



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) 020-0298

1. General Property Information

Property name: Pleasant View School

Property address: 18431 River Road

City or Town: Chesterfield

Zip code: 23838

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

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

Building X Site _____ Structure _____ Object _____

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 2

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban _____ Suburban _____ Town _____ Village _____ Hamlet _____ Rural X

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

Pleasant View School sits on the South side of River Road, west of its intersection with Cedar Creek Road and about a mile and a half from the entrance to Eppington (VLR, NRHP 1969). The two-acre lot has 210 feet of road frontage and is 420 feet deep. The school faces River Road to the north, with a moderate setback at the end of a gravel driveway. The rear of the lot is largely wooded; a privy was historically located south of the school but is likely no longer extant. The surrounding area is predominantly rural, consisting of low-density residential development interspersed with wooded areas and open fields.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Vernacular

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: C. H. Besecker

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1930

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.

Pleasant View School is a one-story, three-bay, two-room frame schoolhouse constructed in 1930. The exterior retains its original board siding, and the building is covered by a hipped roof clad in original crimped metal and featuring wooden rafter tails. Primary entry is centered on the north elevation and consists of a hipped roof vestibule containing an original paneled wood door flanked by square, four-light wood sash windows. Paired, six-over-six wood sash windows flank the entry bay on the facade, with two single six-over-six windows on each side elevation. An interior central brick chimney extends from the intersection of the main roof and the vestibule.

While not a Rosenwald school, the design of the building is representative of rural African American schools of the period and bears similarities to the Rosenwald two-teacher community school plans. The interior of Pleasant View retains its original wood floors, walls and ceilings clad in beadboard, an original blackboard in one of the rooms, and several original desks. The two classroom spaces are also divided by a movable partition that remains intact.

The building was moved approximately 60 feet east of its original location (within the same parcel) following a property dispute in 2007-8. The relocation resulted in the construction of a new brick pier foundation and new front entry steps, as well as the replacement of rotted joists, sill, and siding at the entrance. Despite the move, Pleasant View retains its original orientation and overall relationship to the site and surroundings.

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.

- A historic privy was located south of the school as recently as 2017, though it was not evident during a September 2024 site visit

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.

Pleasant View School is one of the last African American elementary school buildings from the segregated era still owned by Chesterfield County. Its design is representative of local schools constructed in the style of the Rosenwald Schools built in that era. African American residents indicated they attended a schoolhouse near the current location as early as 1914. Many believed there was a school there as early as 1900.

The Chesterfield County School Board purchased the two-acre lot from Peter J. and Linnie Lee in 1924. On January 29, 1930, the school board approved the consolidation of the existing Pleasant View and Winterpock schools. The Board agreed to build a new schoolhouse provided that the patrons donated \$300.00 and the land at allocation agreeable to the patrons of both schools. On March 26, 1930, the board rescinded the action and approved a two-room building instead, citing the inability of the patrons of Pleasant View and Winterpock schools to agree to consolidation. The following month, the board accepted the low bid from C. H. Besecker to construct Pleasant View for \$1,338.22. The school was completed in September 1930 and opened for the 1930-31 school year.

During the transition from the old schoolhouse to the new one, Mary Crawley Brown, teacher and principal at Pleasant View for many years, taught classes in her home which still stands nearby on River Road. Other teachers included Alva Patron, Georgia Butler, Lucille Archer, and Gertrude Finn. Ms. Butler also taught night classes for adults who lived in the area.

In the early 1930s, Rev. Willie Matthews held Sunday bible classes at Pleasant View when weekly services were not held at nearby Tabernacle Baptist Church. Over the years, two different congregations met at the school for services. Evidence of church activity remains with the presence of several pews currently in the building.

Pleasant View was closed at the end of the 1946-47 school year. Following the closure, the Pleasant View Community Association received permission to use the school building as a community center. The Community Association used and maintained the building as a center of community activity from 1947 until 1998, when it was sold.

The building was historically used by B & B Hunt Club, the Chesterfield Braves Baseball Club, the Imperial Order of King David Lodge #64, as well as 4H and Home Demonstration classes. In addition, it was used for dance parties and fundraisers. The King David Lodge paid for the installation of electrical lights in the 1950s.

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.)

- Chesterfield County School Board 1930 minutes
- Chesterfield County Historical Society of Virginia materials
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5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: _____ Public\Local X 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: Joseph P. Casey, County Administrator

organization: Chesterfield County

street & number: 9901 Lori Road

city or town: Chesterfield state: VA zip code: 23832

e-mail: countyadministrator@chesterfield.gov telephone: 804-748-1190

Legal Owner's Signature: _____

Date: 9/25/24

• • *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: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

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

name/title: Casey Walker

organization: Chesterfield County

street & number: 9901 Lori Road

city or town: Chesterfield state: VA zip code: 23832


e-mail: walkercasey@chesterfield.gov telephone: 804-748-1554


Date: _____

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



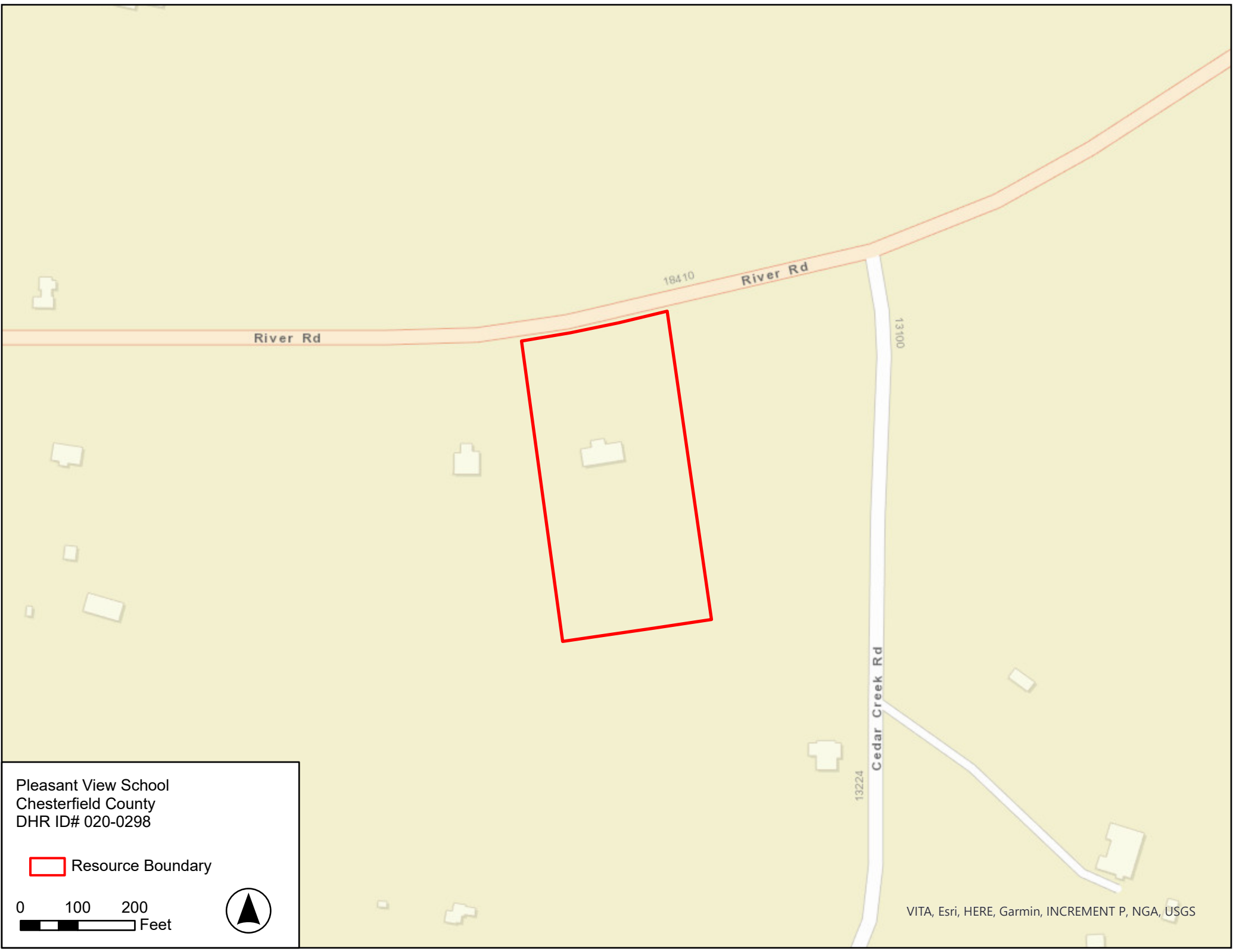
Pleasant View School
Chesterfield County
DHR ID# 020-0298

 Resource Boundary


0 100 200
 Feet




Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN), VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, NGA, USGS



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 Resource Boundary


0 100 200
 Feet





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 Resource Boundary

0 50 100
 Feet



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18431

Pleasant View School
An Early 20th Century
African-American School
The following individuals are recognized
for their efforts to preserve this site:

L. Kent Pond
A. Lindsey Pond
Lannie and Jane Pond
Martin Krievs
The Luck Family
John Morgan























