



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) 210-5011

1. General Property Information

Property name: Dublin High School

Property address: 650 Giles Avenue

City or Town: Dublin

Zip code: 24084-3084

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

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

Building X Site _____ Structure _____ Object _____

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 19.54

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:

Dublin High School is located on a ridge in a residential area north of the town of Dublin's central business district. The municipality is situated in the New River Valley of central Pulaski County, which is predominantly rural in character with rolling topography and densely wooded areas. Modest homes line Giles Avenue and the intersecting streets south of the school. Commercial development is concentrated near Virginia Highway 100 to the west and US Highway 11 to the south.

The austere, two-story, brick-veneered, International Style school faces south in the southwest quadrant of a 19.54-acre tax parcel. As shown on the original site plan, an asphalt-paved access drive wraps around a large grass median bisected by a concrete sidewalk with a tall aluminum flagpole at its center. Tall deciduous trees flank the straight portion of the drive south of the median. Parking is available in the asphalt-paved lot southwest of the auditorium and a gravel lot east of the school. An oval asphalt-paved track is north of the building.

The Pulaski County School Board conveyed the parcel to the Economic Development Authority of Pulaski County in 2023. That entity will retain ownership of the east acreage, which encompasses athletic fields, grass lawns, and woods. A chain-link fence surrounds the football/soccer field northwest of the school at lower elevation. The steel bleachers on grass banks north and south of the fence are overgrown with vegetation. A flat-roofed announcers' booth with a rooftop observation platform and a shed-roofed concession building, both light-blue-painted concrete block, stand at the top of the south hill. The grade declines to the south, where a chain-link fence encloses the baseball diamond. The parcel edges are wooded.

The Pulaski County School Board still owns the 1.39 tract southeast of the school that contains the one-story, flat-roofed, brick-veneered, 1953 agriculture and industrial arts building as well as a bus parking lot and county vehicle refueling station. The tenant removed original elements including steel multi-pane windows, built-in cabinets, and doors in 2024.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Modern Movement: International Style

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: Smithey and Boynton, architect, both phases

If the builder is known, please list here: Trinkle and Dobyns, builder, both phases

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1953, 1957

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 two-story, flat-roofed school's expansive L-shaped footprint comprises an asymmetrical eleven-bay-wide main block and a seventeen-bay-long west classroom wing. The two-story six-classroom addition at the wing's north end was erected in 1957. The one-story-on-basement cafeteria wing projects from the main block's northeast corner. Concrete-block walls are veneered with red brick laid in a distinctive common bond pattern comprising five courses of stretchers followed by a course of alternating stretchers and headers. An Indiana limestone water table and belt course embellish the main block. Flat parapets are capped with cast-stone coping on secondary elevations.

The primary entrance in the slightly projecting bay at the south elevation's center is distinguished by a restrained Art Moderne-style, two-story, Indiana limestone surround topped with a flat cornice incised with "Dublin High School" in capital letters. The surround frames two recessed double-leaf steel doors with three-horizontal-pane upper sections, a four-section transom, a sandstone-panel spandrel, and a group of four six-pane, steel-frame, second-story windows with central two-pane hoppers. Two matching second-story windows flank the surround. Single and double-leaf steel doors with glazed upper sections provide egress at secondary entrances. In most cases, concrete-steps with concrete-capped brick kneewalls are necessary to ameliorate elevation change. Flat canopies with copper fascia and shed canopies shelter the entrances.

The multi-pane steel sash configuration varies with spatial function. Operational windows were imperative since the building was not initially air-conditioned. Classrooms are illuminated by paired six horizontal-pane sash with central two-pane hoppers. Matching single windows light restrooms. The large tripartite twelve-pane auditorium and gymnasium sash have wider central sections with four square single-pane hoppers. Groups of three four-pane sash with two-pane hoppers light corridors. Fourteen-pane sash with two central four-pane hoppers illuminate stair towers. Basement locker rooms have high eight-pane sash with four-pane hoppers. All openings are spanned by slightly projecting cast-stone sills and steel lintels.

The floor plan is distinctive in that recreational spaces typically relegated to rear or side wings are immediately accessible from the primary entrance. The vestibule opens into a large lobby with pink marble wainscoting and a terrazzo floor. The auditorium, band room, and dressing rooms are west of the lobby; the gymnasium is to the east. At the lobby's north end, restrooms flank a short corridor that intersects the long east-west corridor. The administrative suite, comprising a central reception area; principal, assistant principal, and guidance counselor offices; clinic; restrooms; and a storage room that initially housed items including school supplies for student

purchase, is on the corridor's north side. Two teachers' lounges and a student restroom are east of the administrative suite; a classroom, the library, and a student restroom are to the west. On the second floor, an expansive health education room originally occupied the space above the lobby, while three classrooms, a multi-purpose room, and a home economics suite encompassing two kitchens and a living/dining room, bedroom, bathroom, and sewing room were north of corridor. Nine classrooms flanked double-loaded corridors on each level of the west wing. One first-floor classroom was dedicated to drama, while the second floor included three science classrooms. The two-story 1957 addition provided three more classrooms on each level. Steel and concrete staircases with solid-panel steel railings and tubular steel handrails fill the stair towers. The boys' locker room is in the basement beneath the gymnasium. The girls' locker room and the boiler room are in the cafeteria wing basement.

Simple finishes were specified to maximize durability. Plaster walls and ceilings, wood chair rails and baseboards, and vinyl-composition-tile floors remain in most classrooms. Single-leaf blonde-wood flat-panel doors with two vertical-pane upper sections, wood-frame blackboards and bulletin boards, and built-in wood cabinets with either a double-leaf multi-pane door or a single-leaf multi-pane door and a flat-panel door are intact. Dropped acoustical-tile ceilings have been installed in some rooms. In most areas other than classrooms, concrete-block walls are parged above rectangular beige-glazed ceramic tile wainscot. Corridors feature plaster ceilings, terrazzo floors, inset display cabinets and steel lockers, wood-frame blackboards and bulletin boards, and white porcelain water fountains. White porcelain pedestal sinks, toilets, and urinals; marble stall dividers with enameled-steel doors; and small patterned ceramic tile floors remain in the restrooms.

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.

- The asphalt-paved track north of the school will be the only secondary resource included within the National Register boundary. The construction date has not yet been determined.

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.

Dublin High School possesses significance at the local level under Criterion A for Education and Criterion C for Architecture. The two-story, brick-veneered, International Style 1953 school and 1957 addition, erected in conjunction with the Pulaski County Board of Education's 1950s campus improvement campaign, alleviated overcrowding and facilitated implementation of progressive pedagogy. The campus served as a community gathering place throughout its operation. The Roanoke, Virginia, architecture and engineering firm Smithey and Boynton designed the austere building erected by Dublin, Virginia-based general contractor Trinkle and Dobyns in an economical manner that allowed for rapid construction, flexible use, and future expansion. Dublin High School, which exemplifies the Virginia Department of Education's initiative to supply students with spacious, well-ventilated, and amply lit instructional areas, is one of the county's most intact 1950s educational buildings. The period of significance begins with the school's 1953 construction and ends in 1974 when the building ceased to function as a high school.

During the late 1940s, Pulaski County residents advocated for new facilities to replace functionally inadequate and overcrowded schools. Dublin residents were among those who demanded better conditions. The Pulaski County School Board (PCSB) issued a long-range school building program proposing projects on fourteen campuses on June 17, 1949, and soon engaged Smithey and Boynton to provide project estimation and drawing execution services. Although building materials shortages and increased cost during the Korean War slowed construction, by 1957 the firm had rendered plans for new buildings and/or additions or renovations at

Belspring, Claremont, Draper, Hiawassee, Newbern, Northwood, Riverlawn, Snowville, and William Gresham elementary schools; Pulaski and Dublin high schools; Calfee Training School; and Christiansburg Institute. The initial construction phase was funded by a \$2,500,000 bond issue and \$417,730 state appropriation in 1950.¹

The PCSB solicited bids for the first two projects—new Dublin High School and Claremont Elementary School buildings—in September 1950. When the initial bids were too high, the PCSB proposed modifying the Dublin High School scope of work to eliminate terrazzo, marble, and limestone finishes as well as the agricultural and industrial arts wing to reduce costs. The finishes were retained in response to Dublin resident protest, but construction of vocational classrooms was deferred. General contractor Trinkle and Dobyn was awarded both projects in May 1951 and began erecting Dublin High School across the street from the no longer extant one-and-one-half-story, brick, Colonial Revival-style, 1920s high school in July. Shortages of steel and other materials resulted in a two-year construction period. In March 1953, the PCSB allocated \$120,000 for a freestanding vocational building and engaged Trinkle and Dobyn to erect it in conjunction with the school. Although the \$1,020,000 campus was not quite finished by September, classes commenced with 680 enrolled white eighth- through twelfth-grade students overseen by principal Fred M. Reynolds. More than one thousand people attended the October 18, 1953, dedication for which Radford College president Dr. Charles Knox Martin Jr. was the keynote speaker.²

In addition to serving students, Dublin High School regularly housed gatherings held by civic, fraternal, and professional organizations, as well as government agencies. The Dublin Woman's Club hosted lecturers. Virginia Polytechnic Institute's agricultural extension service led workshops. Steadily increasing enrollment soon necessitated facility improvements. Trinkle and Dobyn were awarded the contract for a six-classroom addition in May 1957 and completed work in August. To support large crowds at athletic events, steel bleachers were constructed on the south side of the football field in 1958 and the north side in 1960, providing 2,500 permanent seats.³

Dublin High School, like most Virginia public schools, remained predominately segregated through the mid-1960s despite the U. S. Supreme Court's 1954 mandate for school integration. After the Civil Rights Act of 1964 made compliance a prerequisite for federal funding eligibility, the PCSB achieved complete desegregation by closing Calfee Training School and Christiansburg Institute at the 1965-1966 term's conclusion. During the 1966-1967 academic year, nine black and 139 white teachers instructed 496 African American students and 5,719 white pupils at eleven schools.⁴ Following the summer 1974 completion of Pulaski County High School,

¹ Pulaski County School Board – Board of Education Meeting Minutes, Pulaski County Public Schools Central Office, Pulaski, Virginia (hereafter abbreviated PCSBMM), April 27, 1950, May 4, 1950, July 12, 1950, August 25, 1950; "Smithey & Boynton, Architects & Engineers Records, 1922-1985," Ms1992-027, Special Collections, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia; "Go-Ahead Signal," *Roanoke Times*, July 20, 1949, p. 2; "Dublin People," *World News* (Roanoke), September 9, 1949, p. 13; "School Building Program Makes Progress in 1951," *Southwest Times* (Pulaski), December 31, 1951, p. 4; Eva Vaughn, "History of Education in Pulaski County," July 1963, p. 8, Folder 5, Box 3, Virginia Education Association Histories, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

² The construction cost of Dublin High School was \$840,000 plus \$60,000 in furnishings. Surplus ceramic wall tile from the project was utilized in multipurpose rooms at Newbern, Hiwassee, and Snowville schools. "Bids on Schools," *Roanoke Times*, August 27, 1950, p. 16; "High School Proposed," *Roanoke Times*, September 17, 1950, p. 16; "Dublin School Patrons," *Roanoke Times*, October 25, 1950, p. 2; PCSBMM, April 5, 1951, May 3, 1951, May 16, 1951, June 7, 1951, July 5, 1951, September 6, 1951, February 7, 1952, March 6, 1952, September 23, 1952, January 8, 1953, February 3, 1953, March 5, 1953, May 7, 1953, September 8, 1953; "Dublin High School," *Roanoke Times*, August 10, 1951, p. 2; "Dublin High School," *Roanoke Times*, August 3, 1952, p. 16; "Dublin's New High School," *Roanoke Times*, October 31, 1952, p. 2; "School Building Program," *Roanoke Times*, March 7, 1953, p. 2; "Modern Dublin High School," *World News*, April 15, 1953, p. 14; Mrs. C. W. Cooke, "Dr. Charles Martin," *Roanoke Times*, October 19, 1953, p. 2.

³ "Poultry Meet," *Roanoke Times*, January 25, 1954, p. 4; "Woman's Club," *Roanoke Times*, February 14, 1954, p. 26; "Advertisement for Bids," *Roanoke Times*, April 28, 1957, p. C6; PCSBMM, May 14, 1957; "Pulaski County," *Roanoke Times*, August 18, 1957, p. E3; "Dublin High," *World News*, August 11, 1960, p. 34.

⁴ PCSBMM, May 31, 1967; Archie G. Richardson, *The Development of Negro Education in Virginia, 1831-1970* (Richmond, Virginia: Richmond Chapter Phi Delta Kappa, 1976), 110; State Board of Education, *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1968-1969* (Richmond: State Board of Education, 1969), 278.

the former Dublin High School served as Dublin Middle School from fall 1974 until summer 2020, when Pulaski County Middle School, which consolidated students from Pulaski and Dublin Middle Schools, was finished.

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.) Sources are cited in footnotes.

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: Michael Solomon, executive director

organization: Economic Development Authority of Pulaski County, Virginia

street & number: 43 Third Street NW

city or town: Pulaski state: VA zip code: 24301

e-mail: msolomon@pulaskicounty.org telephone: 540-980-7737

Legal Owner's Signature: _____

Date: 5/12/2025

• • *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: Michael Solomon

Daytime Telephone: 540-980-7737

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

name/title: Heather Fearnbach, architectural historian

organization: Fearnbach History Services, Inc.

street & number: 3334 Nottingham Road

city or town: Winston-Salem state: NC zip code: 27104


e-mail: heatherfearnbach@bellsouth.net telephone: 336-765-2661


Date: 5/12/2025

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

PIF BOUNDARY MAP

Dublin High School
Town of Dublin, Pulaski County, VA
DHR ID# 210-5011


 Proposed Boundary


0 100 200 300 400
 Feet



PIF AERIAL-VICINITY MAP

Dublin High School
Town of Dublin, Pulaski County, VA
DHR ID# 210-5011

 Proposed Boundary

0 250 500 750 1,000
 Feet



Dublin Historic District
VLR, NRHP 1992
DHR ID# 210-0004



















































