PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 085-0003

Purpose of Evaluation
Please use the following space to explain briefly why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

Are you interested in applying for State and/or Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes X No ____
Are you interested in receiving more information about DHR’s easement program? Yes ____ No X

1. General Property Information
   Property name: Mounce Byrd Home (Carolyn Long – present owner)
   Property address: 8438 Smith Creek Road
   City or Town: New Market, Virginia
   Zip code: 22844

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

   Category of Property (choose only one of the following):
   Building X Site _____ Structure _____ Object _____

2. Physical Aspects
   Acreage: 12.167

   Setting (choose only one of the following):
   Urban ____ Suburban ____ Town ____ Village ____ Hamlet ____ Rural X

   Briefly describe the property’s overall setting, including any notable landscape features:

   The historic Mounce Byrd home is set in the bucolic Shenandoah Valley of Central Virginia. Located on Smith Creek Road 1/2 mile from its intersection with Route 11, about 4 miles northeast of the town of New Market, the home is sited on a gently sloping knoll above a winding bend in the adjacent Smith Creek. The home faces south with expansive views of rolling farmland and New Market Gap in the distance.

   Smith Creek Road forms the Southern property line. A paved driveway leads north toward the house, looping around historic chimney remains and various large deciduous trees. A split rail wood fence surrounds the home, grass yard, and other structures on the property. There are various mature trees and shrubs within the fenced area. The property extends into farmland to the east, north, and west. Corn fields join adjacent properties at the east and north with no visible distinction at the property line. The property slopes downward to the west terminating at the boundary of Smith Creek.
3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Early Republican

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

If the builder is known, please list here: Mounce Byrd (or “Bird” in some references)

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1777 with later additions

Narrative Description:

In the space below, briefly describe the general characteristics of the entire property, 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 architectural style, materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions, remodelings, or other alterations.

The property consists of a primary historic stone house and three contributing structures including a spring/ice house, a smokehouse, and chimney remains. The primary home was built by Mounce Byrd, a prominent citizen of the area, in 1777 according to Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) records, while other sources date the construction to 1790. It has served as a residence ever since and is presently occupied by the Long family. The home was built on land that was once part of the Pennybaker plantation and the house was used as a fort to guard against native Indians.

The house is constructed of native, coursed limestone with lime mortar. The original building includes a tall structure with a square (29’ x 33’), two-story floor plan and attic above. There is a gable roof with standing seam metal finish with ridgeline running east-west and stone chimneys at each end. The lower floor includes a great room with a very large fireplace and two adjacent rooms, presently a bedroom and a study, with back-to-back corner fireplaces. A winding stair in the southwest corner of the great room extends to the second floor. The second-floor plan has been modified but is believed by the owner to have originally consisted of four additional rooms. The winding stair repeats in the southwest corner, continuing to the attic. There is no basement under the original portion of the house.

The walls are nearly two-feet thick, as visible at the window and door openings. The primary, south elevation shows symmetrical 9/6 double hung windows on the first floor with keystone headers and three 6/6 asymmetrical double hung windows on the second floor. There is a solid vertical two-panel wood door at the main entrance. A small, square wood porch with gabled roof and flat tongue-and-groove ceiling adorns the entry, probably added at a later date. As noted in previous surveys, the west elevation featured two port windows in the attic with round decorative stone rosettes on the exterior. The west wall was rebuilt following a collapse during construction of a west wing addition in 1976 and these elements were restored. The east elevation features small 6-lite windows on the first floor and small square ports at the attic level. The north (rear) elevation has more recent additions, though three 6/6 double hung windows are visible in the original wall.

The house presently shows several later additions. There is a one-story addition dating to the 1850’s that includes two rooms with a fireplace in between, believed to have originally functioned as a dining room and kitchen. The addition has a gabled roof in standing-seam metal with chimney between the dining room and former kitchen. The exterior walls show limestone foundations, horizontal wood siding with plaster interior, and porches to the east and west – the latter has been enclosed with screening. There is a small cellar under this room that shows hand-hewn wood floor beams from the era. There are subsequent additions extending further north that include modern laundry, kitchen, and bathroom facilities; materials include CMU foundation, horizontal wood siding, a combination of plaster and gypsum wall board interior, and standing seam metal roof.
A large addition to the west of the original house was constructed in 1976. The entire west wall, portions of the south (front) wall, and some of the interior of the original house collapsed while excavating for new footings. The owners proceeded with historic restoration of the original house, reestablishing its integrity before continuing with the west wing addition. The summer beam over the first floor was replaced with steel and re-cased. The attic rafters were also replaced, though some of the original collar ties were reused. Stone masons rebuilt the original walls, including the stone rosettes around port windows in the west attic. The new walls are an excellent match despite evidence of incongruence in the mortar joints. The interior features, wide plank pine floors, built-in wood casework, wood moldings, along with plaster walls and ceilings. The added west wing includes a full basement, a large great room on the first floor, new stair, and master bedroom and bathroom on the second floor. There is a gabled standing seam roof with six colonial-style dormers, three to the south and north, respectively. The exterior walls are limestone veneer, closely matching the original, with 9/6 double hung windows with keystone headers on the lower level and 6/6 double hung windows in the second-floor dormers. There is a large chimney on the west end of the addition with fireplaces on both levels.

Briefly describe any outbuildings or secondary resources (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

The property includes three contributing secondary resources including a smokehouse, a spring/icehouse, and chimney remains. The smokehouse appears to be of early 19th century construction with a square 13’ x 13’ footprint and tall stature. It is a single-bay, wood framed building with standing-seam gabled roof and forebay with deep overhang. The south (front) shows very wide horizontal wood siding and wide vertical wood board door, believed to be original. The siding on the other three elevations has been replaced with unfinished wood lap siding. The interior has two levels with a small wooden stair between them. Multiple horizontal wood beams run across the interior on the upper level, presumably used for hanging meats. The smoke house was moved from its original location just north of the parking area shown on the site map to its present location at the split-rail fence north of the main house.

The spring/icehouse displays a unique combination of uses and is likely of early-mid 19th century construction. It has a 15’ x 32’ footprint with stone walls, plastered above grade, gabled wood roof structure with standing-seam metal finish and ridge running north-south. There are 7’ deep covered porches at the north and south ends. The south end of the building has a flush, wood door that opens into an 8’ x 13’ room with a lowered earth and stone floor and plaster walls and ceilings. There is a stone trough at floor level, approximately three feet below the door sill, believed to have been part of the original spring house functions. A 14’ x 13’ room with dirt floor occupies the northern interior space, believed to have been the original icehouse. This area is accessible from the north attic by ladder down into the space or through a large dormer window on the east roof. There is a stone wall on the site extending south from the southwest corner of the spring/icehouse terminating at Smith Creek Road.

Finally, there is a chimney structure (7’ x 4’) in the yard east of the main house. These remains are believed to have been part of an outdoor or accessory kitchen dating to the early-late 19th century. The chimney is of limestone construction with modern brick infill at the fireplace to create an outdoor grill. There is also a small brick patio in front of the hearth.

4. Property’s History and Significance

In the space below, briefly describe the history of the property, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property. Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)
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 property’s long history of residence in the Shenandoah Valley is well documented. And while interesting from the perspective of the local historian, it is the architecture which brings historic significance to the site. Despite considerable damage to the original construction and subsequent restoration as well as multiple additions, the Mounce Byrd House stands as a classic example of the Early National Period (1789 to 1830). While much of the interior is not original, the character and details of the original first floor, three-bay living area are well preserved or restored, including: wide pine floorboards (10-12 inches), hand-hewn overhead beams, beaded wide board partitions, the small winding staircase, original door panels and windows deeply recessed into the thick stone walls. The additions and modifications over the years remain respectful of the historic nature of the home. The secondary resources are also important contributions to the architectural significance. The smokehouse and especially the spring/icehouse are relatively undisturbed from their original construction.
5. **Property Ownership** (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: ___X___ 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: Carolyn Long
organization: N/A
street & number: 8438 Smith Creek Road
city or town: New Market state: Virginia zip code: 22844
e-mail: ______________________________ telephone: ________________________

Legal Owner’s Signature: ___________________________________________ Date: ____________

• • 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: ______________________________________________
Daytime Telephone: ____________________

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

name/title: Ivan Huber, Registered Architect
organization: Huber Architects
street & number: 271 West View Street
city or town: Harrisonburg state: Virginia zip code: 22801
e-mail: ivan@huberarch.com telephone: (540) 820-7014

6. **Notification**

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator, City Manager, and/or Town Manager.

name/title: Evan Vass, County Administrator
locality: Shenandoah County
street & number: 600 North Main Street, Suite 102
city or town: Woodstock state: Virginia zip code: 22664
telephone: (540) 459-6165
5. Property Ownership  (Check as many categories as apply):
Private:  X  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:  Carolyn Long
organization:  N/A
street & number:  8438 Smith Creek Road
city or town:  New Market  state:  Virginia  zip code:  22844
e-mail:  cflong@shentel.net  telephone:  540-740-8096

Legal Owner’s Signature:  ___________________________  Date:  4/16/22
** 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:  
Daytime Telephone:  

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)
name/title:  L. M. Jiber, Registered Architect
organization:  Huber Architects
street & number:  217 West View Street
city or town:  Harrisonburg  state:  Virginia  zip code:  22801
e-mail:  ivan@huberarch.com  telephone:  (540) 820-7014

6. Notification
In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator, City Manager, and/or Town Manager.
name/title:  Evan Vass, County Administrator
locality:  Shenandoah County
street & number:  600 North Main Street, Suite 102
city or town:  Woodstock  state:  Virginia  zip code:  22664
 telephone:  (540) 459-6165
LEGEND:

A - PRIMARY RESIDENCE
  • 33’ X 29’ ORIGINAL DWELLING c. 1777
  • 25’ X 20’ NORTH KITCHEN ADDITION c. 1850
  • 25’ X 20’ NORTH MODERN KITCHEN ADDITION c. 1976
  • 28’ X 22’ WEST WING ADDITION c. 1976
B - SPRING / ICE HOUSE c. EARLY-MID 1800’S
C - SMOKE HOUSE c. EARLY 1800’S
D - CHIMNEY REMAINS c. EARLY 1800’S
E - FORMER SMOKEHOUSE LOCATION (approximate)
Spring and Ice House