



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) 127-8293

1. General Property Information

Property name: Granite Schoolhouse

Property address: 7400 Forest Hill Avenue

City or Town: Richmond

Zip code: 23225

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

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

Building Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: Unknown

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 Granite Schoolhouse, which served as an annex building of the Granite School. is located at 7400 Forest Hill Avenue which is behind Fire Station #24 in Richmond. The schoolhouse is surrounded by a chain-link fence.

3. Architectural Description Vernacular

Architectural Style(s): _____

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): Likely built in 1919 or in the 1920s

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 annex building of the Granite School is a one-story weatherboard building that is approximately 650 square feet. The building was likely constructed around 1920. The building's siding is made from wood. The building has a pier foundation with concrete block infill. The steps are made from poured concrete. The building has double-hung windows with wooden frames. The building has a metal roof and a brick chimney.

While the paint on the building's exterior is peeling, the building is in fair condition. The fluorescent light fixtures are not part of the original building.

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.

-
-
-

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.

The Granite Schoolhouse, an annex to the Granite School, is the last remaining historical building of the historic African American community of Granite. After Emancipation, many formerly enslaved African Americans settled in this part of Chesterfield County (later annexed by the City of Richmond in 1970) and worked in the nearby granite quarries. African American workers from Granite mined the granite used in several prominent infrastructure projects, including the steps of the Virginia Capitol and the walls of the Old City Hall.

The Granite School, also known as Gravel Hill School, was an elementary school serving African American students in Chesterfield County. While the exact date of construction of the annex is unknown, the Richmond Times-Dispatch described the school as "new" on January 8, 1920. Due to consolidation, the school was closed in June 1950. A fire destroyed the main school building on December 18, 1950.

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.)

- “Flames Destroy Abandoned School” Richmond News Leader, December 18, 1950.
-
- Richmond Times-Dispatch, January 8, 1920
- Virginia's Most Endangered Historic Places List 2025. Preservation Virginia.
https://preservationvirginia.org/press_release/2025-list-of-virginias-most-endangered-historic-places-announced/

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: Richmond Public Schools and the City of Richmond

organization: _____

street & number: _____

city or town: _____ state: _____ zip code: _____

e-mail: _____ telephone: _____

Legal Owner's Signature: _____

Date: _____

•• *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: Edwin Minter

Daytime Telephone: 804-306-1255

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

name/title: Granite Schoolhouse

organization: Granite Community Foundation

street & number: 1201 Sycomore Square Drive, Unit 742

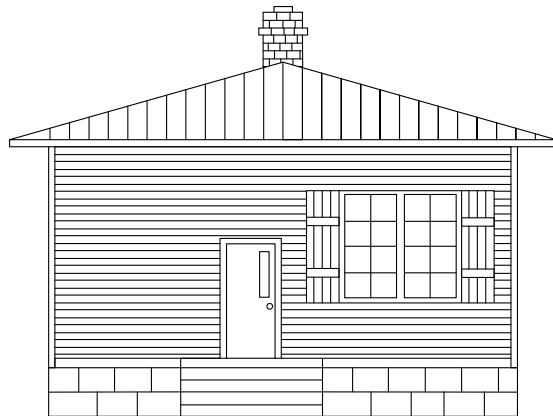
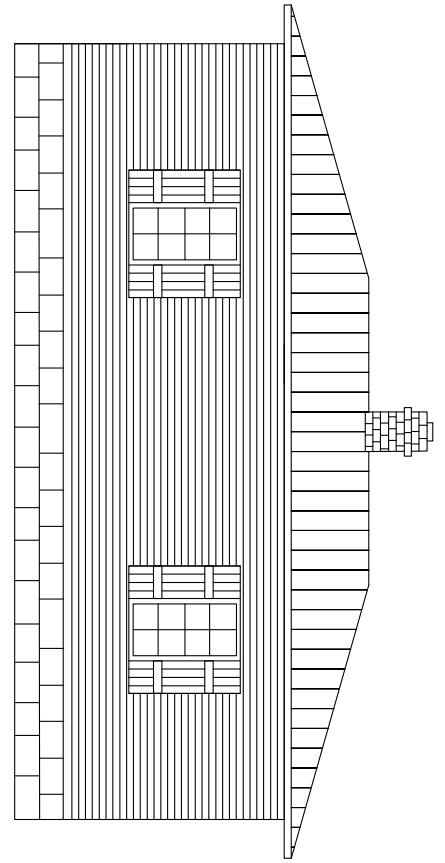
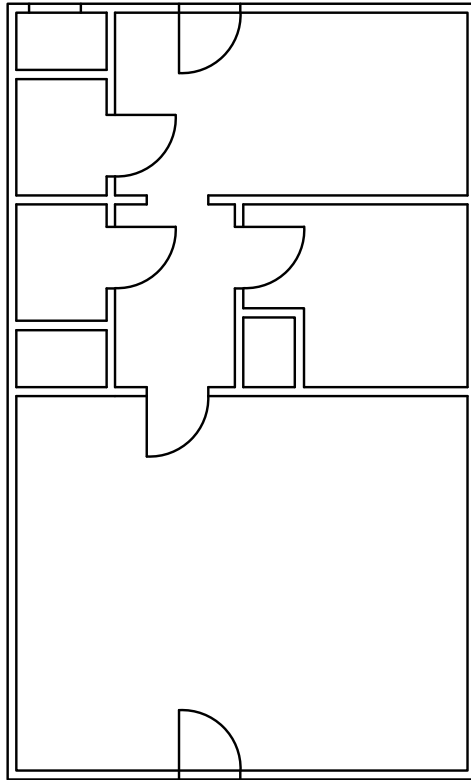
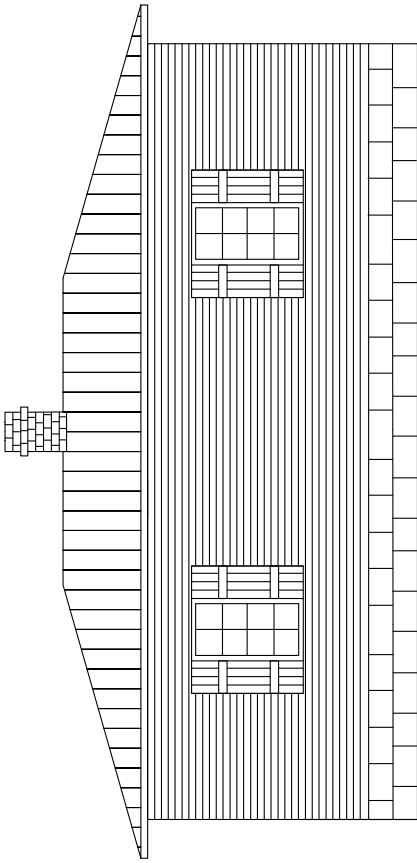
city or town: Midlothian state: VA zip code: 23113

e-mail: Granitecommunityfoundation@gmail.com telephone: 804-306-1255

Date: 5/19/2026


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

Granite Schoolhouse, 650 sq ft



PIF BOUNDARY MAP

Granite Schoolhouse
City of Richmond, VA
DHR ID# 127-8293

 Proposed Boundary

0 100
 Feet

