

Critz, VA: Critz Community Center Conceptual Design and Conceptual Site Master Plan



Executive Summary

Prepared for Envision Critz
September 2022

Critz, VA: Critz Community Center Conceptual Design
and Conceptual Site Master Plan

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The **Community Design Assistance Center (CDAC)** is an outreach center in the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design at Virginia Tech that assists communities, neighborhood groups, and non-profit organizations in improving the natural and built environments. Assistance is provided in the areas of landscape architecture, architecture, planning, and interior design. Working with communities, the conceptual planning and design provides communities with a graphic vision of their project that can then be used for grant applications and fundraising for the next steps toward implementation.

The **Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance (IPG)** is actively involved in empirical and theoretical research, and supports sponsored research endeavors for the School of Public and International Affairs. We engage in research, capacity building, technical assistance and community-based participatory inquiry with and on behalf of those we serve, principally public, nonprofit and private organizations, and the populations and communities these entities support.

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and

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part 1: Introduction and Background

Overview	3
Partners	5
Site History	6
Project Location	9
Community Design and Engagement Process Summary	11

Part 2: Final Design Concepts

Conceptual Site Master Plan	
Design Description	19
Site Master Plan	23
Focus Area Around Community Center Building	24
Perspective L-1: Gossip Wall and Community Center	25
Perspective L-2: Community Center Back Porch	26
Perspective L-3: Picnic Shelter, Butterfly Garden, and Playground	27
Perspective L-4: Stage Area at Footprint of Martin House	28
Site Master Plan Precedent Images	29
Building and Interior Spaces	
Design Description	30
Community Center First Floor Plan	32
Community Center Second Floor Plan	33
Perspective I-1: Reception Area	34
Perspective I-2: Performance Space	35
Perspective I-3: Craft Room	36
Perspective I-4: Community Gathering Room	37
Perspective I-5: Upstairs Group Art Studio	38
Perspective I-6: Upstairs Game Room	39
Furniture Recommendations	40

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PART 1:
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Overview

The Critz Community Center project area is a ~13-acre site located across from Hardin Reynolds Memorial School in Critz, Virginia located at 21 Hardin Reynolds Road at the corner of Hardin Reynolds Road and Abram Penn Highway. The site includes six vacant extant structures, including two houses (“Brick House” and “White House”) built in the early twentieth century, a large garage or shed, a small shed, a smokehouse, and a small cabin located in the wooded portion of the site. An old store foundation remains along Hardin Reynolds Road east of the two houses. Additionally, a candy factory was once located onsite, likely either along Railroad Lane between the store and the cabin in the woods along the eastern edge of the site or near the White House facing Abram Penn Highway.

Critz is perhaps best known for the Reynolds Homestead, formerly known as Rock Spring Plantation, the birthplace of R.J. Reynolds, founder of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. Rock Spring Plantation opened in 1825, and at time of emancipation in 1863, eighty-eight enslaved people were freed from captivity. Consequently, Critz continues to have a more racially diverse population than proximate municipalities. The Critz Community Center site area is tangentially adjacent to the edge of the Reynolds Homestead property, but the Homestead’s main buildings are slightly less than one mile from the proposed community center’s main building location.

Due to the advanced age and deterioration of the structures on this site, most of them will require removal. The Brick House, which is the structure in the best overall condition, will serve as the Critz Community Center’s main building location. The remainder of the ~13-acre site will offer a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities.

This phase of the project was a collaborative effort between the Reynolds Homestead, the Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance (IPG), and the Community Design Assistance Center at Virginia Tech (CDAC). Its purpose was to collaborate with Envision Critz, Inc., a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life in Critz and surrounding communities by creating a community center to serve as a gathering space and provide enrichment activities for all ages. The Reynolds Homestead, VTIPG, and CDAC also met with the Critz community to create conceptual designs and a site master plan for a community center at the Brick House and ~13-acre property. The vision for the historic house and site is to create a community center that provides enrichment programs and art classes for students attending HRMS and for Critz community members. At present, there are no parks in the Critz area of Patrick County, situating this project as both much-needed and much-desired.

Based on community input and identified needs, the center could potentially host after-school art, music, writing, dance, theater as well as educational and leadership activities that would be free or low cost. In partnership with HRMS, students would

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

have the ability to come to this center directly from school, and possibly even return home by the school's activity bus if scheduling permits. During evenings and weekends the space could be used to provide educational programs including leadership development, entrepreneurship training, professional development, and heritage art workshops, as well as serving as a community gathering space for storytelling circles, open mic events or music events, spoken word, book clubs, community dialogues and other community building activities.

The Community Design Assistance Center collaborated with the Institute for Policy and Governance and the Reynolds Homestead to work with community members and a stakeholders committee from Envision Critz, Inc. to develop a conceptual redevelopment plan for the Critz Community Center and the ~13-acre property. This report details the initial concept of Phase One. The primary purpose of this phase has been to develop a community engaged program and conceptual design study for a community center in Critz, Virginia that will provide after-school education and heritage arts programs for students attending Hardin Reynolds Memorial School and Critz community members. This phase has involved planning and engagement activities with local community members and students, and is funded by a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and administered by Reynolds Homestead. Technical assistance has been provided by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC).

With the information compiled from Phase One, Phase Two will entail securing additional private, state and federal funds to renovate the home, implement the land use plan and provide programs to foster transformative community change to meet the Virginia (5.1) strategy of civic engagement and participation in an effort to advance communities. Efforts to facilitate Phase 2 will be led by Envision Critz, Inc. and Reynolds Homestead.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Partners

For the past 50 years, **the Reynolds Homestead** has served the residents of Patrick County (and surrounding counties in Virginia and North Carolina) by offering a diverse array of art classes and exhibitions; performing arts programs; fall and spring College for Older Adults session; summer camps and special events for children exploring topics from nature to robotics; festivals celebrating history and local traditions; and educational and leadership and personal development programs for all ages. The staff have established enduring partnerships with local government agencies, area schools, non-profits and businesses to support our community enrichment activities. Regional partners include Friends of Southwest Virginia, 'Round the Mountain and the Crooked Road. As an off-campus center of Virginia Tech, the Reynolds Homestead has the ability to sustain this project with the support of Virginia Tech and the Virginia Tech Foundation.

For this project, Reynolds Homestead partnered with **residents of the Critz area, Envision Critz, Inc., Community Design Assistance Center (CDAC) at Virginia Tech** and the **Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance (IPG)**, to collect community member ideas and feedback and to prepare the conceptual design plans. Reynolds Homestead has also partnered with the Air Institute to coordinate an Air Shift workshop for the community using hands-on collaboration, design thinking, and business planning to help foster a creative community and economy focused on entrepreneurship in Critz. Patrick County has also included \$1,500 in their budget this year to support the development of a playground in Critz and may continue to include it each year to support the outdoor recreation space.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Site History

Critz, Virginia has always been a small, rural farming community. Critz was first settled by Europeans in the mid-eighteenth century when Harmon Critz, Sr. immigrated from Germany and arrived in the area. Critz's relative isolation through World War I created a close-knit community with immense town pride, a strong sense of community responsibility, and an independent, free-thinking spirit.

Around 1891, the Danville & Western ("Dick & Willie") Railway was built through Critz. This connected the community to Stuart, Martinsville, Danville, and other nearby towns. The railway created greater opportunities for economic development in the area. Service through Critz continued until 1942, when, as a result of wartime steel shortages and sparse populations, service beyond Fieldale (including Critz) was terminated.

After World War II, Critz was never quite the same. Nearly all able-bodied men were away at war, and the economy shifted from mostly sustenance farming to manufacturing. After the end of the war, there was no longer a need for the wartime manufacturing industry, but farms had already drastically scaled back operations. After serving in the military with people from around the country and meeting people from around the world, the region was no longer as culturally isolated as it had historically been, and the population decreased and stagnated. Today, Critz has around 400 residents, about a 20% population increase since 2000.

The Critz Community Center site has a fascinating history that reflects the broader history of the Critz community and Patrick County. Around 1908 Bahnsen Franklin Martin (1878-1928), a wealthy businessman from the prominent Martin family of Virginia and North Carolina, acquired the land. Martin likely owned all of the land between Abram Penn Highway, Hardin Reynolds Road, Railroad Lane, and the Reynolds Homestead. His estate still owns the two parcels of land between the Critz Community Center site and the Reynolds Homestead.

Martin had the White House onsite constructed around 1908, when he married Nannie Ware Critz, a descendant of Harmon Critz, Sr. Records indicate that Martin had multiple business ventures: a dry goods store (likely where the old store foundation lies onsite); a candy factory, which was also onsite at one time; and was the first distributor of Gulf Oil in the county. The lattermost venture was in Stuart, and one day in 1928 Martin's automobile was tragically struck by a train, killing him at age 50 on his way home to Critz. His widow Nannie Ware continued to live at the property with their five daughters for many years afterwards.

Due to limited record availability, it is currently unknown exactly how the site developed or when the Martin family left. The brick house was constructed between 1920 and 1930, and was likely a rental property owned by the Martin family. Census records indicate that the Brick House may have been considered two units at some

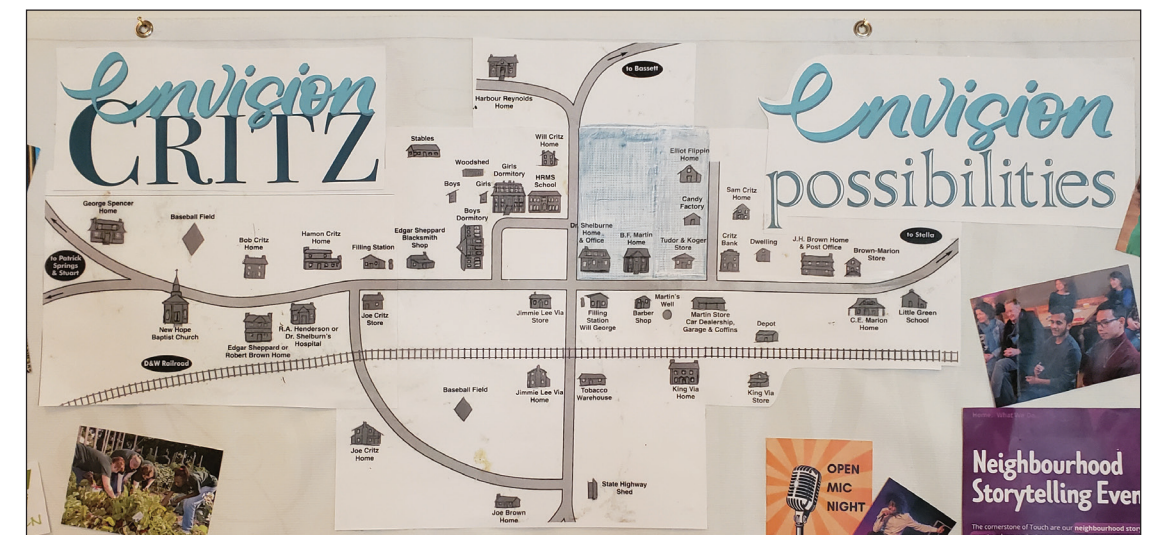
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

point. Its best-known tenant was Dr. James T. Shelburne (1889-1954), a general practitioner, surgeon, and eye-nose-throat specialist. Dr. Shelburne was originally from Christiansburg and came to Critz to practice medicine in 1921. For some time, this house also contained his medical office, although as the HRMS school physician, he also lived and worked at the school for part of his career. In 1950, Dr. Shelburne moved to Martinsville. It is unclear exactly what was happening in the Brick House after 1950, but the building was evidently maintained for several decades after.

The smokehouse onsite was constructed by the Martin family and is described in multiple primary accounts as being used by several community members. The Martin family is remembered in writing as being very generous, with B.F. also sponsoring the first motion picture showings in the county in the HRMS auditorium. The candy factory is shown on a community-sourced map from the HRMS anniversary yearbook (Figure 1.1) as between the old "Tudor & Koger" store and the cabin, but no such building appears on any conducted surveys, dating back to 1928, when B.F. was still alive. It is possible that the candy factory was located at the store site or elsewhere along Hardin Reynolds Road.

The cabin in the woods offers an ambiguous history. It appears on the first survey maps of the area from 1928 and is either marked as vacant or excluded altogether from maps starting in the 1980s. A 1964 aerial photograph shows a clearing around the building, but by 1982 this clearing was grown over with vegetation. The community-sourced map labels this as the "Elliot Flippin Home", but public records do not indicate there was ever a Critz resident with this name.

Figure 1.1: Reproduction of HRMS Yearbook Map on Envision Critz Vision Board. The shaded blue area includes the study area.



INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

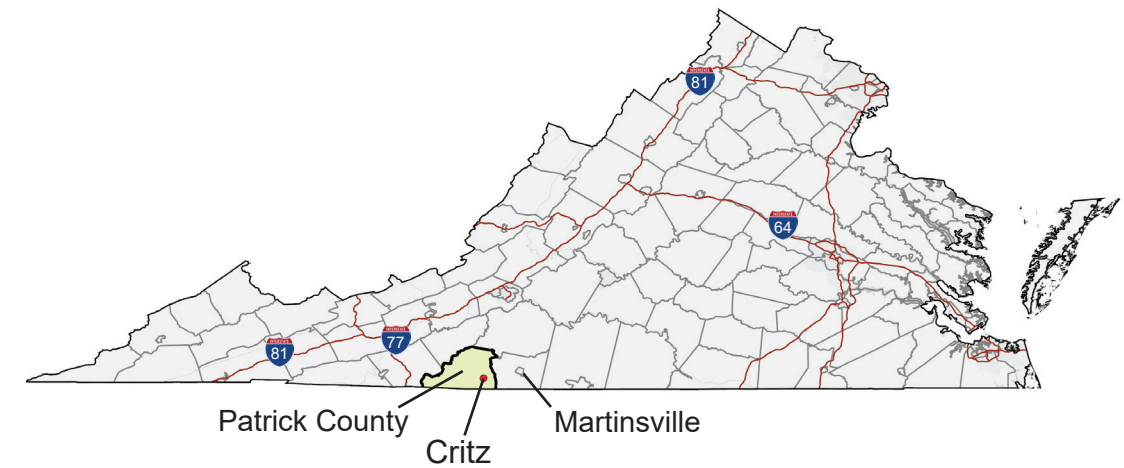
There were many people with the last name Flippin or Flippen living in Virginia and North Carolina throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The spelling variation appears to be arbitrary and a result of inconsistent written records through the nineteenth century. The White Flippin families in this area enslaved many African-Americans prior to emancipation, and census records indicate that White and Black people with the last name Flippin lived in Critz in the early twentieth century. 1930s census records indicate that Alexander and Daisy Flippin, a White married couple with three children, lived two Census entries from the Martin family, but they appear to have lived in Critz for less than twenty years and their purpose in town remains unclear. It is speculated that the building may have housed sharecroppers at one time.

This historic background is important to Critz and the Critz Community Center project because there are very few written documents about life in Critz prior to World War II. As time progresses and longtime residents pass on, the availability of primary accounts diminishes. The landscape and physical structures onsite are the most revealing historical records of life in Critz in the early twentieth century today. As Critz continues to develop this site and make changes to its historic landscape, it will become increasingly important to document and preserve existing and historic conditions so that the legacies left by past residents are not forgotten.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Project Location

Figure 1.2

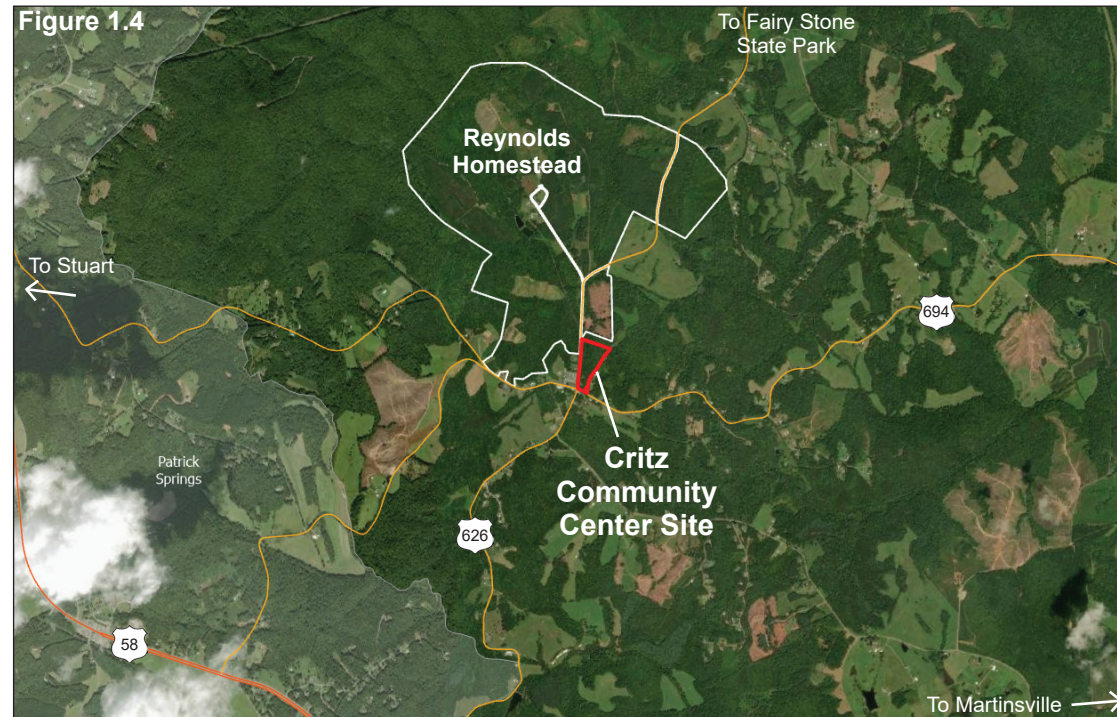


Critz, Virginia is located in Patrick County in the southwest portion of Virginia (Figure 1.2). Critz is a rural community east of Patrick Springs and Stuart and is approximately ten miles from the Virginia/North Carolina state line (Fig. 1.3), and twenty miles from Martinsville, the largest nearby city.

Figure 1.3

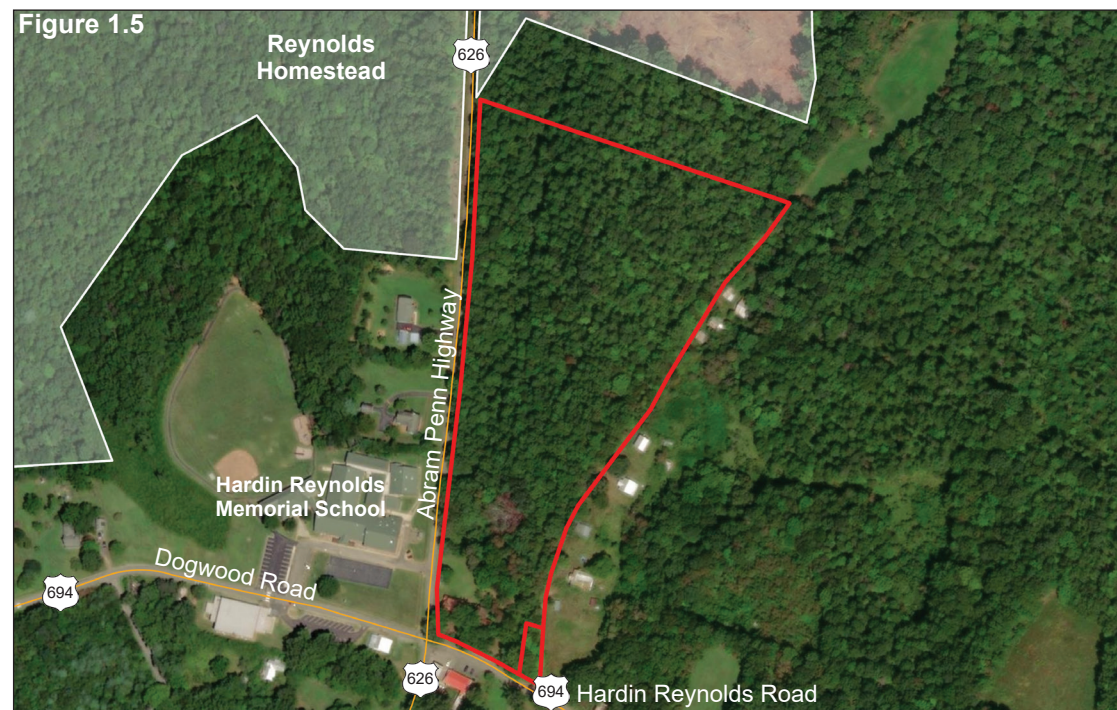


INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND



10

The Critz Community Center site is centrally located at the intersection of the two main roads running through town: State Routes 626 and 692 (Fig. 1.4). This is a key location in Critz related to community development because of its close proximity to Hardin Reynolds Memorial School and the Reynolds Homestead (Fig. 1.5). The site (red) is approximately 12.9 acres and connects to the Reynolds Homestead (white) in the northwest corner.



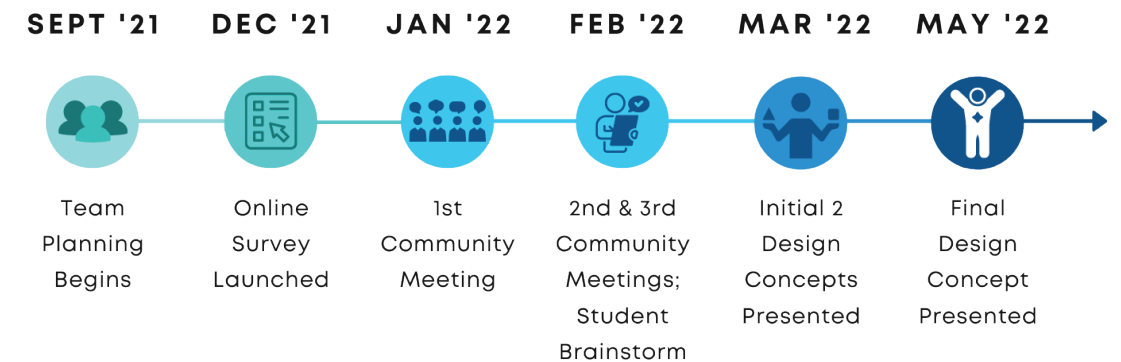
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Community Engagement and Design Concept Development Summary

The Virginia Tech project team began planning the engagement and design process in Summer/Fall of 2021, to include in-person, hybrid, and online engagement opportunities, with consideration of factors including participant comfort levels for attending in-person activities and access to quality internet in the context of COVID-19, as well as providing multiple touchpoints for engagement to increase the opportunity to participate. The engagement followed an iterative, participatory process (Fig. 1.6) where community members first generated, then reflected on community needs and opportunities, as well as provided specific ideas for the proposed community center. Based on this information, the project team proposed two conceptual designs to community members and Envision Critz, Inc. and collected additional feedback. This feedback was incorporated into the final design concept. A list of engagement activities is summarized in Table 1.1.

Figure 1.6. Iterative Engagement and Design Process (Project Phase 1)

Engagement and Design Process Timeline



11

Findings from the Online Survey

The survey was available online from December 2021-February 2022 and received 44 responses from a demographically representative sample. Responses included support for a variety of intergenerational programming, such as arts, craft, theater and music classes; a computer lab for workforce development and design; and a community gathering space for story-telling, community dialogues and other community building activities. Desired outdoor features included an exercise trail; a community garden and farmers' market; nature-based education; picnic shelters and an outdoor amphitheater; hammocks and places to relax; a playground; and outdoor art such as sculpture gardens.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Table 1.1

Activity	Start Date	Duration	# of People Engaged	Recruitment	Mode of Delivery
Online Qualtrics Survey	December 2021	2 months	44 community members	Social media, flyers, word of mouth, email listservs, website	Online
Idea-Generating Community Meetings	January 30, 2022 February 5, 2022 February 12, 2022	1.5 - 2 hours each	46 community members	Social media, flyers, word of mouth, email listservs, website, contact list from survey	Hybrid (in-person and Zoom)
HRMS Student Brainstorm	February 2022	5 days	50 students	Via teachers and school administrators	Online
Preliminary Design Concept Presentation with Feedback	March 27, 2022	2 hours	20 community members	Social media, word of mouth, email listservs, contact list from previous sessions and survey	Hybrid (in-person and Zoom)
Planning Meetings with Envision Critz, Inc. Board	March 1, 2022 March 17, 2022 March 27, 2022 March 31, 2022	1 hour each	5 board members	Via Reynolds Homestead	Hybrid (in-person and Zoom)
Final Design Concept Presentation	May 7, 2022	1.5 hours	15 community members	Social media, word of mouth, email listservs, contact list from previous sessions and survey	Hybrid (in-person and Zoom)

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Findings from the Community Meetings

Three idea-generating, hybrid (in-person and online) community meetings were held in January/February 2022 to brainstorm the universe of possibilities for the proposed community center, and to refine the list based on community priorities and preferences. Through small group breakout discussions and dot-voting, community members identified and vetted a rich list of ideas that the project team used to develop the preliminary design concepts. The ideas were organized by theme and whether they applied to the indoor or outdoor design. The themes included: Agricultural & Natural Resources, Arts & Culture, Co-curricular & Enrichment, Computer & Technology, History & Other Facility Features, Outdoor, Personal and Professional Development.



Community members dot vote on their favorite ideas from the breakout group brainstorm.

Participants' comments during the meetings emphasized the need for public art displays, computer lab(s), intergenerational programs, multipurpose spaces, a transportation shuttle, preservation of history like the "gossip wall" and skills like canning, and sharing life experiences through oral history. To connect the community center to the school, the discussion considered how to align outdoor classroom programs with standards of learning (SOLs), as well as how to provide less formal mentoring and hangout spaces for students, especially teenagers. Having a trusted role model, like an older student or adult, and a safe space to discuss mental health issues was also highlighted as a need for youth.

Due to their close proximity and aligned missions, it was mentioned that there will be ample opportunity to design complementary rather than competing programming between Reynolds Homestead and the proposed community center. However, participants envisioned the community center would be more community member-run and community-centric in the design and implementation of its programs. To address diversity and accessibility, participants discussed wanting equitable access to high quality internet and technology, affordable programming, and an inclusive environment for all types of students (e.g., home-schooled) and individuals (e.g., people with disabilities) to enjoy the community center together.

Findings from the HRMS Student Brainstorm

In February 2022, teachers and administrators at Hardin Reynolds Memorial School (HRMS) implemented a brainstorming activity with their students focused on what youth would like to see at the proposed community center. Popular ideas generated by students included: bike and walking trails, a dog park, community and/or flower gardens, basketball court, swings, slides, and a playground in general.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Findings from the Design Concept Presentations

Preliminary Design Concepts (March 2022)

The project team presented two preliminary design concepts to community members in March, including Concept 1 focused on Arts, History, & Passive Recreation, and Concept 2 focused on Technology, Education, & Active Play. Participants posed questions and comments about either concept and then voted on their favorite elements from either concept. Some of the most preferred indoor features included a kitchen, multi-functional art rooms, performance space,



Community members review packets of information and boards around the room with details about the two design concepts.

lounge, meeting room, classroom, computer lab and meeting spaces equipped with videoconferencing capacity. Some of the most preferred outdoor features included the “gossip wall,” restrooms, picnic area, running and walking trails and a trail connection to the Reynolds Homestead trail system, preserving the historic cabin on site for people to learn about it, a children’s playground, amphitheater, and outdoor classroom.

When asked what the character of the space should be, meeting participants expressed appreciation for preserving local textiles as illustrated in Concept 1, allowing the interior to reflect local art and the character of the house, and possibly staining a wooden barn quilt pattern into the floor in one of the smaller rooms or the room currently in need of new flooring. Some participants noted that Concept 1 felt natural and like summer camp, which they said reflected discussions from previous brainstorming sessions at the first three community meetings. Some participants noted that Concept 2 felt campus-like. Participants said it was important to make the space attractive and natural, ADA-accessible for people with disabilities, and avoid a clinical feel.

Final Design Concept (May 2022)

Based on findings from the survey, community meetings, HRMS student brainstorm, and feedback from Envision Critz, Inc., the project team developed the final design concept and presented it to Critz community members in a hybrid meeting on May 7, 2022. A recording of the final presentation is available on Youtube.¹ Following the presentation, the project team and Envision Critz, Inc. facilitated a brief question and answer session, and asked community members to share their proposed next steps, as well as how they would like to stay involved with the project moving forward. Several community members volunteered to help clean and restore the building on the property, and increase awareness about the proposed community center through volunteer recruitment and community events.

¹ https://youtu.be/kWD_hfSv1E

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Feedback from Envision Critz, Inc.

Envision Critz, Inc. was involved in hosting the community meetings and making final decisions regarding which elements to prioritize in the final design concept. Overall, the Envision Critz, Inc. board explained that ADA accessibility should be a priority for the design, including ADA-compliant parking; that the final design concept should combine elements from both preliminary concepts 1 and 2; and that a natural instead of campus-like feel is preferred. Parking was considered a big issue, even with 13 acres. The board wants to explore the possibility of expanding into green areas to develop more parking, taking into consideration that loading areas will be needed for vendors, deliveries, music events, etc. and should allow for larger vehicles and trucks to maneuver.

Next Steps

Using the final design concept, Envision Critz, Inc. will work with Reynolds Homestead and community members to fundraise, build partnerships, and restore the property, including developing the trail system and cleaning up the house. It is anticipated that additional community meetings and engagement opportunities will remain a central part of this project moving forward.

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**PART 2:
FINAL DESIGN CONCEPTS**

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FINAL DESIGN CONCEPTS

Site Master Plan

Design Description

The final concept transforms the Brick House and surrounding site into a local hub for community gathering, live music, play and physical activity, social events, and local science and history education. This concept celebrates the unique and beloved history of Critz and Patrick County and preserves it for generations to come through interactive educational activities and platforms for community storytelling. Preserved historic elements include a community stage at the location of the former White House and trails throughout the property with play elements themed to town history. The overarching goal of the final design concept for the Critz Community Center is to serve as a link between Critz's past and future, strengthening the bonds between community members by providing critical outdoor and community resources that help retain and grow the local population.

Parking

There are two parking areas onsite with additional potential offsite parking. The primary parking lot has ten regular parking spaces and is located on Railroad Lane. There is a smaller second parking lot behind the community center and off of Abram Penn Highway. This parking lot has two standard parking spots and two ADA parking spots. Envision Critz may pursue acquisition of land on the other side of Railroad Lane for additional overflow parking and there is potential space for additional parking on Reynolds Homestead property adjacent to the site at the northwest corner off Abram Penn Highway.

Trails and Pedestrian Connections

The final conceptual plan prioritizes pedestrian safety by adding a sidewalk on the other side of Abram Penn Highway that connects HRMS and the Brick House. The sidewalk runs from the HRMS entry drive on Abram Penn Highway to the intersection with Hardin Reynolds Road and then along the opposite side of Abram Penn Highway from the intersection with Hardin Reynolds Road to the Brick House parking lot and entrance. This plan also includes a sidewalk along Hardin Reynolds Road from the intersection to Railroad Lane, where the larger parking lot is located, and two crosswalks added across Abram Penn Highway and Hardin Reynolds Road to increase pedestrian safety.

This concept has a hierarchical trail system with three different types of paths. The first is an ADA-accessible 6' wide paved path. This path takes visitors throughout all of the main areas of the site between Hardin Reynolds Road and the outdoor classroom and is about 1,320 feet in length or 0.25 miles total. The second type of path is 5' wide and consists of edged compacted crusher run and would be accessible for strollers and most wheelchairs. This path connects from the area around the outdoor classroom and leads to three play pockets and the cabin reflection area with the goal of transitioning guests from the heavily programmed portion of the site to the more natural area. This path is approximately 820 feet in length or 0.16 miles total.

FINAL DESIGN CONCEPTS

The third type of path is a 3' wide natural cleared walking trail. This walking trail is not paved or surfaced but is cleared and stabilized where necessary. It traverses the back portion of the site and the ravine, with notable elevation changes through the ravine. It could also potentially connect to a trail leading to Reynolds Homestead in the northwest corner, where the site touches Homestead property and could potentially serve as a trailhead with parking. Due to this trail's interconnectedness with the natural elevation changes onsite, it is not ADA-accessible. Not counting any potential connections to the Reynolds Homestead, this trail is about 2400 feet long or 0.45 miles. The three combined trails amount to a total walking length of approximately 0.86 miles with a walking perimeter loop using all three trail systems of approximately 0.6 miles.

Gossip Wall

The Gossip Wall fits in with the history theme of the site; in its heyday the site had a stone wall along Hardin Reynolds Road that community members used to gather at and sit to chat or "gossip", often over lunch. The final design revives the Gossip Wall and positions it as a central meeting point in front of the community center.

Multipurpose Shelter

The multipurpose shelter is 25' x 20' and is situated north of the community center building. This shelter has two ADA-accessible 5' x 10' restrooms, storage closets, a water fountain, and four 8-person picnic tables, seating a maximum of 32 people. This shelter can serve as a flexible classroom, formal gathering space, outdoor rain cover, or casual lunch spot with friends and family. This shelter has indoor plumbing in the restrooms due to its proximity to the main building and likely proximity to the septic field. It is oriented to the south so that solar panels can serve as an educational display and be used to light the shelter at night.

Butterfly Garden

The small butterfly garden is approximately 20' x 20' and is intended to be a low-maintenance way to engage visitors with attractive plantings and educate about the butterfly life cycle while increasing pollinator presence overall. This garden has a few patches of vegetation and two benches for rest and observation, but can also be viewed from the nearby shelter. Plants including varieties of the Buddleja and Helleborus genii "Butterfly Bush" and "Hellebore", Asclepias tuberosa "Butterfly Weed", and Achillea millefolium "Yarrow Plant" are deer-resistant and will help deter unwanted visitors. Each species mentioned grows well in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 7B, where Critz is located.

Playground

The playground is approximately 3,000 square feet and has an ADA-accessible engineered wood fiber groundcover. The primary goal of this playground is to make a space where people with diverse ages, sizes, and abilities can play together. The playground includes an ADA-accessible structure that is also suited for younger

FINAL DESIGN CONCEPTS

children and a jungle gym that mixes "traditional" playground features with ropes and obstacle courses. Additionally, this playground has swings and a large tower slide at the popular request of HRMS students. It is located within eyesight of the picnic shelter and its attached restrooms and maintains mature trees where possible for shade.

Stage

The stage is approximately 20' x 30' and sits on the footprint of the White House. The stage is sheltered and faced with materials from the original Martin home where possible. This concept fits into the overall history theme and ensures that the history and memory of the former home and its residents remain preserved for future generations. The stage would also be fitted with a historic marker summarizing the history of the home and the Martin family.

There is a ramp at the rear of the stage for ADA accessibility and easy loading for performers with lots of gear. The stage faces Hardin Reynolds Road and has a grass lawn where event attendees can bring their own chairs or relax in the grass. This stage is also visible from the Gossip Wall, which provides additional permanent seating. Benches or other additional seating could be installed in the future if the Critz Community Center sees a demonstrated need.

Interactive/Tactile/Sensory History Display

There is a tactile history display at the site of the old Tudor and Koger store which also serves as an informal trailhead for historic places and play pockets. This area has tactile relief maps of Critz and Patrick County, and educates visitors about the landscape and terrain, and also holds a quiet seating area. This area is intended to double as a calming space for visitors with heightened sensory needs and as an information center that sets the tone for visitors looking to walk the trails and learn about Critz history.

Shaded Picnic Table Area

There is a wooded area maintained between the outdoor classroom and the playground that serves as both a visual and noise buffer. This area has five 8' long picnic tables, one of which is ADA accessible from the main path. The others are placed among the trees with optimal shade as a priority.

Cabin Reflection Area

If the cabin cannot be stabilized and preserved, it will require removal for safety reasons. Should the cabin be disassembled, its materials should be salvaged where possible and used to create a quiet reflection area. Bricks from the fireplace could be used to create a seating wall and salvaged wood could potentially create benches. This space should have a peaceful and contemplative atmosphere for visitor reflection. Educational signage should be available talking about Critz's "forgotten histories", particularly those whose histories went intentionally unrecorded like

FINAL DESIGN CONCEPTS

enslaved Critz residents and their descendants. Commemorating a forgotten cabin as a symbol of Critz's untold stories is another way this concept incorporates the history theme onsite.

Outdoor Classroom

The outdoor classroom is simple and flexible, with 28 movable seats and a central instruction area with an outdoor chalkboard. The outdoor classroom is ADA accessible and the seats can be moved aside for activities like yoga and meditation if desired.

Picnic Spot

Towards the back of the site, there is a small clearing where the vegetation color and type changes and the sun streams through the trees. At this location, there are three eight-person picnic tables, making it a generally private gathering spot but large enough to spend time with friends or hold another class outdoors. This picnic spot would also be easily accessible from the Reynolds Homestead trail connection on foot, but is not ADA accessible as it is along the unpaved trail.

Play Pockets

This trail system includes different "play pockets" throughout the site. These stops are meant to serve as moments of pause, play, and learning, and have multifaceted elements to engage visitors across age groups. Each play pocket consists of three main elements: first, a place to pause or rest, such as a picnic bench or table. Second, educational signage, which may be specific to the play pocket's location or about a piece of Critz history. The third element is small, individual play areas that are themed to reflect the historic information shared. Towards the front of the site, the play pockets are geared towards younger children, and as visitors continue meandering through the woods the play pockets start to be targeted at older kids and adults. The theming for play pockets can ultimately be left up to Envision Critz, especially because the size and nature of play pockets makes them well-suited for collaboration with community members or artists-in-residence. The five ideas below are suggestions for potential programming for the first few play pockets:

- A play train structure and information about the Danville & Western Railway, which ran through Critz until World War II.
- A stop proximate to the understood location of the former candy factory onsite that educates about the factory and provides color matching and counting games for young visitors.
- A "music wall" with playable instruments and educational information about Critz music history.
- An interactive "family tree" sculpture that educates about historic Critz families.
- Rope bridges through the ravine with history of Critz's development posted on intermittent signs.

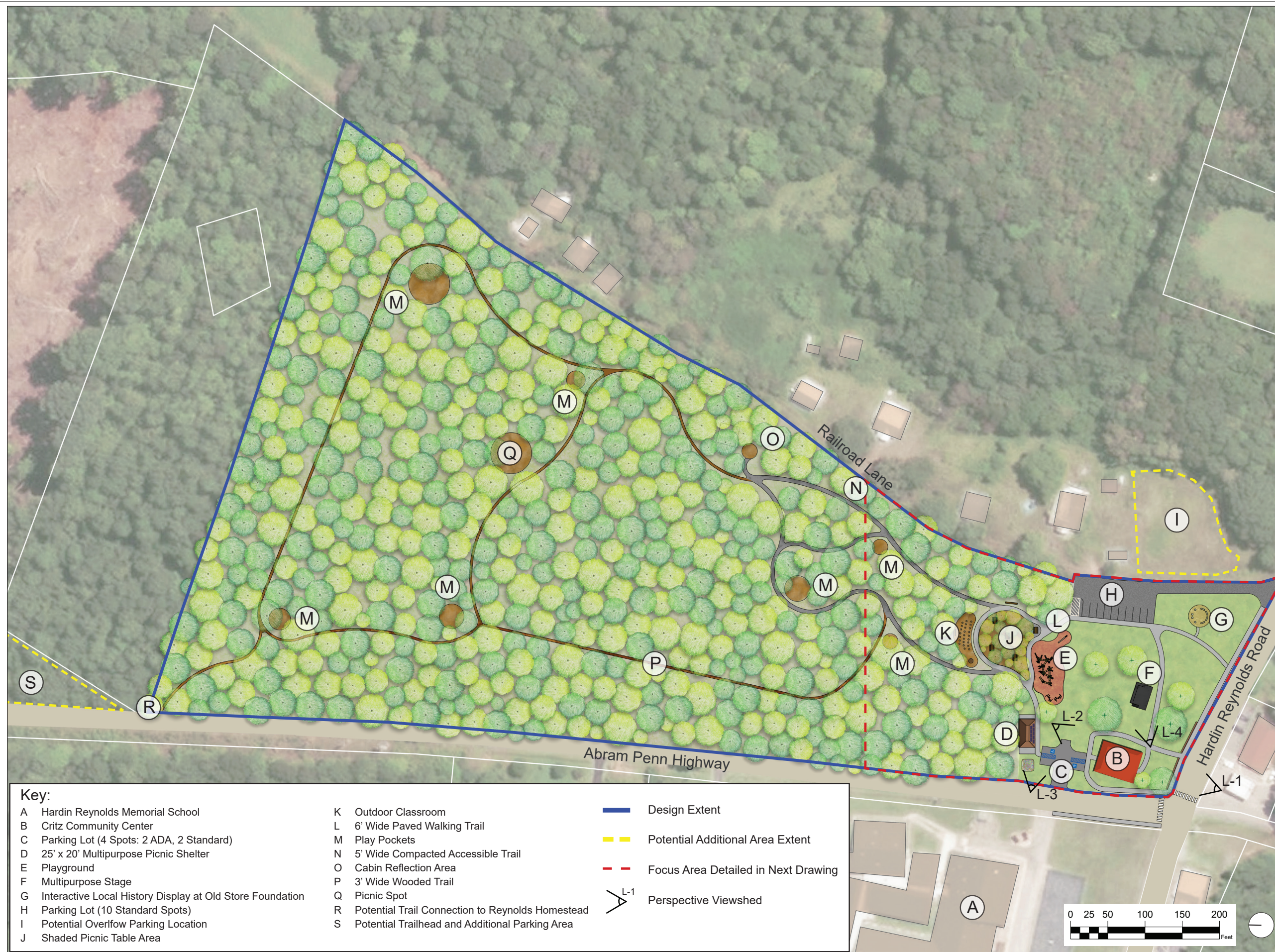
The following pages contain the site master plan, outdoor perspectives, and outdoor precedent images.



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Key:

- A Hardin Reynolds Memorial School
- B Critz Community Center
- C Parking Lot (4 Spots: 2 ADA, 2 Standard)
- D 25' x 20' Multipurpose Picnic Shelter
- E Playground
- F Multipurpose Stage
- G Interactive Local History Display at Old Store Foundation
- H Parking Lot (10 Standard Spots)
- I Potential Overflow Parking Location
- J Shaded Picnic Table Area

- K Outdoor Classroom
- L 6' Wide Paved Walking Trail
- M Play Pockets
- N 5' Wide Compacted Accessible Trail
- O Cabin Reflection Area
- P 3' Wide Wooded Trail
- Q Picnic Spot
- R Potential Trail Connection to Reynolds Homestead
- S Potential Trailhead and Additional Parking Area







- Design Extent
- Potential Additional Area Extent
- Focus Area Detailed in Next Drawing
- Perspective Viewshed

Critz, VA: Critz Community Center Conceptual Design and Conceptual Site Master Plan

Final Design Concepts
Site Master Plan
May 7, 2022

Key:

- A Hardin Reynolds Memorial School
- B Sidewalk from HRMS to Community Center
- C Crosswalks from HRMS and Critz Grocery
- D Gossip Wall
- E Critz Community Center
- F Parking Lot (4 Spaces; 2 ADA, 2 standard)
- G Butterfly Garden
- H 25' x 20' Multipurpose Shelter
 - Two (2) 5' x 10' Restrooms
 - Concrete Patio With Grill(s)
 - Four (4) 8-Person Tables (Seats 32)
 - Solar Panels on Roof to Light Shelter
- I Playground
 - Accessible Play Surface and Equipment
 - Equipment Suitable for Families
 - Swings and Large Slide
- J 30' x 20' Covered Performance Stage
- K 6' Wide Universally Accessible Paved Walking Trail
- L Interactive Local History Display at Old Store Foundation
- M Parking Lot (10 Standard Spaces)
- N Potential Overflow Parking Area
- O Shaded Seating Area
 - Five (5) 8-Person Tables (Seats 40)
 - ADA Accessible Table Near Playground
- P "Music Wall" Play Pocket
- Q Outdoor Classroom
- R 5' Wide Accessible Trail (Compacted Crusher Run)
- S "Candy Factory" Play Pocket
- T "Railroad" Play Pocket
- U 3' Wide Wooded Walking Trail

-  Design Extent
-  Potential Additional Area Extent
-  Perspective Viewshed
-  Two-Way Traffic Circulation
-  Existing Mature Trees Near Main Building, Should be Evaluated and Retained Where Possible
-  Maintained Existing Tree Canopy

Notes:

This drawing depicts proposed approximate locations of site elements. Exact site elements, such as the picnic shelter, play pocket pieces, and playground equipment have not been selected at this stage of design.



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Critz, VA: Critz Community Center Conceptual Design and Conceptual Site Master Plan

Final Design Concepts
Focus Area Around Community Center Building
May 7th, 2022



Perspective L-1: Gossip Wall and Community Center from Abram Penn Highway
 The corner of Hardin Reynolds Road and Abram Penn Highway is revitalized by reinstating the “gossip wall” from Critz’s historic past. Historically, HRMS students and Critz workers and community members would gather at this wall to eat lunch or candy from Jamie Lee Via’s store across the street. With Critz Grocery and the new Critz Community Center nearby, the gossip wall is an opportune place to enjoy a snack or chat/“gossip” with friends or neighbors, as the name implies.



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Critz, VA: Critz Community Center Conceptual Design and Conceptual Site Master Plan

Final Design Concepts
 Perspective L-1: Gossip Wall and Community Center
 May 7th, 2022



Perspective L-2: Community Center Back Porch

The wooden addition on the community center building facing Abram Penn Highway is removed to restore the home's original back porch. This porch has the original back door and an updated ADA-accessible door and is adjacent to the smaller parking lot and a grassy lawn. This space is in the center of the main recreation area around Critz Community Center and is suited for multipurpose use, including small music jam sessions and family picnics.



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Critz, VA: Critz Community Center Conceptual Design and Conceptual Site Master Plan

Final Design Concepts

Perspective L-2: Community Center Back Porch

May 7th, 2022



Perspective L-3: Picnic Shelter, Butterfly Garden, and Playground with View of Small Parking Lot near Community Center

This perspective highlights the part of the site closest to Abram Penn Highway and most visible from HRMS. Here, a compact gathering center provides multiple activity options all within the same line of sight, making supervision less complicated for programs run through the school or family outings. Charcoal grills, indoor restrooms, water fountains, and storage closets are also available at the picnic shelter, which is lit by solar panels at night so events can continue after dark.



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Critz, VA: Critz Community Center Conceptual Design and Conceptual Site Master Plan

Final Design Concepts

Perspective L-3: Picnic Shelter, Butterfly Garden, and Playground

May 7th, 2022



Perspective L-4: Stage Area at Footprint of White House

The footprint of the B.F. Martin Home (the White House) is repurposed after its demolition to include a small community stage. This stage is accessible via a rear ramp, creating space for a variety of planned and spontaneous performances. The stage has a lawn-style seating area. Behind the stage, there is a large green space perfect for relaxing or group games. The playground and large parking area are visible in the background.



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Final Design Concepts

Perspective L-4: Stage Area at Footprint of Martin House

May 7th, 2022



The outdoor classroom creates new options to bring HRMS students into nature and provides a space for the community center to host outdoor workshops.



The butterfly garden is an attractive way to incorporate nature education while requiring significantly less maintenance than a vegetable or flower garden.



The old store foundation incorporates a seating area featuring interactive and sensory maps of Critz and Patrick County similar to this relief map, attractively highlighting Critz land history for site visitors.



A 6' paved sidewalk runs throughout the main area of the site and is designed for universal accessibility. It could potentially be made of permeable asphalt.



A 5' compact gravel trail continues from the outdoor classroom to the cabin area, designed to be accessible for use with most mobility devices including wheelchairs and strollers.



A 3' unpaved trail traverses the ravine and the rest of the site, where topography is steeper and more varied. This trail connects to the potential trailhead and parking area owned by the Reynolds Homestead.



Each play pocket includes Critz history information, a place to sit, and themed play equipment. This is an example of educational signage.



An example of an interactive musical sculpture that could potentially be incorporated into a play pocket or elsewhere on the site.



Play pockets closest to the main building are geared towards younger children. This is an example of a play structure that could tie to railroad history.



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Critz, VA: Critz Community Center Conceptual Design and Conceptual Site Master Plan

Final Design Concepts
Site Master Plan Precedent Images
May 7th, 2022

FINAL DESIGN CONCEPTS

Building and Interior Spaces

Design Description

The interior design concept focuses on exploring creativity and showcasing the history and culture of Critz. The design maintains the integrity of the house and incorporates elements from Critz's past while celebrating the creativity of the present. Recently completed arts and crafts projects as well as historic arts and crafts can be displayed throughout the space. Design inspiration draws from the idea of an intertwining quilt. The space allows for people to express their own individual growth and to share their own unique artistic vision. Flexible spaces were created that allow members of the community to connect while participating in a variety of programs.

First Floor

A small addition that once served as a laundry area has been removed, providing ADA access from the smaller parking lot to the porch and an ADA-accessible door. Visitors are greeted as they enter the community center into a reception area which includes two computer stations and an ADA accessible restroom. Across the hall from this area is a craft room (a former bedroom), complete with tables, chairs, easels, a countertop, and a sink, where arts classes, historic crafting, and programs for the elderly can take place. Off of the craft room is a small performance space featuring a fireplace and access to the porch. Storytelling, live music, community meetings, and guest lectures can happen in this space. The chairs in this area are stackable and can easily be rearranged. Through the pocket doors in the performance space there is a community gathering room outfitted with a group table that could be used for informal meetings or shared meals. Food can be prepared in the adjacent kitchenette. If an event is held in the performance space and guests want to have a small reception afterwards, the kitchenette provides an area for food and beverage prep for that as well. There is also dedicated storage space for unused tables and chairs off of the community room.

Second Floor

The second floor provides space for staff and artists-in-residence, as well as providing additional community space. Immediately to the left of the staircase is a private art studio for a visiting artist, which has natural light and plenty of work surface area for creating arts and crafts. Next, there is a game room that can be used for board games, small crafts, or meetings. There is a kitchenette with a four-person table across the hall. A group art studio, where guest artists could give lessons, art supplies can be stored, and work can be pinned up and discussed, is located on the south side of the building and features plenty of natural light. There is a restroom and dedicated storage space as well. It should be noted that this floor is not ADA accessible, but that all programs and activities located on the second floor are also available on the first floor.

The following pages contain the final design concept interior floor plans, interior perspectives, and interior furnishing selection ideas. *Furniture details are available in Appendix H.*

Critz, VA: Critz Community Center Conceptual Design
and Conceptual Site Master Plan

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Key:

- A Reception (185 SF)
 - Reception Desk
 - Two Desktop Computer Stations
 - Bookshelf/Storage
- B ADA Restroom (8' x 7', 50 SF)
- C Craft Room (12' x 20', 238 SF)
 - Two Three-Seater Tables
 - Three Easels with Stools
 - Sink and Storage Cabinet
 - Program Uses Could Include Art Classes, Historic Crafts, and Programs for the Elderly
- D Community Gathering Room (12' x 13', 166 SF)
 - Table with Eight Chairs
 - Program Uses Could Include Informal Meeting, Dining, and Small Group Discussion
- E Performance Space (16' x 13', 218 SF)
 - Stackable Chairs
 - Television or Projector Setup
 - Local Art
 - Program Uses Could Include Storytelling or Live Music Events, Community Meetings, and Guest Speakers
- F Kitchenette (8' x 9', 73 SF)
 - Full-Size Refridgerator
 - Microwave Oven
 - Sink
 - Counters with Storage Space
- G Storage Closet (8' x 10', 83 SF)
 - Can Contain Stackable Tables and Chairs

I-1 Perspective Viewshed

5' Turning Radius

ADA Path

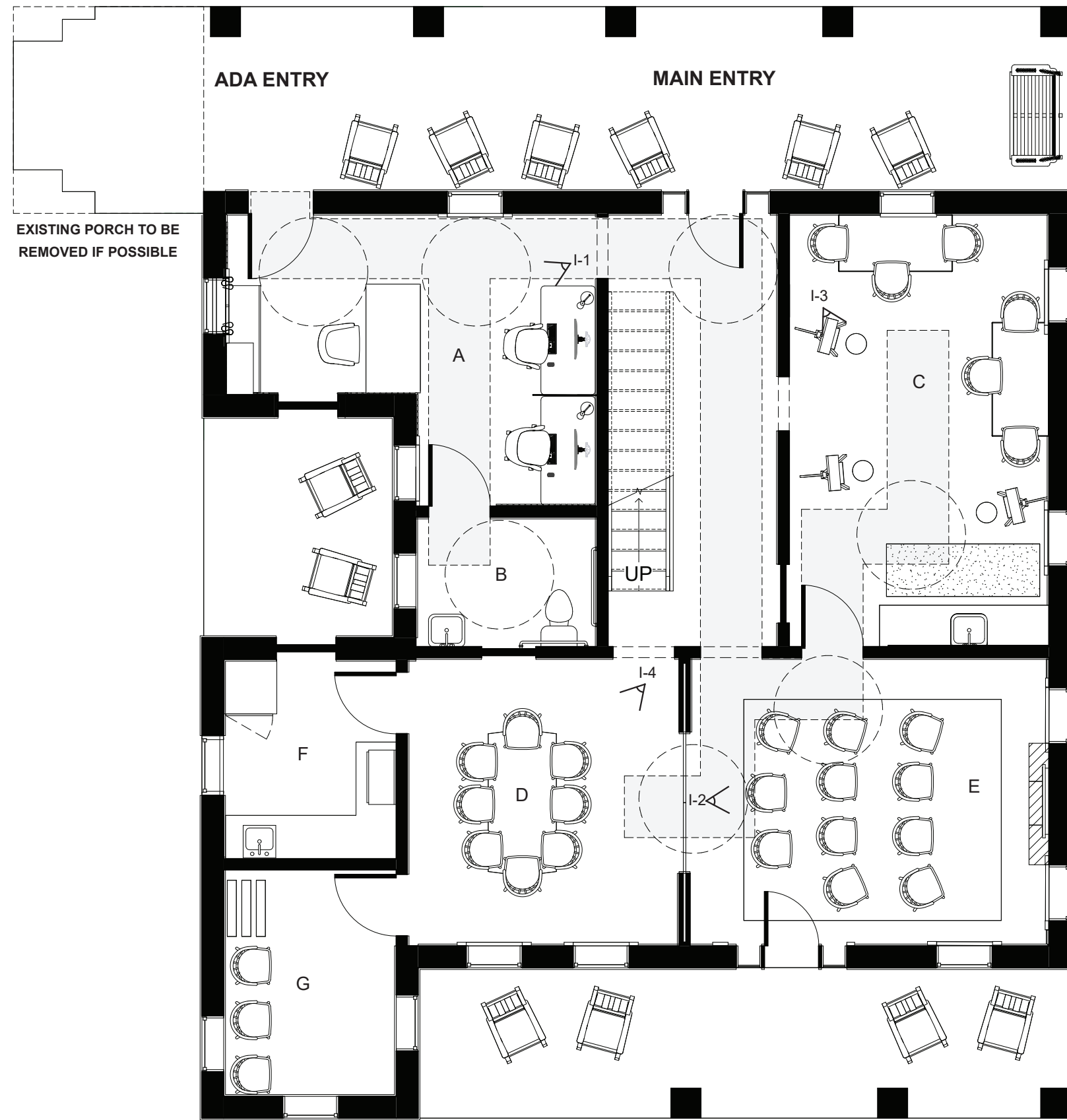
Door Removed

Door Permanently Closed

Maximum Occupancy: 30

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Critz, VA: Critz Community Center Conceptual Design and Conceptual Site Master Plan
 Final Design Concepts
 Community Center First Floor Plan
 May 7, 2022



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Final Design Concepts
Community Center Second Floor Plan
May 7, 2022

Key:

- A Private Art Studio (10' x 10', 100 SF)
 - Desk, Stool, Shelving
 - Lounge Chair and Side Table
 - Could be used for Artist-in-Residence
- B Kitchenette (13' x 20', 269 SF)
 - Full-Size Refridgerator
 - Microwave Oven
 - Sink
 - Counters with Storage Space
 - Round Table with Four Chairs
 - Bookcase/Storage
- C Upstairs Game Room (17' x 18', 315 SF)
 - Two Tables
 - Seating for up to Ten People
 - Bookcase/Storage
 - Program Uses Could Include Board Games, Small Crafts, and Private Meetings
- D Storage Room with Shelving (6' x 5', 30 SF)
- E Restroom (13' x 6', 77 SF)
- F Storage Room with Shelving (7' x 6', 43 SF)
- G Group Art Studio (20' x 10', 205 SF)
 - Four Easels and Stools
 - Bookcase/Storage for Art Supplies
 - Program Uses Could Include Guest Artist Teaching, Pin-Up Space, or Small Group Art Lessons
- H Small Reading Nook (9' x 7', 63 SF)
 - Reading Bench
 - Bookcase/Storage

I-1 Perspective Viewshed

Roof Slope Line

Existing Column

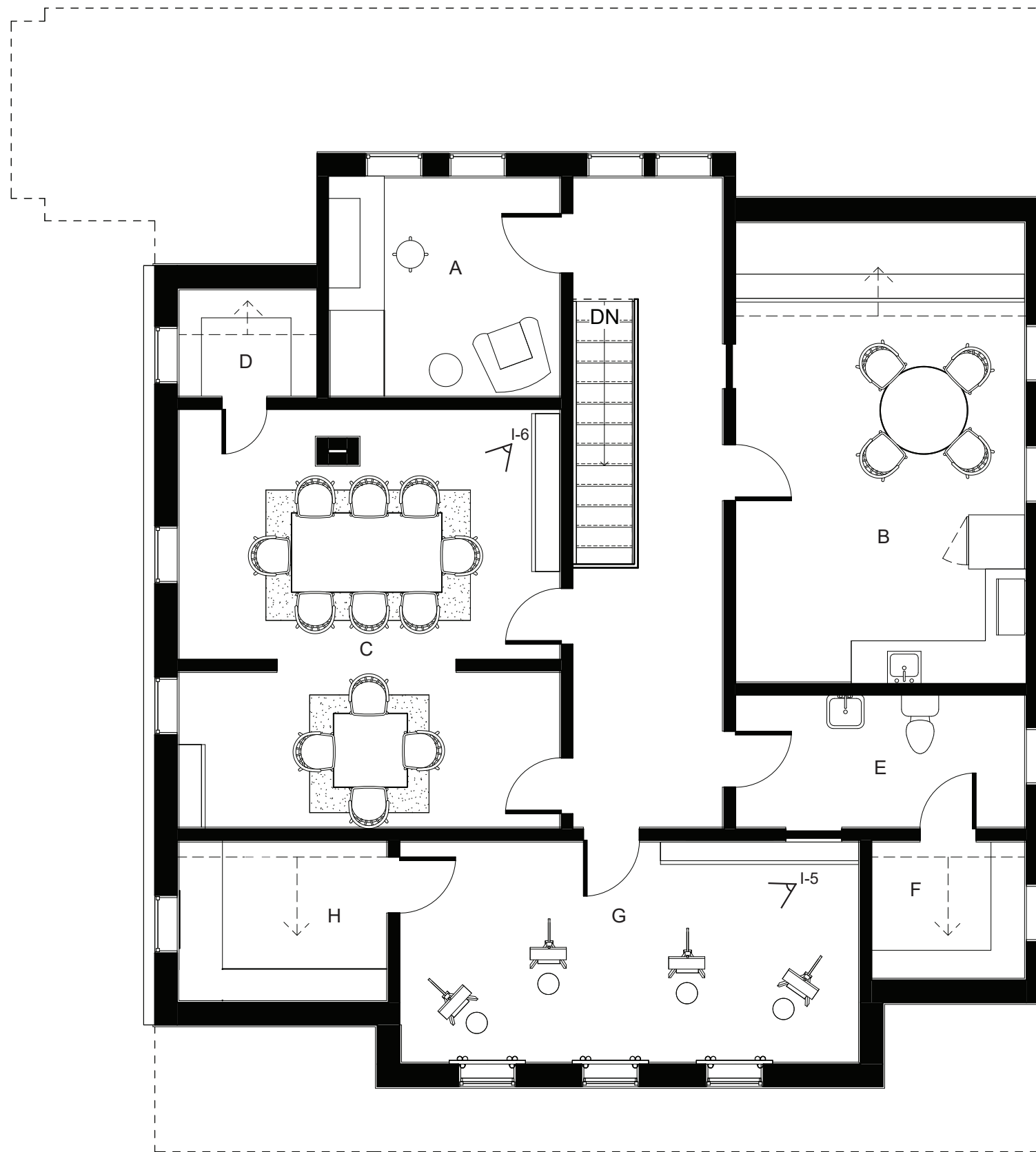
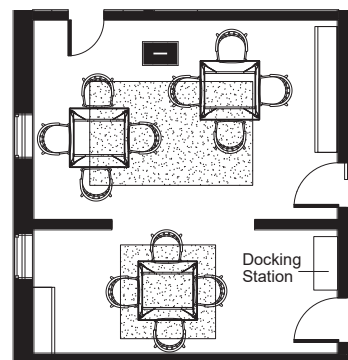
Door Permanently Closed

Maximum Occupancy: 24
* Upstairs is not ADA accessible

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C: Upstairs Game Room
Alternative Layout for Laptop Use





Perspective I-1: Reception Area

This view shows what visitors see as they come in the main entrance and look into the room to the right. On the left of this view, two desktop computers can be seen, separated by a removable privacy screen. The ADA entrance and the ADA restroom are located in this space. The door seen to the right of the welcome sign would be permanently closed.



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Critz, VA: Critz Community Center Conceptual Design and Conceptual Site Master Plan

Final Design Concepts
Perspective I-1: Reception Area
May 7, 2022



Perspective I-2: Performance Space

This room is used as a gathering space for the community to enjoy music, storytelling, and other live events together. The chairs can be rearranged depending on what function the room is being used for. The door on the left of this view is an ADA entrance into the craft room.



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Final Design Concepts
Perspective I-2: Performance Space
May 7, 2022



Perspective I-3: Craft Room

This space provides a place for activities such as art classes, historical crafts, and programs for the elderly. The tables are foldable and the chairs are stackable so the room can be easily rearranged. An ADA entrance can be seen in the back right of this view.



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Final Design Concepts
Perspective I-3: Craft Room
May 7, 2022



Perspective I-4: Community Gathering Room

This space includes a community table that can seat up to 8 people, which could be used for having meetings and having meals with friends. This room includes a storage closet and a kitchenette that could be used to prepare meals.



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Final Design Concepts
Perspective I-4: Community Gathering Room
May 7, 2022



Perspective I-5: Upstairs Group Art Studio

This space is meant for use by artists in residence, or anyone in the community looking to work in a group art studio. There is a pin-up space, multiple easels, and storage for art supplies. This space is not ADA accessible because it is upstairs.



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Final Design Concepts
Perspective I-5: Upstairs Group Art Studio
May 7, 2022



Perspective I-6: Upstairs Game Room

This room is used as another community gathering area where guests can come together and play board games, have meetings, or do small crafts. This room is not ADA accessible because it is upstairs.



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Critz, VA: Critz Community Center Conceptual Design and Conceptual Site Master Plan

Final Design Concepts
Perspective I-6: Upstairs Game Room
May 7, 2022

High-End Furniture Suggestions



KFI Studios
Evolve Stackable Chair
Natural Wood, Black Vinyl, Silver Frame
(Performance Space, Craft Room, Community Gathering Room)



Steelcase
Kent Low-Back Collaboration Chair with Arms
BUZZ2
(Reception Area)



Woodendot
Savia Dining Table
Light Wood
(Community Gathering Room)



Coalesse
Potrero415 Table
Maple
(Reception Area)



Bieffe
Adjustable Drafting Stool
Birch and Chrome
(Upstairs Art Studio, Private Art Studio)



Gabriola
Dover Boucle Lounge Chair
Gray
(Private Art Studio)



Naughtone
Fold Table
Oak Veneer
(Craft Room, Upstairs Game Room)



Naughtone
Dalby Table
Oak Veneer
(Upstairs Kitchenette)



Anderson Teak
Victoria 3-Seater Bench
Teak
(Outdoor Porch)



Noble House
Travis Natural Stained Wood Outdoor Rocking Chair
Cream Cushion
(Outdoor Porch)



einrichten design
Bella Coffee Table
Oiled Oak, HAY
(Private Art Studio)



7 Elements
Large Adjustable Wooden Easel
(Upstairs Group Art Studio)



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Critz, VA: Critz Community Center Conceptual Design and Conceptual Site Master Plan

Final Design Concepts
Interior Furnishing Recommendations (1 of 2)
May 7th, 2022

Affordable Furniture Suggestions



Handy Living
Collins Mid-Century Modern Stackable Side Chairs
White Resin with Natural Wood Legs
(Performance Space, Craft Room, Community Gathering Room)



BizChair
Upholstered Mid-Back Chair With Wrap-Style Arms
Light Gray Fabric
(Reception Area)



IKEA
YPPERLIG Table
Ash
(Community Gathering Room)



IKEA
LISABIO Table
Ash Veneer
(Reception Area)



IKEA
KYRRE Stool
Birch
(Upstairs Art Studio, Private Art Studio)



Fox Hill
Emma Lounge Chair
Gray
(Private Art Studio)



Daniela
Rectangular Natural Extendable Table
Light Wood
(Craft Room, Upstairs Game Room)



Mainstays
Round Modern Dining Table, Mid-Century Style
Beech and White
(Upstairs Kitchenette)



Amazonia
Milano 5' Eucalyptus Bench
Light brown
(Outdoor Porch)



Mainstays
Outdoor Wood Porch Rocking Chair
Natural Yellow Color, Weather Resistant Finish
(Outdoor Porch)



Room Essentials
Wood and Metal Round End Table
Natural
(Private Art Studio)



Hobby Lobby
A-Frame Studio Floor Easel
(Upstairs Group Art Studio)



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Critz, VA: Critz Community Center Conceptual Design and Conceptual Site Master Plan

Final Design Concepts
Interior Furnishing Recommendations (2 of 2)
May 7th, 2022