



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 216-5007

Purpose of Evaluation

Please use the following space to explain briefly why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

Are you interested in applying for State and/or Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes No x

Are you interested in receiving more information about DHR's easement program? Yes x No

1. General Property Information

Property name: The Jennings House

Property address: 173 West Spotswood Avenue

City or Town: Elkton

Zip code: 22827

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Rockingham

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building x Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 1.377

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban Town x Village Hamlet Rural

Briefly describe the property's overall setting, including any notable landscape features:

The Jennings House is perched on a slight knoll overlooking downtown Elkton and fronts West Spotswood and West Rockingham Street. The grounds of the home are dotted with 4 large burr oak trees, the largest of which is estimated at over 300 years old. The main entry of the home is accessed by a shaded brick walkway.

### 3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Italianate

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: \_\_\_\_\_

If the builder is known, please list here: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of construction (can be approximate): ca.1860

#### **Narrative Description :**

In the space below, briefly describe the general characteristics of the entire property, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the architectural style, materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions, remodelings, or other alterations.

#### Exterior

The Jennings House, is noted as being constructed in 1840, however, based on architectural evidence, the date of construction is likely ca. 1860. The former residence, is a two story, five-bay brick building on top of a raised basement. The building is covered with a low pitched hipped roof, which once included a cupola. Four large interior chimneys extend from the east and west side of the roof. Each chimney features a molded top and an inset patterned triangular design. The house features wide overhanging eaves with scroll sawn brackets of varying size and design along the cornice, some paired and some singly placed. All elevations of the house are laid in stretcher bond brick courses. All elevations of the first and second stories feature 4/4 windows with wood sills and topped with a simply designed rectangular hood.

The façade features a full width one-story porch on brick piers. The porch is covered with a flat roof supported by 10, square posts with chamfered corners and bracketed tops. The porch features a wide overhanging eave with small ornately shaped brackets. The porch balustrade features turned wood balusters and a molded handrail. The porch covers a centered entryway with a replacement 4 panel wood door. The entry is surrounded by two single pane half side lights and topped with a single pane transom.

#### Interior

The interior of the Jennings House features a double pile, center passage plan. The wide center hall features a wide staircase that runs along the east wall and rises to a small landing with a window overlooking what would have been the rear yard, before continuing to the second story. The staircase, made of walnut and pine, features large rounded newel posts, turned balusters and a molded hand rail. Other notable features in the center hall include the coffered ceiling, and just inside the main entry, two low partial walls with columns that extend up to a decorative beam accentuated with brackets and a decorative frieze with a carved repeating U and upside down spade like shaped pattern.

Each of the rooms that flank the center hall on the first and second stories are 18ft x 18ft. Each of the rooms include a fireplace, though some have been covered during past renovations. The mantels in the two front parlors of the house are marble replacements, probably put in the 1920s or 30s. All of the rooms feature wood floors. The flooring on the first story likely dates to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, while the rooms on the second story likely include their original mid-19<sup>th</sup> flooring. The interior doors are all six panel or two vertical panel doors. Windows feature their original molded surrounds and original molded paneling below.

Briefly describe any outbuildings or secondary resources (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

There are no existing outbuildings.

#### 4. Property's History and Significance

In the space below, briefly describe the history of the property, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property.

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

The Jennings house was originally home to the Dr. Simeon and Barbara Jennings, and was later occupied by the Bear, Yancey and Flory Families. Dr. Jennings was notable for caring for injured soldiers during the Civil War following the battles of Cross Keys and Port Republic. The Flory Family, the last family to live in the home, is notable for opening the Bank of Elkton in 1908 and the Elk Lithia Building. (Later known as the 7up Bottling Company of Elkton)

In the mid-1900s Merck and Company purchased the home and used it as a club house and space for visitors to Merck to stay while they were in the area. In 1964, Merck and Company donated the home to the Town of Elkton to be used as a "municipal center." Through the years, the town's library and various clubs and organizations have utilized the large rooms of the home. The Town Council meeting room was originally housed in the basement of the building until 2006 when it was moved to the Elkton Area Community Center. Until 2016, the home housed the Elkton Police Department, Treasurer's Office, Community Development, Public Works and administrative offices for the Town. From 2016 until Feb 2020, the house was vacant due to deteriorating conditions and lack of upkeep and maintenance. In April of 2020 plans began to restore the original home, removed the addition on the north elevation and plans are to add a 1600 foot addition to the same footprint of the now demolished addition. The building will once again hold Town offices.

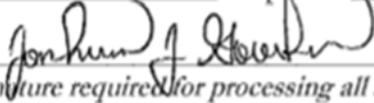
The building is being considered for the NR at the local level under Criterion C, Architecture, as a good example of a rural interpretation of the Italianate style. Despite multiple renovations over the years, the house still retains a high level of integrity, with its fine brickwork and exterior and interior details that reflect the Italianate style. Additional areas of significance may be uncovered with additional research. The Period of Significance currently begins and ends ca. 1860, the date of construction.

5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: \_\_\_\_\_ Public\Local  Public\State \_\_\_\_\_ Public\Federal \_\_\_\_\_

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: Joshua Gooden, Mayor  
organization: Town of Elkton  
street & number: 20593 Blue and Gold Drive  
city or town: Elkton state: VA zip code: 22827  
e-mail: jgooden@townofelkton.com telephone: 540-246-6826

Legal Owner's Signature:  Date: 6/25/2020  
•• Signature required for processing all applications. ••

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: Joshua Gooden,  
Daytime Telephone: 540-246-6826

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

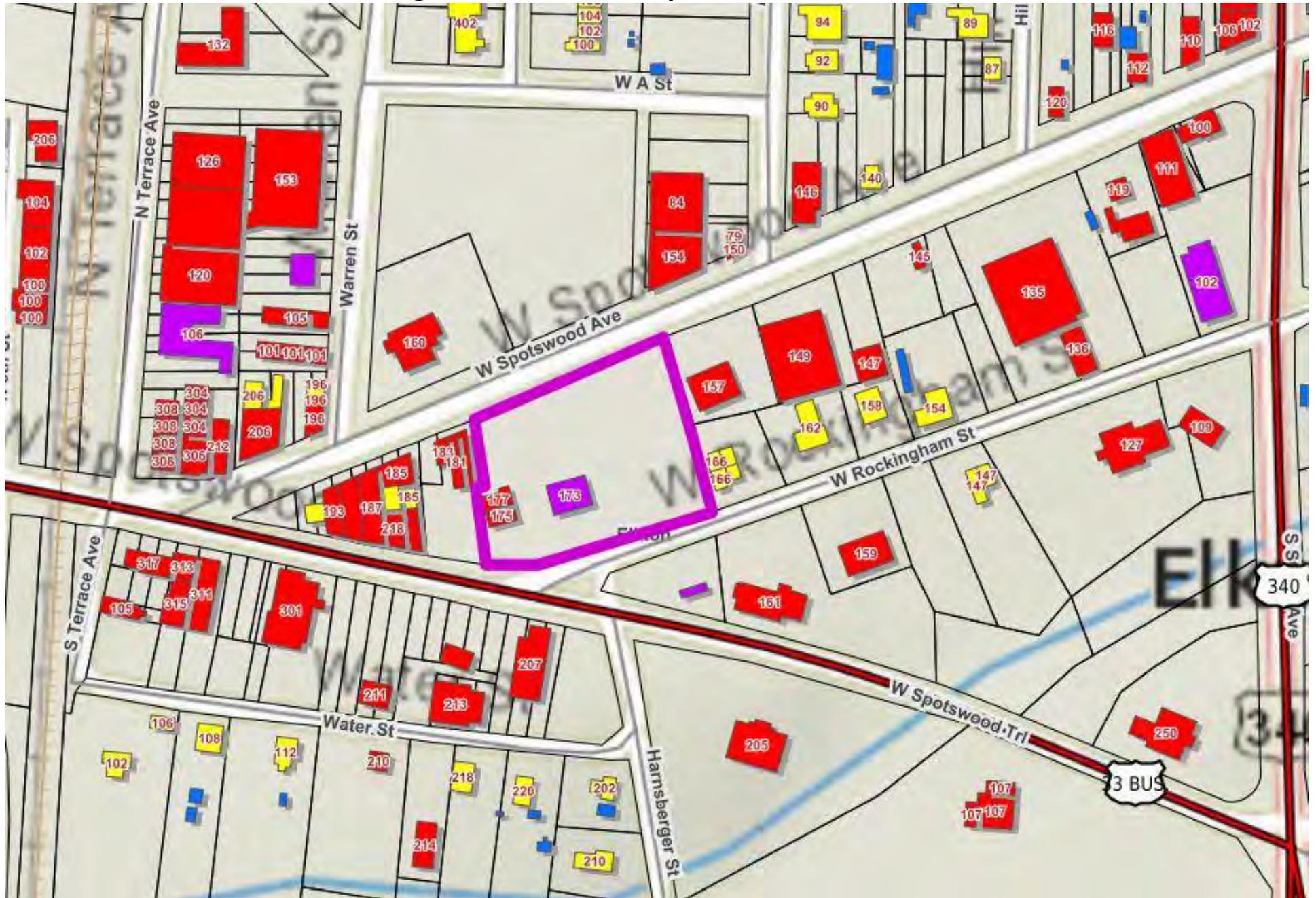
name/title: Joshua Gooden, Mayor  
organization: Town of Elkton  
street & number: 20593 Blue and Gold Drive  
city or town: Elkton state: VA zip code: 22827  
e-mail: jgooden@townofelkton.com telephone: 540-246-6826

6. Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator, City Manager, and/or Town Manager

name/title: Greg Lunsford, Town Manager  
organization: Town of Elkton  
street & number: 20593 Blue and Gold Drive  
city or town: Elkton state: VA zip code: 22827  
telephone: 540-578-0573

# The Jennings House, 173 West Spotswood Avenue, Elkton, VA



**The Jennings House, 173 West Spotswood Avenue, Elkton, VA**



# The Jennings House, 173 West Spotswood Avenue, Elkton, VA

South side of the Jennings House 2016, 2017, 2017, 1909)



# The Jennings House, 173 West Spotswood Avenue, Elkton, VA

North Side of the Jennings House (March 2020, May 2020)

Below: Architects Renderings of the 2020 addition for the basement and main floor of the Jennings House



# The Jennings House, 173 West Spotswood Avenue, Elkton, VA

Interior of the Jennings House (Main floor center hall, top floor room, main floor south doorway, basement level room)



## The Jennings House, 173 West Spotswood Avenue, Elkton, VA

Details within the Jennings House (Staircase, one of two granite fireplace mantles, and decorative trim above the front door)

