



**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) 050-0110

**1. General Property Information**

Property name: Pamunkey Indian School House

Property address: 191 Lay Landing Road, Pamunkey Indian Reservation

City or Town: King William

Zip code: 23086

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

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

Building  Site  Structure  Object

**2. Physical Aspects**

Acreage: 0.25

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 Pamunkey School and Trading Post is located at 191 Lay Landing Road on the Pamunkey Indian Reservation adjacent to King William County, Virginia. It stands at the heart of the Reservation, north of Lay Landing Road. The immediate site surrounding the building consists of an open grass lawn, while small shrubs are located along the building's north, west, and east elevations. The rear yard is expansive, and mature trees are along the east side of the lot. To the north, beyond the former school's rear yard, is the 1932 Pottery School, which is bordered by cultivated farmland to the west and south and a densely wooded area to the north and east. Southwest of the former 1909 Pamunkey School is the current Pamunkey Indian Museum and Cultural Center, completed in 1980.

### 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: Lucas Trimmer and Harry Trimmer

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1909

**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 Pamunkey School House was constructed in 1909 as a one-room schoolhouse to serve students from first through seventh grades; the school was closed in 1948 when the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Reservations merged their educational programs into one unified, and expanded school on the Mattaponi Reservation. In 1959, the building was adapted by the pottery guild to serve as a Trading Post where they sold their pottery. Currently, the building is used for storage.

It is of light frame wood construction on brick masonry piers. The floor is comprised of timber girders and rough sawn joists. The walls are balloon framed studs with clapboard siding on the exterior. The floor framing is 2"x10" joists at 16" on center spanning approximately 10 feet. Centerline and perimeter girder supporting floor joists and walls are 8"x5 3/4" timbers (long side horizontal). Girders span approximately 6 feet between brick piers. Walls are framed with 2 3/4"x4" studs at approximately 16" on center with in-plane, diagonal bracing in the building corners. The entry porch is framed with modern dimension lumber: 2x6 joists at 16" on center.

There is an interior chimney that was abandoned at some point in the past. The base of the chimney remains and extends up through the interior of the building but was hollowed out and converted to shelving with the brick above supported on steel angles. A furnace is piped into the chimney above and presumably to the crown of the chimney. This section was, however, too tall to be reached or assessed. A visual inspection from the ground identified only minor weathering in the mortar joints and a sheet metal cap/crown.

Alterations are minor and include installation of a mini-split HVAC system, a dehumidifier, and modern electrical lighting and outlets.

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.

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#### 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 this 1909 school, Pamunkey students had access to the first through seventh grade. The community made the most of its new school and worked collaboratively to maximize educational resources within an inherently discriminatory public school system. Following passage of the 1924 Racial Integrity Act, Virginia Indians had the added challenge of rebutting the arguments of Walter A. Plecker, Virginia's first state registrar of vital statistics from 1912-1946. A eugenicist and White supremacist, Plecker fought acknowledging the continued presence of American Indian Tribes in Virginia, including when it came to allocating public school funding to the Pamunkey and Mattaponi on their reservations and to the Virginia Indian Tribes that had been dispossessed of their reservations. Records from the Library of Virginia indicate the inherent inequality between the two frame, one-room Indian schools (at Pamunkey and Mattaponi) and rural schools for White children, where masonry construction, separate grades, hot lunches from onsite cafeterias, electrification, and indoor plumbing were the norm.

In June 1950, the Pamunkey and Mattaponi opted to reconsolidate their separate elementary schools. The Mattaponi-Pamunkey Reservation School was formed to offer a broader curriculum up to grade eight. The Pamunkey school, meanwhile, was converted for use as a display space and shop for the wares produced by students at the Reservation's Pottery School, which had been established in 1932. The frame building continued to serve as the Reservation's "Trading Post" until completion of the Pamunkey Museum and Cultural Center in 1980.

The Pamunkey School and Trading Post is recommended as potentially eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and C at the local level of significance. The school is significant under Criterion A for Education and Ethnic Heritage: Native American. The Pamunkey School represents free, state-supported education for the Pamunkey Tribe during a period when many of the Virginia Indian Tribes were excluded from the statewide public school system that had been established in 1870. Additionally, it is significant under Criterion A for Commerce. Following its use as a school, the building was used as a Trading post for the sale of pottery that was made on the reservation by participants of the Pottery School. The building is also significant under Criterion C as a well-preserved and rare surviving example of a one-room schoolhouse in the region and in association with education on one of the oldest inhabited Native American reservations in North America.

The resource retains a high degree of all seven aspects of integrity associated with its use as a school and a trading post for the Pamunkey Tribe. Based on historic photographs, the building retains strong architectural integrity of design, materials, and workmanship as an early twentieth-century schoolhouse. As it is still located at the community center of the Pamunkey reservation and is surrounded primarily by farmland, the site retains integrity of location and setting. Furthermore, it retains integrity of its historic feeling and association as an early twentieth-century schoolhouse in regard to its historic role, appearance, and place in the community.

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.)

- All information taken from *Pamunkey Indian Tribe & Reservation: Intensive Survey Report and Management Plan* prepared by Commonwealth Preservation Group, May 2024. Report includes numerous citations to original sources of information.
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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: Pamunkey Indian Tribe

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

street & number: 1054 Pocahontas Trail

city or town: King William state: Virginia zip code: 23086

e-mail: pamunkeytribe@pamunkey.org telephone: 804-843-2353

Legal Owner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 4/23/2026

• • *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: Richard Matens, Executive Director

Daytime Telephone: 804-885-3344

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

name/title: Andrew Foster, Director, Pamunkey Indian Museum and Cultural Center

organization: Pamunkey Indian Tribe

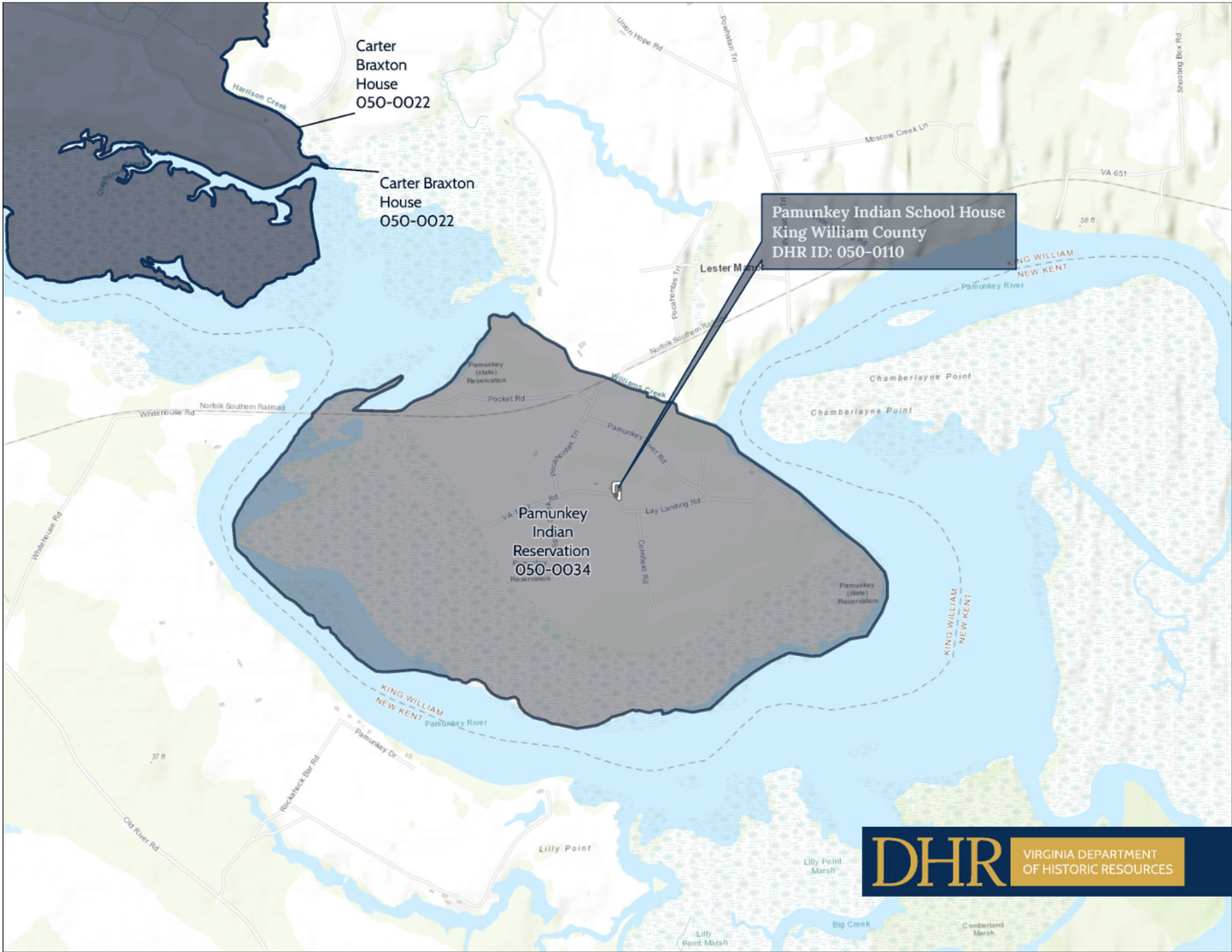
street & number: 175 Lay Landing Road

city or town: King William state: Virginia zip code: 23086

e-mail: Andrew.foster@pamunkey.org telephone: 804-701-2470

Date: April 14, 2026

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



Carter Braxton House  
050-0022

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050-0022

Pamunkey Indian School House  
King William County  
DHR ID: 050-0110

Pamunkey Indian Reservation  
050-0034

**DHR** VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

**Pamunkey Indian School House  
King William County  
DHR ID: 050-0110**











PAMUNKI  
INDIAN RESERVE  
TRADING POST  
HAND MADE Pottery Co  
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