



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) 009-0306

1. General Property Information

Property name: Montvale High School

Property address: 11555 Lynchburg Salem Turnpike West (US 460)

City or Town: Montvale (census-designated place)

Zip code: 24523

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

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

Building X

Site _____

Structure _____

Object _____

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 13.02 acres (approximately)

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban _____ Suburban _____ Town _____ Village _____ Hamlet X Rural _____

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

Montvale High School stands on the north side of Lynchburg Salem Turnpike West (US 460) in the Montvale area of Bedford County. Goose Creek Valley Road extends along the eastern property line. The school stands amidst a 13.02-acre parcel with mature trees, athletic fields, and a basketball court. Set back approximately 50 feet from US 460 by a narrow, landscaped island and paved drive, the school is located towards the south end of the parcel. A circular drive approaches the east side of the school from Goose Creek Valley Road, and a substantial paved parking lot is sited along the school's west side, accessed directly from US 460. A brick monument sign stands at the entrance from US 460. A non-historic picnic shelter stands northwest of the school. Due to its location along a major vehicular route (US 460) and near the Norfolk & Western Railway line (which runs north of US 460), the property is predominantly surrounded by industrial and commercial properties, although there is a residential neighborhood to the east. The current Montvale Elementary school stands further east along US 460.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Colonial Revival, Modern

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: Division of School Buildings, Virginia Department of Education (1930 school), Smithey & Boynton (1953 addition, 1982 addition)

If the builder is known, please list here: W.L. Brown and Company of Appomattox (1930 school)

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1930, 1953, 1980

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.

Built in 1930, with additions erected in 1953 and 1982, Montvale High School is a good example of a 1930s era-consolidated school designed in the Colonial Revival style with Art Deco-style influences. Typical of other schools around the Commonwealth constructed during this period, the one-story school of masonry construction exhibits such features as decorative brickwork, including diapered and basketweave patterned panels; large window banks defined by brick pilasters; cast-stone detailing in the sills, panels, and corner blocks; and a monumental central entrance. The three-part façade is symmetrical with a central projecting pavilion which contains an entrance tower with a flat roof, parapet, and stepped buttresses. The recessed front entrance features double-leaf doors capped by a segmental arched transom.

The interior comprises a small entrance vestibule at the front flanked by an office and a storage room. Five classrooms and a library flank the large central multi-purpose room with a stage at the rear. Behind the multi-purpose room, two corridors, boys' and girls' toilets, and four additional classrooms are arranged around a large kitchen. The original plan remains mostly intact, with only a few partition walls added in 1963, creating additional office space, toilets and utilitarian/mechanical closets in the front east classroom. Historic finishes include hardwood floors, plaster walls, plaster ceilings, beadboard wainscoting, ceramic tile wainscoting (kitchen and bathrooms), and simple wood door and window trim. The classroom doors have transom openings which historically contained six-light wood transoms, although most have since been covered/infilled with plywood boards. Historic closets and blackboards remain intact in most of the classrooms. Historic two-panel, wood doors are extant in some classrooms, although many have been replaced with wood slabs. The steel truss ceiling system is exposed in the multi-purpose room with acoustic panels above. The kitchen floor is covered with quarry tiles towards the front and asbestos tiles towards the rear. Non-historic dropped ACT ceilings, replacement wainscoting, wood paneling, carpeting, and asbestos tile flooring have been added irregularly throughout the building.

A one-story classroom addition was built in 1953 behind the original school. A covered walkway, which was later replaced with an enclosed hyphen as part of the 1982 addition, originally connected the addition and the 1930 school. The modest 1953 addition features a flat roof, red brick exterior, and large banks of multi-light steel windows with central awning sections and lower hopper sections. The windows are covered with plywood boards on the exterior. The interior features a central corridor flanked by six classrooms. The corridor features a quarry tile floor, ceramic tile walls, and an applied acoustical tile ceiling. The classrooms have painted CMU walls, concrete floors, and acoustical panel ceiling tiles. The floors were historically covered with asbestos tiles, which have been removed, likely for abatement

purposes. Each classroom features a toilet and closet as well as blackboards, tackboards, and cabinets. Entrances to the classrooms have wood doors with narrow, vertical vision lights surmounted by cement asbestos panel transoms. The rest of the doors are wood slabs.

A one-story addition was constructed in 1982 immediately west of the 1953 addition. The covered walkway connecting the 1953 addition to the original school was replaced with a masonry hyphen connecting directly to the 1982 addition. This red brick addition has a flat roof and fixed metal windows. A large porte-cochere extends from the west elevation to shelter a paved drive. The interior comprises a library, two classrooms, toilets, and a mechanical room. Interior finishes include dropped ACT ceilings; painted CMU walls or walls finished with drywall; and floors covered with carpeting, LVT, or ceramic tile.

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.

- Picnic Shelter, fair condition, ca. 1990
- Although the 1997 survey included a single-family dwelling west of the school as part of the property, the house stands on a separate parcel under separate ownership and no documentation has been found that relates the construction/use of the school to the house.

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.

In 1998 and 2015, the 1930 Montvale High School was recommended by DHR staff as eligible for individual listing on the National Register under Criteria A and C with significance on the local level in the areas of Education and Architecture. It appears to remain eligible for individual listing under the same criteria. The school building was constructed during the Interwar period as a modern school for students in grades one through twelve in the Montvale area of Bedford County. With its symmetrical form, prominent front entrance, red brick construction, and large window banks, it is typical of schools built around Virginia during this period. The proposed period of significance for the Montvale High School begins in 1930, with the construction of the original building, and extends to 1953 to encompass the construction of the sizeable rear classroom addition. The building retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship to convey its historic significance as a school built in 1930 and expanded over the years to provide public education to Bedford County residents.

Criterion A

Montvale High School appears to be eligible under Criterion A in the area of Education as a one-story rural school building constructed to accommodate grades one through twelve in the Interwar era. The school was built in 1930 to replace an earlier school building. The early 1900s school was a small, wood-frame structure that began to experience overcrowding by the 1920s. The 1930 school reflects the movement around the Commonwealth to construct larger consolidated schools according to standardized plans provided by the State Board of Education. A home economics cottage (1935) and an agricultural shop building (1941) were constructed on the school's property to expand the school's curriculum. Both auxiliary buildings have been demolished. In 1953, a six-room classroom addition was constructed behind the school to accommodate the flourishing student body. In 1964, the school was converted to an elementary school for grades one through seven. In 1970, the curriculum expanded to include kindergarten education. As the student population continued to grow into the latter half of the 20th century, another addition was built in 1982 to add more classroom space and a larger library. The school was closed in 1996, when a new elementary school was built up the road. The 1930 school and 1953 addition are currently vacant, although the 1982 addition is occupied by Montvale Public Library. From 1930 through 1996, Montvale High School (later renamed Montvale Elementary School) functioned as a public school for students in the Montvale area of Bedford County.

Criterion C

Montvale High School is a well-preserved example of a rural school built in 1930 according to standardized plans and specifications provided by the State Department of Education. Typical of small-scale, standardized schools built around Virginia, Montvale High School is representative of the Colonial Revival style with its red brick construction, balanced front elevation with a central entrance tower, and decorative brickwork. The entrance tower is influenced by the Art Deco style with a parapet, stepped buttresses, a diapered and basketweave patterned panel, and a cast-stone sign reading "Montvale High School." L.W. Bishop from the State Department of Education served as the supervising architect and W.L. Brown and Company of Appomattox was the contractor. The original interior plan is largely intact with classrooms and support spaces arranged around a central multi-purpose assembly room. A one-story addition was erected behind the original school building in 1953. With its flat roof, brick veneer walls, and banks of multi-light steel windows, this addition is minimalist in design and devoid of detailing with

a focus on functional and cost-effective construction that typifies the approach to school design following World War II.

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.)

- The Bedford Bulletin, various articles.
- The Roanoke Times, various articles.
- Waugh, A. Dionne. "Community hopes to bring new life to an old building." *The News & Advance*, December 14, 2003.

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: Robert Hiss, County Administrator

organization: County of Bedford Virginia

street & number: 122 East Main Street

city or town: Bedford state: VA zip code: 24523

e-mail: rhiss@bedfordcountyva.gov telephone: (540) 586-7601



Legal Owner's Signature: _____

Date: 8/11/25

• • *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: Robert Hiss

Daytime Telephone: (540) 586-7601

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

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than applicant/sponsor listed above)

name/title: Kate Kronau and Alison Blanton

organization: Hill Studio

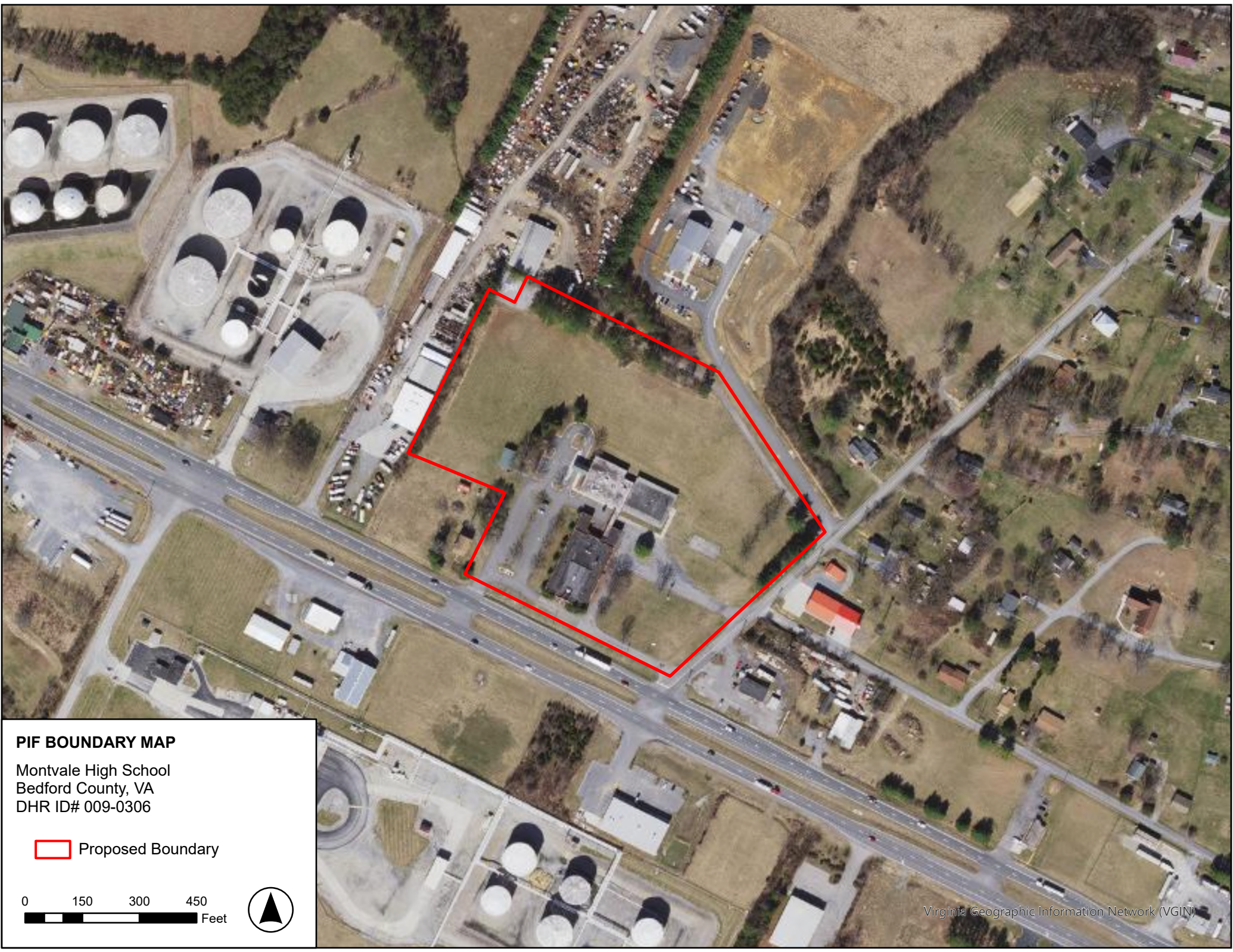
street & number: 120 Campbell Avenue SW

city or town: Roanoke state: VA zip code: 24011

e-mail: kkronau@hillstudio.com telephone: 540-342-5263

Date: August 4, 2025

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



PIF BOUNDARY MAP

Montvale High School
Bedford County, VA
DHR ID# 009-0306

 Proposed Boundary

0 150 300 450
Feet

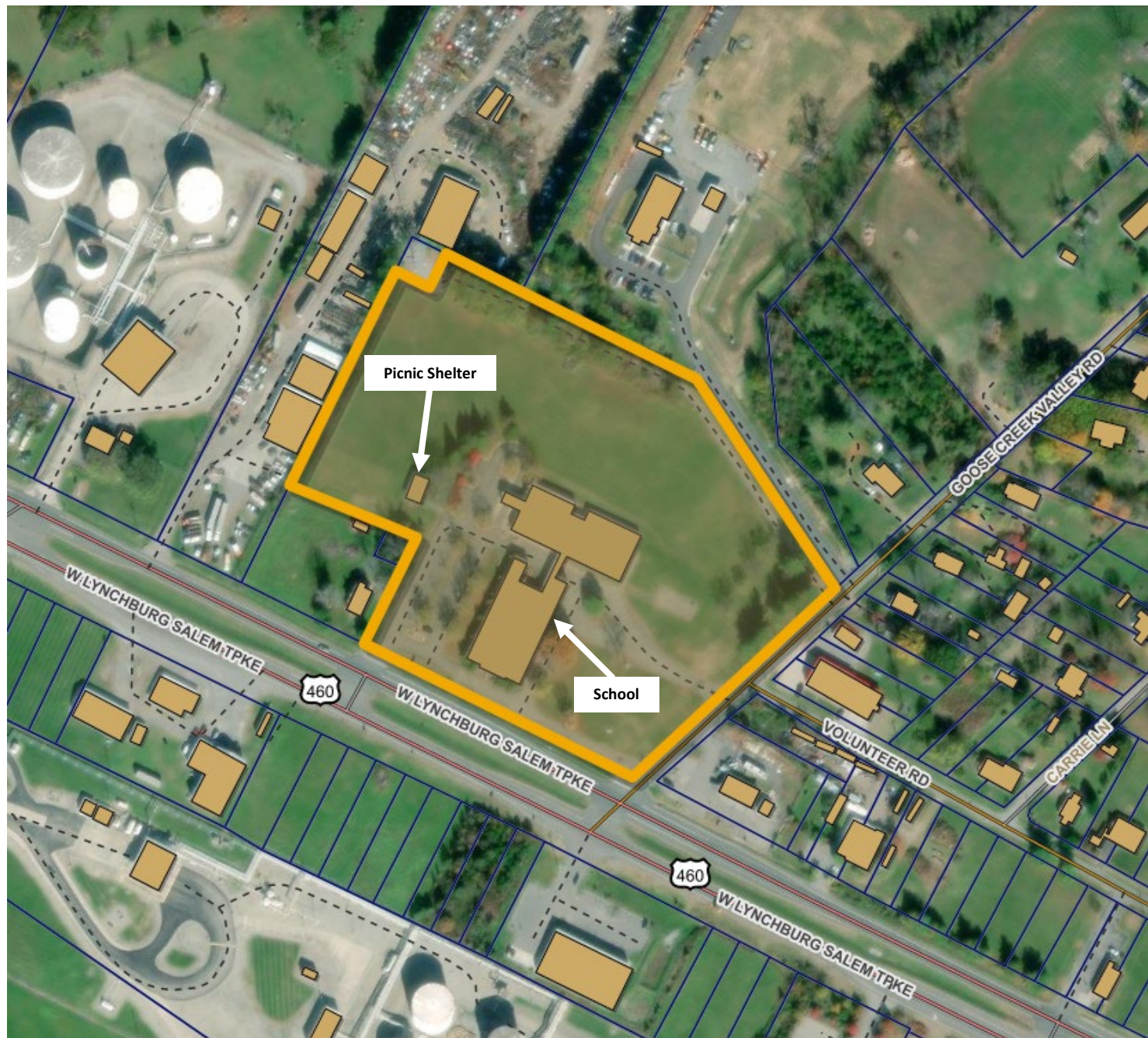


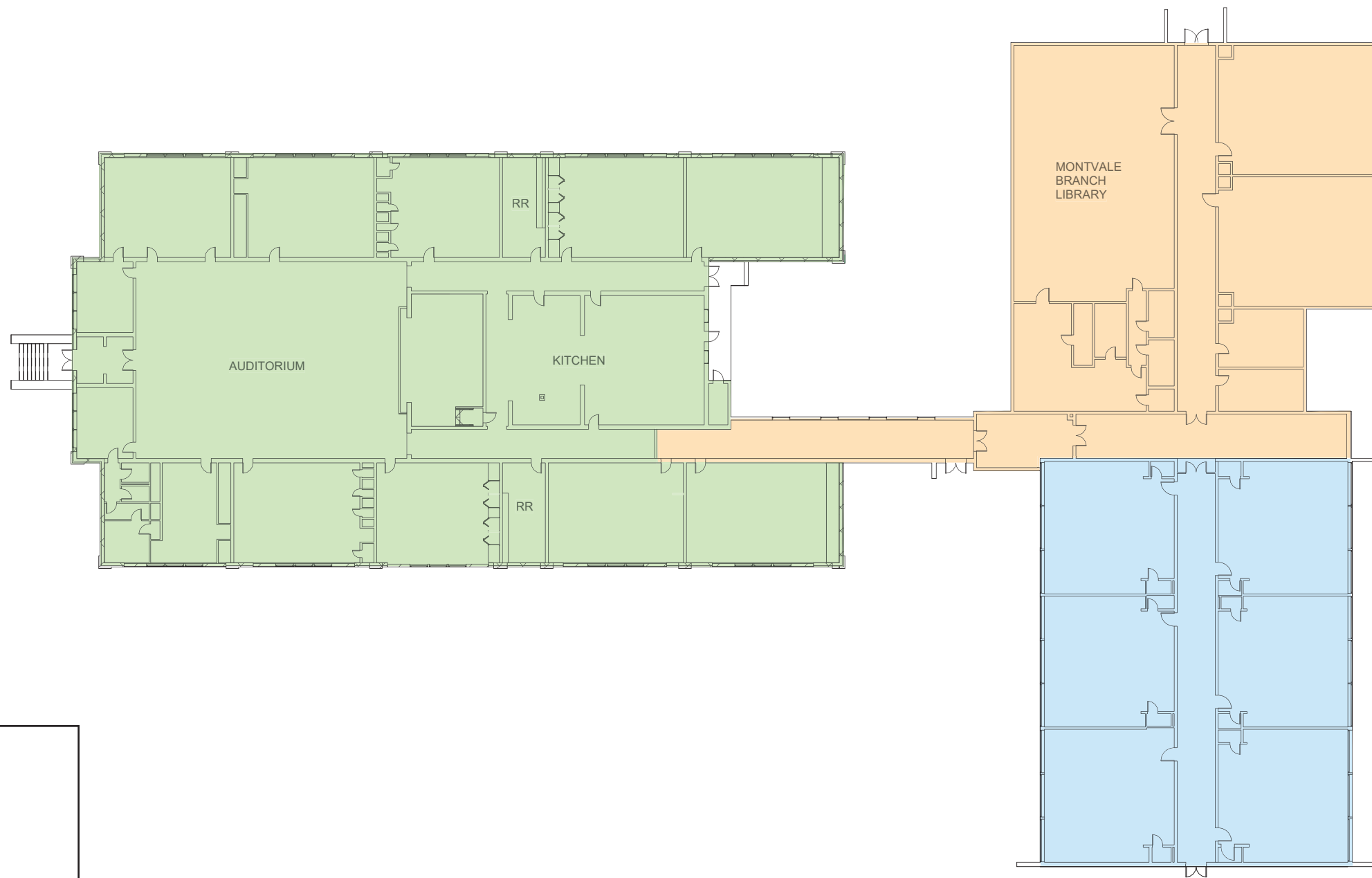
Sketch Map

Montvale High School
(DHR #009-0306)
11555 Lynchburg Salem Turnpike
West (US 460)
Montvale, VA 24523



NTS





	1930 school
	1953 addition
	1982 addition

MONTVALE SCHOOL

MONTVALE, VA

AS-BUILT

Scale: 1" = 30'-0"

ISSUE DATE: 08/04/25



































