



2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221; Telephone: (804) 367-2323; Fax: (804) 367-2391

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

The Preliminary Information Form (PIF) constitutes an application for preliminary consideration of a property for eligibility for the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The PIF is **not** the same as a nomination to the Registers, but is a means for evaluating the **eligibility** of a property for listing. The PIF is evaluated by Department of Historic Resources (DHR) staff and the State Review Board and their recommendations regarding the property's eligibility will be provided to the property owner in writing.

Before Preparing a PIF

Contact DHR's Archivist for assistance in obtaining any information DHR may have on file about your property, such as a previous architectural survey record or eligibility evaluation. You are welcome to use this information in preparing your PIF. Contact DHR's Archivist by phone at (804) 482-6102, or by email at Quatro.Hubbard@dhr.virginia.gov.

Staff at one of DHR's three Regional offices are available to answer questions you may have as you begin preparing your PIF. Locations and contact information for each office is at http://dhr.virginia.gov/regional_offices/regional_offices.htm. (You also are welcome to ask DHR's Archivist for the contact information.)

Preparing a PIF

A PIF consists of three equally important parts:

1. **Form:** Complete the attached form to the best of your ability, using your own research about the property to be evaluated as well as any information that DHR has provided. Remember that DHR's Regional staff also are available to assist you. The form may be completed using Microsoft Word software, typed, or hand-written. If using MS Word, the PIF can be submitted via CD, email, ftp, or other file sharing means.

Your PIF will not be evaluated if it is missing any of the following information:

- Property owner's signature
 - Contact information for the person submitting the form (if different from the property owner)
 - Contact information for the City Manager or County Administrator where the property is located
2. **Photos:** Provide color photographs of your property's exterior and major interior spaces, with emphasis on architectural features instead of furnishings. Photos typically include views of the main building from all sides, as well as important ornamental and/or functional details; any outbuildings or secondary resources; and the property's general setting. Submit photo prints on 4" x 6" glossy photo paper and digital images on CD or other file sharing means approved by DHR's Regional staff.
 3. **Maps:** A minimum of two maps must accompany your PIF:
 - **Location map:** This map shows the exact location of your property. The map can be created using Google Maps, Google Earth, Bing, or other mapping websites. A copy of a road map also may be used as long as the property's exact location and physical address are shown on the map. DHR's Archivist can assist in providing an acceptable location map with boundaries.
 - **Sketch map:** This map shows the locations of all resources on your property, such as the main building; any secondary resources (often referred to as outbuildings); major landscape features such as a stream, formal gardens, driveways, and parking areas, and the road on which the property fronts. The sketch map can be drawn by hand, or an annotated aerial view, tax parcel map or survey map may be used.

Submitting a PIF

Once you have completed the PIF, submit it to the appropriate Regional office. The Regional staff member will inform you when DHR staff will review your PIF and answer any questions you may have about the evaluation process.

Note: All submitted materials become the property of DHR and will be retained in our permanent Archive. In addition, the materials will be posted on DHR's public website for a period of time during the evaluation process.

*Thank you for taking the time to submit this Preliminary Information Form.
Your interest in Virginia's historic resources is helping to provide better stewardship of our cultural past.*



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 076-6008

Purpose of Evaluation

Please use the following space to explain briefly why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

On behalf of the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division and Planning Department, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group staff conducted an investigation of the area located in the northwest part of the county known locally as The Settlement, developed by African Americans in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries that is still owned and occupied by many of their descendants. This PIF focuses on a World War II-era dance hall in the community.

Are you interested in applying for State and/or Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes No X

Are you interested in receiving more information about DHR's easement program? Yes No X

1. General Property Information

Property name: Shady Inn Dance Hall

Property address: 15036 Lee Highway

City or Town: Gainesville

Zip code: 20155

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

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

Building X Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 0.48

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban Town Village Hamlet X Rural

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

The circa-1939 Shady Inn Dance Hall at 15036 Lee Highway (US 211/SR 29) is situated on the north side of what is now a four-lane divided highway originally known as the Warrenton-Alexandria Turnpike. The building faces south and is set back approximately 40 feet from the edge of the highway—a space that is partly graveled and functions as a parking area. A narrow dirt road extends north along the east side of the building, crossing over a small creek that passes below the building and through its foundation, emptying into a small branch that connects further south to Broad Run. Much of the 0.48-acre lot is wooded, as is the land surrounding it. Although much of the Lee Highway corridor west of Gainesville has been commercially developed in recent years, the overall setting of the property retains its rural character.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): vernacular

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: N/A

If the builder is known, please list here: unknown

Date of construction (can be approximate): circa 1939

Narrative Description:

In the space below, briefly describe the general characteristics of the entire property, 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 architectural style, materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions, remodelings, or other alterations.

The circa-1939, one-story, eight-bay, Shady Inn Dance Hall at 15036 Lee Highway is currently vacant, but was most recently used as a place of worship. The building's plan consists of a large rectangular massing roughly 65-feet long and a little over 30-feet wide. A small side-gabled wing extends roughly 20 feet from the southwest corner of the building and is visible in a 1952 aerial image of the property (United States Department of Agriculture [USDA] 1952). The dance hall's foundation is composed of continuous concrete block and poured concrete around the perimeter with a mix of wood posts and poured-concrete piers adding intermittent support bellowing the floor joists. A pre-cast, poured-concrete culvert passes under the middle of the building in an east-west direction to carry a small steady stream of water to a branch just west of the resource. The culvert is situated below the ground surface at the east elevation, passing under the driveway and foundation, but pierces the middle of the concrete-block foundation at the west elevation, emptying water into a creek bed.

The building has a braced-frame structural system erected from dimensional sawn lumber. Exterior walls are predominantly clad in weatherboard siding, though two bays at the west end of the façade (south elevation) are clad in aluminum siding and a small section along the west elevation is clad in vinyl siding. It is covered by an asphalt-shingled, front-gabled roof featuring exposed rafter tails. A small, two-bay, side-gabled ell or wing extends from the southwest corner of the larger massing, that could be an original feature of its design or an early addition. One small, interior, brick chimney is located on the north slope of the west wing.

The main entrance is located in the center of the façade's gabled end and is filled by a set of double-leaf, metal, replacement doors—each leaf features a diamond-shaped light at the top. A single-leaf wood door fills a secondary entrance at the west end of the façade. Two single-leaf entries are present at the rear elevation, one of which is boarded over while just the frame and two wood panels at the top survive at the other. Windows flanking either side of the main entrance and elsewhere at the south elevation are six-over-six, double-hung, wood-framed sashes. Fenestration along the east and west sides of the building consists of a series of rectangular window openings where most sashes have been removed or are boarded over; however, a few three-light, wood-framed, hopper-type sashes remain in place. No porch or stoop is attached to this resource.

The interior was not accessible during this investigation, but has likely undergone some alteration, including the addition of a bathroom in the southwest wing, evidenced by vents at the roofline.

Briefly describe any outbuildings or secondary resources (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

N/A

4. Property's History and Significance

In the space below, briefly describe the history of the property, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property. Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

Oral histories of Settlement-area residents indicate that the building at 15036 Lee Highway was originally the Shady Inn Dance Hall, operating from the 1940s into the 1960s (Henry Peterson, personal communication 2020; Patton 2018). The 0.48-acre lot on which the building rests belonged to Flora Dean from 1936 until 1952, and is believed to have been constructed shortly after the single-family dwelling at 15104 Lee Highway (DHR # 076-5173) on what was then a 5.37-acre parcel (Prince William County Deed Book [PWCDB] 97:136).

Born Flora Ellen Turner in Fauquier County in 1905, Flora moved to New York City in the 1920s and worked as a waitress in a tea room at the time of the 1930 Census, living with extended family in Harlem (United States Federal Population Census [U.S. Census] 1920, 1930; Virginia Department of Health 1986). No official record of Flora's marriage to John Dean has been found at this time, though it likely happened between 1930 and June 1936, when Flora Dean purchased the more-than-5-acre tract from Georgia Barnes that would come to contain both the house and dance hall. Georgia Barnes, the daughter of Settlement-area residents Lloyd McKinney and Susan Brooks, was living in the District of Columbia with her husband, Raymond, in 1918 when she purchased what was a 14.6-acre tract from the Reverend Moses B. Strother and his wife, Evelina (PWCDB 70:415; U.S. Census 1920, 1930; Virginia Department of Health 1967). Sometime in the early 1930s, Barnes' husband died and she returned to live in The Settlement, mortgaging and subdividing her property in April 1936. Mrs. Dean was one of the first people to whom Barnes sold a portion of her property; although it is doubtful that she ever lived on it. A note in the margin of the deed book indicates that a copy was to be mailed to Flora Dean in Paris, Virginia (Fauquier County), and no other records have yet been found to indicate that she resided there (PWCDB 95:146; U.S. Census 1940). At the time of her death in June 1986, Dean was identified as having last resided on Porter Lane in Manassas, where she also recently worked as a "Nurses Aide" in a nursing home (Virginia Department of Health 1986).

Aerial photographs taken in May 1937 reveal cleared and recently disturbed land around what was then a newly constructed, single-family dwelling at 15104 Lee Highway (DHR # 076-5173) (USDA 1937). The Shady Inn Dance Hall is believed to have been built shortly thereafter, circa 1939. This date is derived from the only public document proving the business ever existed: a *lis pendens* filed by Eva Turner in Prince William County Circuit Court in January 1940 providing notice of the impending dissolution of the partnership between Eva Turner and John Dean "under the style of Shady Inn" (PWCDB 103:487). However, a formal dissolution of the business does not appear to have occurred, as no additional legal records were filed to follow suit. Neither does any official business license exist within Prince William County (Turner 1999).

Eva Turner was a sister of Flora Dean and appears to have rented the circa-1937, two-story, five-bay house at 15104 Lee Highway (DHR # 076-5173) with her husband, Joseph Woods, at the time of the 1940 Census (U.S. Census 1940; Virginia Department of Health 1949). Listed alongside other known Settlement residents, both Eva and Joseph Woods were noted as having resided in New York City five years earlier in 1935. Joseph Woods was identified as a native of the British West Indies in the 1940 Census and was likely related to George Woods, native of "Montserrat," with whom Flora resided while living in New York City (U.S. Census 1930, 1940). Though Eva and Joseph Woods were listed in their 1949 Virginia marriage certificate as aged 53 and 50 years, respectively, no additional records have been found to detail to their lives (Virginia Department of Health 1949).

Flora Dean was identified as a widow in a 1947 mortgage on the 5.37-acre property and a year later, Dean placed another mortgage on the property to secure a \$2,500 note for Emily C. Wilkins (née Turner) of Bronx, New York City, New York (PWCDDB 126:328, 131:339). It is believed that Emily C. Wilkins (1913–1981) was a younger sister of Eva and Flora and, as a resident of New York City, never resided on the property (The Journal Herald 1981:22). In 1952, Flora Dean and Emily C. Wilkins, along with her husband Kenneth R., entered into another financial arrangement where Dean mortgaged the property to the Wilkins again, likely enabling her to make continued payments on the property (PWCDDB 164:325–326). In 1972, Emily and Kenneth Wilkins deeded Flora Dean 2.83 acres containing the house at 15104 Lee Highway, land that later passed to Gloria Ellen Walker (Prince William County 2020).

The Shady Inn property was subdivided from the larger 5.37-acre property in 1965 when the Wilkins sold 0.478 acres around the dance hall to Dennis Carter and his wife, Artiller Carter (PWCDDB 410:537). Artiller Carter was a pastor and was likely involved in the building's transition into primarily serving as a church. Two of the Carter's children played the piano and guitar, respectively, and also played music at Mt. Pleasant Church (Henry Peterson, personal communication 2020). The church is marked by a cross symbol on a 1966 United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map, reflecting this use as a church in the mid-1960s (USGS 1966). In 1979, the Carters sold the dance hall lot to the trustees of the Golden Church of God & Prophecy, including Artiller Carter, herself, and neighboring property owners, James A. Jackson and Willie A. Palmer, among others (PWCDDB 1111:1212).

Dance halls as a commercial property type have roots in nineteenth-century urban centers where they had gained a sinful reputation in Victorian-era America and grown in popularity among the working class. Social reformers worked to prohibit alcohol at these facilities, “regulate the types of dances (especially the new ragtime ‘close-holds’), and open municipal halls as alternatives for the young women who named dancing their favorite recreation” (Erenberg 1999). Such efforts also raised dance halls' profile among entrepreneurs and commercial developers. The segregation of these facilities fit entrepreneurs' desire for decorum in and helped workers adjust to urban life, particularly the marginalized African American community.

During the early-twentieth century and World War II-era, dance halls supported the meteoric rise of jazz and swing music across the country with Americans of all ages. Most featured live bands playing nationally and regionally popular music, catering to an audience that was increasingly exposed to this form of entertainment by way of radio. Oral histories indicate that the Shady Inn Dance Hall played a mix of jazz and swing, with patrons recalling the songs of “Buster Smith” and tunes like “Flying Home” (Patton 2018:240). Long-time Settlement resident, Wiletta Grayson Wilson competed regularly in jitterbug contests at Shady Inn, winning prizes between \$10–\$15 on Friday and Saturday nights. Wilson also recalled a regular band led by “the Smith boys” playing on Saturdays (Patton 2018:113).

A search for other dance halls in the Virginia Cultural Resource Inventory System found five such facilities, four of which were constructed between 1920 and 1940 (DHR # 002-0888; 053-0012-0516; 055-5038; 112-0055-0472) and three of which were one-story rectangular buildings in relatively rural areas (DHR # 002-0888; 055-5038; 112-0055-0472). One of the five dance halls was specifically identified as a “Colored Dance Hall”—a circa-1939, one-story, stucco-clad, Craftsman-styled, rectangular building located in what was a traditionally African American part of Front Royal, Virginia, known as Freetown (DHR # 112-0055-0472). Two dance halls appear in Prince William County business records compiled by local historian Ronald Turner between 1805 and 1955, both of which were located in Gainesville. One registered as “The Caverns” was a restaurant and dance hall started by Ben and Pauline Simpson in the late 1940s that persisted into the 1960s at the intersection of Lee Highway and State Route 55, while “Club Y Not” was a dance hall and grill situated in Gainesville and run by owner, Raymond Waple, in the early 1950s (Turner 1999:36, 41). Another nearby dance hall known as Three Cedars was mentioned in Settlement resident Charles Moore's oral history, said to have been located “down on the corner” and “the last one built” in the area (Patton 2018:195–196). None of these three other local dance halls are believed to be extant.

Many in the Settlement remember walking to the dance hall, traversing a commonly used footpath through the Lucas-family property that connected Old Carolina Road to Lee Highway at a point around the facility. Others recall that cars would “be lining all down the road” on Saturday nights with families coming in from Warrenton and the surrounding area (Patton 2018:113, 240).

In communities across the nation, Saturday night was party night for black Americans. In the 1930s and 1940s juke joints were jumpin', the beer and whiskey were flowing and men and women put on their dancing shoes for a night of relief from the long work week. Although a long way from the Harlem Renaissance and the excitement that accompanied the era of big bands and swing in the concert halls and nightclubs of the city, the people of Prince William County had their fun. Families would get together on Saturday evenings for games and music. House parties were customary [Payne-Jackson and Taylor 2000:73].

In a 2000 publication for the National Park Service on African Americans in Prince William Forest Park, African American residents recalled an increase in the number of “juke joints” and “beer gardens” around the time of WWII. “They had one out here on Route One. They called that Porter's Inn. There was a Chinns' up in Batestown” (Payne-Jackson and Taylor 2000:74). Settlement-area native, Nathan Grayson, referred to his grandfather, Woodrow Wilson Fitzhugh's residence as “a good time house” where people would play cards, dance, drink, eat, and smoke cigarettes; such party houses were often turned into dance halls (Patton 2018:37). Grayson indicated that his grandfather's place burned down, while other party houses were shuttered by local law enforcement and County officials following accusations of illegal liquor distribution or for a lack of permits and licenses (Patton 2018:37). Most area residents believed that the Shady Inn Dance Hall closed because of financial issues, although no formal business license appears to have been issued to the facility (Turner 1999).

Built as one, large, open room, the architectural form and vernacular features of the Shady Inn Dance Hall are typical of such buildings in the early- to mid-twentieth century. As one of the relatively few World War II-era dance halls in Prince William County known to have been owned and operated by an African American family with roots in the area, the Shady Inn Dance Hall is recommended eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level for its associations with this important social and recreational trend, as it reflects this marginalized and minority population.

References:

Erenberg, Lewis A.

1999 Chicago Dance Halls. *Swingin' the Dream: Big Band Jazz and the Rebirth of American Culture*. Encyclopedia of Chicago. Electronic document, <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/361.html>, accessed January 2020.

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1981 Emily C. Wilkins obituary. October 12, 1981. Page 22. Electronic database, www.newspapers.com, accessed January 2020.

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2018 *The Settlement Oral History Project*. Prince William County Historic Preservation Division and Planning Department. Copy on file at Prince William County Planning Department.

Payne-Jackson, Arvilla, and Sue Ann Taylor

2000 *Prince William Forest Park: The African American Experience*. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Capitol Area. Manuscript on file at Bull Run Regional Library, Manassas, Virginia.

Prince William County Deed Book [PWCDB]

n.d. Deed Books. Misc. years. Copies on file at Prince William County Circuit Court Law Library. Manassas, Virginia.

Prince William County

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Turner, Ronald Ray

1999 Prince William County, Virginia, 1805-1955 Businesses. Electronic document, <https://www.pwcvirginia.com/documents/Business1805-1965.pdf>, accessed January 2020.

United States Federal Population Census (U.S. Census)

1920 *Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920*. Washington, D.C. National Archives and Records Administration. Electronic database, www.ancestry.com, accessed January 2020.

1930 *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*. Washington, D.C. National Archives and Records Administration. Electronic database, www.ancestry.com, accessed January 2020.

1940 *Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940*. Washington, D.C. National Archives and Records Administration. Electronic database, www.ancestry.com, accessed January 2020.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

1937 Aerial Maps of Prince William County. Washington, D.C. Copy on file at Bull Run Regional Library, Manassas, Virginia.

1952 Aerial Photography Single Frame Records Collection. USGS EROS Archive. Electronic database, <https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>, accessed January 2020.

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

1966 Thoroughfare Gap, Virginia 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangle. Prince William County and Fauquier County, Virginia. Electronic document, <https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=262:18:0::NO:RP::>, accessed January 2020.

Virginia Department of Health

1949 Eva Turner, Virginia Certificate of Marriage. Electronic database, www.ancestry.com, accessed January 2020.

1967 Georgia Barnes, Virginia Death Certificate. Electronic database, www.ancestry.com, accessed January 2020.

1986 Flora Ellen Dean, Virginia Death Certificate. Electronic database, www.ancestry.com, accessed January 2020.

5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: X 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: Dorothy Jackson, Trustee

organization: Trustees Golden Church of God of Prophecy

street & number: P.O. Box 2464

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

e-mail: _____ telephone: _____

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: Danae Peckler, Architectural Historian

organization: Dovetail Cultural Resource Group

street & number: 11905 Bowman Drive, Suite 502

city or town: Fredericksburg state: VA zip code: 22408

e-mail: dpeckler@dovetailcrg.com telephone: 540-899-9170

6. 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, City Manager, and/or Town Manager

name/title: Christopher Martino, County Executive C/O Justin Patton and Bill Backus

locality: Prince William County Planning Department

street & number: 1 County Complex Court (MC460) [Justin Patton/Bill Backus DSB 940]

city or town: Prince William state: VA zip code: 22192

telephone: 703-792-5729 or 703-792-5619

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: Dorothy Jackson, Trustee
 organization: Trustees Golden Church of God of Prophecy
 street & number: P.O. Box 2464
 city or town: Alexandria state: VA zip code: _____
 e-mail: _____ telephone: _____

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)

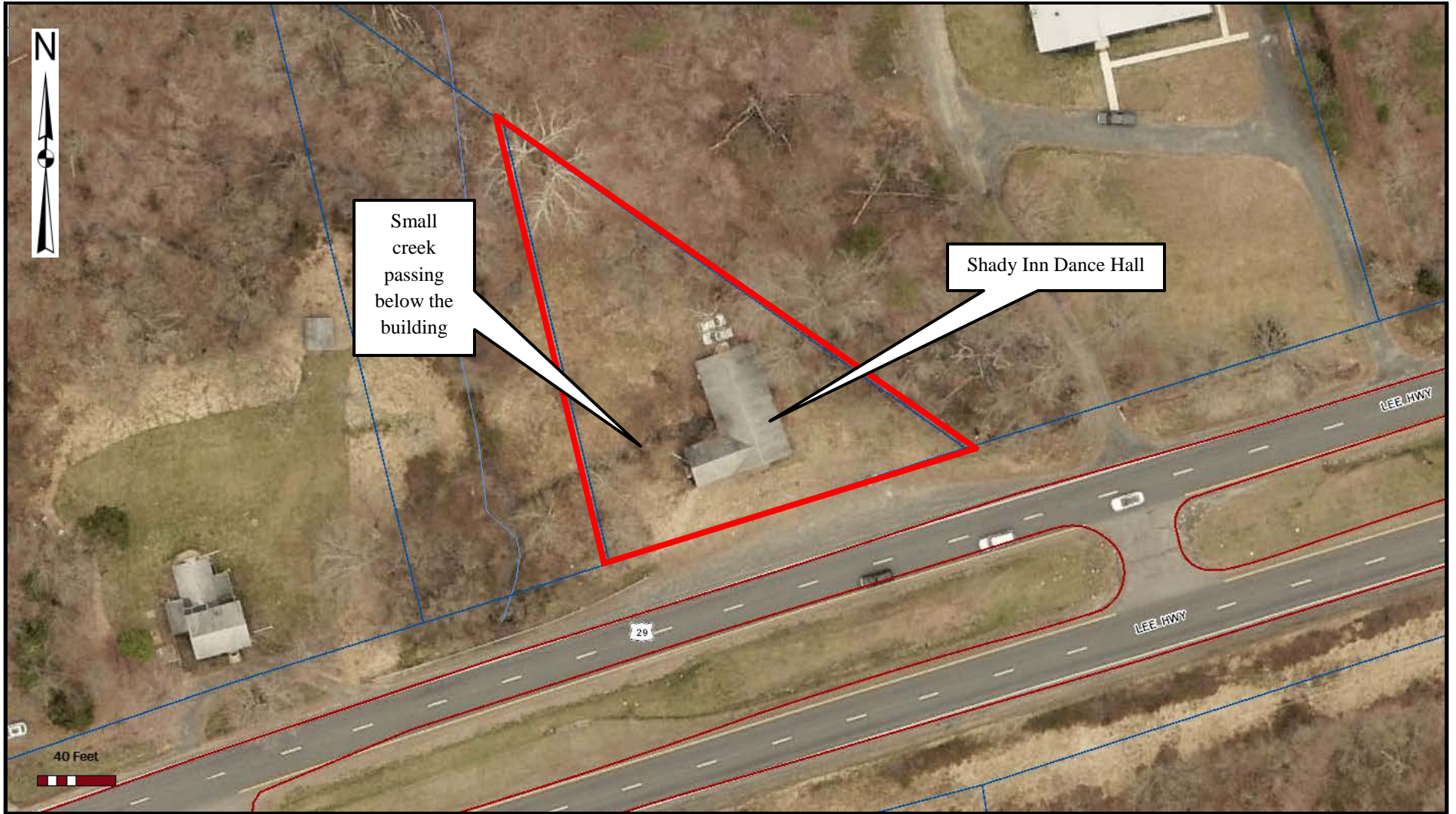
name/title: Danae Peckler, Architectural Historian
 organization: Dovetail Cultural Resource Group
 street & number: 11905 Bowman Drive, Suite 502
 city or town: Fredericksburg state: VA zip code: 22408
 e-mail: dpeckler@dovetailcrg.com telephone: 540-899-9170

6. 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, City Manager, and/or Town Manager

name/title: Justin S. Patton, County Archaeologist
 locality: Prince William County Planning Department
 street & number: 5 County Complex Court, Suite 210
 city or town: Prince William state: VA zip code: 22192
 telephone: 703-792-5729

Rinaldo Jackson II 2-23-20
Laura L Jackson 2-23-20
Maureen Gray 2-23-20
Mary A. Pette 2-23-20
Dina Moore 2-23-20
Dorothy Jackson 2/23/20



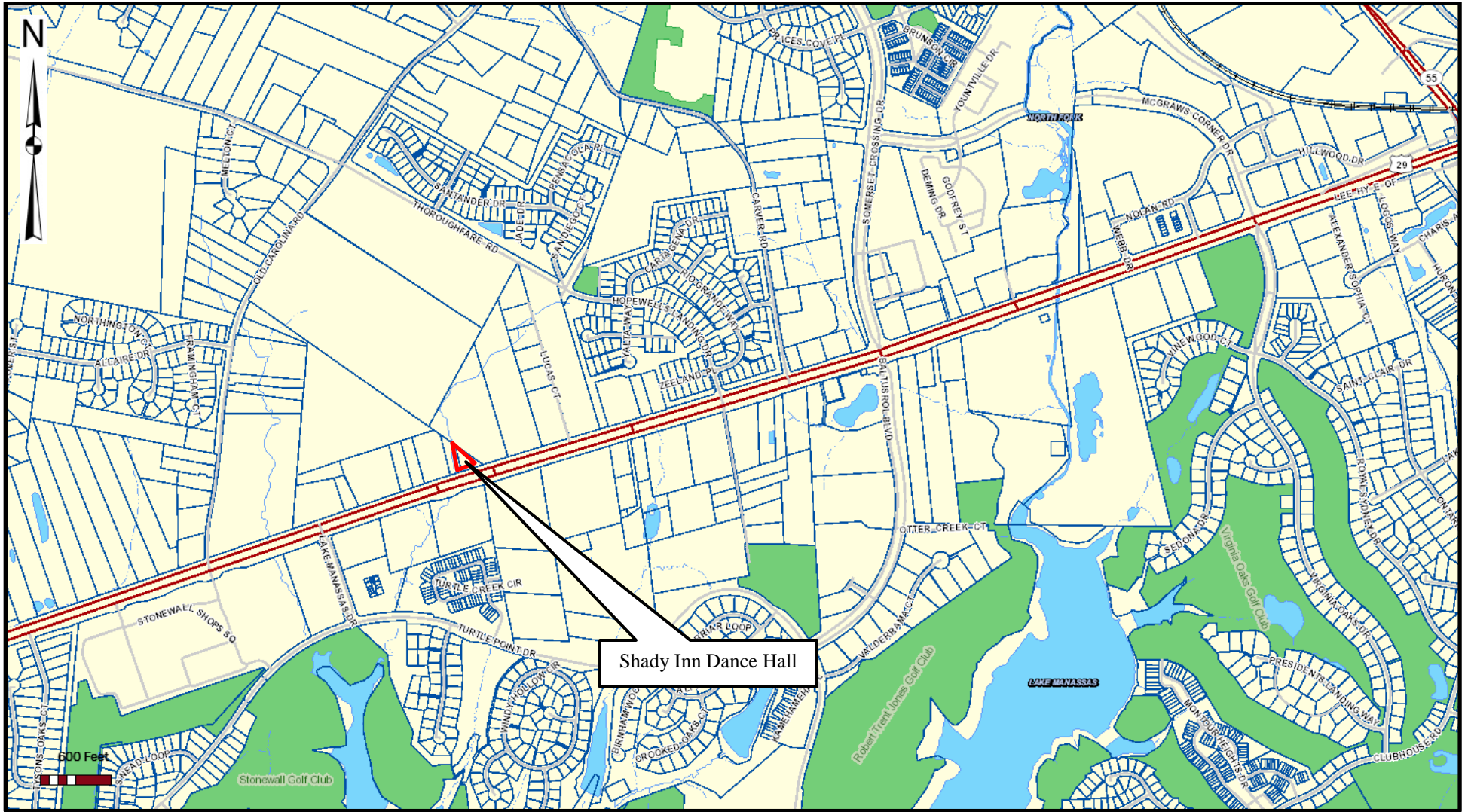
076-6008, Shady Inn Dance Hall

15036 Lee Highway

Gainesville, Virginia

Dovetail CRG 2020

2019 Aerial Imagery (Prince William County Property Mapper 2020)



076-6008, Shady Inn Dance Hall

15036 Lee Highway

Gainesville, Virginia

Dovetail CRG 2020

Base Map (Prince William County Property Mapper 2020)



076-6008, Shady Inn Dance Hall

15036 Lee Highway

Gainesville, Virginia

Dovetail CRG 2020

2019 Aerial Imagery (Prince William County Property Mapper 2020)