

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Christchurch SchoolOther names/site number: VDHR ID# 059-5480

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 218 Christchurch LaneCity or town: Saluda State: Virginia County: Middlesex

Not For Publication:

☐ N/A

Vicinity:

☒ X**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

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

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(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 ☐

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: School

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

BRICK, STONE: Slate, ASPHALT, CONCRETE, 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

Christchurch School includes a collection of buildings, structures, and landscapes that have comprised the school campus from its founding in 1921 to the present day. While the school has expanded throughout its century of operation, it retains the same general location, setting, and architectural character as it did when it opened its doors in 1921 and underwent its initial period of growth. Christchurch School consists of roughly 79 acres of rural landscape on the south bank of the Rappahannock River in central Middlesex County, roughly two miles southeast of Urbanna. Within the historic district are a variety of buildings, athletic fields, designed landscapes, and other manmade features, and it has a total of 25 primary buildings, 2 primary structures, and 4 primary sites in addition to 14 secondary buildings and 2 secondary structures. A majority of the academic, administrative, and athletic buildings are concentrated at its core with a number of residential and other support buildings generally situated on the fringes of the campus. The extant resources on campus were constructed between 1921 and 2020, though most were constructed during two major expansion phases in the 1920s and 1960s. Of all the resources included in the district, 15 primary buildings, 1 primary structure, and 1 primary site are contributing to the historic district. The remaining primary resources are noncontributing as they either do not fall within the period of significance for the district (1921-1972), have compromised historical integrity, or are not associated with those aspects of the college's history of development that contribute to its significance.

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

Narrative Description

Christchurch School includes roughly 79 acres of the campus that comprises the current central academic core of the institution. This area includes the academic and recreational buildings at the center of campus and the residences associated with the school to its east and north.¹ The core of the campus is situated atop a grassy knoll overlooking the Rappahannock River with much of the rest of campus consisting of cleared and/or athletic fields. Wooded areas border the district on most sides. The earliest buildings associated with the school at the center of campus are situated in close proximity to each other encircling a central green and are generally oriented due north or east. This core of original buildings is roughly enclosed by Christchurch Lane to the south, Hibble Road to the north, Seahorse Lane to the west, and Bell Tower Circle to the east. On the south side of Christchurch Lane is the primary athletic and recreational complex, which consists of several large buildings and sports fields arranged in a more irregular fashion than the core of campus. Residences associated with the school, primarily functioning as faculty housing, are removed from the center of campus, and set along Christchurch Lane to the south and Hibble Road to the north. Ancillary structures such as sheds and garages are relegated to the fringes of the district and the modern sailing pavilion comprises the northernmost building associated with the school, but is discontinuous from the campus, accessed by Hibble Road and separated by other private properties. It is outside of the boundaries associated with the historic campus and as such, is not included in the boundaries of the historic district.

Christchurch's earliest buildings, which continue to comprise the nucleus of the school both spatially and symbolically, reflect the school's founding mission to provide quality education to a small, select group of students. Initially, each of the imposing, elaborately ornamented Colonial Revival buildings served a unique purpose, including a dormitory and academic building, quarters for the head of the school, a gymnasium, and a chapel. The architectural detailing of these buildings is consistent with national and regional trends among academic architecture during the 1920s.

Just outside the core of campus, the buildings and structures maintain their substantial proportions but are less elaborately ornamented and arranged more irregularly, signifying the school's need to provide more and updated facilities in short order to accommodate the ever-increasing number of applicants in the mid- and late twentieth century. In general, the buildings furthest from the center of campus are the least architecturally ornamented.

The buildings within and immediately around the core are connected by a network of brick and concrete paths and walkways. The walkways mostly follow straight and geometric alignments with some curvilinear routes through greenspaces and around buildings, connecting with roads, drives, and parking lots in some areas. Between the earliest buildings on campus, the walkways generally follow their original paths, however, some appear to have been rebuilt in areas. Among the later buildings, the walkways reflect similar geometry as the those at the core of campus. Landscaping within the district consists of intentionally arranged rows of boxwoods, flowering crepe myrtles

¹ A sailing pavilion associated with the school is located on the Rappahannock shoreline north of campus, however this site is not considered part of the historic district.

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

and other shrubs, and a variety of mature deciduous and coniferous trees throughout the core of campus. Further away from the center of campus, vegetation is more organic in layout, but still includes a variety of planted trees, bushes, and shrubs.

Crafton Quarter Road and Christchurch Drive are the primary access roads for the school, both of which extend off of General Puller Highway (Route 33) to the south. The former is entirely paved while the latter is only partially paved with a stretch of gravel road. Likewise, the roads that cross campus – Hibble Road, Seahorse Lane, and Bell Tower Circle – feature a mix of paved and gravel beds. All roads within campus are two-way with light, slow-moving traffic. Parking on campus includes paved lots along Seahorse Lane and Bell Tower Circle, as well as gravel lots off of Christchurch Lane and Crafton Quarter Drive.

Overall, development within the historic district exhibits a cohesive feel and configuration despite multiple phases of development and expansion over nearly a century. In addition to an adherence to general development patterns and consistent landscaping, overarching Colonial Revival themes, brick construction, and compatible additions continue throughout the campus.

Integrity

Overall, Christchurch School and the individual buildings and structures within it exhibit a high level of historic integrity both individually and collectively. The district illustrates distinct and cohesive historic development patterns. Later development is generally compatible with historic resources due to its continued reliance on similar building materials, particularly red brick, classical style (though later more stylized), and appropriate size, scale, and massing, with most buildings set within a verdant landscape. The original pattern of pathways across the earliest part of campus has been maintained and expanded upon amongst the later buildings. Elements of modern infrastructure such as service roads and parking lots, while they cross the center of campus, do not interrupt the original layout of the buildings or pathways, and thus are only minimally intrusive.

The individual buildings and structures within the campus retain a high level of integrity of **location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association**. The Christchurch School campus resources remain in their original locations on the property; therefore, the campus retains integrity of location. The relationships among the buildings, structures, and landscape across the entire property remain consistent with those established historically. The original pattern of pathways across the earliest part of campus has been maintained and expanded upon amongst the later buildings. Elements of modern infrastructure such as service roads and parking lots, while they cross the center of campus, do not interrupt the original layout of the buildings or pathways, and thus are only minimally intrusive. The range of resources demonstrate the evolution of the property through its various phases of development and expansion. Furthermore, the landscape, the relationship of the resources throughout the landscape, and the relationship of resources to open land remains largely unchanged. Therefore, Christchurch School retains integrity of setting, feeling, and association. Furthermore, the architectural resources themselves are generally well preserved. Although some have been modified, the resources retain the physical elements associated with their original design, including the general architectural features, form, and

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

stylized elements. While most buildings exhibit typical, routine maintenance and updates, modifications generally do not detract from historic form or integrity.

On the exterior, replacement doors and windows are the most common alterations, followed by additional wings to provide expanded square footage. In most cases, additions have been designed to blend with and complement the original building. Later development is generally compatible with the historic resources due to its continued reliance on similar building materials, particularly red brick, classical style (though later more stylized), and appropriate size, scale, and massing, with most buildings set within a verdant landscape. Most of the large-scale modern construction on campus utilized many of the same materials and stylistic character of the earlier buildings, thus forms a cohesive landscape with the historic resources. The interiors of many of the buildings, particularly those that function primarily as educational facilities such as dormitories and classrooms, have been modernized and renovated. Public-oriented buildings, including the gymnasium and church, however, maintain more of their historic character on their interiors. Overall, the campus retains good integrity of design, workmanship, and materials.

Inventory

The following inventory identifies all resources located within the historic district boundary. The contributing status of each resource within the district was determined based on the association to the recognized areas of significance, construction date, and retention of historical integrity based upon the period of significance 1921 to 1972. A total of 31 primary resources are located within the historic district, of which 17 are considered to be contributing and 14 are considered noncontributing. The inventory is arranged alphabetically by street and resource name.

Bell Tower Circle

Puller Science Center, 184 Bell Tower Circle 059-5480-0004

Primary Resource: **Classroom Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Modernist, 2010**

Non-contributing Total: 1

The Puller Science Center was constructed in 2010 and remains in good condition. The building exhibits a Modernist style with a variation of Postmodernism drawing elements from the Colonial Revival style and is draws design elements from the Faye Residence Hall. Although built nearly 90 years later, the science center features the same brick Flemish cross bond construction and foundation as nearby Bishop Brown Hall. It is comprised of two two-story brick blocks connected by an enclosed frame breezeway. The primary block is topped by a side gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles with small parapets obstructing the ridge of the roof on either gable end. Centered on the symmetrical front (west) elevation is a double-leaf entrance flanked by full-height, fixed windows and sheltered by a full-height, partial-width, gabled porch partially enclosed by a brick veneer. The rear block rests on a continuous brick foundation separated from the first level by a brick water table and topped by a similar roof as the primary block. Interior metal chimney flues pierce both slopes of the roof. Fenestration includes multi-light fixed windows and two-over-two double-hung sash windows. Secondary entrances include both single- and double-leaf glass doors on the rear block and connecting

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

breezeway. At the northern junction of the two blocks is a two-story glass curtain wall of a zig-zag form.

Scott-Taylor Hall, 202 Bell Tower Circle

059-5480-0011

Primary Resource: **Classroom Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, 1951**
Contributing Total: 1

Scott-Taylor Hall was constructed in 1951 and remains in good condition. The one-story Colonial Revival building is constructed of brick laid in a Flemish cross bond and rests on a continuous foundation of the same construction. As the building is situated on a steep slope, the foundation and basement level rest only partially below-grade. It is topped by a hipped roof sheathed in asphalt shingles and embellished with modillions lining the cornice. A brick interior central chimney pierces the west slope of the roof. Interrupting the elevations are large eight-over-eight double-hung sash windows with brick sills. The primary entrance consists of a single door flanked by sidelights set within a one-bay inset entry porch on the front (north) elevation. Both the door and the porch are framed by fluted Doric pilasters and dentils line the entablature of the porch. Secondary entrances leading to the basement are located on the south and west elevations, respectively, each accessed by a small, below-grade set of steps. The entrance on the south elevation is sheltered by a one-story, one-bay gabled entry porch supported by square Doric columns.

Faculty Housing, 36 Bell Tower Circle

059-5480-0009

Primary Resource: **Apartment Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 2005**

Non-contributing Total: 1

The faculty housing at 36 Bell Tower Circle was constructed circa 2005 and remains in good condition. It exhibits a simplified Colonial Revival style. The two-story, five-bay wood frame building rests on a continuous concrete block foundation and is topped by a side gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. A small cross gable is centered on the front slope of the roof. The front elevation is clad in an American bond brick veneer while the other elevations are clad in vinyl siding. Fenestration includes single and paired six-over-six double-hung sash windows. The primary entrance consists of a single door centered on the symmetrical front (northwest) elevation sheltered by a one-story, one-bay gabled entry porch.

Faye Residence Hall, 45 Bell Tower Circle

059-5480-0008

Primary Resource: **Dormitory/Barracks (Building), Stories 2, Style: Modernist, 1988**

Non-contributing Total: 1

Faye Residence Hall was constructed in 1988 and remains in good condition. The building retains subtle Postmodern and Colonial Revival style influences. While constructed over 60 years after some of the original buildings on campus, the building is constructed in the same modified brick bond as Marston, Scott-Taylor, and Bishop Brown halls. It rests on a brick foundation, separated from the first story by a brick water table. The L-shaped building is topped by a cross-gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles and embellished with gable returns. Interrupting the roof are three brick interior end chimneys and four small, cross gables on its west slope as well as a large cross gable on the north slope. Fenestration includes single and

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

grouped one-over-one double-hung sash windows as well as a small, single-light fixed windows and larger, multi-light fixed windows. The primary entrance consists of a single metal door centered on the symmetrical front (south) elevation at the front of a one-story, one-bay segmented porch enclosed by a brick veneer. The porch is topped by a flat roof and approached by a small set of concrete steps. Another single-leaf entrance is located on the east elevation centered beneath the ridge of the gable roof.

Dining Hall, 49 Bell Tower Circle

059-5480-0007

Primary Resource: **Dining Hall (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1921**

Contributing Total: 1

The Dining Hall at 49 Bell Tower Circle was constructed in circa 1921 and remains in good condition. The Colonial Revival style building now serves as faculty housing. The one-and-a-half-story masonry building rests on a continuous brick foundation and clad in brick laid in an American bond. It is topped by a cross-gable roof formed due to a one-and-a-half story brick addition on its west elevation. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and embellished with gable returns. Several shed dormers are located on the roof and a brick exterior-end chimney is set on the north side of the structure. Fenestration includes one-over-one and four-over-four double-hung sash windows. The primary entrance is centered on the symmetrical front (south) elevation and consists of a partially glazed single paneled door flanked by sidelights and topped by a transom. The entrance is approached by a small concrete stoop and sheltered by a one-bay hipped awning. A one-story screened-in porch topped by a hipped roof is attached addition connecting this building to Faye Residence Hall.

Faculty Housing, 50 Bell Tower Circle

059-5480-0006

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Contemporary, Ca 1972**

Contributing Total: 1

The faculty housing at 50 Bell Tower Circle was constructed circa 1972, according to school records. It remains in good condition and exhibits a Contemporary style. The one-story, L-shaped wood frame structure rests on a continuous concrete block foundation that is only partially below-grade as the structure rests on a steeply sloping lot. It is topped by a hipped roof sheathed in asphalt shingles and interrupted by inset skylights on its west slope. Interrupting the vertical vinyl siding are six-over-six double-hung sash and single-light fixed windows. The primary entrance consists of a single door on the front (west) elevation approached by an unsheltered, two-bay wood deck.

Secondary Resource: **Chicken House/Poultry House (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: **Well (Structure)**

Contributing Total: 1

Utility Buildings, Bell Tower Circle

059-5480-0005

Primary Resource: **Shed (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernable, Ca 1990**

Non-contributing Total: 1

Just off the east corner of the Puller Science Center are two small, utility buildings. A review of both the buildings' form and construction and historic aerials depicting these structures indicate that they were constructed circa 1990. They are in fair condition and were constructed

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

in the vicinity of an historic water pump. The first is a one-story concrete block building resting on a concrete block foundation and topped by a gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The second is a small, one-story concrete block building clad in a brick veneer and topped by a flat concrete roof. This building features a double-leaf metal entrance on its south elevation, which appears to be the only bay on the building.

Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**

Non-contributing Total: 1

Christchurch Drive

Baseball Field, Christchurch Drive

059-5480-0020

Primary Resource: **Athletic Field/Court (Site), Stories n/a, Style: No discernable, Ca 2001**

Non-contributing Total: 1

The baseball field remains in use and in good condition. As evidenced by a review of historic maps and aerials of the area, it appears that the current location of the field was created circa 2001, coinciding with the construction of the Robert S. Phipps Fieldhouse. A traditional baseball field, the site consists of a dugout and adjacent open field with four general corners. The northeast and northwest sides of the field are enclosed by tall chain link fencing and two sets of sheltered players' benches are located near its north corner.

Secondary Resource: **Shelter (Building)**

Non-contributing Total: 2

Fieldhouse, Football Field, and Track, Christchurch Drive

059-5480-0021

Primary Resource: **Athletic Field/Court (Site), Stories n/a, Style: No discernable, Ca 1988**

Non-contributing Total: 1

The football field remains in use and in good condition. As evidenced by a newspaper article, it appears that this field was constructed in 1988 replacing a former field that had been there. A traditional football field, the site consists of an open field marked on either end with goal posts and encircled by a paved running track. The field is entirely enclosed by a wood picket fence.

Secondary Resource: **Shelter (Building)**

Non-contributing Total: 1

Christchurch Lane

114 Christchurch Lane

059-5480-0022

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, 1924**

Contributing Total: 1

The faculty housing located at 114 Christchurch Lane was constructed circa 1924 according to the site visit and school records. It remains in good condition and exhibits Colonial Revival style influences. The two-story masonry building rests on a continuous foundation and is entirely clad in a brick veneer with a brick water table extending along the top of the foundation on all elevations. It is topped by a hipped roof sheathed in standing seam metal and flanked by a brick exterior end chimney on its south side. Fenestration on the building includes six-over-

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

one and eight-over-one double-hung sash windows of varying size. The primary entrance is located on the front (west) elevation within a one-story, full-width porch topped by a hipped roof supported by brick piers and enclosed with screening. Ornamentation on the building includes belt courses extending between the first and second stories and along the wall just below the eaves of the roof, as well as large, molded wood brackets lining the cornice

Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

Faculty Housing, 126 Christchurch Lane

059-5480-0024

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1970**

Contributing Total: 1

The faculty housing at 126 Christchurch Lane was constructed circa 1970 according to school records and historic aerial photographs. It remains in good condition and exhibits a Ranch style. The one-story masonry building rests on a continuous foundation clad in a brick veneer and is topped by a side gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The roof is pierced by a brick interior central chimney at its ridge and interrupted by a small, cross-gabled wing on its front slope. Interrupting the brick veneer siding are two-over-two double-hung sash windows and a large picture window to the left of the entrance. The primary entrance consists of a single door set on the front (south) elevation sheltered by a one-bay gabled entry porch featuring turned wood posts. A small, one-story frame wing topped by a side gable roof and clad in vinyl siding is attached to the east side of the structure.

Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**

Contributing Total: 2

Faculty Housing, 138 Christchurch Lane

059-5480-0023

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Ranch, Ca 1970**

Contributing Total: 1

The faculty housing at 138 Christchurch Lane was constructed circa 1970 according to school records and historic aeriels. It remains in good condition and exhibits a Ranch style. The one-story masonry building rests on a continuous foundation clad in a brick veneer and is topped by a side-gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The roof is pierced by a brick interior central chimney at its ridge and interrupted by a small, cross-gabled wing on its front slope. Interrupting the brick veneer siding are two-over-two double-hung sash windows as well as a large picture window to the right of the primary entrance. The entrance consists of a single door located on the front (south) elevation sheltered by a one-bay flat awning and approached by a small brick stoop. A small, one-story frame wing topped by a side-gable roof and clad in vinyl siding is attached to the west side of the structure.

Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

Faculty Housing, 184 Christchurch Lane

059-5480-0010

Primary Resource: **Apartment Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Contemporary, 1955**

Contributing Total: 1

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

The faculty housing at 184 Christchurch Lane was constructed in 1955 according to newspaper article. It remains in good condition and exhibits a Contemporary style. The two-story wood frame duplex rests on a continuous foundation clad in a brick veneer and is topped by a side gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. Piercing the ridge of the roof is a brick interior central chimney. The lower level is clad in a brick veneer while the upper level is clad in vinyl siding. Fenestration on the building includes single and grouped two-over-two and six-over-six double-hung sash windows. Two entrances are located on the front (west) elevation, each consisting of a single door set within an inset porch. Small, one-story gabled wings are located on the north and south sides of the structure.

Saint Peter's Chapel, 214 Christchurch Lane

059-5480-0012

Primary Resource: **Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, 1927**

Contributing Total: 1

Saint Peter's Chapel, formerly known as the Scott Memorial Chapel, was constructed in 1927 according to Christchurch School records. It remains in good condition and exhibits Colonial Revival style influences. The one-and-a-half-story building is constructed of brick laid in a Flemish bond and rests on a continuous foundation of the same construction. It is topped by a front gable roof sheathed in slate shingles with a low, flat parapets and modillions lining the molded cornice. Interrupting the façades are large twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash windows featuring segmented transoms and arched brick lintels with concrete keystones. Other windows include smaller six-over-six double-hung sash windows near the rear of the building. A one-story segmented wing topped by a metal-sheathed domed roof houses the apse on the south side of the building. The primary entrance consists of a double-leaf entrance centered on the symmetrical front (north) elevation with a full door surround featuring Doric columns and dentils. The entrance is sheltered by the second-story balcony, which is only accessible via a Palladian door on the interior upper level of the building. This balcony is supported by molded wood scroll brackets and enclosed by a wood balustrade.

Jordan-Green Locker Rooms, 227 Christchurch Lane

059-5480-0018

Primary Resource: **Gymnasium (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 2012**

Non-contributing Total: 1

The Jordan-Green Locker Rooms building, located at 227 Christchurch Lane, remains in good condition and exhibit subtle Colonial Revival style influences. A review of historic aerials suggest that this building was constructed circa 2012. The one-story wood frame building is clad in vinyl siding and topped by a gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles with a flat-roofed extension on its east side. The roof is embellished with pedimented gables and dentils lining the cornice. Fenestration consists of large windows, all of which were shuttered at the time of survey. Multiple single-leaf entrances are located on the building, some of which are sheltered by single-bay inset porches.

Marston Hall, 228 Christchurch Lane

059-5480-0013

Primary Resource: **Gymnasium (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, 1927**

Contributing Total: 1

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

Marston Hall was constructed in 1927 according to the school's records. It remains in good condition and exhibits Colonial Revival style influences. The one-story building is constructed with brick laid in a Flemish cross bond and rests on a continuous foundation of the same construction that rises several feet above-grade. A brick water table extends between the foundation and first story, and a brick belt course extends around the building just beneath the eaves of the roof. The building is topped by a hipped roof sheathed in slate shingles and interrupted by small, pedimented gables on its north and south slopes. A brick exterior end chimney is located on the west elevation. Fenestration on the building includes large, multi-light fixed windows and clerestory windows. The primary entrance consists of a double-leaf entrance with a transom and molded door surround centered on a gable porch on the east elevation. The porch is enclosed with brick laid in a Flemish cross bond and is approached by a small set of concrete steps.

**Wilmer Hall / Miller Hall / Robert M. Yarborough Gymnasium, 245 Christchurch Lane
059-5480-0017**

Primary Resource: **Classroom Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Modernist, 1964**

Contributing Total: 1

Although the school identifies Wilmer Hall, Miller Hall, and Robert M. Yarborough Gymnasium as three separate facilities, this resource was recorded as a single building as the three halls are connected. Between each of the facilities are open breezeways sheltered by the main roof and supported by brick piers. The combined buildings have a Modernist style with Wrightian influences. Wilmer Hall, the earliest and easternmost block in the building in 1964, is a one-story concrete block building resting on a concrete slab foundation and topped by a flat roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The eaves of the roof feature exposed rafters that extend a few feet beyond the exterior walls. The east and west elevations are clad in a brick veneer while the north and south elevations are clad in concrete block. Fenestration on the block includes small, fixed windows near the eaves of the roof and portions of the wall on all elevations are occupied by large window panels. Several single-leaf glass and metal entrances are located on each elevation. Miller Hall, which comprises the central block of the building, was constructed in 1966. The one-story masonry building is entirely clad in a brick veneer and rests on a concrete slab foundation. Like Wilmer Hall, this block is topped by a flat roof sheathed in asphalt shingles with exposed rafters extending a few feet beyond the exterior walls. Fenestration on the block is limited to small, fixed windows. Several entrances are located on each elevation, generally consisting of single-leaf metal entrances, some of which featuring transoms and sidelights. Yarbrough Gym was constructed in 1966 and comprises the westernmost block. While the block features similar construction as the other two blocks – a one-story masonry building clad in a brick veneer – it is taller than the other facilities. Additionally, rather than being sheltered by a flat roof, it is topped by a gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. No windows are visible on the building; however several single-leaf metal entrances are located on the south and east elevations. The bays on the north elevation are separated by brick pilasters with the central pilaster ornamented with a tiled mosaic depicting a seahorse, the school's mascot. Attached to the east side of the gym is an office topped by a flat roof and enclosed by full-height window panels. It features a glass, double-leaf primary

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

entrance a brick interior end chimney on its south side. Other wings include a couple utility sheds attached to its south side

Crafton Quarter Road

Garage, 297 Crafton Quarter Road

059-5480-0016

Primary Resource: **Garage (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernable, Ca 1965**

Contributing Total: 1

The garage at 297 Crafton Quarter Road remains in fair condition and exhibits no discernable style. As evidenced by its form and construction and a review of aeriels, the garage was constructed circa 1965 with a large addition circa 1970. The one-story wood frame building is clad in vertical siding and covered by a side-gable roof. On its east elevation is a one-story concrete block addition on an asphalt slab foundation and is topped by a side gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. Fenestration includes multi-light fixed windows. Multiple single-leaf pedestrian entrances are located on the south and east elevations. Other entrances on the structure include several large garage doors.

Robert S. Phipps Fieldhouse, Crafton Quarter Road

059-5480-0019

Primary Resource: **Gymnasium (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernable, 2001**

Non-contributing Total: 1

The Robert S. Phipps Fieldhouse was constructed in 2001 according to the school's records. It remains in good condition and exhibits no discernable style. The large, rectangular, one-story frame building is largely clad in metal siding and rests on a continuous foundation clad in a brick veneer that extends several feet up the façade. It is topped by a shallow front gable roof sheathed in standing seam metal. No windows are visible on the building; however, large metal garage doors are centered on the east and west elevations. Other entrances include double-leaf metal pedestrian entrances located on either side of each garage door, as well as a handful of secondary garage doors and pedestrian entrances on the north and south elevations. An open, two-bay equipment shed sheltered by a shed roof is attached to the south side of the building.

Hibble Road

Faculty Housing, 221 Hibble Road

059-5480-0028

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 2020**

Non-contributing Total: 1

The faculty housing at 221 Hibble Road remains in good condition and exhibits a Ranch style. An inspection of recent aeriels indicates that this building was constructed circa 2020. The one-story wood frame structure rests on a continuous concrete block foundation and is topped by a side gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. Interrupting the vinyl siding are single and paired six-over-one double-hung sash windows. The primary entrance consists of a single door on the front (north) elevation sheltered by a gabled entry porch. A secondary entrance, also sheltered by a gabled entry porch, is located on the west side of the building.

Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**

Non-contributing Total: 1

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

Faculty Housing, 223 Hibble Road

059-5480-0027

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 2020

Non-contributing Total: 1

The faculty housing at 223 Hibble Road remains in good condition and exhibits a Ranch style. An inspection of recent aerials indicates that this building was constructed circa 2020. The one-story wood frame building rests on a continuous concrete block foundation and is topped by a side gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. Interrupting the vinyl siding are single and paired six-over-one double-hung sash windows. The primary entrance consists of a single door on the front (north) elevation sheltered by a gabled entry porch. A secondary entrance, also sheltered by a gabled entry porch, is located on the east side of the building.

Faculty Housing, 225 Hibble Road

059-5480-0026

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 2020

Non-contributing Total: 1

The faculty housing at 225 Hibble Road remains in good condition and exhibits a Ranch style. An inspection of recent aerials indicates that this building was constructed circa 2020. The one-story wood frame building rests on a continuous concrete block foundation and is topped by a side gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. Interrupting the vinyl siding are single and paired six-over-one double-hung sash windows. The primary entrance consists of a single door on the front (east) elevation sheltered by a gabled entry porch. A secondary entrance, also sheltered by a gabled entry porch, is located on the north side of the building.

Faculty Housing, 231 Hibble Road

059-5480-0025

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1970

Non-contributing Total: 1

The faculty housing at 231 Hibble Road remains in good condition and exhibits a Ranch style. An inspection of recent aerials indicates that this building was constructed circa 2020. The one-story wood frame structure rests on a continuous concrete block foundation and is topped by a side gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. Interrupting the vinyl siding are single and paired six-over-one double-hung sash windows. The primary entrance consists of a single door on the front (south) elevation sheltered by a gabled entry porch. A secondary entrance, also sheltered by a gabled entry porch, is located on the east side of the building.

Soccer Field, Hibble Road

059-5480-0029

Primary Resource: Playing Field (Site), Stories n/a, Style: No discernible style, 1988

Non-contributing Total: 1

The soccer field remains in use and in good condition. As evidenced by a newspaper article, it appears that this field was laid out in 1988. A traditional soccer field, the site consists of an open field marked on either end with goal nets.

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 2

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

Sewage Treatment Plant, Hibble Road

059-5480-0030

Primary Resource: Sewage/Water Works (Structure), Stories n/a, Style: No discernable, Ca 2015

Non-contributing Total: 1

The sewage treatment plant was originally established circa 1953 according to a school official and a new system was put into place circa 2015, in looking at aerials. It consists of a rectangular poured concrete reservoir set mostly below-grade and rising only roughly a foot above the ground. Several round well caps and metal panels are located on top of the treatment plant.

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 2

Secondary Resource: Well (Structure)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Tennis Court, Hibble Road

059-5480-0031

Primary Resource: Tennis Court (Site), Stories n/a, Style: No discernable, 1964

Contributing Total: 1

The tennis courts remain in use and in fair condition. As evidenced by a review of historic maps and a newspaper notice, it appears that courts were established in 1964 as a series of six. A traditional tennis court, the site now consists of four adjacent courts, each divided by a net. The site is paved in asphalt and enclosed by a tall, wire fence supported by wood posts.

Seahorse Lane

Bishop Brown Hall, 218 Seahorse Lane

059-5480-0002

Primary Resource: Administration Building, Stories 2.5, Style: Colonial Revival, 1923

Contributing Total: 1

Bishop Brown Hall was constructed in 1923 as one of Christchurch School's earliest buildings according to the school's records. It remains in a remarkably well-preserved condition and exhibits a Colonial Revival style with grand proportions for a rural educational building. The two-and-a-half-story, T-shaped structure is comprised of a five-bay, three-pile north block with a three-bay, multi-pile rear central ell on its south side. It is constructed of brick laid in a Flemish cross bond and rests on a continuous foundation of the same construction with a water table separating the first story and the partially below-grade basement. The cross-gable roof is sheathed in slate shingles and pierced by several hipped dormers on each slope. A small cross gable is centered on the north slope of the north block and two exterior end chimneys are located on either gable end of the block. Fenestration on the structure includes a variety of single and paired fixed and double-hung sash windows, primarily nine-over-nine and twelve-over-twelve windows on the lower two levels and six-over-six windows on the upper half story. Segmented windows are located the gable ends flanking the chimneys and some the windows feature segmented pediments or transoms. The primary entrance consists of a single door centered on the south elevation within a one-story, one-bay porch enclosed by a brick veneer and approached by two sets of concrete steps. The porch features square Doric pilasters and a full entablature lined with modillions. Other ornamentation on the structure includes gable returns on the roof and modillions lining the molded cornice, as well as a parapet extends above

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

the roof on the south elevation. Secondary entrances on the building include double-leaf entrances on its east and west elevations, some of which are located on the basement level.

John G. Scott Residence Hall / Murrell Dormitory, 63 Seahorse Lane 059-5480-0015
Primary Resource: Dormitory/Barracks (Building), Stories 3, Style: Modernist, 1962
Contributing Total: 1

The residence hall at 63 Seahorse Lane is comprised of the John G. Scott Residence Hall and Murrell Dormitory, constructed in 1962 and 1990, respectively. While the two blocks are identified as separate facilities, the two are attached and, as such, were recorded as a single resource for the purpose of this survey. The John G. Scott Residence Hall features a Modernist style while the Murrell Dormitory has more Colonial Revival features. The John G. Scott Residence Hall is a three-story structure constructed of brick laid in a 5:1 American bond resting on a continuous concrete foundation. The basement level is only partially below-grade as the structure is situated on a steep slope. It is topped by a hipped roof sheathed in asphalt shingles and flanked by two large, brick exterior end chimneys on its west elevation. Murrell Dormitory, attached to the north side of the Scott Residence Hall, is a three-story, T-shaped masonry structure clad in a veneer of brick laid in a stretcher bond. The front block of the dormitory is topped by a side-oriented gambrel roof and the rear block is topped by a hipped roof, both of which are sheathed in asphalt shingles.

Headmaster's Residence, 76 Seahorse Lane 059-5480-0001
Primary Resource: Administration Building, Stories 2.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1921
Contributing Total: 1

The Headmaster's House, constructed circa 1921 around the time that the school opened, remains in a remarkably well-preserved condition. The two-and-a-half-story, five-bay Colonial Revival structure is constructed of brick laid in a Flemish bond and rests on a continuous foundation of the same construction. It is topped by a side gable roof sheathed in slate shingles and flanked by three brick exterior end chimneys, each laid in a Flemish bond with corbeled caps. A one-story rear ell topped by a steeply pitched front gable roof is located on the west side of the structure. Other blocks on the structure include a one-story brick and wood frame wing on its north elevation and a one-story concrete block wing on its south elevation. Three gabled dormers embellished with gable returns are located on both the front and rear slopes of the main roof. Fenestration on the structure includes French windows with brick lintels on the lower level of the structure and six-over-six double-hung sash windows on the upper levels of the structure. The structure also features segmented windows within the gable ends flanking the chimneys and a single Palladian window on the rear elevation. A two-story porch shelters the full façade, consisting of a flat roof supported by square Doric columns and pilasters, lending the house an element of Neoclassical Revival. The single-leaf primary entrance features sidelights and a shallow fan light with metal tracery. Ornamentation on the structure includes a molded cornice lined with modillions with skirts within the main gable ends. Additionally, each bay on the symmetrical five-bay façade is framed by the supports of the porch.

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

Bell Tower, Seahorse Lane

059-5480-0003

Primary Resource: **Bell Tower/Carillon (Structure), Style: Colonial Revival, 1929**

Contributing Total: 1

The Bell Tower on the Christchurch School campus was constructed in 1929 according to the school's records. It remains in good condition and features Colonial Revival detailing. The one-story, square building is constructed of brick laid in a Flemish bond and rests on a foundation of the same construction. It is topped by a gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles and embellished with gable returns. Additionally, the molded cornice is lined with Greek key fretwork, once more adding a Neoclassical influence to the campus. The corners of the structure are marked with brick Doric pilasters and each of the elevations feature an open archway with concrete keystones.

Pennsylvania Railroad Depot, Seahorse Lane

059-5480-0014

Primary Resource: **Administration Building, Stories 1, Style: No discernable, Ca 1947**

Contributing Total: 1

The Pennsylvania Railroad depot is believed to have been moved to its current location on the Christchurch Campus circa 1947 by school chef Joe Cameron. It remains in good condition and exhibits no discernable style. The one-story, T-shaped wood frame structure rests on a brick pier foundation with concrete block infill. It is topped by a cross-gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles and pierced by two brick interior end chimneys. Interrupting the vinyl siding are single and paired four-over-four and six-over-six double-hung sash windows. The primary entrance consists of a single door centered on the front (east) elevation flanked by sidelights and accessed by a one-story, one-bay porch. The hipped roof of the porch is supported by square posts and approached by a small set of brick steps. Small, one-story wings topped by hipped roofs are attached to the north and south elevations of the structure.

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☒ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1921 – 1972

Significant Dates

1921

1923

1927

1929

1947

1964

1966

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bascom J. Rowlett (Architect)

John Henley Walker, Jr. (Architect)

Nils F. Larson (Architect)

E. Sidney Muire (Builder)

Burgess Construction Company of Richmond (Builder)

R. L. Bulifant & Co. (Builder)

Bryhn and Henderson (Builder)

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Christchurch School is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Education for its association with the Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia, an Episcopalian organization founded in 1920 with the goal of establishing a system of religious schools that would provide reliable, accessible secondary education during a period of rapid population growth and social change in Virginia. Opened in 1921, Christchurch School was one of five private schools originally comprising the new Episcopalian system and, along with the nearby St. Margaret's School for girls in Tappahannock, one of two new schools specifically built by the Episcopal Diocese; it has operated continuously at the present site since its founding. Christchurch School is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its cohesive collection of well-designed buildings that reflect the changing values of the school and architectural trends in educational design throughout the 20th century. Following an initial growth period in the 1920s that established a nucleus of imposing, elaborately ornamented Colonial Revival buildings, a new wave of construction in the 1950s and 1960s saw the traditional architecture of the campus evolve into a more minimalistic, pragmatic style influenced by Modernist institutional design of the period. The period of significance begins with the construction of the first building and opening of the school in 1921 and ends in 1972, which corresponds to the school opening its doors to female day students for the first time and marks its transition into a coeducational college preparatory school. Christchurch School meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties as it derives its primary significance from its architectural distinction and its historic importance as an educational institution.

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

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Episcopalian schools have been present in Virginia since the first half of the 19th century. Episcopalian Rev. William Meade was among those who founded private academies, creating a boarding school for boys in Alexandria in 1839 and acquiring a school for girls, Virginia Female Institute, in Staunton during the 1850s. Religious elements of education were assumed to be not only relevant to total education but also the source of its strength. Early schoolmasters, whose focus was on the devotion and education of their students rather than profit of the schools, however, found it difficult to find replacements as they neared the end of their careers, and many schools were forced to close. By the first decade of the 20th century, aware of the church's long history with education, many Episcopalians felt the need for a broader and more comprehensive approach to education, and many had the financial means to make a change.²

² John Page Williams, *A History of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia*. vol. 1 (Richmond, VA: Church Schools of the Diocese of Virginia, 1999), 2, 8.

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

Christchurch School had its beginning in 1919, when laymen and clergy of the Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia chose to use proceeds from the nationwide Campaign in the Diocese to establish a system of schools.³ On June 8, 1920, Bishop William Cabell Brown's leadership brought the vision of religious education to strengthen person's character and provide a strong base for education in general to reality by founding the Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia.⁴ This organization would "establish and conduct a system of schools and colleges under the supervision and direction of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia."⁵ The goal was to provide a comprehensive education at a reasonable cost in a time when secondary education was not universally available to American children.⁶

Upon its formation, the organization purchased three existing schools: St. Christopher's School (NRHP 2002, NRIS 02000183; DHR ID 127-5995) and St. Catherine's School (NRHP 2007, NRIS 07000400; DHR ID 127-5886) in Richmond and St. Anne's School in Charlottesville. The following year, it founded St. Margaret's School (DHR ID 310-0022) in Tappahannock, Essex County, and Christchurch School in Middlesex County. St. Agnes' School and St. Stephen's School, both in the city of Alexandria, were added to the conglomerate in 1944.⁷ Each school was relatively independent, operating under their own local board of trustees and staff and with varying character and traditions.⁸

As operations were underway at the schools in Richmond and Charlottesville, a local committee began searching for locations for a new boys' school and a new girls' school in Tidewater Virginia. The Rappahannock Valley Convocation of the Diocese of Virginia embraced the counties of the Northern Neck and the Middle Peninsula of the Commonwealth. When it became clear that the schools would be located within in the Tidewater region, individual citizens, churches, and communities began competing for the honor. Faced with opposing arguments for the schools to be in Urbanna, Fredericksburg, Tappahannock, and Warsaw, a new committee was formed composed of those that lived outside of the region.⁹

The new committee paid particular attention to accessibility to the schools via or over the Rappahannock and the presence of roads, noting that schools' location should be at points accessible both to the Tidewater area and the rest of the diocese to encourage rapid enrollment growth. The committee also took into account "community health, civic enterprise, public spirit, and public interest in education, morality, culture, and religion...medical facilities, hotel accommodations for visiting parents, the character of each proposed site, the nearness to parish churches and rectories, and the opportunities for interschool activities."¹⁰ As such, the recommendation was for the girls' school to be at Tappahannock in Essex County and the boys'

³ *Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia* (Richmond, VA: Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia, 1964).

⁴ Williams, *A History of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia*, 210.

⁵ *Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia* 1964.

⁶ Christchurch School, <https://www.christchurchschool.org/at-a-glance/mission-history>, (July 1, 2024).

⁷ Williams, *A History of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia*.

⁸ Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia, Incorporated, "Christchurch School, Christchurch, Virginia Announcements for 1948-1949. (c.1949).

⁹ Williams, *A History of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia*, 33, 36.

¹⁰ Ibid, 36-37.

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

school in Fredericksburg on the Chatham property. The committee also recommended that a second boys' school be established, when funds were available, near Urbanna in Middlesex County.¹¹

Proponents for the Urbanna site indicated that they had secured a \$15,000 option for the purchase of the 108-acre Eastman farm, which was several miles east of Urbanna and adjoining the property of Christ Church. Christ Church Parish was organized in 1666 when the Lancaster and Piankatank parishes merged. The original church was constructed in 1667, and while this building is no longer extant, the present parish building was constructed circa 1715.¹² At that time, a farmhouse stood on the property; other buildings needed to be constructed. Supporters projected "a local subscription likely to exceed \$5,000" and the committee estimated that the total cost for starting a school for boys with an enrollment of fifty at that location would be \$35,000.¹³

When the committee received notification that the Chatham property in Fredericksburg had been sold, it recommended that a school be immediately started in Middlesex County. The committee purchased the 108-acre F.M. Eastman farm and arranged with Christ Church for an additional 10 acres in return for 3½ acres of the Eastman land. The new school was to be named Christchurch School, not to be confused with the Christ Church Parish. Records are not clear on the reason for the discrepancy between the two names. Funds were appropriated for cultivating the farm and providing an electric lighting plant. These transactions illustrate the symbiosis of the parish and the school and exemplify the ingenuity that characterized the real estate and financial operations of the schools and the corporation.¹⁴

Christchurch School opened its doors on September 28, 1921, to ten students, including day and boarding students.¹⁵ These first students hailed from New York, Accomack, Hampton, Norfolk, Gordonsville, Suffolk, King George, and Richmond.¹⁶

Boarding students were housed in the farmhouse, along a few school officials. The farmhouse was "considerably enlarged, remodeled and fitted with all modern improvements" and served as "the present main school building. Here in the family of the Senior Master the ties and influences of the Christian home surround the family of students."¹⁷ With insufficient lodging the first couple of years, the school rented quarters from a nearby residence for students and two masters.¹⁸ A dining hall was under construction when the school opened; this building is now connected to Faye Hall.¹⁹ The new dormitory, Bishop Brown Hall, was designed by Richmond architect Bascomb J.

¹¹ Ibid, 37.

¹² Higgins, *Historic Architectural Resource Survey, Middlesex County, Virginia*, 9-10.

¹³ Ibid, 37-38.

¹⁴ Ibid, 38-40.

¹⁵ *Christchurch School*.

¹⁶ CCS History Timeline (March 3, 2022), Unpublished manuscript, Christchurch School.

¹⁷ Williams, *A History of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia*, 40-41. The early farmhouse was demolished in the 1960s during a building campaign. Gene Phillips, "Christchurch Plans 10-Year Expansion," *Daily Press* (Newport News), April 30, 1961.

¹⁸ Phillips, "Christchurch Plans 10-Year Expansion."

¹⁹ Williams, *A History of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia*, 40.

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

Rowlett and built by local contractor E. Sidney Muire. The building, described in one newspaper article as “one of the most imposing and attractive school buildings in Virginia,” served multiple purposes in addition to dormitory.²⁰ The new dormitory and dining hall were completed in 1923. Likewise, the Headmaster’s Residence was another early building on campus.

While the school was an institution of the Episcopal Church, Christchurch was open to all boys who met the entrance requirements.²¹ A 1923 advertisement for the school described its offerings – “A country boarding school in Tidewater Virginia. Home and Episcopal church influences. Supervised boating, bathing, fishing and hunting. Board and tuition \$400.”²² The school offered high school students preparatory work in Latin, Modern Languages, Mathematics, and English. “A year away from home ties, but under the Christian influence of this school gives an easier and surer graduation to the fuller liberties of college life.”²³ Though in Tidewater Virginia, students in the school’s opening years traveled from as far north as New York and as far south as Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.²⁴

From humble beginnings, the other Church Schools had a net operating surplus by the mid-1920s. However, though it was small, Christchurch School had a deficit and would continue for some time to struggle monetarily. The Rev. John G. Scott became a leading advocate for the school. Scott, and his sister Emma Scott Taylor, donated \$15,000 for the construction of the Scott Memorial Chapel, named in honor of their father, William H. Scott. Wishing for the success of the school, the donation was contingent on the construction of additional necessary buildings, particularly a dormitory. In lieu of this, however, Scott accepted the intention to increase school enrollment, which of course would necessitate new buildings.²⁵

Therefore, despite the school’s debt, the new round of construction was seen as a “prudent investment.”²⁶ The late 1920s saw the completion of a gymnasium (Marston Hall, now classrooms and a performing arts center) and Scott Memorial Chapel (now St. Peter’s Chapel). Marston Hall (1927) was made possible through the donations of Langbourne M. Williams who wished for a “commodious Recreation Hall” that would also have space for classrooms and a store; like Bishop Brown Hall, it was built by E. Sidney Muire. Scott Memorial Chapel was funded by Emma Scott Taylor and John Garlick Scott and named in honor of their father, William Henry Scott. It was noted that “For so young a school to own a chapel of such rare beauty and inspiring and devotional atmosphere is both unusual and fortunate.”²⁷ This was followed in 1929 by the Bell Tower, built at the edge of a bluff to have dramatic views of the Rappahannock River. The Bell Tower became an important aspect of student life with students ringing the bell to tout athletic victories and graduations. By 1929, 102 students were enjoying the school’s new amenities (Figure 1).²⁸

²⁰ “Christchurch School,” *Northern Neck News*, September 28, 1923.

²¹ *Making Men at Christchurch*, Pamphlet, n.d. Library of Virginia.

²² “Christchurch School” (advertisement), *Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch*, July 21, 1923.

²³ “A Special Course to High School Students” (advertisement), *Northern Neck News*, September 22, 1922.

²⁴ “Christchurch School,” *Northern Neck News*, September 28, 1923.

²⁵ Williams, *A History of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia*, 79, 89-90.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 90.

²⁷ “Christchurch School,” *The Virginia Churchman*, on file at Christchurch School, 1931.

²⁸ “102 Christ Church Students Enroll,” *The Richmond News Leader*. September 17, 1929.

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State



Figure 1: Birds eye view of Christchurch School (c.1930) featuring early buildings on the campus: Scott Memorial Chapel, Marston Hall, Bishop Brown Hall, Headmaster's Residence, the preexisting farmhouse, and Dining Hall. The Bell Tower is not visible.

The Great Depression then hit, and the financial health of the school consumed the Board of Trustees. With families facing hardships, a new strategy was developed to attract students to Christchurch School. The school would aim to be a low-priced school in comparison to other private religious school offerings among the Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia while simultaneously developing and exploiting features unique to Christchurch School.²⁹

...the feature and opportunities which are unique to Christchurch because of its location on the river and remote from any considerable town. Reference is specifically made to activities, educational and recreational, of a type seen in boys' camps, such as scoutcraft, field sports, and water sports.³⁰

Having survived the Great Depression, though continuing to operate at a loss, Christchurch School faced new changes brought forth by World War II. The spirit of the times encouraged more cooperation among the Church Schools and more critical thinking regarding educational programs.³¹

²⁹ Williams, *A History of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia*, 106, 108.

³⁰ Williams, *A History of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia*, 108.

³¹ Williams, *A History of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia*, 129-130.

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

Despite the financial difficulties that the school faced, Christchurch School instilled a feeling of loyalty among its alumni and faculty and maintained a strong relationship with the local parish.³² Construction on the campus resumed following World War II; it is believed that the building that now serves as the mail room was a Pennsylvania Railroad Depot moved to the campus in the 1940s by Joseph (Joe) Cameron, the long-time chef at the school and former Seaboard Air Line Railroad employee.³³

The earlier bold vision for the Church Schools of the Diocese of Virginia was becoming a reality. The system as a whole had remained financially sound, and the schools provided a generation of young people with a solid education.³⁴ In this environment, Christchurch School began a “comprehensive building program” and Headmaster Robert M. Yarbrough led the school into a period of its fastest physical development from the 1950s into the 1970s.³⁵ Scott-Taylor Hall (1951) was another gift from Rev. John G. Scott and Emma Scott Taylor. The building was built by students in the Division of Trade and Industrial Education of St. Paul’s Polytechnic Institute, a Black vocational school in Lawrenceville operated by the Episcopal Church. Christchurch’s Headmaster, Branch Spalding, was quoted in a local newspaper praising the quality and speed of the St. Paul’s students’ work. The new building served as the school’s new library and included a study hall and classroom space. Simultaneously, the school dining room was renovated and enlarged, and a swimming pool was constructed on the bank of the Rappahannock.³⁶

Looking towards the future, in 1961, Christchurch School launched its “Six Steps of the Sixties” Campaign, an ambitious fund-raising campaign for its expansion to allow for increased student enrollment from the current 136 students to 175.³⁷ The funds launched a building program based on the school’s progression of needs. The first phase saw the construction of housing for students and faculty. In 1960 and 1961, three faculty houses, valued at about \$50,000, were constructed, as was a new sewage treatment plant and water system at a cost of about \$60,000. Scott Dormitory, with rooms for 100 boys, a dining room, and kitchen, three faculty apartments and a lounge was completed in 1962 at a cost of approximately \$390,000.³⁸

With housing in place, academic buildings and athletic facilities needs were addressed with the construction of Wilmer Hall (1964), a study hall and assembly room designed by John Henley Walker, Jr., followed by the Miller Building (1966), which housed “airconditioned” classrooms, and Yarbrough Gymnasium (1966) designed by Nils F. Larson of Larson and Larson in Winston Salem, North Carolina and built by Bryhn and Henderson of Williamsburg. The exterior of the gym is adorned with mosaic seahorses, which were donated by the classes of 1966 and 1967. In addition to the gymnasium, athletic fields – a baseball diamond, tennis courts, all-weather track,

³² Williams, *A History of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia*, 133.

³³ “School Chef Honored For Long Service,” *Daily Press* (Newport News), November 25, 1959.

³⁴ Williams, *A History of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia*, 180.

³⁵ “Early History,” Unpublished manuscript on file at Christchurch School.

³⁶ The swimming pool is no longer present. “Church School Building Plan On Schedule,” *Daily Press* (Newport News), August 10, 1951.

³⁷ Phillips, “Christchurch Plans 10-Year Expansion.”

³⁸ “Christchurch Dedicates Second Phase Of \$1 Million Program,” *Daily Press* (Newport News), October 23, 1966.

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

and soccer fields – were also created.³⁹ At that time, the school acquired additional acreage along the Rappahannock River to expand its waterfront.

The school's "million-dollar-plus" building and development campaign transitioned Christchurch School from "a reserved and conservative preparatory school in a quiet rural environment to a progressively modern school with up-to-date facilities."⁴⁰ In addition to buildings on the campus, by the mid-1960s the school featured football fields, tennis courts, a track, an outdoor freshwater swimming pool, and facilities for boating and other water sports.⁴¹ By the early 1970s, the large-scale building campaign was complete.

Though the Church Schools faced additional challenges in the 1950s with the 1954 Supreme Court decision on *Brown v. Board of Education* and the eventual acceptance of integration, the aspect of the decision to dismantle segregation with "deliberate speed" led to slow integration throughout the south and among the Church Schools.⁴² St. Stephen's became the first of the Church Schools to desegregate its student body, admitting the first African American student in 1961. Over the next decade, each of the other schools in the Church Schools system admitted their first Black students.⁴³ Christchurch School admitted its first Black student in 1971, Otis "Lanny" Stanley.⁴⁴ The first Black student to graduate from the school, in 1973, was Wayne Edward Toney. The school was opened to female day students in 1972; the first female graduate of the school was Deborah Bouis.⁴⁵ The admission of females to the school ends the period of significance for this nomination though the school continues to operate as a private, coed, Episcopal boarding and day high school.⁴⁶

CRITERION A: EDUCATION

Christchurch School is locally significant and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in the area of Education as one of the original five schools in the Church Schools of the Diocese of Virginia, an Episcopalian organization founded in 1920 with the goal of establishing a system of religious schools that would provide reliable, accessible secondary education. The manifest of this system filled a role its founders found lacking in public education at the time.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Phillips, "Christchurch Plans 10-Year Expansion;" "New Teachers, Facilities To Greet Record Enrollment At Christchurch," *Daily Press* (Newport News), August 30, 1964.

⁴² Williams, *A History of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia*, 181.

⁴³ "Church Schools Celebrate 100 Years," *The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia*, April 16, 2021, <https://episcopalvirginia.org/stories/schools-100-years/>. (July 17, 2024).

⁴⁴ Christchurch School. <https://www.christchurchschool.org/at-a-glance/mission-history>. (July 1, 2024); CCS History Timeline.

⁴⁵ CCS History Timeline.

⁴⁶ "Christchurch School" (advertisement), *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, April 24, 1972.

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

Church affiliated private schools had been a part of the nation's history long before Christchurch School's founding.⁴⁷ Though previously present in some locations, it was not until 1870 that public education, separate and unequal, was instituted in Virginia and then not until the mid-twentieth century that the Commonwealth was able to provide universal free primary and secondary education. However, public education did not eliminate the desire for private education, as some church leaders found.⁴⁸

With a significant increase in population in the early twentieth century, largely due to the increase in European immigration, the population of Virginia nearly doubled between 1900 and 1920.⁴⁹ Drastic changes occurred throughout the country, many of which were considered detrimental to the younger population – among which, the “new teen culture,” women working outside of the home, labor struggles, racial discord, xenophobia stimulated by immigration, increased crime and juvenile delinquency, government corruption, the “menace of the movies,” and a general malaise after World War I. As such, there was a shift in education theory towards character and character education. With such issues at hand, education intellectuals felt that schools should play the central role in social reform.⁵⁰

According to John Page Williams in 1920, it was this “commitment to a deeper and healthier vision of education – a vision in which the shaping of the whole individual takes precedence over the acquiring of particular intellectual skills or social refinements – that has led the bishops, clergy, and laity of the Diocese of Virginia to found and support the corporation of the Church Schools in the Dioceses of Virginia.” However, this vision dates to the end of the seventeenth century when Rev. James Blair, first president of the College of William & Mary, hoped to also use the school for education of the poor and American Indians. Though this effort did not come to fruition, organizations in the eighteenth century took the helm and in the nineteenth century, Episcopalian Rev. William Meade was among those who founded private academies, creating a boarding school for boys in Alexandria (1839) and acquiring a school for girls, Virginia Female Institute, in Staunton (1850s). Religious elements of education were assumed to be not only relevant to total education but also the source of its strength.⁵¹

The Bishop of Virginia, Robert A. Gibson, “...realized that not only the great weaknesses and inefficiency of the country's public schools, but also the inability of such public schools as existed to give any definite teaching in religion, constituted a hindrance to the advancement of these (rural) sections....” He realized that diocesan schools, on the other hand, “would teach Christian ideals” while still being “accessible to all, regardless of one's financial status.” After his passing in 1919, he was replaced by Bishop William Cabel Brown who shared the vision for a diocesan school system and pushed it forward. The goals of the schools in this system were to specialize “in high

⁴⁷ “Private Schooling: What Is a Private School: History of Private Schools in the United States,” <https://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/2334/Private-Schooling.html> (June 26, 2024).

⁴⁸ Williams, *A History of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia*, 201.

⁴⁹ United States Census Bureau, Federal Census.

⁵⁰ Heather A. Warren, “Character, Public Schooling, and Religious Education, 1920-1934,” *Religious and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation*. Vol. 7, No. 1, Winter 1997, 62-64.

⁵¹ Williams, *A History of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia*, 1-2.

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

academic standing within the framework of the Christian ideal of character and conduct.”⁵² This was a goal achieved by Christchurch School. Using religion as its core, the school “serves and guides each student in achieving personal excellence in academics and character, preparing them for meaningful lives as engaged citizens and community leaders.”⁵³

Not long after Christchurch School’s opening, Attorney-General John R. Saunders, originally from Middlesex County, “stated that the people of his county regarded Christchurch as one of its leading assets, noting that it was the only school of its kind for boys in Tidewater Virginia.”⁵⁴ Christchurch School’s contribution to education is reflected through the diverse and storied lives of its presidents, trustees, faculty, and students who have garnered prominence following their time at school. Included among the school’s notable alumni:

- William Styron (1942, Pulitzer Prize winning author for *Sophie’s Choice*)
- Lewis B. Puller, Jr. (1963, Pulitzer Prize winning author for *Fortunate Son*)
- Crombie J.D. Garrett (1935, Deputy Chief Clerk of the United States Supreme Court)
- Andrew Rice (1992, Oklahoma State Senator)
- Bill Broaddus (1961, Former Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Virginia)
- John Craine, Jr. (1964, President of SUNY Maritime College)
- Malcolm Campbell (1978, former publisher of *SPIN* magazine)
- Vincent Canby (1941, chief film critic of *The New York Times*)
- Alec Faulkner (2011, pro soccer player for Valentine FC)
- Devin Robinson (2014, pro basketball player for the Washington Wizards)
- Patrick Young (2012, professional lacrosse player)
- Pete Smith (1958, East Coast Surfing Hall of Fame)
- Chris Frantz (1969, drummer for Talking Heads)
- Deion Walker (2008, ESPN All-American, Notre Dame football)

At present, the school enrolls 210 students annually, on average. The school remains on its original parcel though the number of buildings has grown over the years to serve its growing population. Like the other institutions in the Church Schools of the Diocese of Virginia, Christchurch School continues its proud work in educating and developing young adults.

CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE

Christchurch School is also significant and eligible for the National Register for the design and composition of its campus, which features a cohesive collection of buildings, structures, sites, and landscapes that reflect the various periods of development and architectural character that have historically characterized the school and continue to do so. Soon after the purchase of the Eastman Farm, construction of the buildings at the center of campus began, overseen by the school’s first

⁵² Davison, D. Ralph, Jr. “The Origins and Goals of the Church Schools in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia,” *Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church*, 54, no. 1, (March 1985), 69-72.

⁵³ “Christchurch School, Mission and History.” *Christchurch School*. <https://www.christchurchschool.org/at-a-glance/mission-history> (October 23, 2024).

⁵⁴ “Montague Raps Sectionalism In Presenting Gym to School,” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, November 21, 1926.

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

headmaster, Rev. F. Earnest Warren. With its early low enrollment, only a handful of buildings were necessary to sustain operation. These included the Headmaster's Residence, Bishop Brown Hall, Marston Hall, Saint Peter's Chapel, a dining hall, and the bell tower, all of which were constructed in the 1920s and continue to comprise the nucleus of campus. Also present on the campus was a preexisting brick farmhouse that was converted into housing for students and faculty.⁵⁵

The architecture of the individual buildings also draws influence from and harkens to the character of the nearby Christ Church Parish. The buildings exhibit a Colonial Revival style and feature a Flemish bond or Flemish cross bond brick construction reminiscent of the eighteenth-century church. The Headmaster's Residence and Bishop Brown Hall, two striking buildings within the original complex remain the focal points of campus. Bishop Brown Hall, named for the founder of Church Schools in the Diocese of Richmond, was designed by Richmond architect Bascomb J. Rowlett and built in 1923 by contractor E. Sidney Muire. Described in a newspaper article as "one of the most imposing and attractive school buildings in Virginia," the massive building included a residence hall for students and instructors, classrooms, a library, a laboratory, an assembly room, and a dining room.⁵⁶

Marston Hall, donated by Langbourne M. Williams of Richmond and built in 1927 by Muire, functioned as the primary recreation building where students could play games, write letters, attend weekly showings of moving pictures, and buy essentials at the attached store.⁵⁷

One of the last buildings completed as part of this first phase of expansion at Christchurch School was the Scott Memorial Chapel, now known as St. Peter's Chapel, in 1927. Originally funded by Emma Scott Taylor and John Garlick Scott in honor of their father, William Henry Scott, the chapel was renovated in 1980 with funds granted by the Marietta McNeill Morgan and Samuel Tate Morgan Jr. Foundation.⁵⁸

Another structure constructed in the school's inaugural decade was the bell tower, which features the same brick construction and Colonial Revival ornamentation as other early buildings despite its diminutive stature. The structure was given to the school by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kratz in memory of their son, Andrew Kratz, Jr., in the late 1920s. Resting atop a hill overlooking the Rappahannock, the bell tower offers a means of commemorating important aspects of campus life, with students ringing the bell to tout athletic victories and graduation.

Nearly twenty years passed before the campus welcomed any new building additions, with the former Pennsylvania Railroad Depot added in the late 1940s. It is believed that former Seaboard Air Line Railroad employee and school chef, Joe Cameron, moved the Depot to the school. The chef was honored by Christchurch in 1959 in recognition for thirty years of service to the school.

⁵⁵ This farmhouse is no longer standing.

⁵⁶ *Northern Neck News*, "Christchurch School," September 28, 1923.

⁵⁷ *The Virginia Churchman*, c. 1931.

⁵⁸ *Daily Press*, "Grant Set for Christchurch Chapel," 1977.

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

The depot historically had and presently has many uses including as a boat shed, business office, and mail room.

After the bell tower, the next new construction on the Christchurch campus was Scott-Taylor Hall, which was completed in 1951 by the Division of Trade and Industrial Education operated by the Episcopal Church. While it reflects the Flemish cross bond and Colonial Revival stylistic influences consistent with the earlier architecture on campus, it represents a transition from more traditional, high-style architecture of the 1920s to the minimal aesthetic embraced by the school in the 1960s. Gifted by Rev. John G. Scott and Mrs. Emma Scott Taylor, the hall originally functioned as a library, study hall, and academic building and currently functions as administrative offices.

The next major phase of expansion started in the late 1950s into the 1960s under the newly appointed headmaster, Robert M. Yarbrough, Jr (1957-1971). Under his leadership, Christchurch School conducted a self-evaluation to inform a plan of operations to help the school thrive in the 1960s. The study determined that outdated facilities and an ever-increasing number of applicants necessitated further development on campus. Buildings constructed during this period include the John G. Scott Residence Hall (1962) and Wilmer Hall (1964), both of which were designed by John Henley Walker, Jr. These buildings succeeded Miller Hall (1964) and the Robert M. Yarbrough Gymnasium (1966), which followed the same design of Wilmer Hall.

Large-scale architecture throughout the country in the second half of the twentieth century pulls from a more modern stylistic genre which was a rejection of previous formal styles. At schools and school campuses, these modern buildings could be built quicker and with less expense than previous formal buildings which led to a more minimalistic appearance to campuses in the second half of the twentieth century. While buildings at Christchurch School built in the 1960s reflect similar aesthetics and proportions of the earlier buildings on campus, their designs are generally more minimalistic in the spirit of the Yarbrough administration's pragmatic attitude and general design transition during this era. A similar approach was taken in construction at the other NRHP listed Episcopalian schools in Virginia, St. Christopher's School and St. Catherine's School in Richmond. Like Christchurch School, the early buildings at St. Christopher's and St. Catherine's were largely Colonial Revival, or Georgian Revival, in style. Though apparently fewer in number, buildings constructed in the post-World War II era into the 1970s were also had a more modern and minimalistic approach. However, the buildings on those campuses appear to have a slightly more Colonial Revival aesthetic like preexisting construction.

Yarbrough Gymnasium was part of an effort to develop the school's athletic facilities in the 1960s. These improvements included a new \$10,000 all-weather track, new tennis courts, a baseball diamond, and a new football field. The school acquired an additional 16-acre tract of land along the waterfront that expanded its access to the Rappahannock River (Daily Press 1964). The gymnasium itself was designed by Nils F. Larson of Larson and Larson from Winston Salem and built by Bryhn and Henderson of Williamsburg.

Several more buildings and structures were built within the Christchurch campus through the end of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first. While these resources are non-historic and do

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

not contribute to the district's historic significance, some continue to reflect the architectural traditions initiated by the first phase of construction at Christchurch in the 1920s and evolved through the second phase of construction in the 1970s.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION A: RELIGIOUS PROPERTIES

Christchurch School meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties as it derives its primary significance from the architectural distinction and cohesion of its campus and its historic importance as an educational institution. The school was founded and continues to be operated by the Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia.

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

"102 Christ Church Students Enroll," *The Richmond News Leader*. September 17, 1929, p. 22.

Brydon, G. MacLaren. "A Venture in Christian Education: The Story of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia." *Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church*. Vol. XV, 1946. 30-49.

"Christchurch Dedicates Second Phase Of \$1 Million Program," *Daily Press* (Newport News). October 23, 1966, p. 12D.

Christchurch School. <https://www.christchurchschool.org/at-a-glance/mission-history>. (July 1, 2024).

"Christchurch School." *Boarding School Review*.
<https://www.boardingschoolreview.com/christchurch-school-profile>. (October 23, 2024).

"Christchurch School" (advertisement). *Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch*. July 21, 1923.

"Christchurch School." *Northern Neck News*. September 28, 1923, p.2.

"Christchurch School" (advertisement). *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. April 24, 1972, p.12.

"Christchurch School, Mission and History." *Christchurch School*.
<https://www.christchurchschool.org/at-a-glance/mission-history> (October 23, 2024).

"Church School Building Plan On Schedule," *Daily Press* (Newport News). August 10, 1951, p. 17.

"Church Schools Celebrate 100 Years," *The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia*. April 16, 2021.
<https://episcopalvirginia.org/stories/schools-100-years/>. (July 17, 2024).

Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia. Richmond, VA: Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia. 1964.

Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia, Incorporated. "Christchurch School, Christchurch, Virginia Announcements for 1948-1949. c.1949.

Davison, D. Ralph, Jr. "The Origins and Goals of the Church Schools in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia," *Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church*. 54, no. 1, (March 1985) 67-81.

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

Dickinson, Clifford R. "St. Christopher's School." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. August 24, 2001.

"Early History." Unpublished manuscript on file at Christchurch School

Easterling, Catherine. "Christchurch School." Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for Historic Districts. Sadler & Whitehead, LLC. January 8, 2024.

Ellard, Kerry. "The History of American Education from 1820-1920: Part I." *Montessorium*. May 30, 2021. <https://montessorium.com/blog/the-history-of-american-education-from-1820-1920-part-i>. (June 25, 2024).

Fremont, Walter G. "Holding Fast: Christian Education Across the Centuries." *BJU Press*. Updated October 21, 2015.

Galleher, Huntley. Interview by Dara Friedberg. July 25, 2024.

Higgins, Holly B. "Historic Architectural Resource Survey, Middlesex County, Virginia." *Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.* Prepared for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. May 2017.

Making Men at Christchurch. Pamphlet. n.d. Library of Virginia.

"Montague Raps Sectionalism In Presenting Gym to School," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. November 21, 1926.

"New Building on Christchurch Campus," *Daily Press* (Newport News). September 1, 1955.

"New Christchurch Track," *Daily Press* (Newport News). August 30, 1964.

"New Teachers, Facilities To Greet Record Enrollment At Christchurch," *Daily Press* (Newport News). August 30, 1964, p. 12D.

Phillips, Gene. "Christchurch Plans 10-Year Expansion," *Daily Press* (Newport News). April 30, 1961.

"Preparatory school." *New World Encyclopedia*.
https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Preparatory_school (June 26, 2024).

"Private Schooling: What Is a Private School:, History of Private Schools in the United States." <https://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/2334/Private-Schooling.html> (June 26, 2024).

"School Chef Honored For Long Service," *Daily Press* (Newport News). November 25, 1959.

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

“Seahorses return to gridiron,” *Daily Press* (Newport News). August 31, 1988.

“A Special Course to High School Students” (advertisement). *Northern Neck News*. September 22, 1922, p. 3.

The Virginia Churchman. “Christchurch School.” On file at Christchurch School. 1931.

Warren, Heather A. “Character, Public Schooling, and Religious Education, 1920-1934,”
Religious and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation. Vol. 7, No. 1, Winter 1997,
61-80.

Williams, John Page. *A History of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia*. Vol. 1. Richmond,
VA: Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia, 1999.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository: Christchurch School, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR ID #059-5480

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 79.13

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37°37'0.78"N	Longitude: 76°32'59.39"W
2. Latitude: 37°36'53.95"N	Longitude: 76°32'48.55"W
3. Latitude: 37°37'4.70"N	Longitude: 76°32'39.94"W
4. Latitude: 37°37'2.26"N	Longitude: 37°37'2.26"N
5. Latitude: 37°36'56.75"N	Longitude: 76°32'41.75"W
6. Latitude: 37°36'55.09"N	Longitude: 76°32'38.60"W
7. Latitude: 37°36'50.92"N	Longitude: 76°32'41.31"W
8. Latitude: 37°36'48.65"N	Longitude: 76°32'47.78"W
9. Latitude: 37°36'44.13"N	Longitude: 76°32'48.54"W
10. Latitude: 37°36'41.50"N	Longitude: 76°32'44.61"W
11. Latitude: 37°36'37.92"N	Longitude: 76°32'50.54"W
12. Latitude: 37°36'34.57"N	Longitude: 76°32'48.65"W
13. Latitude: 37°36'33.79"N	Longitude: 76°32'54.95"W
14. Latitude: 37°36'32.90"N	Longitude: 76°33'5.33"W
15. Latitude: 37°36'43.83"N	Longitude: 76°33'0.50"W
16. Latitude: 37°36'46.21"N	Longitude: 76°33'2.42"W
17. Latitude: 37°36'47.92"N	Longitude: 76°32'59.54"W
18. Latitude: 37°36'52.40"N	Longitude: 76°33'3.46"W

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated boundary for Christchurch School incorporates roughly 79.13 acres of the school's core campus area, corresponding with Middlesex County tax parcel 27 158 as shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map. The district is generally bound on the north by the Rappahannock River, on the east by Christchurch Lane and adjacent parcels, on the south by Christchurch Drive and General Puller Highway (VA 33), and on the west by Crafton Quarter Road, Hibble Road, and adjacent parcels.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Christchurch School boundaries are drawn to include all contributing academic, residential, athletic, and other support facilities historically owned and operated by the school and located on the primary property. The boundaries do not include other school-held parcels which may hold later faculty housing and the school-affiliated sailing pavilion located on the southern bank of the Rappahannock to the north of campus, nor do they include the Christ Church Parish, located just south of the district.

These boundaries were selected to include the core of development for the Christchurch School and reflect its growth, evolution, and architectural character from its founding in 1921 through 1972, the end of the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dara Friedberg, Anna White, and Robert Taylor
organization: Dutton + Associates
street & number: Dutton + Associates (Timmons Group)
city or town: Midlothian state: VA zip code: 23113
e-mail: r.taylor@dutton-associates.com
telephone: (804) 897-1960
date: January 2025

Christchurch School
Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Christchurch School

City or Vicinity: Saluda

County: Middlesex

State: Virginia

Photographer: Anna White (unless otherwise noted)

Date Photographed: July 25, 2024 (unless otherwise noted)

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

Photo 1 of 23: Campus Entrance and Administration Buildings
Setting and Signage View, Facing Northeast

Photo 2 of 23: Bishop Brown Hall
Front Oblique, Parking Lot, and Adjacent Buildings, Facing Southeast

Photo 3 of 23: Saint Peter's Chapel and Bishop Brown Hall
South Elevations, Facing North

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

Photo 4 of 23: Central Green

Signage and Open Lawn, Facing Northeast

Photo 5 of 23: Academic Buildings

Brick Walkway, Facing East

Photo 6 of 23: Faculty Housing

Bell Tower Circle, Facing Northeast

Photo 7 of 23: Central Green

View Overlooking Rappahannock River, Facing Northeast

Photo 8 of 23: Marston Hall

Front Oblique, Facing Southwest

Photo 9 of 23: Bishop Brown Hall

Side Elevation, Facing East

Photo 10 of 23: Headmaster's Residence

Front Elevation, Facing West

Photo 11 of 23: Saint Peter's Chapel

Front Elevation, Facing South

Photo 12 of 23: Saint Peter's Chapel

Rear Oblique, Facing Northeast

Photo 13 of 23: Bell Tower

Oblique, Facing Northeast

Photo 14 of 23: Scott-Taylor Hall

Front Elevation, Facing South

Photo 15 of 23: John G. Scott Residence

Front Oblique, Facing Northwest

Photo 16 of 23: Wilmer Hall, Miller Hall, and Yarbrough Gymnasium

Front Oblique, Facing Southwest

Photo 17 of 23: Yarbrough Gymnasium

Front Elevation, Facing Southwest

Photo 18 of 23: Pennsylvania Railroad Depot

Front Oblique, Facing Southwest

Christchurch School

Name of Property

Middlesex County, VA

County and State

Photo 19 of 23: Faculty Housing at 114 Christchurch Lane
Front Oblique, Facing Northeast

Photo 20 of 23: Athletic Fields
Football Field, Track, and Baseball Field, Facing West

Photo 21 of 23: Sewage Treatment Plant
Cistern, Facing North

Photo 22 of 23: Dining Hall
Front Elevation, Facing Northeast

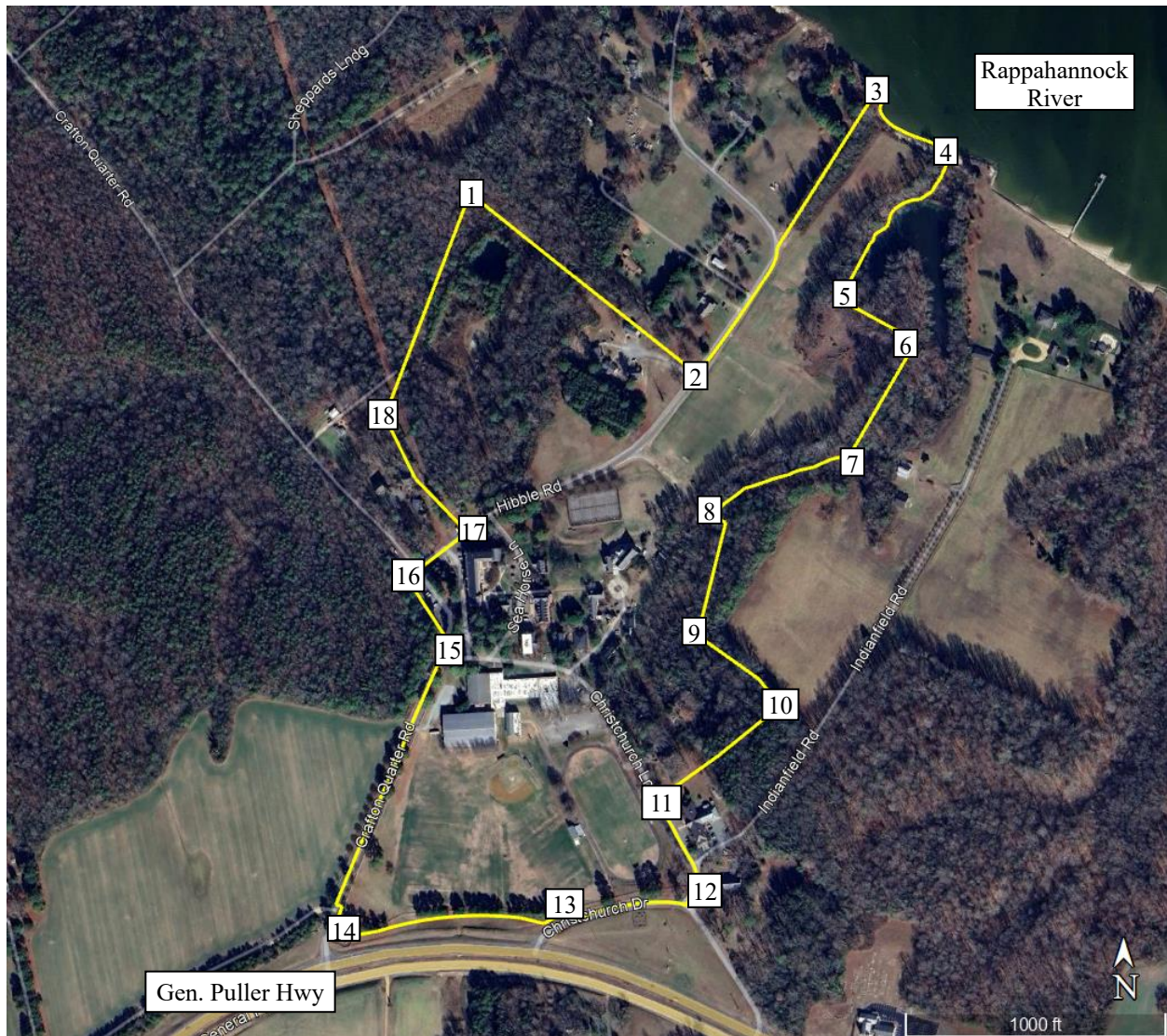
Photo 23 of 23: Entrance from General Puller Highway (Route 339)
Setting, Facing northeast

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.






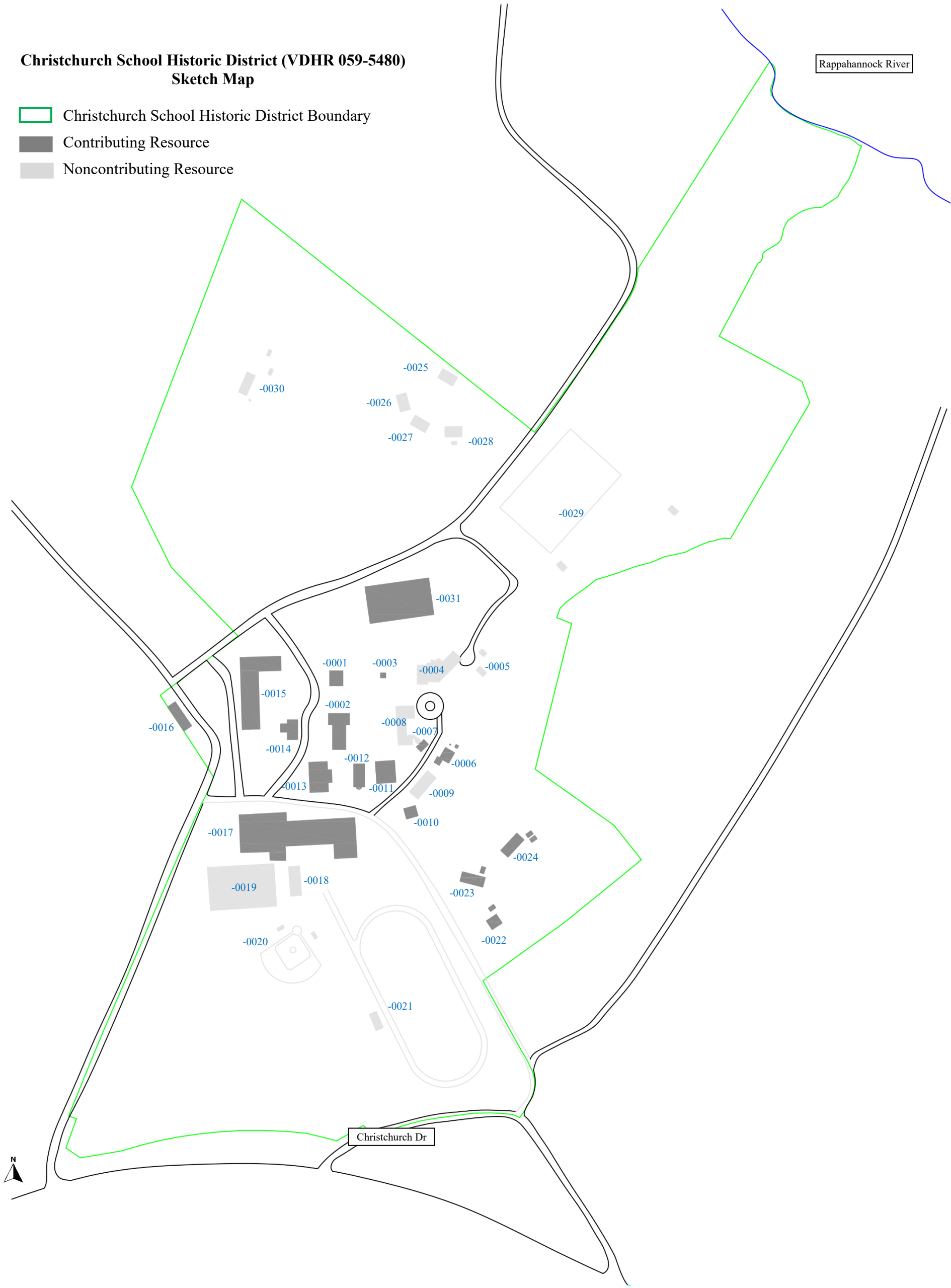
Christchurch School Historic District, Middlesex County, VDHR 059-5480

Map Source: Google Earth

1. Latitude: 37°37'0.78"N	Longitude: 76°32'59.39"W
2. Latitude: 37°36'53.95"N	Longitude: 76°32'48.55"W
3. Latitude: 37°37'4.70"N	Longitude: 76°32'39.94"W
4. Latitude: 37°37'2.26"N	Longitude: 37°37'2.26"N
5. Latitude: 37°36'56.75"N	Longitude: 76°32'41.75"W
6. Latitude: 37°36'55.09"N	Longitude: 76°32'38.60"W
7. Latitude: 37°36'50.92"N	Longitude: 76°32'41.31"W
8. Latitude: 37°36'48.65"N	Longitude: 76°32'47.78"W
9. Latitude: 37°36'44.13"N	Longitude: 76°32'48.54"W
10. Latitude: 37°36'41.50"N	Longitude: 76°32'44.61"W
11. Latitude: 37°36'37.92"N	Longitude: 76°32'50.54"W
12. Latitude: 37°36'34.57"N	Longitude: 76°32'48.65"W
13. Latitude: 37°36'33.79"N	Longitude: 76°32'54.95"W
14. Latitude: 37°36'32.90"N	Longitude: 76°33'5.33"W
15. Latitude: 37°36'43.83"N	Longitude: 76°33'0.50"W
16. Latitude: 37°36'46.21"N	Longitude: 76°33'2.42"W
17. Latitude: 37°36'47.92"N	Longitude: 76°32'59.54"W
18. Latitude: 37°36'52.40"N	Longitude: 76°33'3.46"W

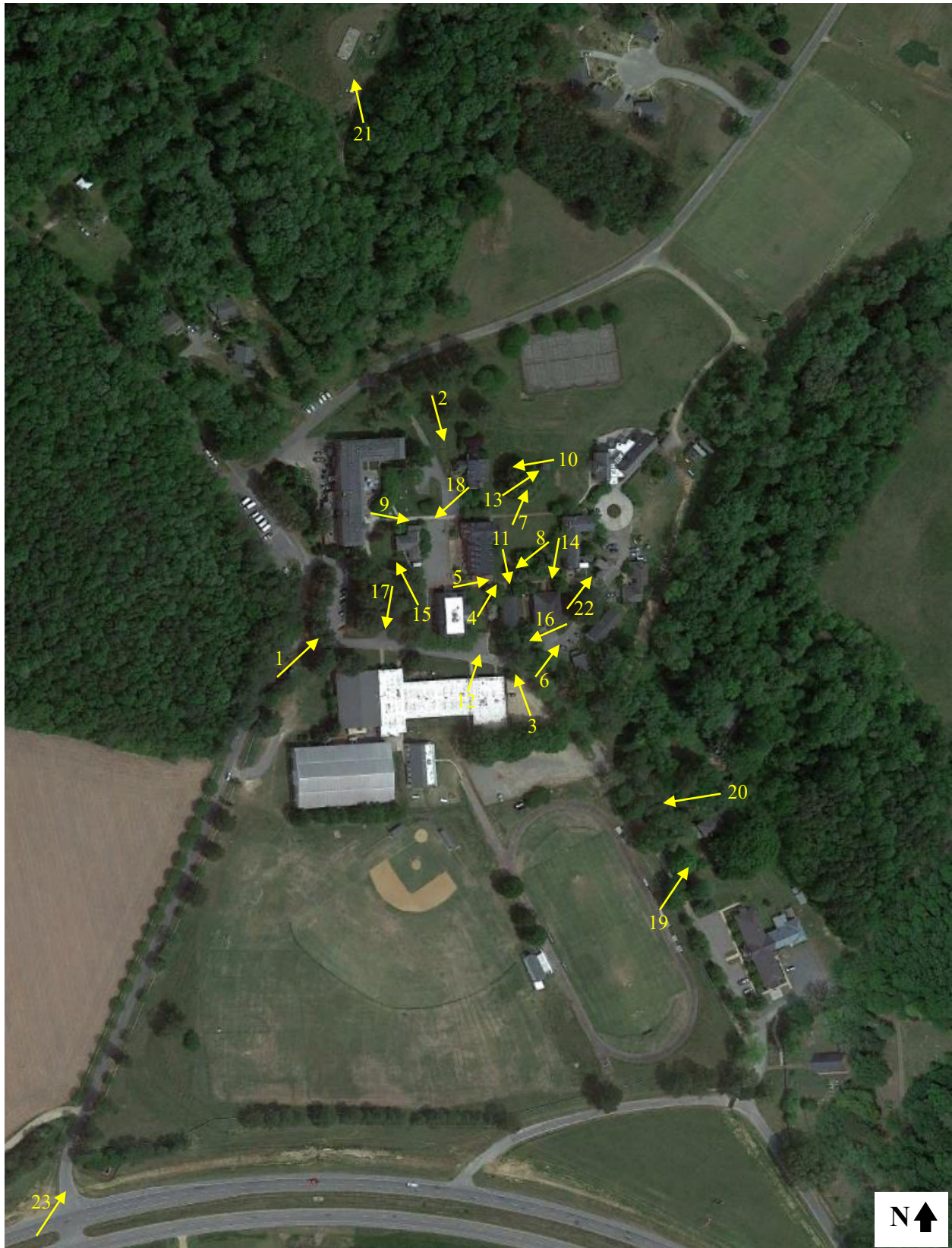
Christchurch School Historic District (VDHR 059-5480)
Sketch Map

-  Christchurch School Historic District Boundary
-  Contributing Resource
-  Noncontributing Resource




- 059-5480-0001: Headmaster's Residence
- 059-5480-0002: Bishop Brown Hall, Student Center
- 059-5480-0003: Bell Tower
- 059-5480-0004: Puller Science Center
- 059-5480-0005: Utility buildings
- 059-5480-0006: Faculty housing
- 059-5480-0007: Dining Hall
- 059-5480-0008: Faye Dormitory
- 059-5480-0009: Faculty housing
- 059-5480-0010: Faculty housing
- 059-5480-0011: Scott-Taylor Hall (Administration Building)
- 059-5480-0012: Scott Memorial Chapel (St. Peter's Chapel)
- 059-5480-0013: Marston Hall (Charlton Fine Arts & Music)
- 059-5480-0014: Pennsylvania RR Depot/Mail Room
- 059-5480-0015: John G. Scott Residence Hall and Murrell Residence Hall

- 059-5480-0016: Garage/Storage
- 059-5480-0017: Wilmer Hall, Miller Hall, Yarbrough Gym
- 059-5480-0018: Jordan-Green Family Locker Rooms
- 059-5480-0019: Phipps Field House
- 059-5480-0020: Baseball Field
- 059-5480-0021: Field House, Football Field and Track
- 059-5480-0022: Christ Church Parish House (faculty housing)
- 059-5480-0023: Faculty housing
- 059-5480-0024: Faculty housing
- 059-5480-0025/28: Faculty housing
- 059-5480-0029: Soccer Field
- 059-5480-0030: Sewage Treatment Plant
- 059-5480-0031: Tennis Courts



Christchurch School Historic District, Middlesex County, VDHR 059-5480
Map Source: Google Earth



 **CHRISTCHURCH
SCHOOL**

- ← Marston Hall
- ← Bishop Brown Hall
- ← Scott Dormitory
- ← Murrell Hall
- ← Headmaster's Residence
- ← Bell Tower
- ↑ Puller Center



























CHURCHMAN
SCHOOL

- William H. H. Churchman
- William H. H. Churchman
- William H. H. Churchman
- William H. H. Churchman
- William H. H. Churchman

















