



## **PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES**

*Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.*

**DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff)** 056-5067

### **1. General Property Information**

Property name: Criglersville Elementary School

Property address: 1120 Old Blue Ridge Turnpike

City or Town: Criglersville

Zip code: 22727

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

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

Building  Site  Structure  Object

### **2. Physical Aspects**

Acreage: 5.829

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban  Suburban  Town  Village  Hamlet  Rural

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

The surrounding area is rural, comprised of rolling landscapes dotted by homes and farms surrounding the small crossroads community of Criglersville. Situated just west of the village core, the Criglersville Elementary School parcel includes portions of Old Blue Ridge Turnpike and a stretch of the Robinson River. Picturesque landscapes can be seen in all directions, particularly when looking south towards Double Top Mountain.

### 3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Stripped Classicism

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

Eubank & Caldwell, Inc.

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

Date of construction (can be approximate):

1949

**Narrative Description (Please do not exceed one page in describing the property):**

Briefly describe the property's general characteristics, 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 materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions or other major alterations.

From its construction in 1949 through its forced retirement in 2003, the primary structure served Criglersville and the surrounding area as a public school. Despite a half century of use and two decades of deferred maintenance, the 17,855 square foot brick structure is in remarkably good condition and remains true to its original architectural plans. Each of its eight classrooms contains a wall-spanning row of handcrafted cabinets designed by the building's architect, and the structure of the library's shelving remains intact. Architectural details, like the Aluminum Criglersville Elementary School sign adorning the facade and antique door hardware can be found throughout the primary structure and two frame outbuildings. The gymnasium, cafeteria, and kitchen have also escaped the ravages of time and deliberate alteration.

In a bullet list, include any outbuildings or secondary resources or major landscape features (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

- Home Economics Cabin - Constructed in 1930s, Restored in 2022
- Agriculture Cabin - Constructed in 1930s, in good condition but unrestored

#### 4. Property's History and Significance (Please do not exceed one page)

Briefly explain the property's historic importance, 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.

In 1913, Criglersville gained its first school. The original two-room school was expanded to four rooms in 1921 when high school was included to it. With its close proximity to the mountains, children living at higher elevations attended the school; though a school was built in the mountains in 1930. The Criglersville School also accepted students from a wide region as at least one other school, Novum, was closed and children were bused to Criglersville. The year 1925 saw the first graduating class.

Possibly in response to the Great Depression, an Agriculture building and Home Economics building were constructed at the beginning in the 1930s; the home economics building now houses the Mountain Museum. The Civilian Conservation Corps Camp stationed at Quaker Run in 1934 also attended night classes in Forestry, Science, and Algebra at the Criglersville School.

Disaster struck the main building of Criglersville School in January 1946 when it was destroyed by fire while county fire fighters worked to save the surrounding structures of the home economics building, agricultural building, and canning hall. The loss of the building, which housed both high school and grade school studies, left 700 children without a school. Students in grades 1 through 7 were sent to the former CCC Camp; high school students used the Home Economics building, Agriculture building, the Cannery, and Odd Fellows Hall. When the school was lost, area residents requested an elementary school in lieu of a school that would house all grades. A new, brick, school was built and in 1949 it had 265 white students. Criglersville Elementary School closed in 2003; in its last year, the school had 80 students.

Criglersville was chosen as one of eight Blue Ridge Heritage Memorial Sites for the Shenandoah National Park. The land for the park extends across eight counties and encompasses more than 33,000 acres in Madison County alone. With the creation of this park, residents of the mountain, so-called mountain people, were forced from their land which had sustained them for generations which would impact not only those individuals but surrounding communities. In Madison County alone, 125 families were displaced. The Mountain Museum in Criglersville is a tribute to those displaced, using its buildings to not only serve local residents, but for those beyond its boundaries.

Architecturally, Criglersville Elementary School embodies the Stripped Classicism style that defined governmental architecture during the early 20th century. Utilitarian in its design and ornamentation, the sturdy masonry structure was built to last, serving as a school for more than half a century. Even now, Criglersville Elementary School remains the area's defining physical landmark and a major source of community pride for longtime area residents.

Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property, such as deeds, census and tax records, and/or published articles and books. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

- Dwyer, John Edward. "A historical survey of changes in education in Madison county 1792-1970," University of Richmond Master's Theses. Summer 1970, 41.
- Ross, Charles. "(SNP105) Charles Ross interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Alan S. Brenner," Shenandoah National Park Oral History Collection. James Madison University JMU Scholarly Commons. Interview 16 October 1978. Electronic Document, <https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/snp/32/>; Mountain Museum. Exhibits onsite in June 2022.
- Homza, Marion Rosser. "County-owned site rich in memories," The Daily Progress. 12 November 2009.
- Mountain Museum 2022
- "Criglersville School Burns." Virginia Star, January 24, 1946, vol. 27, no. 29, p. 1, col. 2.
- "20 Years Ago: Files of Jan. 24, 1946." Orange Review, January 27, 1966, vol. 35, no. 48, p. B-7, col. 3.; Mountain Museum 2022.
- "Dr. C.F. Ross Analyzes School Situation: Recommends Joint H.S. With Greene." Greene County Record, April 4, 1946, vol. 37, no. 14, p. 1, col. 1.
- Berry, Edward. "Public Education Through the Years: Par I." Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow. Madison County Historical Society, May 2022.
- Nelson 2022.
- Brophy, Allison. "Culpeper backs plea for park entrance as Hoover vowed in 1929." Newspaper article on file at the Mountain Museum.
- Blue Ridge Heritage Project. Historical interpretive sign, "Honoring Their Sacrifice."

**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:

Felix Schapiro, Manager

organization:

Criglersville Elementary School LLC

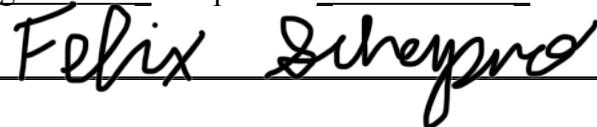
street & number: 109 E 16th Street

city or town: Richmond state: Virginia zip code: 23224

e-mail: Felix.Schapiro@gmail.com telephone: 804-432-9652

Legal Owner's Signature:

Date: 2/27/24



**• • 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: Felix Schapiro

Daytime Telephone: 804-432-9652

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

name/title: \_\_\_\_\_

organization: \_\_\_\_\_

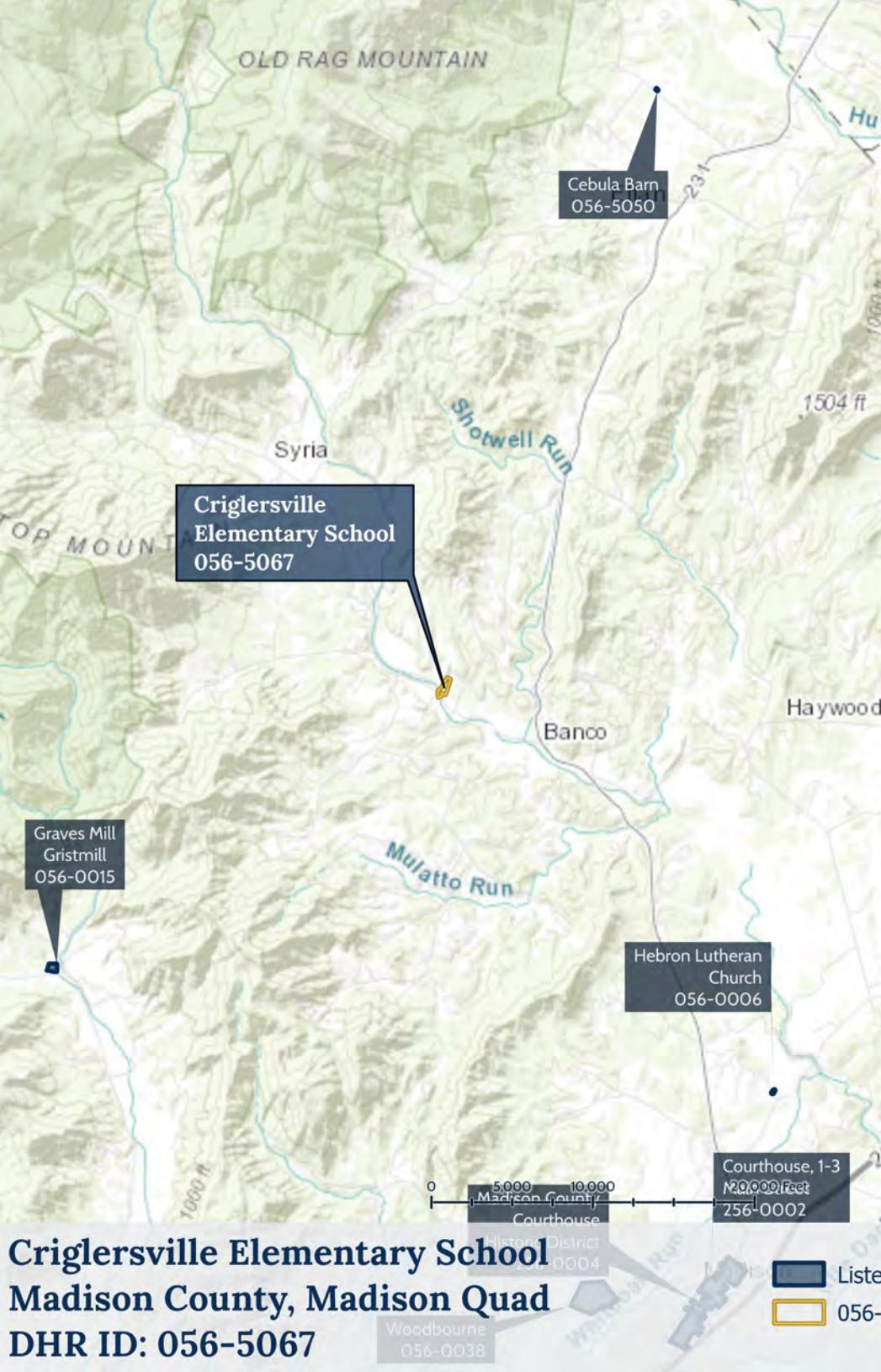
street & number: \_\_\_\_\_

city or town: \_\_\_\_\_ state: \_\_\_\_\_ zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH CONTINUATION SHEETS TO THIS FORM. THANK YOU!



**Criglersville Elementary School**  
**Madison County, Madison Quad**  
**DHR ID: 056-5067**

■ Listed Resources  
■ 056-5067

Created By: D. Bascone 3/18/2024  
Sources: VDHR 2024, ESRI 2024, VDOT 2024, VGIN 2024  
Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years and the representation depicted is based on the field observation date and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general illustration purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses.  
The map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". Contact DHR for the most recent information as data is updated continually.

**NOTES:**

1. No Title Report Furnished
2. Easements Not Shown May Exist
3. This Plat Is Based On A Field Survey  
Dated 11 July 2022
4. A Portion of the Property Shown Hereon is Located  
Within FEMA Flood Zone AE According  
to FEMA FIRM Panel 51113C0135D, Eff. 9/18/2020
5. 911 Address 1128 & 1120 Old Blue Ridge Turnpike
6. Parcel X is to be Retained as a Easement Area  
for Madison County as set Forth in the Reservation  
of Easement Recorded with this Plat
7. The New 30' Ingress/Egress Easement Runs Along Lines  
L3 and L2. The Easement Terminates at the Edge of  
Pavement Near the End of L2.

LINE	BEARING	DISTANCE
L1	S 63°18'09" E	86.99'
L2	S 22°40'18" W	308.08'
L3	S 62°27'44" W	58.52'
L4	N 20°35'02" W	40.00'
L5	N 22°44'16" W	102.90'
L6	S 19°47'10" E	90.01'
L6	S 19°47'10" E	90.12'
L7	S 23°24'10" E	62.24'

### Approvals

County Agent

Smooth  
IN 200000195  
PB 22-88  
TM 21-62

*Ross*  
IN 060001698  
DB 64-454  
TM 21-58

Zone AE  
Parcel X  
0.819 AC.  
J 05000199  
PB 39-98  
Portion  
TM 21-61

5.829 Ac.  
Total  
N 050001992

Ross  
IN 060001698  
DB 58-211  
TM 21-60

IN 210002229  
PB 4-83  
TM 21-43B

IN 050001992  
PB 39-98  
TM 21-61  
S 66°38'37" 207.29' W  
Quinn  
IN 21000195  
PB 15-61  
TM 21-15  
Pipe  
reset

*Ross*  
IN 060001698  
DB 51-276  
TM 21-47

Denotes Rod Found Unless Stated  
Denotes Overhead Power Line  
Denotes Fencing

Boundary Survey of  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF**  
**MADISON COUNTY Property**  
IN 050001992, Tax Map 21-61  
Madison County, Va.  
Scale: 1' = 100' 23 November 2023

Trustees for the  
He Ridge Baptist  
Church  
IN 150001647  
DB 47-1  
TM 21-46

Lewis Surveying Inc.  
David A. Lewis, L. S.  
518 Graves Road  
Graves Mill, VA 22727  
(540) 948-7136  
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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL





