



## 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) 021-5055

### 1. General Property Information

Property name: *Liberty Hill*

Property address: *1118 Liberty Hill Lane*

City or Town: *Paris, VA*

Zip code: *20130*

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

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

Building ☒ X

Site ☐

Structure ☐

Object ☐

### 2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: *230 acres*

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:

*Liberty Hill is located to the south side of Route 50, near the summit at Ashby Gap and at the end of a mile-long road (Liberty Hill Lane) that rises steeply as it runs alongside the Appalachian Trail. The property, which is in a forestry zone, is comprised of 230 acres, mostly wooded and now in conservation easement. Stone walls are found throughout the property, including in the forest along ridges. The house and outbuildings sit in a clearing near the mountain ridge, a couple hundred yards from the Appalachian Trail, and are visible from the Shenandoah Valley.*

*Liberty Hill includes a main house with additions, a refurbished smoke house, a barn, a cemetery, and a chimney that was the site of a former dwelling.*

*Landscape features include:*

- a family cemetery, an orchard and a boxwood garden west of the house;*
- a spring, pond and creek to the east of the house; an oil shed and screened gazebo to the south of the house and a barn further south; and*
- a spring or waterfall to the south east corner and creek running along the west of the property.*

### 3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): *Vernacular*

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: *NA*

If the builder is known, please list here: *Unknown*

Date of construction (can be approximate): *~1790 for main house, similar dates for barn and smoke house*

#### **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.*

*Liberty Hill was an active farm until 1939s when acquired by C. Harrison Mann, Jr. Mr Mann, who undertook significant restoration and renovation of Liberty Hill, used the property as a second residence. The current owners, the Hunters, acquired Liberty Hill in 2015, use the property as a primary residence and hay the fields.*

*The one-and-one-half-story, vernacular log cabin that is the main house was constructed ca. 1790 by Benjamin O'Rear on land originally part of Lord Fairfax's Leeds Manor. The three-bay dwelling features large exterior-end stone chimneys and an integral three-bay front porch with chamfered posts and x-railing. The house is sided with 20th-century wood weatherboard except for under the porch, which has original wide-beveled, beaded flush siding. A rear (north) catslide roof contains other rooms, with a large exterior-end stone chimney on the west gable end. This section was added in 1856 (Mann, 34) and remodeled mid-20th century. The three-bay elevation of this side faces the Shenandoah Valley and is comprised of plate glass windows flanking a central door with a Colonial Revival surround. Historic photographs show that one bay was initially enclosed and the rest was once an open porch. A flagstone patio with steps leads down to the sloping yard. The standing-seam metal gabled roof has overhanging eaves and two gable-roofed dormers on the south (added in 1940) and was originally clad in wooden shingles. The double-hung wood windows are 6/6-sash with louvered wooden shutters, the front porch has a wooden floor, and the foundation is stone. A small square attic window is sited south of the chimney in the west gable end. An unusual feature is an original exterior closet built into the west gable end in the space between the chimney and the front siding. It features a shed roof and a batten door. Two, one-story, gable-roofed, mid-20th-century frame wings clad in board-and-batten siding extend to the east in a telescopic formation. According to Mann, the original cabin was built by Fauquier County carpenter, Josiah Ferguson (Mann, 3).*



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.

- **Smoke house, east of main house:** A one-story, two-room, two-bay structure that was the original log smoke house that probably dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century, but modified to its current configuration ca. 1950. A side wing (shed) was added to the east in the 1970s. The building has a stone foundation, a gabled standing-seam metal roof with a cupola and board-and-batten siding and is currently used as a guest house and study.
- **Barn, south of main house:** The stone and timber-framed barn probably dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The core structure is a one story stone building, with lean-tos on the east and west sides and an upper story clad in board-and-batten and weatherboard siding. Structural work and re-siding was completed to the barn in 1948 (Mann, 35). Structural mitigation in the upper level of the barn was installed in 2019 to prevent the building from splaying. The rafters are simple poles that are mortised together with wooden pegs. The interior of the barn has hand-hewn and sawn members reflecting the different periods of expansion and repair.
- **Burned down guest house with remaining chimney, east of the house, overlooking pond:** A small guest house built by Harrison Mann on the site of kennels burned down ~2000. The chimney, built by craftsmen who built Trinity Episcopal Church in Upperville, remains standing.
- **Oil shed, to south of house:** This one-story, two-bay frame shed is covered in vertical wood siding and has a standing-seam pyramidal roof. It dates to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century and houses oil tanks that feed into the house furnace. Details include a four-light casement window and a batten door on the north side.
- **Gazebo, to the south of house:** This one-story, screened-in gazebo, echoes the oil shed in form and size, is a pole building with a pyramidal roof clad in standing-seam metal and dates to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- **Stone walls surrounding house, orchard and running through forests in several locations**
- **Pond, to east of house:** The pond is fed by a spring near the east entrance and in turn feeds a creek running along the east property line towards.
- **Spring or water fall, to south east:** The waterfall or spring near the extreme south east corner of the property feeds a creek that runs along the south and west property lines.

#### 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.

*Liberty Hill has had several owners who continually farmed the land to the mid-20th century. C. Harrison Mann Jr. purchased the property in 1939 and in 1977, published a detailed booklet on the property's history entitled, Liberty Hill. Mann provides historic context for the house and the neighborhood and provides information on the changes he made to the house. Benjamin O'Rear, who leased the land in 1787, is believed to have built the house shortly thereafter. The layout of the house roughly follows the requirement of Fairfax's leases of that period that required the dwelling to be at least 16 x 20 feet with a brick or stone chimney. An orchard with at least 100 trees was also to be planted. The O'Rears were locally prominent citizens. Benjamin was a farmer, a blacksmith, and a Frederick County sheriff. After he died in 1826, the property was then passed to his son Jesse O'Rear, who died in 1833 (Mann, pp. 10-11). His widow lived there with her relations (Marshall family). In 1891, Joanna Marshall deeded Liberty Hill to her nephew Alfred Green and his wife Bettie Rice. Beginning in 1914, Joseph B. Thomas, who was at the time master of the Piedmont Hunt, would bring the hounds here to board during the summer. The dogs lived at Huntland in Loudoun County during the rest of the season. In 1939, the Greens sold Liberty Hill to attorney C. Harrison Mann, Jr. and Betty Mann, of Arlington, VA. They renovated the house, added the dormers, re-sided (except for the front); added a side wing to the house, converted the meat house into a cottage; and landscaped extensively. Peter Cornwell worked on the farm for them and completed much of the work (Mann, 42,43). Mann-family descendants owned the property until it was purchased by the current owner in 2015 (CCDB 257:346; 594:543). Liberty Hill is one Clarke's oldest surviving log cabins. It was built by one of the earliest settlers on what was once part of Lord Fairfax's Leed's Manor. The late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19th-century stone and frame barn further add to the property's significance.*



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.)

- *C. Harrison Mann Jr, Liberty Hill (1977)*

**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: *Roszell Dulany Hunter and Marie Hunter*

organization: *NA*

street & number: *1118 Liberty Hill Lane*

city or town: *Paris* state: *Virginia* zip code: *20130*

e-mail: *rod.hunter@bakermckenzie.com* telephone: *202 290 4409*

Legal Owner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ *[Signature]*

Date: *February 4, 2025*

Legal Owner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ *[Signature]*

Date: *February 4, 2025*

• • *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!**



# PIF BOUNDARY MAP

Liberty Hill  
Clarke County, VA  
DHR ID# 021-5055

 Proposed Boundary


0 500 1,000 1,500  
 Feet






# PIF AERIAL MAP

Liberty Hill  
Clarke County, VA  
DHR ID# 021-5055

 Proposed Boundary

0 100 200 300  
 Feet



































































































































































In  
memory of  
MARY E.  
daughter of  
JAMES H. & MARY E.  
RICK  
Departed this life  
Aug 23rd 1881  
Aged 15 years  
months & 19 days



