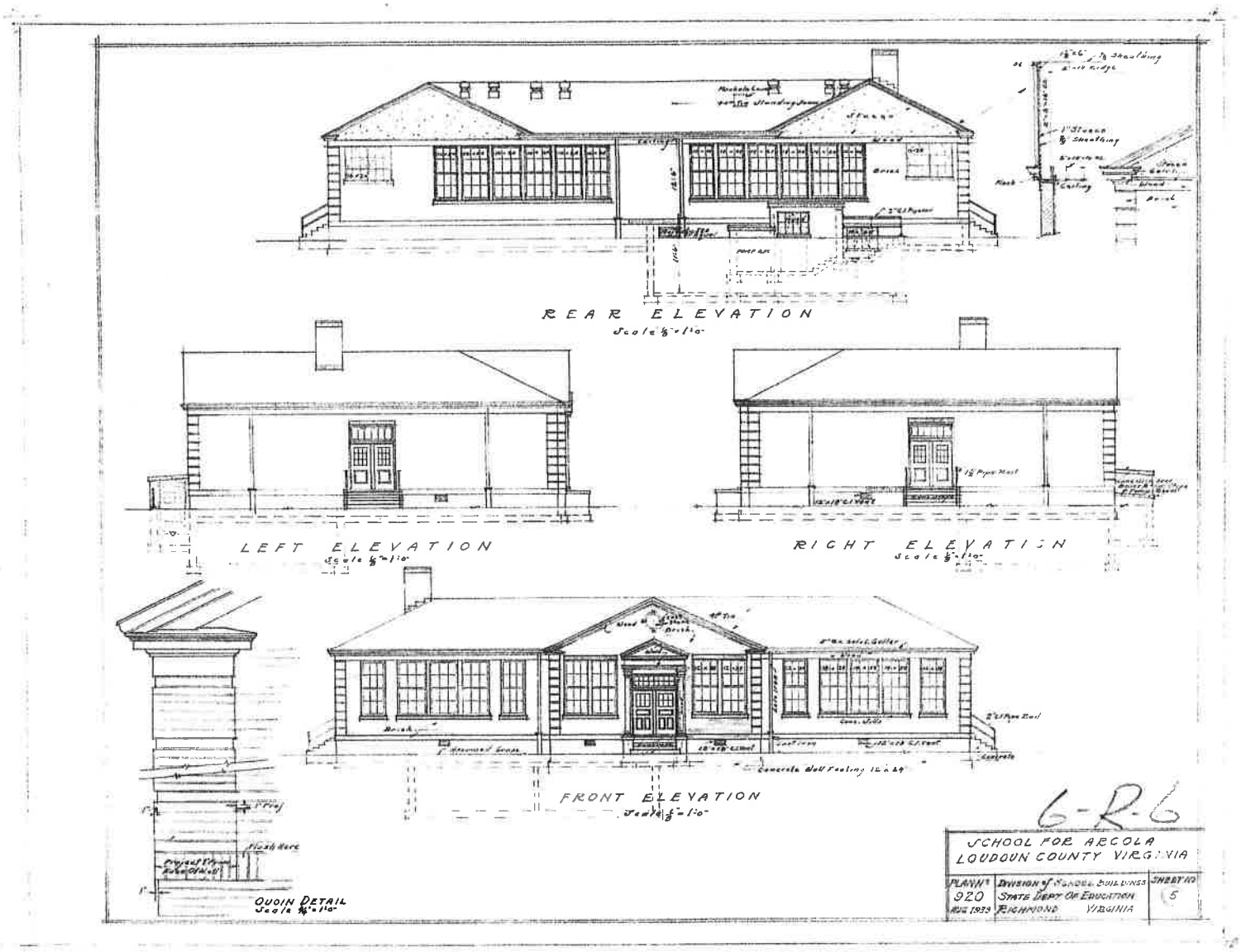
NOTE:- These Plans Include Sheets 1 To 7
And Details 2-X-7A-7B No. 10-No. 13
No. 3-No. 9A-No 10-11-No 15-S

SCHOOL FOR ARCOLA LOUDOUN COUNTY VIRGINIA		
PLAN No 920 AUG 1938	DIVISION of SCHOOL BUILDINGS STATE DEPT OF EDUCATION RICHMOND VIRGINIA	SHEET NO 1 131.000

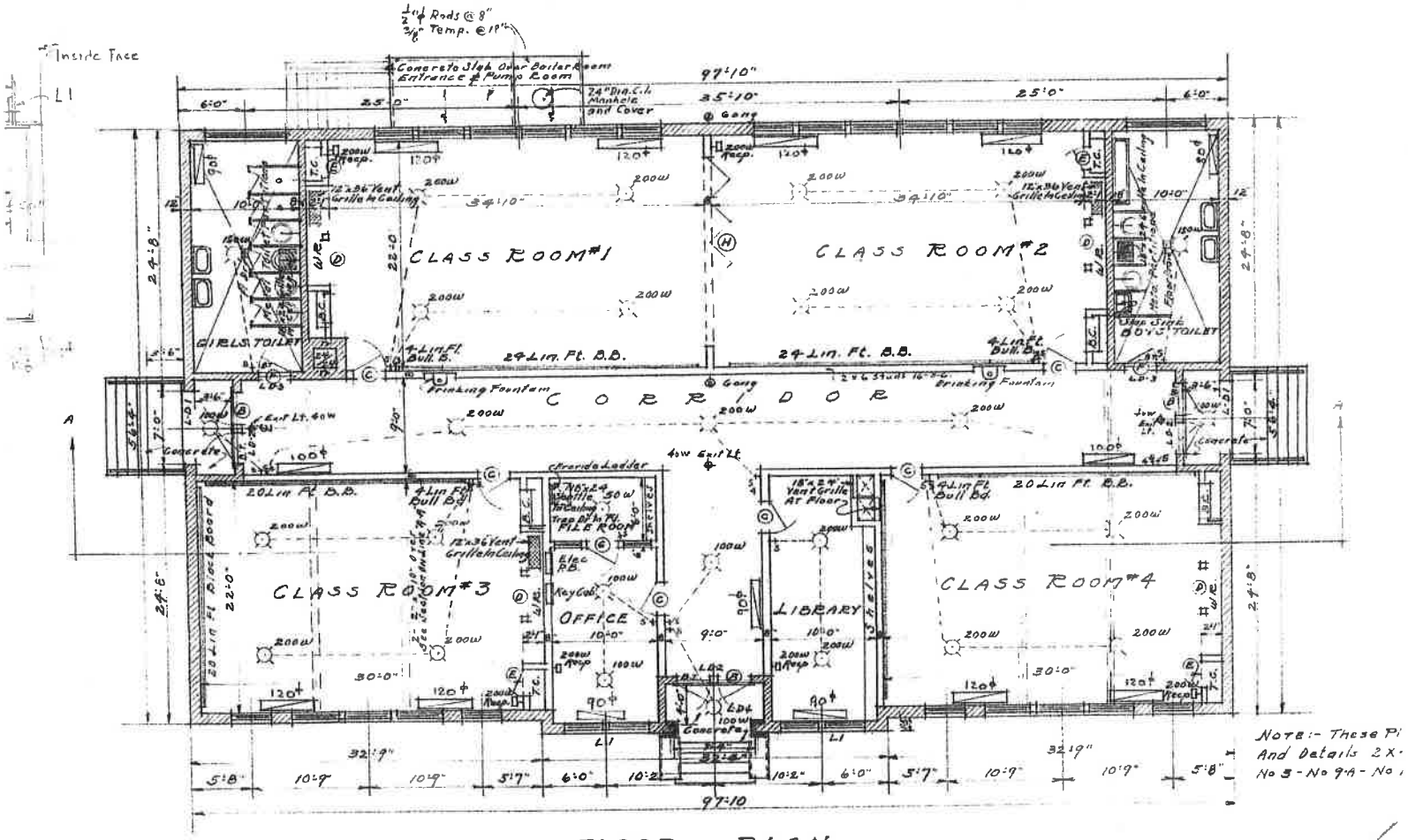
6-R-6

Original Site Plan

ARCOLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA
DHR: 053-0982



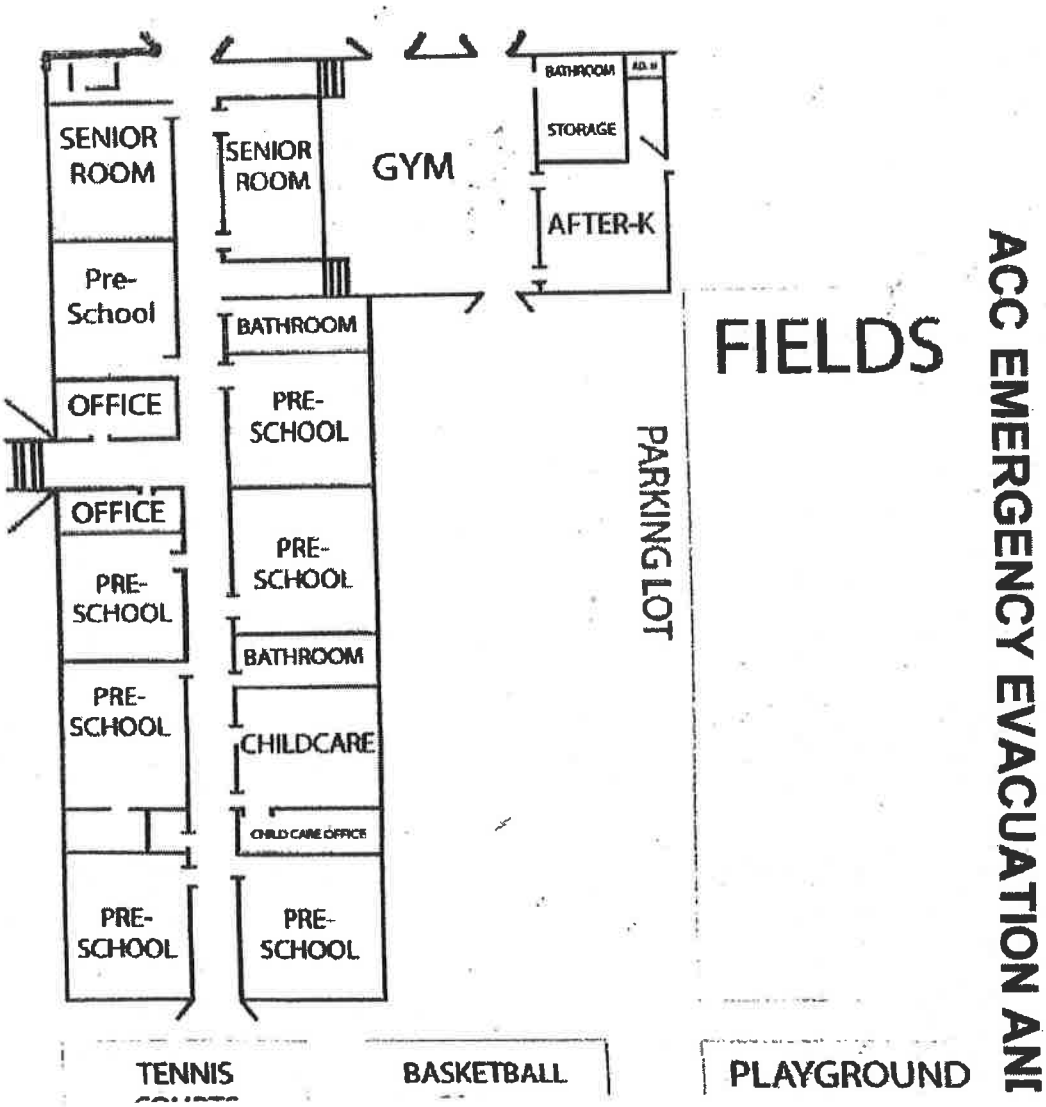
Arcola Elementary School
VDHR No. 053-0983
Loudoun County, Virginia
VSBE, Arcola Elementary, 1938



FLOOR PLAN
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

SCHOOL FOR
LOUDOUN COUI

Arcola Elementary School
VDHR No. 053-0983
Loudoun County, Virginia
VSBE, Arcola Elementary, 1938



Arcola School
Floor plan when used as a community center

N

ACCESSIBLE

VSBE

YHK-6527

DO NOT
ENTER

EXIT
www.Loudoun.gov/PRCS