

Virginia Department of Historic Resources PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information	For Staff Use Only DHR ID #: 145-5033
Property Name(s): <u>Charles Street Gymnasium</u>	
Property Date(s): <u>1935</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post Open to Public? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Limited <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Property Address: <u>511 Charles Street</u> <u>Franklin</u> Zip: <u>23851</u>	
County or Ind. City: <u>City of Franklin</u> USGS Quad(s): <u>Franklin</u>	
Physical Character of General Surroundings	
Acreage: <u>One</u> Setting (choose one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor	
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: The gymnasium / Agricultural building was constructed in 1935-1936 as a much needed facility for use by Franklin High School which, at that time, was a part of the Southampton County School System. It is now owned by the City of Franklin School System. J. P. King Elementary School and a School parking lot, are closely located to the southeastern side of the gymnasium. A new gymnasium is located south of and close to the rear of the old gymnasium. To the west of the old gymnasium are one storage / maintenance building and one administrative building. The sides and rear of the old gymnasium are enclosed within a fenced area. The front of the old gymnasium faces Charles Street and is perpendicular to Fourth Avenue. Fourth Avenue ends at the front of the old gymnasium and can be seen all the way from where Fourth Avenue begins – on the eastern edge of downtown Franklin. It presents an iconic view. The front of the old gymnasium has a grass lawn and is open to the sidewalk along Charles Street.	
Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property:	
To the southwest of the Charles Street Gymnasium are portions of the former Franklin High School Athletic Field (1922 to 1968) and the former “Franklin Park”, home of the former “Franklin Kildees” semi-professional baseball team (late 1940s).	
Across the street are the Fourth Avenue Apartments – two three-story buildings that were formerly school buildings and a military academy, moved from Clay Street and converted into apartment buildings. These buildings date back to the late 1890s to the early 1900s.	
The gymnasium is on the western edge of the City of Franklin Historic District and borders on the historic Berkley neighborhood.	
Within view from the front of the gymnasium are two of Franklin’s historic structures: The General C. C. Vaughan house and the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, both built in the early 1900s, are located two blocks to the east of the gymnasium.	
Ownership Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	

Individual Resource Information

What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc...

The gymnasium was constructed in 1935-1936 to be used as the Franklin High School gymnasium and agricultural and shop building. Agricultural and Shop students used the back part of the building for instruction. The gymnasium part was used for high school basketball games and as a place to hold school dances.

What is the current use? (if other than the historical use)

One-half of the gymnasium is used by the Franklin High School Robotics Team. The other half is used by the Franklin High School Wrestling Team.

The rear part of the building (the former agricultural and shop instruction section) is now used in part as a school maintenance shop and in part as a storage facility.

Architectural style or elements of styles:

The gymnasium was built using a combination of brick work: There have been differing opinions as to the type of brickwork: (American bond, common bond, palladium, and/or Flemish bond pattern brick).

The foundation is of concrete. The steps leading up to the front of the building are concrete. The handicapped ramp is of concrete.

The flooring in the gymnasium is the original maple wood. The walls are glazed tile from the floor to about halfway up the wall. The upper portion of the walls is a different type of tile (unglazed) to the ceiling. The ceiling is acoustical plaster type of tile, laid under steel ceiling joists. A suspended ceiling is hung about two feet below the original ceiling.

Architect, builder, or original owner:

The building was designed by the State Architect. It was built in 1935-1936 for the Southampton County School System. The cost of the building was \$33,964.90, exclusive of equipment. Forty-five percent of the cost was an outright PWA grant and the remaining 55 percent was borrowed from the Literary Fund of Virginia. The building has a frontage of 83 feet on Charles Street (originally the street was named Hill Street) and faces the very end of Fourth Avenue. It extends back 110 feet.

Eight contractors submitted bids for construction of the building. The bids were received at the Office of the Superintendent of Southampton County Schools in Courtland, Virginia. The winning bid by W. F. Martens, Newport News, Virginia was \$33,545. The State Architect and WPA concurred with the School Board's decision to go with the W. F. Marten bid.

In 1961, when Franklin became an independent city and had its own school system, Southampton County deeded the property over to the City of Franklin School System.

of stories One Condition Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Poor Ruins Rebuilt
 Renovated

Are there any known threats to this property?

Yes, there are threats to this property if we do not do something now to stem its "wear and tear" – and it's aging.

Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

Foundation: Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete.

The foundation is poured concrete.

Structure: Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known.

The outer walls of the building are made up of a combination of brick patterns: There have been several opinions expressed as to what specific style of brickwork was used in the original building; (palladium, American bond, common bond, Flemish bond pattern). Stone is used around the front-door entry.

Walls: Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles.

As stated above, there are differing opinions on the type of brick. The building outer walls are entirely of the original brick.

Windows: Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced?

The windows are original to the building. Four windows on the front section (gymnasium part) are arched with wire glass sectional windows under each arch. Each arch above the sectional windows has wire glass as well. Some windows slide and/or hinge outward (casement type windows).

On each of the four front windows there are: 36 squared panes per sash on lower square part of each window. 10 curved panes per sash on upper arched part of each window.

On the arched window above the front entrance door there are: 10 curved panes for that one sash. All of the window framings are of metal.

There are arched windows above the two doors at the rear of the gymnasium. On each there are: 24 squared panes per sash on lower squared part of the window. 10 curved panes per sash on upper arched part of the window. All of the window framings are of metal.

WINDOWS ON THE BACK PART OF THE BUILDING (KNOWN AS THE AGRICULTURAL AND SHOP PART):

Each of the two restrooms has a large window, each with 24 panes held in with metal framing. The bottom six panes of each window have hinged windows that swing open.

There are three windows on each side of the Agricultural and Shop building, for a total of 6. Each window has 24 panes held in by metal framing.

An office window, part of the Agricultural and Shop Building, has 20 panes held in by metal framing.

At the rear of the Agricultural and Shop Building are: A window with 24 panes. A window with 16 panes (above a large shop door). And, another window with 24 panes.

The windows are original to the building.

Porch: Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details.

There is no porch. The front entrance is a two-step concrete stoop. The double-doors are framed with stone, above and on the sides of the doors.

Roof: Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material.

There is a flat roof with tar covering material.

Chimney(s): List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible.

There is one large brick chimney which extends up from the back section, in the shop area, extending up from the furnace room.

Architectural Description of Individual Resource: *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated.)*

The outer walls are made up entirely of the original brickwork. We are uncertain as to the type of brick pattern: (palladium, American Bond, common bond, or Flemish bond?). New doors have been installed on the front entrance and on the door to the western side rear door of the gymnasium. Some of the windows have been painted over. Some of the windows are boarded-up.

(See attached sketch of the floor plan.)

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

The source of information for most of this application was obtained from Southampton County School Board records and minutes of School Board meetings, dating back to 1935 and 1936. In addition we were able to get some information from people who actually used the facility over all these years, including some of those who were there when the building was completed in 1936.

The Franklin High School Gymnasium and Agricultural Building was completed in 1936. Filling a long-felt need in the Franklin Public Schools, an agricultural department, workshop, and gymnasium building was opened at the beginning of the 1936-1937 school-year in Franklin.

Occupying a commanding position at the end of Fourth Avenue in Franklin, the gymnasium-agricultural building is an attractive brick structure. At the time of completion, it was stated that the new gymnasium was equal in modernity and comfort to many college facilities. The cost was \$33,964.90, exclusive of equipment, 45 percent of which was an outright PWA grant and the remaining 55 percent borrowed from the Literary Fund of Virginia.

Unfortunately, the property proposed for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places is one of just a few remaining historic places in Franklin, Virginia. We do not want to lose this one. If we can get designation of this building as a historic place, we believe we can interest various foundations in our area, and elsewhere, to support restoration of the building.

The building was used by generations of Franklin people who have very fond memories of their association and use of this building. The building is located in close proximity to other historical structures and is within the City's historic district. We believe this building is worthy of historic designation. Its architecture is unique and adds a lot of class to the neighborhood in which it resides.

Legal Owner(s) of the Property (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)			
Mr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Hon. <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Willie J. Bell, Superintendent</u> City of Franklin School System
(Name)			
207 West Second Avenue		Franklin	Virginia 23851
(Address)			
wbell@fcpsva.org		757-569-8111	
(Email Address)		(Daytime telephone including area code)	
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. N/A			
Contact person: _____			
Daytime Telephone: ()			

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)			
Mr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. <input type="checkbox"/>	
Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Hon. <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Clyde E. Parker</u>
(Name)			
101 Magnolia Avenue		Franklin	Virginia 23851
(Address)			
Magnolia101@charter.net		757-647-8212	
(Email Address)		(Daytime telephone including area code)	
Applicant's Signature: _____		Date: _____	

Notification			
In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.			
Mr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. <input type="checkbox"/>	
Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Hon. <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Randy Martin</u> City Manager
(Name)			(Position)
City of Franklin		207 West Second Avenue	
(Locality)		(Address)	
Franklin	Va.	23851	757-562-8503
(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)	(Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.
We do not want to lose this building. It is one of the few remaining historic public buildings left in the City of Franklin. It is an iconic structure. We believe that if it is approved for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places, we will be taking a major and vital first step toward restoration of the building.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes No
 Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes No