



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) 136-5054-0067

1. General Property Information

Property name: Rosenwald Community Center

Property address: 413 Port Republic Road

City or Town: Waynesboro

Zip code: 22980

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

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

Building Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 2.77

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 Rosenwald Community Center is located on a large lot occupying nearly an entire block at the north corner of Port Republic Road and Fontaine Ave in the Port Republic neighborhood of Waynesboro. A brick retaining wall along Port Republic Road and Fontaine Street allows the ground level of the school to be below street grade. The building faces southwest towards Port Republic Road and is accessed by a central addition on that façade. Additional entrance is from the rear which contains a large, paved parking lot to the west as well as three modern sheds, playing fields, and other recreation-oriented outdoor spaces to the west and north.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): International

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: 1959 sections designed by Hinnant, Addison & Hinnant in Lynchburg

If the builder is known, please list here: _____

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1959 with 1951 addition and ca.1938 auditorium

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.

An earlier 1924 building and 1934 addition were replaced by the present facility in 1959, but the 1938-39 auditorium/gymnasium and two 1951 addition were retained.

The 1959 updates represent the largest section of the building and were designed in the International Style by Hinnant, Addison & Hinnant Architect and Engineers in Lynchburg. The two-story, multi-bay, L-shaped section stretches north from the intersection, is clad in a brick veneer and features grouped metal-frame casement windows indicating classroom locations, and unglazed areas at the building corners reflecting service or circulation spaces. The classroom sections feature a parged band at the ground level and separating the first and second story. The building is topped by a flat roof with simple metal coping. A loading bay and rear entrances are located on the northwest elevation.

A 1951 entry addition wing of the school is similarly styled to the main section of the building. It is appended to the northeast of the main section and features a projecting entry bay, taller than the rest of the building, with a recessed double-leaf, metal, commercial door topped with simple decorative paneling to fill the entire bay. An additional 1951 addition extends from the northwest of the main section. This addition features a one-story, parged, flat roof as well as additional multi-light, metal-framed, casement windows and an additional single-leaf commercial door.

The 1938-1939 auditorium, located at the north end of the complex, is a semi-detached, gabled, brick-faced tile block edifice with large window openings that have been mostly bricked in.

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.

- Three circa 2000, noncontributing storage sheds are located to the west of the building
- Modern playgroup equipment is located to the north of the building
- Brick retaining wall along Port Republic Road and Fontaine Street

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 Rosenwald Community Center is being considered for the National Register under the African American Schools in Virginia MPD under both the New Deal Era schools (ca 1932 – ca 1945); and Equalization Era schools (ca 1946 – ca 1968) eras. As noted in the MPD, “Washington-Rosenwald schools that do not meet the registration requirements in that (Rosenwald School) MPD may be nominated under the “African American Schools of Virginia” MPD if the schoolhouse in question meets the registration requirements herein. For example, a property that includes a Washington-Rosenwald school to which a New Deal era or equalization era addition was appended may be nominated under this MPD.” And those that “remained in educational use between c. 1931-c. 1968, remodeling, additions, and other alterations associated with the New Deal and Equalization eras also are likely to be significant in their own right and, therefore, will not erode the property's overall integrity of feeling and association”.

By 1871 the “Perrett Colored School” was established for the education of Black students in Waynesboro. In January 1880 the Pleasant View United Methodist congregation sold their first church building to the county school board, presumably for new use as a schoolhouse to replace the one in use during the 1870s. The Fisk University Julius Rosenwald Fund Collection shows a simple one-story schoolhouse in the general location of the present Rosenwald Community Center building. This school contained two rooms, and students were taught only through the seventh grade. In the 1910s Waynesboro's Black community began to push for improved school facilities. A Parent's School League was formed to raise funds, and additional monies were donated by the Rosenwald Fund. A new facility first recorded in the Julius Rosenwald Fund Collection as the “Basic School” and later known as the Julius Rosenwald Training School or simply Rosenwald School was erected in 1924 for \$9,000, \$500 raised by the community, \$7,400 in public funds, and \$1,100 from the Rosenwald Fund. The building, built as a Four-Teacher Type with an auditorium, was expanded to six classrooms with Civil Works Administration funding in 1934. Enrollment typically numbered between 100 and 200 during the late 1920s and early 1930s.

The 1924 building and the 1934 addition were replaced by the present facility in 1959, but the 1938-39 auditorium/gymnasium and a 1951 addition were retained. The 1959 updates were designed in the International Style by Hinnant, Addison & Hinnant Architect and Engineers in Lynchburg. With school integration, high school and junior high students were reassigned to other schools in 1965 and the facility, renamed the Rosenwald Community Center, has since served as a community center, offices for the city department of parks and recreation, and the Waynesboro Black History Museum.

The period of significance begins in 1938 with the oldest extant section of the building and extends through 1965 when the schools in Waynesboro were integrated and the school closed. It is considered locally significant under Criterion A, Ethnic History, African American and under Education. It is also being considered under Criterion C, Architecture as a good example of the International Style in Waynesboro. More research is needed, but it is likely the only architect designed International Style building in Waynesboro, and one of only a few architect-designed buildings in Waynesboro from the New Dominion period.

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.)

- Fisk University Julius Rosenwald Fund Collection
- City of Waynesboro Tax Records
- News Leader article "School was refuge in segregated Waynesboro" by Monique Calello, November 10, 2026
- Port Republic Road Historic District NRHP nomination
- African American Schools in Virginia MPD
- 1959 addition plans by Hinnant, Addison & Hinnant Architect and Engineers in Lynchburg

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: Alisande Tombarge, City Planner

organization: City of Waynesboro, VA

street & number: 230 S. Wayne Ave

city or town: Waynesboro state: VA zip code: 22980

e-mail: tombargeam@ci.waynesboro.va.us telephone: 540-942-6604

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: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

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

name/title: Caitlin Sylvester

organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

street & number: _____

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








e-mail: caitlin.sylvester@dhr.virginia.gov telephone: _____

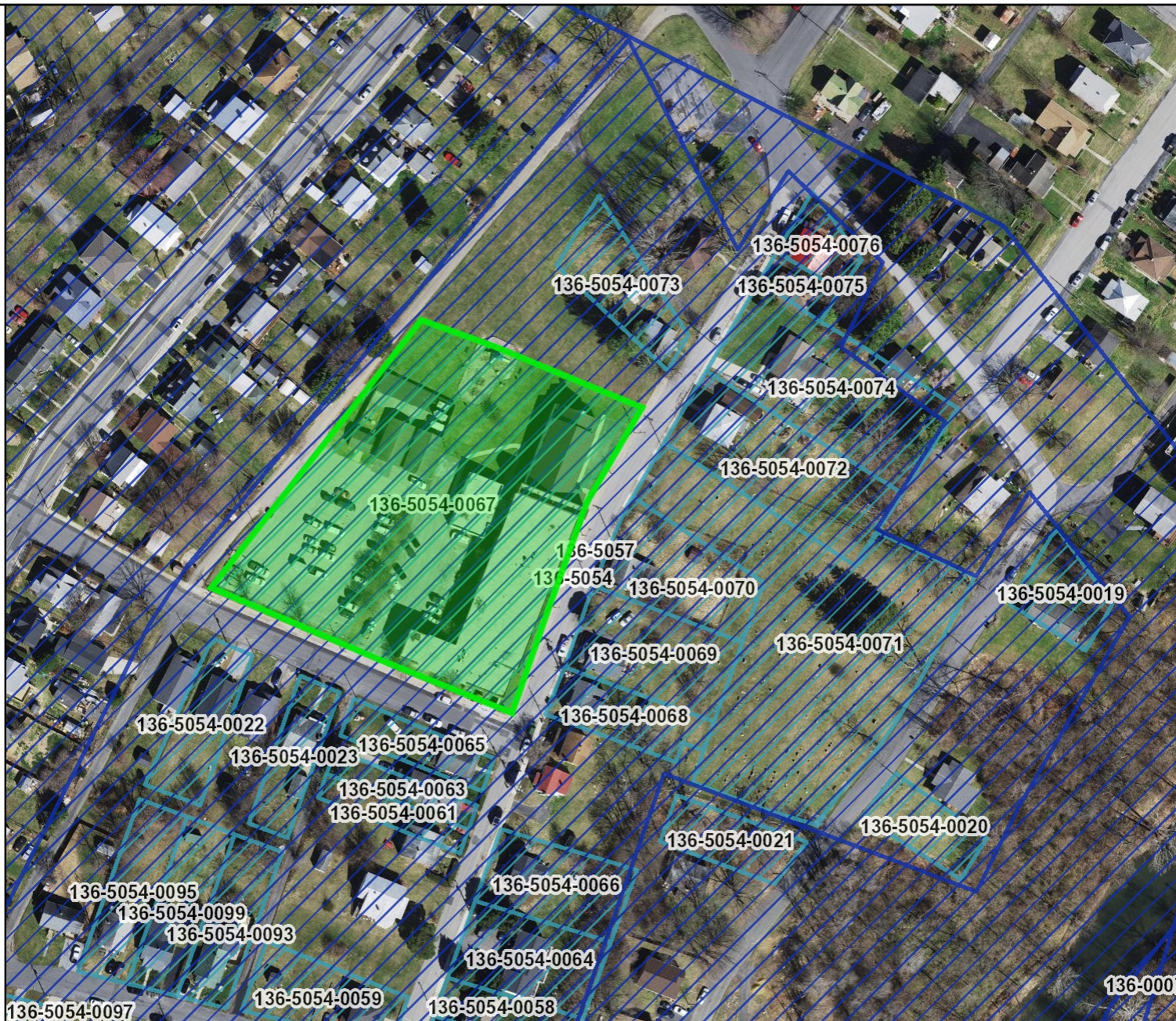
Date: 3/5/2026

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



Legend

-  Architecture Resources
-  Architecture Labels
-  Individual Historic District Properties
-  Archaeological Resources
-  Archaeology Labels
-  DHR Easements
-  County Boundaries

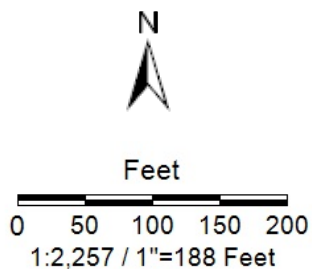


Title: Rosenwald Community Center

Date: 4/21/2026

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



Legend

- Roads (12,000)
- Interstate
 - US Primary Highway
 - State Primary Highway
 - Secondary
 - County Boundaries



Feet

0 25 50 75 100
1:1,500 / 1"=125 Feet

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Date: 4/21/2026

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NO
TRESPASSING
AFTER 9PM



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PORT REPUBLIC ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

This is Waynesboro's oldest intact neighborhood. It coalesced as a community about 1870, just after the Civil War, when formerly enslaved individuals moved here to work in nearby industries and on railroads. The African American residents constructed most of the buildings here between the mid-19th and mid-20th centuries. The community's Rosenwald School and Shiloh Baptist Church were both constructed in 1924. One of the earliest houses in the district, a circa 1818 dwelling, was built on Riverside Drive. Designated the Port Republic Road Historic District, the neighborhood was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES, 2010


















Waynesboro
Parks & Recreation
MAIN OFFICE

14
Parks & Recreation Office

14

OPEN

<EXIT>









21
Training Room



MRS. FLORAG SHURN
ACT COLLEGE, B.A.
HAMPTON INSTITUTE, M.A.
ENGLISH & FRENCH
SOCIAL STUDIES

