



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) 166-0013

1. General Property Information

Property name: Henry Clay Elementary School

Property address: 310 South James Street

City or Town: Ashland

Zip code: 23005

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

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

Building X Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 10.5

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban Town X Village Hamlet Rural

Briefly describe the property's overall location and setting, including any notable landscape features:

The Henry Clay School is located at 310 James Street in Ashland or at the corner of Hanover Avenue and James Street in a residential area of the town. The actual corner is a paved parking lot for the school north of the building and is the location of the former Ashland High School that was demolished in the early 1970s. There is an entrance into the parking lot from James Street. There is a semi-circular driveway from Hanover Avenue that facilitated school buses dropping off and picking up children from the school on the north side of the school. There are plantings along the front of the building and redbud trees have been planted along the rear of the school.

There are three courtyards within the school. Each courtyard is landscaped with flowers or trees. One courtyard has planting beds and picnic tables while another had a paved area with raised stone or concrete seating area.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Colonial Revival

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: Luther P. Hartsook - original school

If the builder is known, please list here: _____

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1934—original school, 1955, 1968, 1982, 1998

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 Henry Clay Elementary School is a long and deep one-story brick building that was constructed in at least five building campaigns. The original Colonial-Revival-style school opened in 1934 and consists of a projecting seven-bay, gable-roof, central block with quoins with a three-bay projecting arcaded portico with arched openings flanked by recessed classroom wings. The double-leaf central door has a five-light transom and has a double-soldier-course surround. The windows in the central section are single nine-over-nine-light wooden sash windows surmounted with brick jack arches and there is a raised stretch-course water table that continues on the flanking classroom wings. The classroom sections have a lower gable roof than the center block with ranks of five six-over-six-light wooden sash windows for each classroom. The end blocks are set off by front-facing gable roofs. The plan of the original school featured a central corridor with classrooms on both sides. The principal's office was located in the central block adjacent to the entrance hall. There have been at least four additions to the school over the years creating a much larger building than appears from the front. According to a school board study, the first addition in 1955 was behind and parallel to the original building but did not connect with it. This addition had a north/south hallway with classrooms on the western side. At the same time a large cafeteria and kitchen was built on the north end of the addition, but it also did not attach to the original school. In 1968, two flat-roof, brick-veneer wings were built at each end of the original school and connected the original school with the cafeteria on the north end and with the 1955 classrooms on the south end of the building. This created a large interior courtyard between the original school and the 1955 additions. In 1982, a connector was built on the rear of the original school opposite the entrance that provided a hallway from the entrance to the 1955 additions. This divided the courtyard into two smaller courtyards. A contemporary section was added in 1998 across the rear of the 1955 addition. The corner of each classroom angles out from the building and contains the only windows for each room. Like the 1955 and 1968 additions, it has a single loaded corridor with classrooms on one side. It also created a third courtyard. A covered ramp was added on part of the rear where buses loaded and unloaded students. The original school retains some of its original finishes. The original classrooms have the large windows on one side, cloakrooms (most have had the doors removed but some survive) on one end and chalkboards or white boards on the other two walls. Original classroom doors have nine lights over a large single recessed panel and most doors have three-light transoms. The floors are tile throughout the school and the ceilings are dropped acoustical-tile ceilings with lay-in lights. The later additions have painted block or brick walls while the original classrooms appear to have gypsum wallboard walls.

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.

- Ashland War Memorial Building
- The corner stone of this building is inscribed with "War Memorial/Dedicated Armistice Day/November 11, 1949. The building has a two-story, flat-roof front block with a large barrel-roof gymnasium/auditorium block to the rear. There is a stepped parapet wall on the rear. Although this building is fairly plain, verticality is stressed on the front section. On the front, there is a projecting center section with a one-story, one-bay, flat-roof porch that shelters the double-leaf entrance doors. A decorative brick panel in a basketweave pattern extends from the porch almost to the top of the building. Tall two-story window bays flank the entrance and have been covered on the exterior but are glass-block on the interior. The remaining windows are aluminum. All window bays in the front section are outlined by header brick with panels of all header bricks beneath each window. Brick pilasters separate the window bays in the gym section and the windows in the gym have been replaced with single-pane windows but there has been no change in the size of the window opening. There are one-story, flat-roof sections on each side of the front part of the building. The front door enters into a pine-paneled room with a projecting brick fireplace with raised hearth opposite the front door. Restrooms are located on either side of this room. An enclosed stair rises three floors on the front wall. The stair to the second floor is concrete but the remaining stair is wood. The second floor has been used as an American Legion meeting room while the third floor was used by the Ashland Little League. The gymnasium/auditorium consumes the remainder of the building with a stage with a plain proscenium at the southern end. The walls are painted concrete block and the ceiling is acoustical tile. Doors on either side of the stage provide access to the stage and on the east, access to the basement beneath the stage. The Boy Scouts have used the basement. At some point, this building was deeded to the school board and apparently was used as a gym by the school

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.

During the Great Depression, the U.S. Congress created numerous agencies to funnel employment-stimulating grants and loans to states. Among them was the Public Works Administration (PWA), established in 1933. In September 1933, a Hanover County committee that included J. Walton Hall, Superintendent of Schools, and Luther P. Hartsook, Architect, applied for and received PWA funding to construct a school in Ashland referred to as the Ashland District School. Requests for proposals were issued in January 1934, and work soon began.¹ By May 10, 1934, work on the "elementary school building for Ashland" was progressing rapidly, and an editorialist in the local newspaper wondered "Why shouldn't the local school be christened the 'Henry Clay' School" for the nineteenth-century Hanover County-born political figure?² The advice was taken on September 5, 1934, when the new one-story eleven-classroom brick school was dedicated. Both it and the nearby high school, which dated to about 1917, were named for Henry Clay. The new elementary school had cost about \$55,000 to build, with 30 percent of the funding coming from the PWA and the remainder from the Virginia Literary Fund. The new building contained a library and a fully electric kitchen and cafeteria.³ George P. Compton served as the first principal of the new school, as well as of the high school. In November 1935, the elementary school was chosen as the site of a traveling dental clinic to improve the condition of white children's teeth in the county. In December 1938, the school was among those canvassed by the Ashland Future Farmers of America to determine which needy children would receive toys that the organization was collecting and repairing.⁴

After World War II ended, the baby boom began as the veterans returned home. Because the school-age population increased rapidly and produced "serious overcrowding," the county ordered additions to the elementary school. Two one-story steel buildings were authorized in December 1949, but by January 1952 it was necessary to open an old school building that had been closed for a year and a half to accommodate additional students. By 1955, the county had secured money from the so-called Battle Fund, which was established by Virginia Governor John S. Battle in 1950 to build separate but supposedly equal schools for Black and White students. Rather than construct new schools, however, the county's Board of Supervisors voted to add eight new classrooms and a cafeteria to the all-White Henry Clay Elementary School and six classrooms to the all-Black John M. Gandy school. The board hoped that some of the new classrooms would be open for students by the start of the spring semester in 1956. In August 1955, the Hanover County School Board approved plans drawn by architect J. Henley Walker for the Gandy school but returned his plans for the Henry Clay school to be revised.⁵ Other additions were made to the school in 1968 and 1998. Despite all of the construction campaigns, in the spring of 2024 the Henry Clay Elementary School was closed at the end of the school year.

¹ *Richmond Times-Dispatch (RTD)*, "Federal Funds Hasten State's Recovery Drive," Sept. 21, 1933; *ibid.*, "PWA Allots State Schools \$1,800,000," Jan. 7, 1934; *ibid.*, "Notice to Contractors," Jan. 25, 1934.

² *Ashland Herald-Progress*, "A Suggestion on the School," May 10, 1934.

³ *RTD*, "School Leaders to Attend Big Ashland Event," Sept. 5, 1934.

⁴ *Ibid.*, "G. R. Compton is President of Teacher Group," Sept. 5, 1935; *ibid.*, "School Dental Clinic Get Fund in Ashland," Nov. 3, 1935; *ibid.*, Dec. 10, 1938.

⁵ *Ibid.*, "Building Boom Experienced in Hanover," Dec. 29, 1949; *Ashland Herald-Progress*, "Building in Ashland is High for Year," Dec. 29, 1949; *RTD*, "Ashland Class to Overflow into Old House," Jan. 12, 1952; *ibid.*, "School Plan Endorsed in Hanover," July 1, 1955; *ibid.*, "2 Hanover School Jobs Approved," Aug. 3, 1955. The Battle Fund is discussed at length in Ashley Neville and John Salmon, "Armstrong Elementary School, Lynchburg, Virginia," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, VDHR No. 118-5320, 2012, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA.

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.)

- *Richmond Times Dispatch*
- *Ashland Herald Progress*
- RRMM Architects, "Hanover County Public Schools Capital Planning Study," May 2018
- Sanborn Maps, various years

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: Todd E. Kiduff, Deputy County Administrator

organization: Hanover County

street & number: 7516 County Complex Road

city or town: Hanover state: VA zip code: 23069

e-mail: TEKiduff@hanovercounty.gov telephone: 804-365-3310

Legal Owner's Signature: 

Date: 5-14-25

• • 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: Ashley Neville/John Salmon

organization: Ashley Neville LLC

street & number: 11311 Cedar Lane

city or town: Glen Allen state: VA zip code: 23059

e-mail: ashleyneville@comcast.net telephone: 804-307-4601

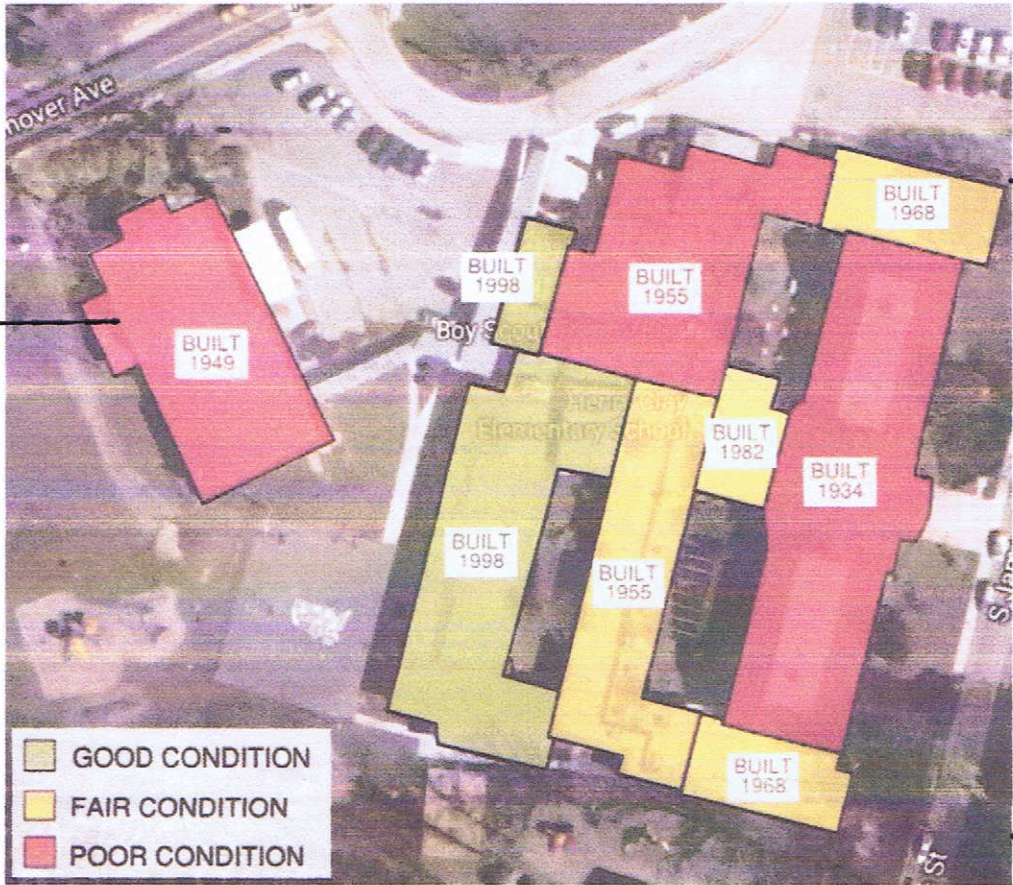
Date: _____

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

HENRY CLAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

166-0013

Ashland War Memorial Building



School

Richmond Times-Dispatch, Sunday, Nov. 13, 1949

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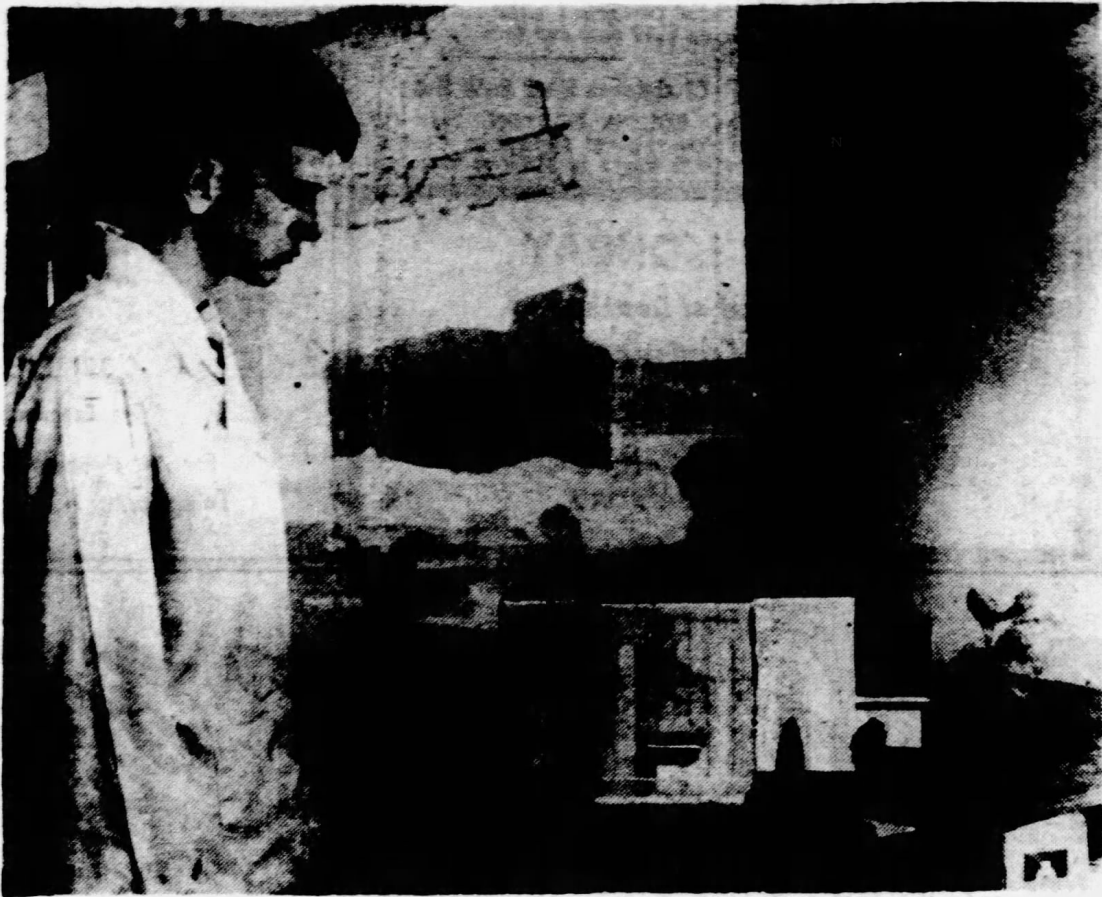
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—Fairfax Davis Photo

STUDENT MAKES MODEL OF ASHLAND WAR MEMORIAL—James Millard Glave, 16, with the scale model he constructed of the Hanover County War Memorial Building, the cornerstone of which was laid Friday. A drive for additional funds for the building, which will serve as a community center, now is under way.

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Clipped By:
jrshalf
May 17, 2025

War Memorial in Hanover Is Called 'A Dream Come True'

ASHLAND, Nov. 6—"A miracle and a dream come true" was James W. Smith's description of the Hanover County war memorial building as he was elected honorary president at the general meeting of the memorial association here.

Burley P. Loving, chairman of the building committee for the past five years, has been elected president to succeed Smith, who has headed the organization since its inception in 1945.

The building, now nearing completion, has actually had only \$28,000 in cash spent on it, although contractors and builders present at the meeting last week said that under today's construction costs it is worth \$125,000. In addition to cash contributions, there have been many donations of materials and labor, and much contracting work has been at cost or lower.

The three-story, large brick building is located on the grounds of the Henry Clay School of Hanover Avenue, Ashland. Providing the school's and community's only gymnasium (except for the one at Randolph-Macon College, which the college has made available to the public whenever possible during the past), it will also have a kitchen, lobby for community meetings, American Legion and auxiliary rooms, stage and shower rooms.

The ground was deeded to the Hanover County School Board by the Town Council in a trade which gave the war memorial land to the memorial association.

Only a few thousand dollars more are needed to complete the building, Loving said. Work will probably stop between November 15 and March, while additional funds are being raised. High school basketball games will soon be played there on a dirt floor. Principal George P. Compton reported last night that school pupils and teachers had contributed \$200, mostly in pennies, to start a fund for basketball goals, backboards and electric scoreboard. The P-TA has started a bleacher seat fund.

A new fund campaign will soon begin, though not from house to house. Dr. William C. Webb, member of the building committee, reported. Richard S. Gillis, another member of the committee, announced a dance for the fund on Saturday, December 16, in the R-MC gymnasium.

Treasurer Forrest G. Brice reported that total receipts amount to \$30,221.49, and of this amount \$26,633.27 has been disbursed, leaving a balance of \$3,588.22. However, the report was of October 31, and further expenditures brought the balance on hand to only \$2,511, Loving reported. Donations of materials and labor are not included.

In addition to Smith and Loving, officers elected at the biennial meeting include H. E. Glave, vice-president; Brice and J. Webb Midyette, re-elected treasurer and

secretary, respectively. Trustees elected to serve for the next four years are Smith, Loving, Glave, Brice and Gillis. J. Enos Ray, L. E. England, C. B. Perego, F. W. Tucker and Midyette were elected for three-year terms. Trustees previously elected and with two years still to serve are Edmund DeJarnette, Dr. Webb, Fairfax Davis, Melvin Wallinger and Mrs. J. C. Stiles. Those whose terms expire in 1952 are E. D. Alexander, A. W. Spencer, A. W. Hargrove, J. M. Jones, Sr., and the Rev. S. B. Chilton.

R-MC Team to Debate Britons at Ashland

ASHLAND, VA., Nov. 6—A Randolph-Macon College debate team will meet a British team representing combined British universities in the college chapel at 10 A. M. November 20.

The topic for debate will be: "Resolved: that the United Nations is a good debating society but a poor pattern for world government."

Ernest Alwyn Smith, of the University of Birmingham, and John Gwynn Williams, of the University College of North Wales, Bangor, will uphold the British side of the question while Bernard Via, of Richmond, and Donald Holsinger, of Martinsville, will argue for Randolph-Macon College.

School to Observe Education Week

Maggie L. Walker High School has scheduled two programs in observance of American Education Week.

At noon today Dr. William H. Kelly, director of Memorial Guidance Clinic, will address the pupils in the school auditorium.

On Thursday Dr. Rose Butler Brown, professor of education and chairman of the graduate division of elementary education at North Carolina State College, will address the Walker faculty at 3:30 P. M. in the school's library.

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to relieve coughs—aching muscles

Musterole not only brings fast relief but its great pain-relieving medication breaks up congestion in upper bronchial tubes. Musterole offers ALL the benefits of a mustard plaster without the bother of making one. Just rub it on chest, throat and back.

RUB ON MUSTEROLE

so Easy


War memorial building committee. Town gave the lot to the Association. 11-7-1950

Clipped By:
jrshalf
May 17, 2025



PIF BOUNDARY MAP

Henry Clay Elementary School
Town of Ashland, Hanover County, VA
DHR ID# 166-0013

 Proposed Boundary


0 100 200 300
Feet



Ashland Historic District
VLR 1982, NRHP 1983
DHR ID# 166-0001

PIF AERIAL-VICINITY MAP

Henry Clay Elementary School
Town of Ashland, Hanover County, VA
DHR ID# 166-0013

 Proposed Boundary

0 200 400 600
Feet



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



















































































