Catharpin School – 1899
Public School, Catharpin, VA
Source – "A Past to Preserve"
Prince William County Historical Commission

"The one-store, two room, L-shaped, frame, schoolhouse building features triple, schoolhouse windows and a bell tower on the roof. It also has an interior, brick chimney. Built in 1899, Catharpin School was the second public school in northwestern Prince William County. The area's first through eighth grade children were educated here until 1935 when a new school was built in nearby Gainesville. Catharpin School was then converted for commercial use and continues to be an integral feature of Catharpin's commercial area."

The following was taken from Yesterday's Schools written by Lucy Phinney. Out of the hundreds of books I own this is my favorite.

Catharpin School
White
1874 – 1936
Yesterday's Schools by Lucy Walsh Phinney

"The first Catharpin schoolhouse was built in 1874 on one acre of land given to the School Board by the Buckley family on the north side of Sudley Road in the northeast quadrant of the intersection of a private lane leading to Putman's Ford on Bull Run at the Loudoun county line. (now Sanders Land and part of State Route 705). This land was part of the old Chapman Farm, which was a large plantation owned, but not operated, by the Chapman family, which owned and operated Chapman's Mill now known as Beverley's Mill, on Bull Run at Thoroughfare Gap. Before the Catharpin school was built, the children of families living on Chapman lands went to a private school operated in St. John's Episcopal Church, one mile west of Catharpin.

That first school was a small, one-room building. One of the first teachers was Mr. Hugh Powell, who read law while his students worked on their lessons. He was admitted to the bar, moved to Texas and was elected mayor of Ft. Worth. He boarded with the postmaster, George Sanders, and his family at their Mount Pleasant farm.

By the late 1890s the one room school was not big enough so, in May of 1897, the Gainesville School Board decided to build a new schoolhouse. The old building was sold to Mr. Frederick Sanders who had been serving as postmaster since his father's death and continued to do so until his own death in 1932. He paid $30 for the building which he moved on rollers pulled by a horse named Dandy to a new location north of his store and post office now known as Alvey's Store. The old schoolhouse was used as a chicken coop and later as a dwelling. Finally, it was again moved and used as a warehouse for Sander's grist mill. In 1940, both the mill and old school building were torn down."