

The School Building Needs of Loudoun County

Introduction

This survey of the school building needs of Loudoun County was made at the formal request of Superintendent C. M. Businger and the County School Board directed to Dr. Davis Y. Paschall, Superintendent of Public Instruction. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction appointed the following persons as the committee to conduct the survey: Carson M. Bradley, superintendent, Fauquier County public schools; Floyd F. Jenkins, director, Division of Research and Planning, State Department of Education; J. K. Samples, superintendent, Page County public schools, and Alfred L. Wingo, supervisor of research, State Department of Education, Chairman.

The committee was favorably impressed with the broad program of instruction provided at the Loudoun County High School and with planning on the part of local school authorities for comprehensive programs of education. Hence, in order to save space, the State Board of Education's recommendations concerning a comprehensive program of instruction will not be included in this report.

Introduction Findings

A study of the figures reveals an amazing stability of the total population for the period 1910-1950. The marked and apparently significant figures are: (1) a substantial decline in population in the northwestern corner of the County (Lovettsville District, 32.4 per cent); increases in population in Broad Run District (8.7 per cent), and particularly Mercer District (12.7 percent); and an estimated increase for the total population of 12.4 per cent for the period, 1950 to July 1, 1956.

With the exceptions of Hillsboro and Waterford, the towns have grown substantially in population, but they are still small towns. This population growth in the towns may, however, be significant for the future because Loudoun leads all the counties in the State or is near the top in production in several agricultural enterprises. Doubtlessly, the farms will become larger and the current population pattern in the counties of Virginia, a concentration of the population in the urbanized areas, may develop rapidly within the foreseeable future in Loudoun.

Hitherto, Loudoun has not

been characterized by industrial activity and it is hard to believe that the County's beautiful and charming landscape will be dotted with smokestacks within the immediate future. Unless and until the urbanized area in adjoining Fairfax County begins to spread into Loudoun to a great extent, it appears that the total population of the County will not increase substantially within the foreseeable future. In connection with this prediction it should be pointed out, however, that the population of Broad Run District which adjoins Fairfax County increased by 18.2 per cent during the decade 1940-1950.

222 Go to Schools Outside County

As school building improvements are made in Loudoun, the committee assumes that the local school authorities will wish to give serious consideration to the possibility of providing for pupils who are currently attending schools in two adjacent counties — Fairfax and Fauquier. According to data submitted to the committee, 135 Loudoun County pupils are attending schools in Fairfax, and 87 in Fauquier.

Data submitted to the committee by the local authorities indicate that the Loudoun County High School is currently offering 62 units for credit and that three additional units are desired. This is a commendably broad program of high school instruction. These data also show that the Douglass High School is currently offering 39 units for credit and that 13 additional units are desired. If school building improvements at the Douglass High School lead to a program of instruction of 52 units for credit, the offering at that institution will become relatively comprehensive in view of its current enrollment of 274.

Many of the elementary school buildings used by white pupils are not modern in design. In general, however, the auxiliary spaces are fairly adequate. In a number of instances facilities for lunchrooms have been improvised with considerable ingenuity. The splendid Loudoun County High School is well equipped with auxiliary spaces. Quick inspection of this building indicated that several additional classrooms could be added without overloading the auxiliary spaces. Nevertheless, the building should be carefully

analyzed by a competent school architect before such a procedure is undertaken.

With the exceptions of the Banneker and Carver elementary schools and the Douglass High School, the buildings used by the Negro pupils have no auxiliary spaces. The auxiliary spaces and equipment at the Douglass High School are quite inadequate. The plant does not include a gymnasium and lunchroom and the shop is unsatisfactory and poorly equipped.

The buildings and additions thereto used by white pupils range in age from 84 years for the original structure at Hillsboro to four years for the Loudoun County High School. The median age is 29 years. The ages of the buildings used by Negro pupils range from 90 years for the Waterford School to 11 years for the Banneker and Carver Schools. The median age for these buildings is 66 years.

Five of the buildings or additions used by white pupils are of frame construction. The Loudoun County High School is totally fire resistive, but all others, exclusive of the frame buildings, are only partially fire resistive. Six of the buildings used by Negro pupils are of frame construction; the other three are partially fire resistive.

With a few exceptions, the school sites for the elementary schools used by white pupils are relatively small. The Loudoun County High School site is quite ample. The Banneker school site is relatively large, but all other sites occupied by the schools for Negroes are small.

All schools used by white pupils are equipped with central heating, flush toilets, electric lights, and water under pressure. Banneker and Carver Elementary Schools and Douglass High School are likewise equipped with central heating, flush toilets, electric lights, and water under pressure. All schools used by Negro pupils have electric lights. Five schools used by Negroes do not have flush toilets and water under pressure.

Recommendations

It is always difficult for a committee that is outside of a situation to be sure that it is making the best recommendations for people that are in the

County High School in Leesburg. It is hoped that they will be helpful in both immediate and long-term planning by the school officials and by lay people of Loudoun County. The primary concern of the committee has been to recommend what seems best for the children, the most valuable asset of any community.

School for White Pupils

The very splendid Loudoun County High School plant has a pupil capacity of 1,000 and a current enrollment of 1,130. The pupil capacity figure (1,000) agrees quite well with the building plans on file in the offices of the State Department of Education. If the high school enrollment rises to 1,350 as predicted in this report, this building will become seriously overcrowded within the next few years.

A quick inspection of the building and the plans on file in the offices of the State Department of Education indicate that, with the exception of the cafeteria, the auxiliary spaces are large enough to provide for an enrollment of 1,350. If classrooms are added in sufficient number to bring the pupil capacity up to 1,350, it appears that another cafeteria should be included because the present cafeteria cannot be readily enlarged.

The committee recommends that the Loudoun County High School be enlarged so that its pupil capacity will become approximately 1,350.

Possibly, a swiftly moving net in-migration might develop within the next few years which would cause the high school enrollment to exceed 1,350 by several hundred. If this eventuality should occur, it is suggested that the local school officials give serious consideration to the feasibility of erecting a junior high school in the area that becomes most densely populated, and the organization of the school system on a 6-3-3 basis. This procedure would simultaneously relieve overcrowded conditions in the elementary schools and the high school.

Since the total of the pupil capacities of the 15 elementary schools is 3,260 and the current elementary education is that which the county is responsible for only 3,012, it appears that the present enrollment could be housed through a more com-

County High School in Leesburg.

If the white elementary enrollment currently housed within Loudoun County levels off at approximately 3,100 as projected, and if the 81 elementary pupils presently attending schools in Fairfax and Fauquier Counties are enrolled in schools in Loudoun, it appears that a total elementary school pupil capacity of approximately 3,200 will be needed within the next few years. The total present pupil capacity of 3,260 would be enough if all of the buildings were retained, and if all could be filled to capacity.

Some Schools Should Be Abandoned

In the judgment of the committee, the Bluemont and Lucketts buildings, should be first to be abandoned. They are not as solid as the other elementary buildings and, moreover, they are located near the County boundaries which makes it difficult to keep them filled to capacity. The committee's comments or suggestions concerning each of the elementary buildings follow.

Aldie — The committee does not see any good reasons for keeping the old unused frame building on this relatively small site. Presumably, the unused agriculture building could be converted into a lunchroom which would represent an improvement over the present kitchen - auditorium arrangement for lunch. The location of the school near the County boundary militates against efficiency and economy in pupil transportation.

Arcola — The committee was favorably impressed with this modern and well constructed building. If future population growth causes it to become necessary to increase the size of this school, the possibility of adding a lunchroom should be considered.

Ashburn — This building site is relatively small, but the building itself appears to be quite sound. If the present overcrowded condition cannot be relieved through a reorganization of the pupil transportation system, it appears that an addition should be made. Logical improvements for this school center include an

city. This school's location near the County boundary militates against efficiency and economy in the pupil transportation system.

Lucketts — In the judgment of the committee, the Lucketts building is becoming obsolete to the point that it cannot be used with economy for many more years. Its location near the County boundary militates against efficiency and economy in the pupil transportation system. As soon as practicable, this building should be abandoned for school purpose.

Add Lunchroom At Middleburg

Middleburg — The conversion of a classroom into a kitchen and the use of part of the auditorium as a classroom, seems to indicate a deeply felt need on the part of the people of the Middleburg community for improved facilities for providing hot lunches. A lunchroom and kitchen should be added to this building so that full use of all the classroom and auditorium may be made.

Purcellville — The two basement classrooms in the Purcellville building are not thoroughly satisfactory. One of these rooms has no outside door. The building does not contain a library room as such. The site is relatively small. If the enrollment in this school is not reduced through a reorganization of the pupil transportation system, improvements in the basement classrooms, the addition of a library, and an expansion of the site appear to be warranted.

Round Hill — This attractive building and site may require an addition when and if the Bluemont building is abandoned.

Sterling — Although Sterling is near the County boundary, it is in a section of Loudoun which may grow in population. If the present overcrowded condition cannot be relieved through re-vamping the pupil transportation system, the necessary additional classrooms should be constructed as soon as possible.

Waterford — The original part of the Waterford plant is old, but this picturesque building appears to be serviceable for a number of years to come. If possible, the building should be

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School Building Needs of Loudoun County - a Survey

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The committee recommends that the Loudoun County High School be enlarged so that its pupil capacity will become approximately 1,350.

Possibly, a swiftly moving net in-migration might develop within the next few years which would cause the high school enrollment to exceed 1,350 by several hundred. If this eventuality should occur, it is suggested that the local school officials give serious consideration to the feasibility of erecting a junior high school in the area that becomes most densely populated, and the organization of the school system on a 6-3-3 basis. This procedure would simultaneously relieve overcrowded conditions in the elementary schools and the high school.

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Waterford — The original part of the Waterford plant is old, but this picturesque building appears to be serviceable for a number of years to come. If possible, the building should be added to capacity.

Schools for Negro Pupils

Substantial improvements are needed at the Douglass High School. The present enrollment of 274 exceeds the pupil capacity of 250 by 24.

As a minimum, the committee recommends the following additions or improvements:

1. An expansion and modernization of the shop.
2. The addition of a gymnasium and cafeteria.
3. A renovation of the auditorium.
4. An expansion of the site to a minimum of 13 acres, if possible, and landscaping and grading the athletic field.

Banneker and Carver are the only elementary schools in the County used by Negro pupils which may be regarded as adequate. The elementary school under construction at Leesburg will become a third modern elementary school to be used by Negro pupils.

It is pointed out that the Negro elementary school enrollment might be expected to level off at approximately 900. In light of this anticipated enrollment and the locations of Banneker, Carver, and the new building at Leesburg; it appears that no additional elementary schools for Negroes will be needed.

The committee makes the following recommendations concerning elementary schools for Negroes:

1. It is recommended that Banneker, Carver, and the new school at Leesburg be established as the three elementary schools for Negroes.
2. The pupil capacities of these three buildings should be determined to a large extent by the influence of the most efficient and economical pupil transportation system that can be devised. In turn, the pupils transportation system should be organized so that it will serve the three elementary schools and the Douglass High School on a unified pattern.
3. If it becomes necessary to add classrooms to these buildings, the site at Carver should be enlarged accordingly.

The recommendations contained in this report are recommended in this report are recommendations only. They reflect the best judgment of the committee concerning the school building needs of Loudoun County. A continuous study of school building-needs should be carried on by the local school authorities, and modifications and adjustments should be made as warranted by changing conditions.

17,000 Bomb Victims Too Big for County

He noted, the inadequacy of the hospital to care for sick and wounded. "It would be necessary to have an auxiliary unit, 200 to 300 beds, including medication," he said. "The responsibility was too much for the county to assume without help."

The CD director said that we have 16 physicians and 65 graduate nurses, all registered with emergency nursing service.

Coffee Hour Opens Red Cross Work

Mrs. Hans Stamm entertained at a coffee hour in her home near Hillsboro for area workers who will enroll Red Cross members in the current campaign.

New Orleans, John Oberlin, Ohio, and a daughter, Christina Stefferd is also survived by a brother, Floyd Robert of Springfield, and two sisters, Mrs. Ralph Stewart, Springfield, and Mrs. Gene Fawley, Brade ton, Fla.

A memorial service will be held in the Meeting House at 2 p.m. Friday.

Service Friday D. Stefferd

State Teachers College and attended Cedar Rapids.

Mr. and Mrs. Stefferd were married March 31, 1931. They had lived in Des Moines, Iowa and Port Washington, N.Y. During the time that Mr. Stefferd was in the Associated Press, the Stefferd made their home in Berlin, Germany, and in Vienna, Austria.

The Stefferd moved to Washington when Mr. Stefferd became editor of the Agriculture Yearbooks.

plete use of the buildings.

More Efficient Transportation Needed

Many of the present elementary school buildings are near the county boundaries or close to each other. Moreover, most of them are too substantial to be abandoned. It follows, then, that one of the most serious and difficult administrative problems connected with the provision of elementary education is the of developing an efficient and economical pupil transportation system that will fill to capacity each of the present elementary school buildings which must be retained because they are too substantial to be abandoned.

High efficiency and economy in the pupil transportation system will be difficult to achieve because some backhauling will be necessary. To the greatest extent possible, all bus routes should be laid out so that they will converge at the Loudoun

Funeral March Miss McCauley

Surviving is a niece, Miss A. Manahan of Washington, D.C. McCauley was a daughter of the late J. Henry McCauley and a sister of late J. Henry McCauley.

Leesburg — The Leesburg elementary plant appears to be quite substantial, although it is showing some signs of wear. The addition of a lunchroom appears to be warranted. The site is relatively small. Doubtlessly, a reorganization of the pupil transportation system will fill this building to capacity.

Waterford

Washington on Friday at Pennsylvania Avenue, held at Gawler's Chapel. Memorial services will be held at A. L. The dizegas lived at A. Mrs. Frederica dizegas in the h. For many years in the h. Leesburg. Before that she and Mrs. Joseph F. Park. Surviving is a niece, Miss A. Manahan of Washington, D.C. McCauley was a daughter of the late J. Henry McCauley and a sister of late J. Henry McCauley.

expansion of the site, the addition of a classroom to bring the total to seven, and a lunchroom since the pupils have to eat their lunches in the classrooms. Future population growth in the normal attendance area for this school might warrant a rather substantial addition to this building.

Bluemont — The location and obsolescence of this building militate against its usefulness on a long-term basis. An enrollment of 69 housed in a building with a capacity of 140 indicates in all probability that considerable backhauling would be required to fill this school to capacity. It is recommended that this building be abandoned for school purposes as soon as it is practical.

Hamilton — In all probability the crowded condition in this school can be relieved by a reorganization of the pupil transportation system. If a future population growth in the normal attendance area for Hamilton should ever warrant it, two classrooms should be added to bring the total to seven. The site should likewise be enlarged.

Hillsboro — Lovettsville, Lucketts and Waterford are located in a section of the County where the population appears to be rather stable. The Hillsboro building contains only four classrooms, which means that some of the teachers will normally teach more than one grade unless special provisions are included in the transportation system. If practical, it might be advisable to organize the pupil transportation systems so that four grades would be enrolled in this school. As a matter of fact, this principle might be applied to the greatest extent possible throughout the County where buildings containing less than seven classrooms must be continued in use. In view of the fact that Lovettsville, Lucketts and Waterford are operating at less than pupil capacity, additional classrooms at Hillsboro do not appear to be warranted. Moreover, Hillsboro is relatively close to the County boundary.

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at their home here.

Alexandria spent the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Smith.

Mr. Carr joined them the weekend.

Gill. Mr. Carr joined them the weekend.

guest of Mr. and Mrs. Charlotte, N.C.

Mrs. Albert V. Carr spent the weekend.

of Miss Eleanor Chamberlaine celebrating the birthday.

guests Saturday night at Berlin and sons were dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Wellman C. wards.

Friday of Miss Carolyn Lee.

ta was a guest Friday and of Be.

Miss Linda Baldwin of Be.

St. Meade, Maryland.

ted and daughter, Mrs. V. also Col. and Mrs. V. H. Bamhart from Ft. Sill, Okla.

guests at Salmara Col. No. will have as their week.

Col. and Mrs. Owen B. K. Miami Beach, Florida.

Waverly from two weeks st. have recently returned.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester P. California.

of New York who are go.

well, Mr. and Mrs. Hunter will have as their guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Owen T. Grove near town.

guests at their home C. Washington was a we.

Mrs. Lucy Ashbrook Seid.

ing.

State has been set for the State University in June.

graduate from Pennsylv. Leaders and Miss Miller.

of Waterford.

son of Mr. and Mrs. Albe.

ter, Margery, to Gene Lu.

the engagement of their d.

of Martinsburg have announced.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard I.