



## 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) 057-5052

### 1. General Property Information

Property name: Antioch School

Property address: 183 Antioch Road

City or Town: Mathews

Zip code: 23163

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

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

Building X Site \_\_\_\_\_ Structure \_\_\_\_\_ Object \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: .89

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:

The Antioch Rosenwald School/L. W. Wales Center and Parsonage is located to the south of Antioch Baptist Church, on Antioch Rd south of New Point Comfort Highway (Rt 14) south of Susan. The property is bounded by woods on the north, east, and south, and by Antioch Rd on the west. The only secondary resource on the property is a frame garage adjacent the school on the south.

The former Antioch School is located in a developed area of Mathews County. The building is located approximately 975 feet southwest of the intersection with New Point Comfort Highway. It is located on the east side of the road and faces northwest. The lot is cleared with tall pine trees along the sides and rear. A one-story shed is also located on the property.

### 3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Rosenwald School

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: Julius Rosenwald Fund/Samuel L. Smith

If the builder is known, please list here: Unknown

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1926-1927

#### **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.

The historic Rosenwald School building, now functioning is as the L.W. Wales Center and Parsonage for Antioch Baptist Church, is a 3-bay 1-story building with a projecting center gable (Community School Plan 20/2-Teacher) flanked by two front entrances. The frame building has one interior central brick stretcher bond chimney, a continuous cinder block foundation, wood board sheathing, replacement double-hung wood sash windows, a pressed aluminum cross-gable roof, and a small 1-bay shed roof portico over each entrance.

In 2015, recognizing that the foundation of the Wales Center (Antioch Rosenwald School) was threatening the existence of this historic community resource, the Antioch Church members invested \$33,870.71 in shoring up the foundation. This included the installation of a pump system, access well, insulation, perforated drainage system, an air system to lower humidity, access door, and replacement of a 24-foot rotted girder beam.

In 2019, with several fundraising efforts, Antioch Church contracted for the manufacture of 20 custom wood windows that were eventually installed in 2022, primed and painted in spring of 2024.

Several years ago, a great majority of the aluminum siding was removed from the exterior of the building.

In 2023 in preparation for creating a space that addresses the use needs of the community, the interior walls of the building were demolished. The attic vent was designed, built and installed.

The deteriorated accessible ramp was demolished in spring of 2024.

The building was tested for mold and asbestos in 2023 and 2024, respectively.

Over the years, there have been several repairs to the roof and flashing around the chimney.

Ongoing maintenance includes cleaning gutters and downspouts, trimming the trees and cutting grass.

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.

- One noncontributing garage shed building is also on site.

#### **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 1869, at the urging of community members, four young men, John Hudgins, John Turner, John Singleton, and Robert Forrest, led the community of Susan to see the need for a school. Mrs. Lucy Singleton, a White citizen, donated one-quarter acre of land on which the men erected the first building, a log cabin. This school served a dual purpose for several years: an educational institution for the Black children of the Susan community and a place for women to worship. After the Antioch Baptist Church was completed across the road in 1873, the log cabin served as a schoolhouse until the 1920s.

In the 1920s, the Julius Rosenwald Fund contributed to the construction of three schools in Mathews County: Thomas Hunter, Hudgins, and Antioch (spelled on Fisk Univ. listing of Rosenwald schools as "Antiock"). Hudgins School was the earliest, a two-teacher school built in the 1923-1924 budget year, and Thomas Hunter and Antioch both built in the 1926-1927. Thomas Hunter was a four-teacher school and served as the county training school (demolished in 1965). Antioch appears to be the only one standing.

Antioch School was a two-teacher school built on what was a two-acre parcel, which was donated by a member of the church. Former Pastor, Rev. L. W. Wales, spearheaded a project to match the funds (\$700) provided by the Rosenwald Foundation for the Antioch School. The community raised over \$1000 in the first fundraising project. The total cost of the school was \$4900 and \$3700 was raised by the African Americans in the community; \$700 came from Rosenwald Foundation and \$500 from community donations. (This is documented on the Fisk University Rosenwald Database.)

The schoolhouse consisted of two classrooms, a kitchen, and a vocational room. Two teachers taught multiple grade levels, with the curriculum ranging from first to seventh grades. After seventh grade, students went to Thomas Hunter for the remainder of their education. The Antioch School remained open until 1948. (Closing date was verified by Deacon William "Bill" Hudgins. He stated that he attended the Antioch School during its last year of operation, which was his first year in school, from September 1947 until June 1948.)

Upon the closing of the school, the building was often used for community functions, meetings, etc. In the early 1950s Antioch Baptist Church began to use it as a fellowship/dining hall for the church and community. In 1977, a dining hall was erected onto the church and the schoolhouse was mainly used for youth activities. In the late 1980s, Pastor Angelo Chatmon presented plans to renovate the building and have half become an apartment for the Pastor and the other half become a church library/museum. The schoolhouse, often referred to as "the community center", was officially renamed the L. W. Wales Center, in honor of the former Pastor who was instrumental in the school fundraising projects in the 1920s. The late Trustee Georgienne B. Laws organized a Black History exhibit to be displayed during the month of February. The first one was held in 1997 and led the foundation for the present historical exhibit at the L. W. Wales Center. Rev. Alvan B. James became the

director of the library/museum and served faithfully until his passing in 1999. The Center is now maintained by volunteer members of Antioch Baptist Church.

During the Jamestown Celebration of 2007, Antioch was recognized by the State of Virginia and the Mathews County Board of Supervisors and became one of the “Pearls” of Mathews. The center focused on the history of the African American citizens of Mathews County during 2006 and 2007, and has been toured by many, including students from the local elementary school. Trustee Aretha C. Thomas has researched and contacted Historical Societies especially interested in the restoration of the Rosenwald schools.

It is our goal to restore Antioch School to its original state. In 2014, with the guidance of Trustee Aretha Thomas, Antioch applied for and obtained a \$10,000 grant from the William and Catharine Owens Foundation to aid with that. With the help of friends and fundraisers, we matched that grant in less than one year. The first phase was to repair the foundation and that was completed in 2015. Phase II is to restore the original windows (at least partially completed in September 2024 upon DHR’s site visit).

The school appears to meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as presented in the Rosenwald Schools of Virginia MPD (012-5041). As described in the MPD, funding from the school came from both the African American community and the Julius Rosenwald Fund and was built from a standardized plan. Constructed within the period of significance as a two-teacher school, the former school reflects the areas of significance for this resource type.

The historic integrity of the building is somewhat compromised by the alteration of some character-defining features such as the removal of some interior finishes and replacement of original windows and doors. The vinyl windows and siding have recently been replaced with those that match the original in design, size, and materials, but it must be noted that they are replacements. However, the building maintains its integrity of setting, location, feeling, design, and association.

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.)

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**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: JACQUELINE LINARES / TRUSTEE

organization: ANTIACH SCHOOL

street & number: 183 ANTIACH ROAD

city or town: SUSAN state: VA zip code: 23163

e-mail: jdonshaw@msn.com telephone: 804-986-2924

Legal Owner's Signature: 

Date: 10/03/2024

*\*\* 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

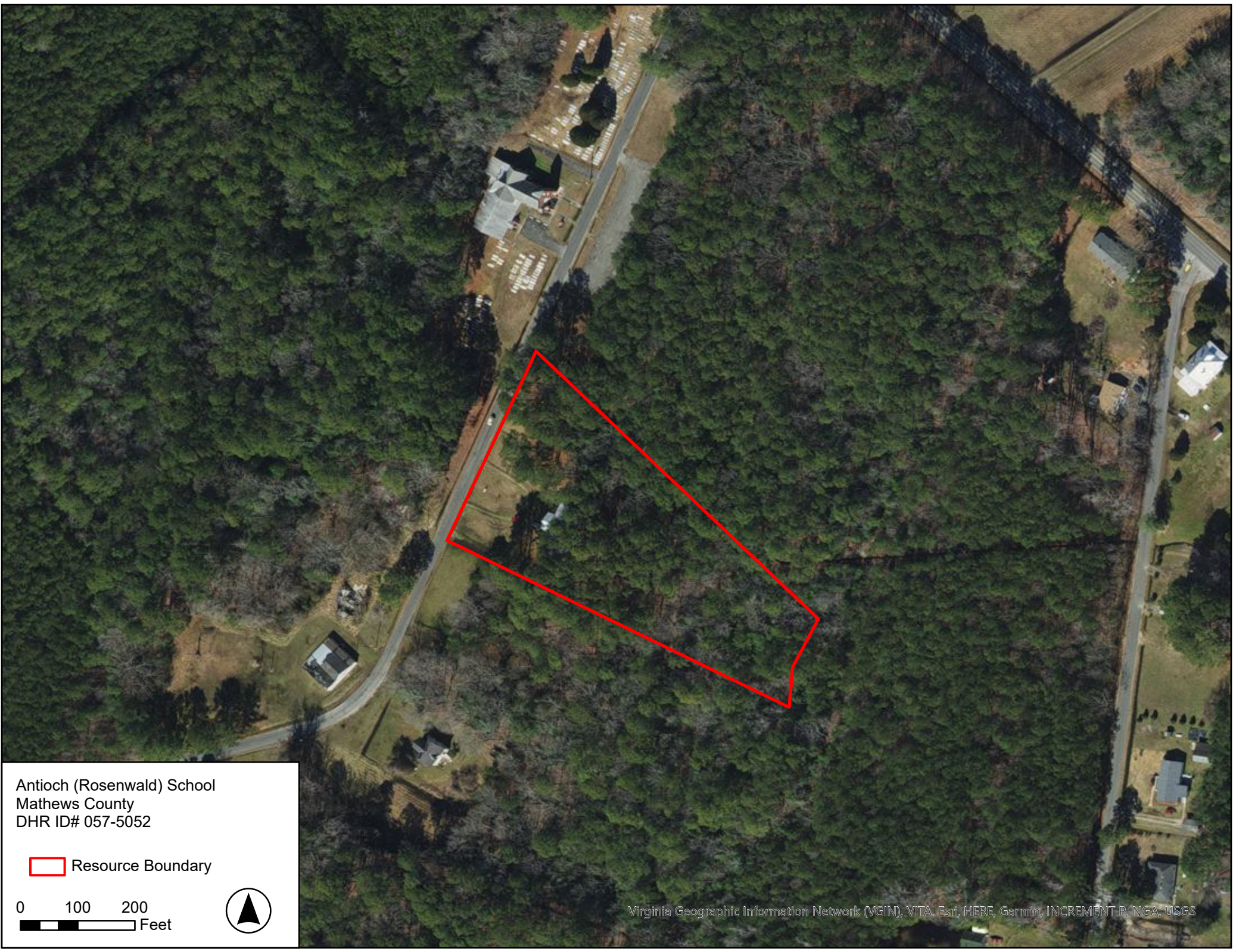
city or town: \_\_\_\_\_ state: \_\_\_\_\_ zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

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


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


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





Antioch (Rosenwald) School  
Mathews County  
DHR ID# 057-5052

 Resource Boundary

0 100 200  
 Feet





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






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Mathews County  
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 Resource Boundary

0 100 200  
 Feet









































































"From Ship to Shore"





































































