

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

VLR 6/19/2014

NRHP 8/25/2014

# 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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Prices Fork Historic District 2014 Boundary Increase

other names/site number VDHR 060-0224

## 2. Location

street & number Prices Fork Road  not for publication

city or town Blacksburg  vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24060

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this  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  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  local

  
Signature of certifying official/Title

7/1/14  
Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Prices Fork Historic District 2014 Boundary  
 Increase  
 Name of Property

Montgomery County,  
 Virginia  
 County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	1	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: School

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne  
 LATE 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE  
 walls: BRICK; ASBESTOS; SYNTHETICS: Vinyl  
 roof: SYNTHETICS: Membrane; ASPHALT  
 other: WOOD

Prices Fork Historic District 2014 Boundary  
Increase  
Name of Property

Montgomery County,  
Virginia  
County and State

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The amended boundary of the Prices Fork Historic District encompasses three land parcels at the southwest corner of the existing district, on the south side of Prices Fork Road and the east side of Thomas Lane. Each parcel has a single primary contributing building. Prices Fork Elementary School was built in 1950 to serve not only the small, rural Prices Fork community, located a few miles south of Blacksburg, but also a number of nearby communities in northwest Montgomery County. The sprawling one-story, flat-roof masonry school building is an excellent example of mid 20th-century public school architecture and possesses a high level of historic integrity. The building was appended on the west end with a matching one-story section during the 1950s, and again in the early 1960s with a one-story south wing built off of the east end of the original building. The single dwellings at 4261 and 4267 Prices Fork Road, built in 1953 and 1940, respectively, are good examples of variations of a common mid-20th-century house form, generally referred to as the Cape Cod form, with minimal Colonial Revival detailing, and both possess a relatively high level of historic integrity. There are no contributing secondary resources within the expansion area. One shed stands behind the house at 4261 Prices Fork Road. It is identified as non-contributing to the historic district as it was constructed beyond the period of significance and is not associated with the district's area of significance.

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### Narrative Description

**060-0224-0012      Prices Fork Elementary School      1950      Contributing building – 1**

Prices Fork Elementary School is centrally located in the Prices Fork community, on the south side of Prices Fork Road. Built in 1950 to serve the small, rural Prices Fork community located a few miles south of Blacksburg, it is a one-story brick-clad masonry building with a flat roof and minimal detailing in the streamlined Moderne style of the mid-20th century. The building was appended on the west end with a matching one-story section during the 1950s, and again in the early 1960s with a one-story south wing built off of the east end of the original building. The wing meets the main block at a right angle to form an overall L shape, but the wing is set back about 10 feet from the main block's front wall. The principal entrance is near the northeast corner of the main block, with glazed, metal folding doors inset 3-4 feet from the outer front wall plane. Above the doors is a two-light transom. To the right (west) of the doorway, the name "PRICES FORK SCHOOL" is applied in individual mounted aluminum letters. A single door on the east elevation, near the front corner of the building, has a flat, cantilevered awning that is consistent with the period of construction and the Moderne style of architecture. The school's window openings have robust aluminum sash divided into 15 lights: 3 vertical columns of 5 lights; 12 lights: 2 columns of 6 lights, or 21 lights: 3 columns of 7 lights. The 21-light windows are found only on the east wing's east elevation, while the wing's front elevation consists of a nearly uninterrupted plain brick wall with only a louvered vent; in contrast to the main block, which has several large windows across the front. Both wings have the same materials and design features, including the brick veneer, laid in a 5-course Flemish variant bond pattern consisting of one Flemish course to every five stretcher courses. The header bricks in the Flemish courses are darkened to simulate the glazed headers often seen in 18th century brickwork. This brick bond pattern is very common in Virginia public schools built between 1920 and 1950. The school's low parapet walls are covered with sheet-metal coping, painted white. Tennis courts and ball fields are located behind the school. Prices Fork Elementary School is an excellent example of mid 20th-century public school architecture and possesses a high level of historic integrity.

Note: Six impermanent modular structures that were located behind the school, shown on the accompanying aerial view entitled "Prices Fork Historic District Boundary Expansion, 2014, Montgomery County, Virginia, 060-0224," were removed from the property in late 2013. They did not contribute to the significance of the historic district. More recent aerial photographs are not currently available.

Prices Fork Historic District 2014 Boundary  
Increase

Montgomery County,  
Virginia

Name of Property

County and State

**060-0224-0013 House, 4261 Prices Fork Road 1953 Contributing building – 1  
Non-contributing building – 1**

The house at 4261 Prices Fork Road is located toward the west end of the Prices Fork community, immediately west of Prices Fork Elementary School, on the south side of Prices Fork Road. The house, built in 1953, is a 1.5-story, asbestos-shingle-clad frame building with a steep side-gable roof and minimal Colonial Revival detailing. It has a symmetrical 3-bay facade with central entry surrounded by pilasters and entablature. The wooden front door has six lights at the top with two vertical recessed panels below. The roof is clad with asphalt architectural shingles. Two front-gabled dormers with 6/6 sash appear on the front of the roof. On the west side of the main block is a slightly shorter wing, which matches the main block and appears to be part of the original construction. A brick exterior chimney is located on the east end of the house, on the north side of the roof ridge. Behind the chimney, a carport roof is attached to the east elevation of the house's main block. The rear elevation of the main block has a 3-bay shed dormer and a deep, one-story, 4-bay, shed-roofed porch. The house is a good example of a common mid 20th-century form and possesses a high level of historic integrity. A frame shed built in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century is situated behind the house. It is identified as a non-contributing building chiefly because of its recent vintage.

**060-0224-0014 House, 4267 Prices Fork Road 1940 Contributing building – 1**

The house at 4267 Prices Fork Road is located toward the west end of the Prices Fork community, on the south side of Prices Fork Road; at the southeast corner of Prices Fork Road and Thomas Lane (Rt. 737). The house, built in 1940, is a 1.5-story, vinyl-siding-clad frame building with a steep side-gable roof and minimal Colonial Revival detailing. It has a symmetrical 3-bay facade with central entry sheltered by a front-gable pedimented awning that is supported by large angle brackets to either side of the doorway. The wooden front door has six lights at the top with two vertical recessed panels below. Wide, 5-over-1 sash flank the front door, which is reached by a set of 4 concrete steps. The roof is clad with asphalt architectural shingles. Two front-gabled dormers with 3-over-1 sash appear on the front of the roof. A stone-faced exterior chimney is centered on the east end of the house, and a brick interior end chimney flue emerges at the west end of the roof. The rear elevation of the main block has a 3-bay shed dormer and a deep, one-story, 4-bay, shed-roofed porch. The rear elevation has a one-story shed-roofed porch and a single, central dormer. The house is a good example of a common mid-20th-century form and possesses a relatively high level of historic integrity.

Prices Fork Historic District 2014 Boundary  
Increase  
Name of Property

Montgomery County,  
Virginia  
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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1871 - 1953

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

- 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.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The original period of significance, as stated in the 1988 Prices Fork Historic District nomination, began in 1871 and ended in 1940 in observation of the generally acknowledged 50-year cutoff for registered properties. The historic district's 2014 expansion area includes contributing resources dating from 1940 to 1953. The period of significance, 1871 to 1953,

Prices Fork Historic District 2014 Boundary  
Increase

Montgomery County,  
Virginia

Name of Property

County and State

encompasses the span of time in which all contributing resources within the historic district were constructed and in which the district achieved significance under Criterion C.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The existing Prices Fork Historic District, listed on the National Register in 1991, remains eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as “a group of well-preserved structures depicting the growth of a town at an important fork in a turnpike from the late nineteenth century into the early twentieth century.” The Prices Fork Elementary School, built in 1950, and two neighboring houses built in 1940 and 1953 are associated with this historic pattern of development and are, in their own right, good examples of their respective architectural forms. These three resources were part of the cohesive village of Prices Fork during the period of significance, which spans from 1871 to 1953. The expanded district boundaries now encompass the Prices Fork community’s historic core in its entirety.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

Prices Fork Elementary School was erected in 1950 to serve not only the small, rural Prices Fork community, located a few miles south of Blacksburg, but also a number of nearby communities in northwest Montgomery County. It is an excellent example of mid 20th-century public school architecture and possesses a high level of historic integrity. The school was erected during a period of consolidation and modernization of Virginia’s public schools. The state board of education had been using standardized plans for school construction since at least the 1930s. The Prices Fork Elementary School features many of the attributes typical of Virginia schools from the post-World War II era. Its streamlined Moderne design with a flat roof, bands of windows, and sprawling floor plan are character-defining features. The building retains much of its historic fabric, thereby conveying its historic association with a period and style of construction that proliferated during the prosperous postwar years.

The single dwellings at 4261 and 4267 Prices Fork Road, built in 1953 and 1940, respectively, are good examples of variations of a common mid-20th-century house form, the Cape Cod dwelling. Both possess a relatively high level of historic integrity and retain character-defining features of the Cape Cod type, including rectangular floor plans with side-gabled roofs, centered entries, brick chimneys, and gabled dormers. The fenestration pattern on the dwelling at 4267 Prices Fork Road is typical of pre-World War II dwellings, with symmetrically sized and arranged window openings on the first and second stories. The dwelling at 4261 Prices Ford Road, built in 193, incorporates a “picture window” on the primary façade, an element that became an iconic feature of post-World War II American dwellings. Although the two dwellings are of the same type, the variations in their design provide a tidy encapsulation of important evolutions in domestic design trends from the prewar to the postwar years.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

Prices Fork Historic District 2014 Boundary  
Increase  
Name of Property

Montgomery County,  
Virginia  
County and State

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

Worsham, Gibson. "Prices Fork Historic District" National Register nomination, 1988. Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

**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: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR no. 060-0224

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 5.6  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>544966</u> Easting	<u>4117914</u> Northing	3	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>545035</u> Easting	<u>4117832</u> Northing
2	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>545097</u> Easting	<u>4117813</u> Northing	4	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>544989</u> Easting	<u>4117850</u> Northing

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

The existing and expanded district boundaries are indicated on the accompanying 1" to 200' scale aerial view entitled "Prices Fork Historic District Boundary Expansion, 2014, Montgomery County, Virginia, 060-0224."

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The expanded boundary encompasses only properties with contributing historic resources located in close proximity to, but outside of the original Prices Fork Historic District, listed in 1991. All potentially contributing resources are included within the expanded boundary. Six non-historic modular buildings located behind the school were removed in 2013.

Prices Fork Historic District 2014 Boundary  
Increase  
Name of Property

Montgomery County,  
Virginia  
County and State

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Michael J. Pulice  
organization Virginia Department of Historic Resources date February 2014  
street & number 962 Kime Lane telephone 540-387-5443  
city or town Salem state VA zip code 24153  
e-mail michael.pulice@dhr.virginia.gov

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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**Photographs:**

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Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Prices Fork Historic District boundary increase  
City or Vicinity: Blacksburg  
County: Montgomery County State: Virginia  
Photographer: Michael J. Pulice  
Date Photographed: May 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 5. Prices Fork Elementary School, facing southwest.
- 2 of 5. Prices Fork Elementary School, facing east-northeast.
- 3 of 5. House, 4261 Prices Fork Road, facing southeast.
- 4 of 5. House, 4267 Prices Fork Road, facing south-southeast.
- 5 of 5. Left to right: Prices Fork Elementary School; House, 4261 Prices Fork Road; and House, 4267 Prices Fork Road; facing east.

Prices Fork Historic District 2014 Boundary  
Increase  
Name of Property

Montgomery County,  
Virginia  
County and State

---

**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.