



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) 095-0334

1. General Property Information

Property name: Bishop-Cole House

Property address: Widener Valley Road (Rt. 605)

City or Town: Chilhowie vicinity

Zip code: 24319

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

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

Building x Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: One acre

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban Town Village Hamlet Rural x

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

Located in a rural area known as Rafferty Cove, along a very small drainage known as Rafferty Cove Branch, which runs just to the east, the house is set back 65 feet on the south side of the historic Widener Valley Road (Rt. 605) 1.25 miles northeast of the junction of Rush Creek Road. Widener Valley Road is aligned northeast-southwest through the length of the Widener Valley. Less than a mile southeast of the house is the peak of Rafferty Knob, a part of Big Knob Ridge that rises to nearly 3,200 feet in elevation. Chilhowie, the closest town, is six miles to the north. The Tennessee state line is seven miles to the south.

The one-acre parcel on which the house stands is part of a 24-acre tax parcel under the same ownership. Only the one-acre area is being included for evaluation. The house stands alone without any surviving secondary resources. East of the property, beyond the fence line, is an unrelated residence.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): No discernable style

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

If the builder is known, please list here: _____

Date of construction (can be approximate): c. 1838

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.

The Bishop-Cole House is a two-story single-pen V-notched hewn-log structure with a side-gable roof and a coursed-limestone and handmade-brick exterior chimney on the west end. The building footprint measures 20 feet x 27 feet 8 inches. The hardwood logs are quite large compared to those of most documented 19th-century log buildings, up to 18 inches diameter, and are expertly hewn. The logs are notched and stacked with such precision that the interior and exterior wall surfaces are exceptionally straight and plumb, which facilitated the application of weatherboards nailed to furring strips early in the house's history. The weatherboards, most of which are now missing, effectively protected the exterior walls, hence most logs remain in excellent condition; and most of the presumably original chinking and lime/mud daubing remains intact.

The cut limestone foundation is below ground surface at the west end of the house, with the bottom log almost at grade. The roof is clad with V-crimp sheet metal. The gable ends feature raking, extremely narrow applied strips of dentil molding. The house has relatively small window apertures with six-over-six or two-over-two sash in generally poor condition. Across the full length of the back of the house was a c. 1960 one-story shed addition that included a kitchen, with a corrugated metal roof. By 2018 the addition had badly deteriorated and was removed.

The house interior has a two-over-two room plan with six-panel front and back doors hung on hand-forged strap hinges. Other forged hardware, such as door latches, is also extant. The enclosed staircase is in the southwest corner. The enclosure is well-preserved, but the stairs themselves have badly deteriorated due to water infiltration, making second-floor access difficult. The first-floor fireplace, in the west wall, has the only mantel left in the house. It is a highly vernacular piece bearing no conventional style. The firebox has been refaced with brick. A chair rail is found on each wall of the room, the walls being finished with hand-planed vertically mounted boards. The second-floor joists and flooring are hand-planed and beaded, and bear traces of whitewash, as do the interior log walls, where exposed (chiefly on the second floor). Beaded floor joists typically indicate a pre-1840s date.

Like the first floor, the second floor was divided into two rooms by a hand-planed vertical-board partition, leaving the east room unheated. The original stair rail, mortised into the floor, remains intact. The original roof rafters have been replaced with round poles nailed to a ridge board, but the wide, vertically sawn sheathing boards laid across the rafters, riddled with nail holes, are evidently original. The garret floor joists are planed but not beaded. All of the nails encountered throughout the house are mature machine-cut, which was the predominant nail type in use by around 1830.

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.

There are no surviving secondary resources associated with 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.

The Bishop-Cole House (c.1838) is a substantial, exceptionally well-built and early surviving example of the traditional log house in Southwest Virginia. Other well-preserved examples of the building type have become increasingly rare. The house is recommended eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture/Craftsmanship.

The 1837 land grant for the property on which the log house is located was made to Madison Bishop and Andrew Jackson Bishop. It is not known which of them built or occupied the extant log house, but its design and construction is consistent with the 1830s, hence the estimated c. 1838 construction date. The property was continually owned by the Bishop family until it was acquired by Weaver Cole, who was himself a Bishop heir.

Weaver Cole, born in 1899, is the paternal grandfather of current owner Mark Cole. Upon Weaver's death, it was inherited by Mark and Weaver's father and his wife, Leonidas W. Cole and Betty Cole and at their passing, was bequeathed to Leonidas W Cole, Jr. and Mark Cole, who are the current owners. Weaver probably took ownership of the property in the 1930s or as late as the 1950s. The last people to live in the log house was the family of Elmer Walker, who worked on the farm during the last quarter of the 20th century. There was, at one time, a barn and corn crib/ granary to the east of the log house.

Madison Tilson Bishop (1827-1892) son of Samuel Darke Bishop (1800-1866) and Rachel Jones Bishop, was listed as a farmer in the 1870 census, and married Jane Reed (1832-1903) in 1862. His eldest son, Samuel, age 21, followed his father into farming. Four other sons, age 1-10, and daughter Nancy, 5, remained at home. The value of Madison's real estate was assessed at \$1,500 and his personal estate at \$300. [<https://www.familysearch.org/>]

Andrew Jackson Bishop (1811-1883) was old enough to build and occupy the house if it was built soon after the 1837 land grant. In the 1870 census he is listed as a farmer, 58, with wife Jane, 41, and three daughters age 5-12, and Hannah Roue, an 18 year old white domestic servant in his household. Andrew and family lived just over the line in Smyth County, in close proximity to the Bishop log house. His real estate was assessed at over \$3,000 and his personal estate at \$700. [<https://www.familysearch.org/>]

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.)

- 1837 land grant to Madison Bishop and Andrew Jackson Bishop (in possession of the property owners)
- Family Search website [<https://www.familysearch.org/>]

David Campbell, Esquire,

Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

on the 3^d

January 1826

day of October 1837

by order of said Land Office Survey

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting: Know Ye, That in conformity with a Survey, made there is granted by the said Commonwealth, unto Madison Bishop & Andrew Jackson Bishop divides of John Jones deceased

a certain Tract or Parcel of Land, containing one hundred acres situate in Washington County on the South side of the South fork of Holston River, bounded as follows: Beginning at a chestnut corner to the land of the said Jones dec; & with the line thereof N 75° E 190 poles to a stone N 33° W 130 poles to a white oak, maple & Sourwood on a flat ridge S 55° E 64 poles to a chestnut & dogwood by a line then S 16° E 22 poles crossing a branch to a chestnut & flattened sourwood N 61° E 100 poles to two chestnut oaks by a gully then with a line of a survey made for John H. Fulton S 38° E 56 poles to a Sourwood & small chestnut on the North side of the State's knob leaving said line S 40° W 126 poles to a chestnut oak on a level then a branch S 55° E 20 poles to a point located maple above a Spring S 25° W 20 poles to a chestnut oak on a spur South of said Spring S 58° W 50 poles to a large chestnut on the North side of a ridge N 67° W 99 poles to a chestnut oak on the side of a ridge S 75° W 88 poles to two white oaks a small hickory, black oak & chestnut in a hollow N 60° W 5 poles to the beginning, with its appurtenances

To have and to hold the said Tract or Parcel of Land, with its appurtenances, to the said Madison & Andrew J. Bishop and their heirs, forever.

In witness whereof, the said DAVID CAMPBELL, ESQUIRE, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, hath hereunto set his Hand, and caused the Lesser Seal of the said Commonwealth to be affixed, at Richmond, on the 1st day of June 38 in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and and of the Commonwealth the 62

David Campbell



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: Mark Allen Cole

organization: _____

street & number: 38522 Widener Valley Rd.

city or town: Chilhowie state: VA zip code: 24319

e-mail: uffda926@gmail.com telephone: 276 780 4862

Legal Owner's Signature: Mark Cole Leonidas Weaver Cole, Jr.

Date: 5-2-2023

•• 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: n/a

Daytime Telephone: _____

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

name/title: Mike Pulice

organization: DHR (Western Region Office)

street & number: _____

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

e-mail: _____ telephone: _____


Date: April 2023

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

Leonidas Weaver Cole, Jr.
264 Grosses Creek Rd.
Chilhowie VA 24319
276.780.5220



Bishop-Cole House **Washington County, Konnarock Quad** **DHR ID: 095-0334**

 Listed Resources

 095-0334

Created By: D. Bascone 4/28/2023
 Sources: VDHR 2023, ESRI 2023, VDOT 2023, VGIN 2023
 Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered
 over many years and the representation depicted is based on the field observation date
 and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general illustration
 purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses.
 The map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". Contact DHR for the most recent
 information as data is updated continually



Bishop-Cole House
DHR 095-0334
Washington County
2023 Aerial View

Log House
Looking South



Log House
Looking Southeast



Log House
Looking Southeast





095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_looking_E-SE



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_looking_S



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_looking_S_closeup



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_looking_SE



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_looking_S-SE



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_looking_SW



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_looking_SW_closeup



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_looking_W



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_S_elev_detail_01



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_S_elev_detail_02



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_S_elev_detail_03



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_W_elevation



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_W_elevation_alt



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_dentil_molding



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_front_detail



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_front_door_interior



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_door_strap_hiinge2



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_door_strap_hiinge1



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_1st-flr_E_rm_NE_corner



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_1st-flr_room_partition



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_1st-flr_room_partitioncut_nails



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_1st-flr_SW_corner



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_1st-flr_W_rm_ceiling



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_1st-flr_W_rm_door_hardware



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_1st-flr_W_wall



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_2nd-flr_E_rm_into_W_rm



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_2nd-flr_room_partition



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_2nd-flr_stair



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_2nd-flr_W_rm_ceiling



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_2nd-flr_W_rm_NW_corner



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_2nd-flr_W_rm_SW_corner



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_daubing_closeup



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_fireplace



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_garret



095-0334_BishopHouse_2018_garret_roof_structure