**ART AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (AARB)**

# Project Data Sheet

*Revised February 6, 2025*

*(Due by 3:00 p.m. on the Friday two weeks before the meeting to* AARB@dgs.virginia.gov)

**Date Submitted:** November 20, 2025, for the December 5, 2025 meeting

**Agency Name**: Virginia Tech

**Project Name, Number, and Location** *[* must include the project number]*
Tidewater AREC Machinery Shop Shingles
Suffolk, Virginia
Project Number: 25-750370

**Representatives for the Agency and the Architect/Engineer**
Agency Representative:
Sandra P. Graham, AIA
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**Current Project Status/Phase and Schedule** *[* must select one of the following]*

- Preliminary Design Submission: ☐
- Final Design Submission: ☒

Construction is anticipated in the spring of 2026 following required approvals from the Department of Historic Resources and the Art and Architectural Review Board.

**Request for Consent Agenda**: Yes: ☒ No: ☐

* Please refer to the *AARB Agency Project Submission and Presentation Guidelines* – Project Submission Section for additional information and guidance on the Consent Agenda versus Regular Agenda.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you did not check the box for Consent Agenda, your project will be posted on the Regular Agenda and the agency will be required to attend the meeting to make a presentation to the board on the day of the meeting. ***Presentations are not to exceed 15 minutes.***

**Project Description**
At the Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center (AREC) in Suffolk, Building 787, the Machinery Shop, currently has a shingle roof that has exceeded its service life and requires replacement. The proposed work will remove the existing brown three-tab asphalt shingles and replace them with slate-colored architectural shingles consistent with the roof of the main headhouse, Building 771. The headhouse roof was recently upgraded as part of ongoing facility improvements, and its material and color were selected to establish a standard finish palette for the AREC. The new shingles will improve durability, weather resistance, and visual consistency while unifying the material palette on site. This work will preserve the function of the Machinery Shop as a key facility supporting field equipment operations and research programs while maintaining compatibility with surrounding agricultural structures.

**Architectural Aesthetic***:*

As utilitarian agricultural structures, the buildings at the Tidewater AREC have a simple and functional design that reflects their research and operational purpose. Over time, the variety of roof colors and materials has resulted in an inconsistent appearance. The Machinery Shop's new slate-colored architectural shingles will match the headhouse roof, establishing a cohesive standard for future roof replacements and contributing to a more unified campus identity.

The use of architectural-grade shingles will enhance the visual quality and durability of the structure while maintaining its rural, functional character. The proposed shingle color complements the surrounding agrarian context and harmonizes with the red and brown tones of the brick and metal-sided support buildings nearby. The overall aesthetic will reflect a coordinated, well-maintained agricultural research location consistent with Virginia Tech's facility standards and stewardship objectives.

**Relationship to Approved Master Plan** [** this section must contain information for Board review, do not leave blank*]
The project is consistent with the adopted 2018 Master Plan, Beyond Boundaries 2047: The Campus Plan, which emphasizes modernization and renewal of university facilities to support research, teaching, and outreach across Virginia. The Tidewater AREC plays a central role in the university's agricultural research mission, and the proposed shingle replacement contributes to the plan's goal of maintaining resilient, sustainable, and well-functioning research infrastructure. The project supports long-term stewardship by extending the service life of existing facilities, improving building envelope performance, and establishing a unified architectural standard that reinforces the visual identity of the Tidewater AREC within Virginia Tech's statewide network of agricultural research centers.

**Existing Architectural Context**
The Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center comprises a cluster of research, support, and storage buildings within an open agricultural landscape. The Machinery Shop is located among brick and metal-clad gabled structures that form the core of the AREC's operational facilities. The surrounding context is defined by cultivated farmland, open fields, and utilitarian research infrastructure.

The proposed shingle replacement will visually align the Machinery Shop with the headhouse and adjacent buildings, ensuring consistency in color and material across the facility cluster. The improvement will preserve the building's agricultural character while enhancing the cohesiveness and overall appearance of the site, consistent with Virginia Tech's approach to maintaining functional yet contextually appropriate facilities in rural research environments.

**AARB History (for return presentations on the same project)**: [** this section must contain information for Board review, do not leave blank / if this section does not apply to your project, please indicate with N/A*]

- State when previous presentation(s) were made to the Board on the project. N/A
- Restate previous Board comments. N/A
- Show actions taken to address Board comments; use visuals to compare previous renderings with updates. N/A

VIRGINIA TECH

# DESIGN REVIEW for **TIDEWATER AREC – MACHINERY SHOP SHINGLES**

ART AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

December 5, 2025

# PROJECT LOCATION

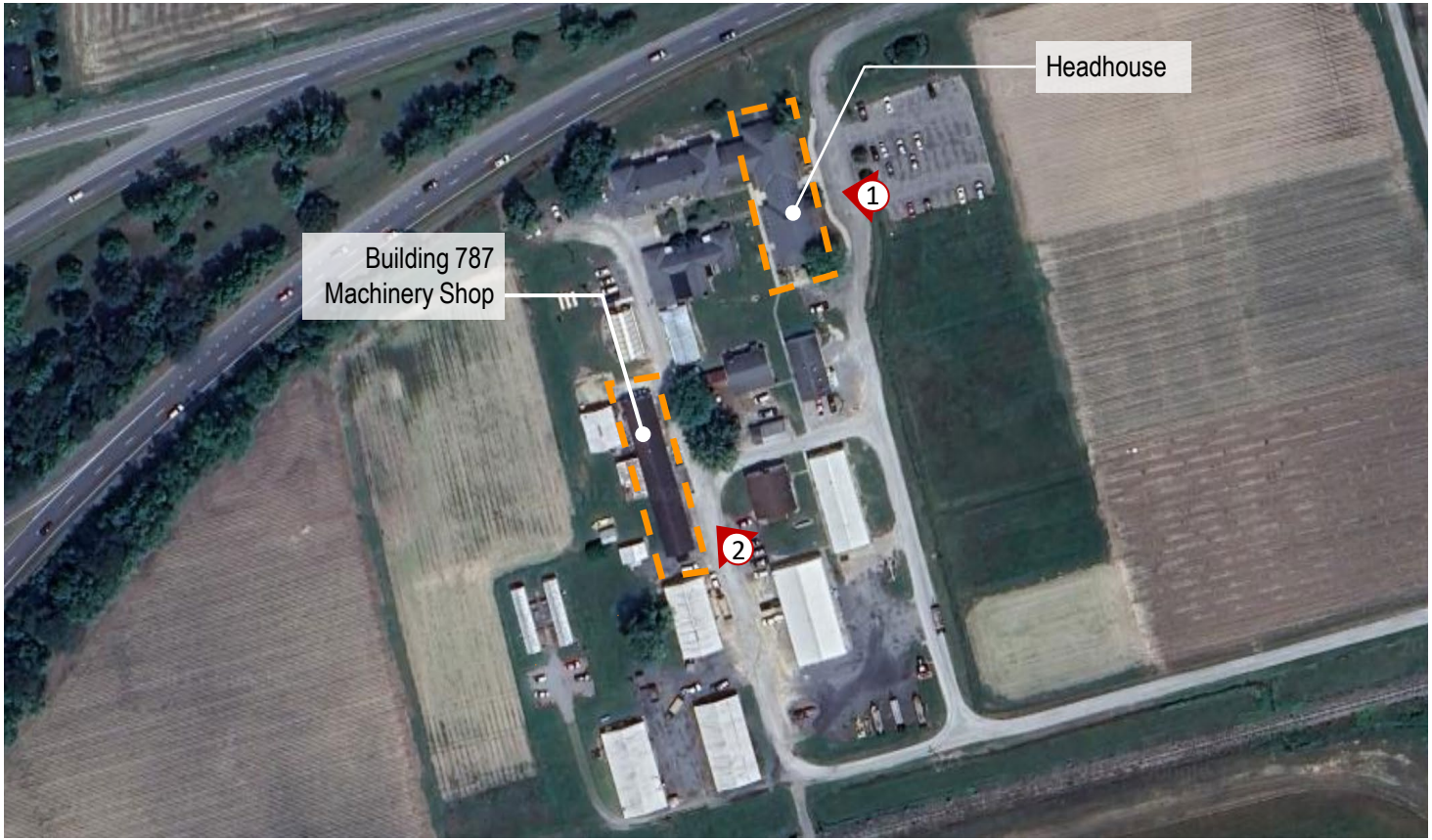

AREA MAP
SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA

N


PROJECT SITE

N

# PROJECT SITE



# CONTEXT


① VIEW WEST TO HEADHOUSE


② VIEW NORTHWEST TO MACHINERY SHED

# ELEVATION


MACHINERY SHED