

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](mailto:AARB@dgs.virginia.gov))

**Date Submitted:** February 20, 2026, for the March 6, 2026 meeting

**Agency Name:** Virginia Tech

**Project Name, Number, and Location** [*\* must include the project number*]

Working Pens at Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center

Raphine, Virginia

Project Number: 26-800704

**Representatives for the Agency and the Architect/Engineer**

Agency Representative:

Sandra P. Graham, AIA

Director of Design

Division of Facilities

Virginia Tech

540-231-4961

[spowell@vt.edu](mailto:spowell@vt.edu)

**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

The project proposes the construction of a new open-air working pen shed at the Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center (AREC) to support livestock research and management operations. The scope includes installation of a wood-framed pole shed with metal roofing and siding, a livestock chute system, and a supporting concrete slab. The proposed structure measures approximately 12 feet by 16 feet with a height of 13 feet. The shed will replace a previously collapsed structure and is designed to match existing working pen sheds on site in scale, materials, and configuration.

## Architectural Aesthetic:

The agricultural working pens and sheds at the Shenandoah Valley AREC reflect a straightforward agrarian architectural character typical of rural research facilities. The proposed working pen shed will match existing structures at the location using wood framing and metal panel roofing and siding. Located within a

rural agricultural landscape, the modest scale, simple massing, and durable materials reinforce the utilitarian identity of the facility and ensure compatibility with adjacent agricultural structures.

**Relationship to Approved Master Plan** [*\* this section must contain information for Board review, do not leave blank*]

The project aligns with Virginia Tech's Beyond Boundaries 2047: The Campus Plan, which emphasizes continued investment in research infrastructure and modernization of facilities that support the university's land-grant mission across the Commonwealth. As part of the Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center, the proposed working pen shed enhances livestock research operations and strengthens the functional capacity of the university's statewide network of agricultural research facilities. The modest scale and agrarian character of the structure ensure compatibility with the rural setting while advancing the Plan's objectives for operational stewardship and programmatic support.

### **Existing Architectural Context**

The Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center comprises a collection of agricultural, research, and support structures situated within a rural farmland setting near the historic McCormick Farm boundary. The proposed shed site is located within the paddocks among existing working pens and other utilitarian agricultural facilities. The new working pen shed is compatible with this context due to its scale, functional form, and alignment with the AREC's established material and color palette. Its installation will maintain the agricultural character of the site while providing necessary operational support for ongoing research and field activities.

**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

DESIGN REVIEW for  
**WORKING PEN SHED** at  
**SHENANDOAH VALLEY AREC**

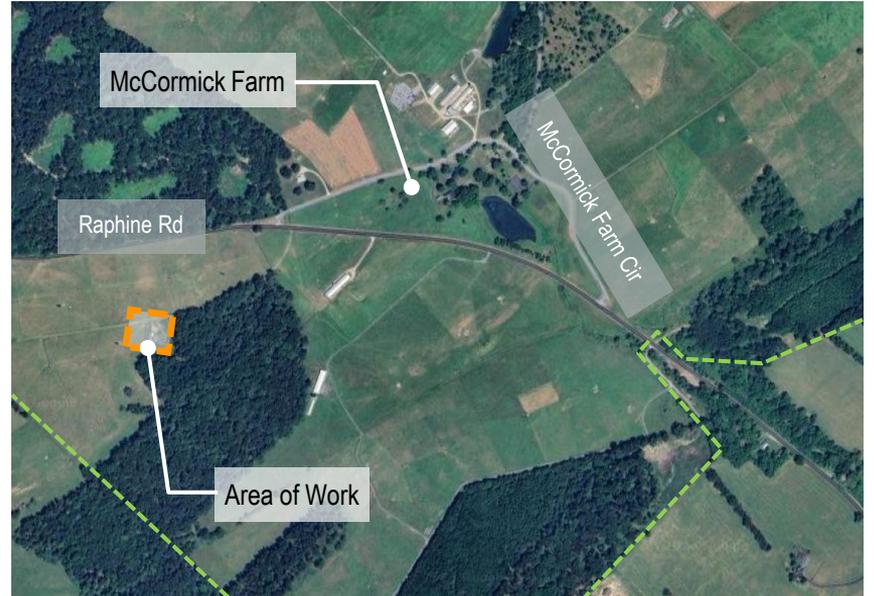
ART AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

March 6, 2026

# PROJECT LOCATION



AREA MAP  
RAPHINE, VIRGINIA



PROJECT SITE



# SITE PLAN

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# CONTEXT

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① VIEW TO THE SOUTHWEST



② VIEW TO THE WEST

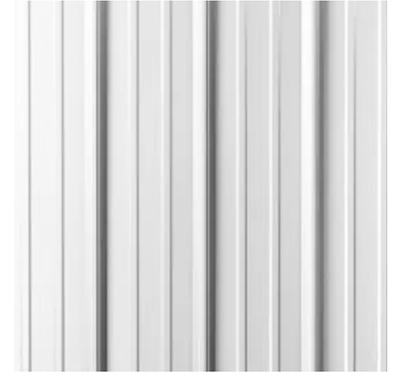
# REFERENCE STRUCTURE

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Metal Roofing  
and Siding

Wood Frame



METAL ROOFING  
AND SIDING  
SELECTION

REFERENCE EXISTING WORKING PEN