

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number:** 97000953

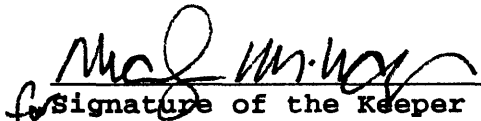
**Date Listed:** 9/3/97

Bishop, Alexander, House  
**Property Name**

Knox            TENNESSEE  
**County            State**

Knoxville and Knox County MPS  
**Multiple Name**

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

9/15/97  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

Section No. 2

The address of this property is not restricted, and may be published

Section No. 7

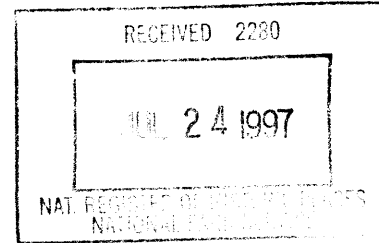
The non-contributing building shown in the photographs and included in the count is a modern, prefabricated barn.

This information has been confirmed by the Tennessee SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



953

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Bishop, Alexander, House

other names/site number KN.6906

## 2. Location

street & number 7924 Bishop Road x not for publication

city or town Knoxville x vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Knox code 093 zip code 37938

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Bryce  
Signature of certifying official/Title

7/17/97  
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

M. J. M. [Signature] for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

9/13/97

Bishop, Alexander, House  
Name of Property

Knox County, Tennessee  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing

Noncontributing

1	1	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Knox County MPN \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0 \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: one story I house  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone  
walls weatherboard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof asphalt shingle  
other brick  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- x A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
x C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is: NA

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C moved from its original location.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property
G less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Settlement
Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1793 - 1900

Significant Dates

c. 1793, c. 1830, c. 1856, c. 1900

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
Previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
x Other
Name of repository:
McClung Collection, Knox County Public Library

Bishop, Alexander, House  
Name of Property

Knox County, Tennessee  
County and State

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreeage of Property** Approximately 1.0 acres Fountain City Quad 146 SW

### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>3995020</u> Easting	<u>230420</u> Northing	3	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Ann K. Bennett, Senior Planner, and Pamela Dishongh, Intern  
organization Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission date Dec. 12, 1993  
street & number 403 City County Building, 400 Main Avenue telephone (615) 521-2500  
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37902-2476

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### Additional Documentation

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submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

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### Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Bishop  
street & number 7924 Bishop Road telephone na  
city or town Knoxville state Tn zip code 37928

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Bishop, Alexander, House,  
Knox County, Tennessee

## DESCRIPTION

The Alexander Bishop House is located at 7924 Alexander Bishop Road, about eight miles north of downtown Knoxville, in Knox County, Tennessee. The house is in the Forked Pine community, which according to tradition, was named for a forked pine in the old stage road (present day Emory Road) located nearby. The house faces south, the driveway originally led to the house from the old farm road known as Jacksboro Road (presently called Pedigo Road). The house sits on a level lot on the east side of Alexander Bishop Road. A bank with a slope of approximately five feet serves as a border between the rear yard and the road. As the home was built before the current road, the west elevation of the house faces the street while the (front) east facade faces south, overlooking a garden of corn and a field beyond. The north and east borders of the approximately one acre lot are bordered by mature trees with dense foliage, and several mature trees surround the house. Within the thick grove of trees southeast of the house is a small cemetery (not within the nominated boundaries). Located beyond the trees to the east is a subdivision, hidden from view of the house by the trees. Another subdivision lies beyond the southern field. Farmland lies to the north and west of the home.

The Alexander Bishop House is a one and one-half story double pen, three bay log residence, covered with weatherboarding. The house is composed of two, one and one-half story, one pen log cabins. The first of the pens was built c. 1793, and the second pen also built c. 1793 (moved from another location on the property) was joined to it to form a dogtrot c. 1830. In 1856 a one story frame ell was added to the west half of the house and weatherboard siding was added. This addition, on the south elevation, serves as a dining room and kitchen. The original section of the home was also altered at this time with the addition of weatherboard covering to the exterior of the logs. Subsequent historic alterations to the house occurred around 1900 and included the removal of the rear chimney in the kitchen and dining room, the enclosure of the original front doors to the cabin, the addition of a front door opening into the central hall (formerly the dogtrot), the addition of two over two double hung windows and a back porch connecting to the east side of the rear ell. In the 1920s a section of the back porch was converted to a bathroom.

The one and one-half story section of the house has flanking exterior end brick chimneys with stone foundations, applied weatherboard siding, a stone foundation and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The house originally had log exterior walls and a wood shingle roof. The rear section also features a c. 1900 shed roof porch with square chamfered wood columns. The house has a c. 1900 two over two double hung wood window on the east side of the front door and a four over four double hung wood window on the west side of the door. Double hung two over two wood windows appear in the remainder of the house. Prior to 1920 the log dovetail notching and the wooden pegs used in the original construction were exposed on the interior of the structure. At the rear northwest corner of the log construction is the c. 1856 one story frame ell. This addition has a gable roof of asphalt shingles and weatherboard siding. Floor joists in this section are comprised of solid tree trunks (puncheon). A dirt floor cellar is located beneath the ell.

The interior features four inch board flooring c. 1900, covering pre-existing wide board floors. Exposed second floor joists in the ceiling form exposed ceiling beams in the front two rooms. There are baseboards in the front parlor (southwest corner of the structure), five-panel doors, and an original board and batten door connecting the original portion of the house to the ell. The interior exposed logs were covered c. 1920, as was the original wood paneling in the ell. Boxed-in stairs with board and batten doors occupy the northwest and northeast corners of each log pen section of the house. Small windows on either side of the

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Bishop, Alexander, House  
Knox County, Tennessee

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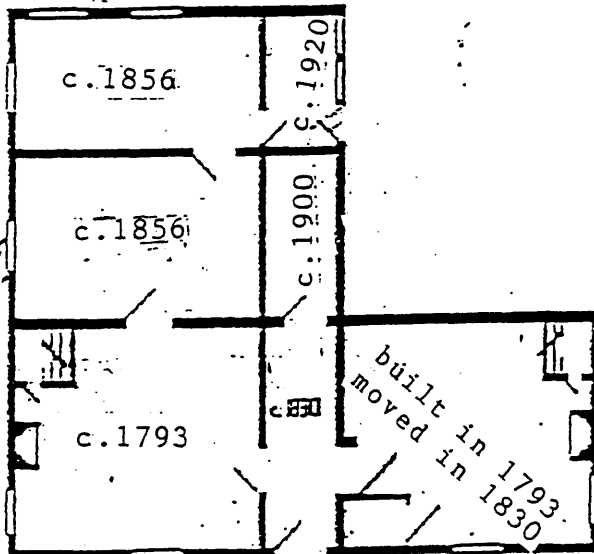
chimneys in the attic space at both ends of the house provide light for the two attic bedrooms. The attic bedrooms contain original window openings which open into the attic of the dogtrot that became the lower central hall; the upstairs bedrooms are not linked to each other, but are only accessible individually through each individual set of stairs. The walls in the dogtrot space still display the original exposed logs.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

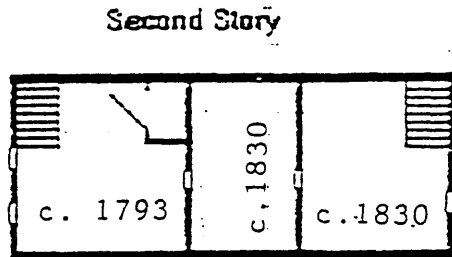
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Bishop, Alexander, House,  
Knox County, Tennessee

Donelson-Bishop House - 7924 Bishop Road



First Story



Second Story



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Bishop, Alexander, House,  
Knox County, Tennessee

## SIGNIFICANCE

The Alexander Bishop House (survey no. 6906) is significant under criterion A as an illustration of early settlement patterns as delineated in the Knox County MPN and under criterion C for architecture as an example of a rural residence. The house was constructed c. 1793 by Stockley Donelson, according to local tradition. Construction methods, such as the use of full dovetail notching and pegged logs indicate a construction date in the late 1700's. Mrs. Charles Curd, who owned the home from 1825 until 1856, connected the original log house with another early log home moved to the site from elsewhere on the property, and constructed the dogtrot between the two pens. This work was done c. 1830, using slave labor. When the Curds sold the land to Alexander Bishop in 1856, he covered the house with weatherboard and added a rear ell. Alexander Bishop's brother Elijah, "updated" the house around 1900 by changing the front facade. A c. 1880 picture of the house shows the front facade as it looked before the changes (photograph not available for re-copying). Board and batten doors led into each pen, and six over six light double hung wood windows were located to the west and east of the front doors, respectively, with a third window located in the position of the original opening to the dogtrot. Although the house has undergone further remodeling since the early 1900s, these changes have been primarily maintenance and the addition of modern bathing facilities rather than renovations.

The property was originally part of a North Carolina land grant consisting of 640 acres, sold to James Swaggerty in 1793 for fifty shillings per 100 acres. Stockley Donelson, a friend and brother-in-law to Andrew Jackson, purchased the land from Swaggerty that same year. Donelson invested in land and owned several hundred thousand acres throughout Tennessee; however, family tradition state that Donelson built the log cabin in 1793 and lived there until he sold the property in 1796. Andrew Jackson is said to have spent several nights in the cabin, using it as a stopover on his trips between North Carolina and Nashville. Donelson sold the property to Charles McClung in 1796 and in 1825 McClung sold it to Charles Curd. A tombstone inscribed with Mrs. Curd's name remains on the grounds. In 1856 Curd sold the farm to Alexander Bishop. Alexander Bishop, the son of Baptist minister Reverend Johathan Alexander Bishop, was born June 27, 1813, in Lee County, Virginia. He married Lydia McElroy in 1837 and continued to reside in Lee County until 1813, when he moved with Lydia and their seven children to Knox County. Alexander Bishop was a deacon and Sunday school superintendent in the Baptist church. He did not own slaves and sympathized with the Union during the Civil War. In 1879 he moved to Texas with his wife and unmarried children, leaving the farm to his son, William. William sold the estate to his uncle, Elijah Alexander Bishop, in 1881. In 1907 Elijah left the property to his son, H.F., and in 1951 H.F. left it to his son, Vernon, who still resides in the old family home.

The Alexander Bishop house is the only extant one and one-half story, double pen log house known to remain in Knox County, and its early construction date can be confirmed based upon the construction methods and materials used, as well as the home's orientation to the road. The use of full dovetail joints and wooden pegs throughout the original portion of the structure indicates that the cabin was built prior to 1800. Later cabins in Knox County usually used square or v-notching and hand forged nails rather than wooden pegs. Likewise, the home's relative position to the road that bears its name denotes early construction. The Alexander Bishop House does not face Alexander Bishop Road, on which it is located. Instead, it faces south, with its rear side to the road. A driveway originally approached the house from present day Pedigo Road (originally called Jacksboro Road), which is located northeast of the property.

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Bishop, Alexander, House,  
Knox County, Tennessee

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This house is significant in relation to understanding the history of construction materials and techniques in East Tennessee. Additionally local folk lore adds an increased significance from the notoriety the cabin had received due to its affiliation with Andrew Jackson. The tale is that the home belonged to Stockley Donelson and it was a frequently visit stop for Andrew Jackson. This local lore was relayed by Mr. Vernon Bishop. Finally, the structure in its entirety provides an excellent portrayal of the evolution of the frontier dwelling over time. The house retains its original form and massing, massive stone and brick end chimneys, and interior detailing such as the two boxed staircases, and exposed beams and material. Each of the alternations that has been made to the house expresses a unique purpose, representing changing taste and values over time.

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Bishop, Alexander, House,  
Knox County, Tennessee

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bales, Hattie Bird Muncy. Early Settlers of Lee County, Va. And Adjacent Counties, Vol. II.  
Greensboro, NC: Media 1977, pp. 760-776.

Personal interview with Vernon and Mildred Alexander Bishop by Pamela Dishongh and Ann K.  
Bennett. July 16, 1992.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Bishop, Alexander, House,  
Knox County, Tennessee

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Alexander Bishop House consists of a one (1) acre (parcel 63 on the Knox County Tax map).

The tax map for this nomination has the scale of 1"=400'. This scale tax map is prepared by the Tennessee State Board of Equalization for rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission has used this scale map for nominations and has found that the 1"=400' scale adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated acreage contains the immediate setting of the house and, because of the location of Alexander Bishop Road is to the rear, preserves the house's original vista over fields to the east.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Bishop, Alexander, House,  
Knox County, Tennessee

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

Alexander Bishop, House  
Knox County, Tennessee  
Photos by: Pamela Dishongh and Nancy Jane Baker  
Date: July 1992 and Nov. 1996  
Negs: Tennessee Historical Commission  
Nashville, Tennessee

Facing northwest, southeast facade of the structure  
1 of 11

Facing north, south facade of the structure  
2 of 11

Facing north, chimney on the west in of the south facade  
3 of 11

Facing northeast, south facade and west elevation  
4 of 11

Facing east, west elevation of structure  
5 of 11

Facing south, north elevation of structure  
6 of 11

Facing northwest, east elevation of structure and outbuilding  
7 of 11

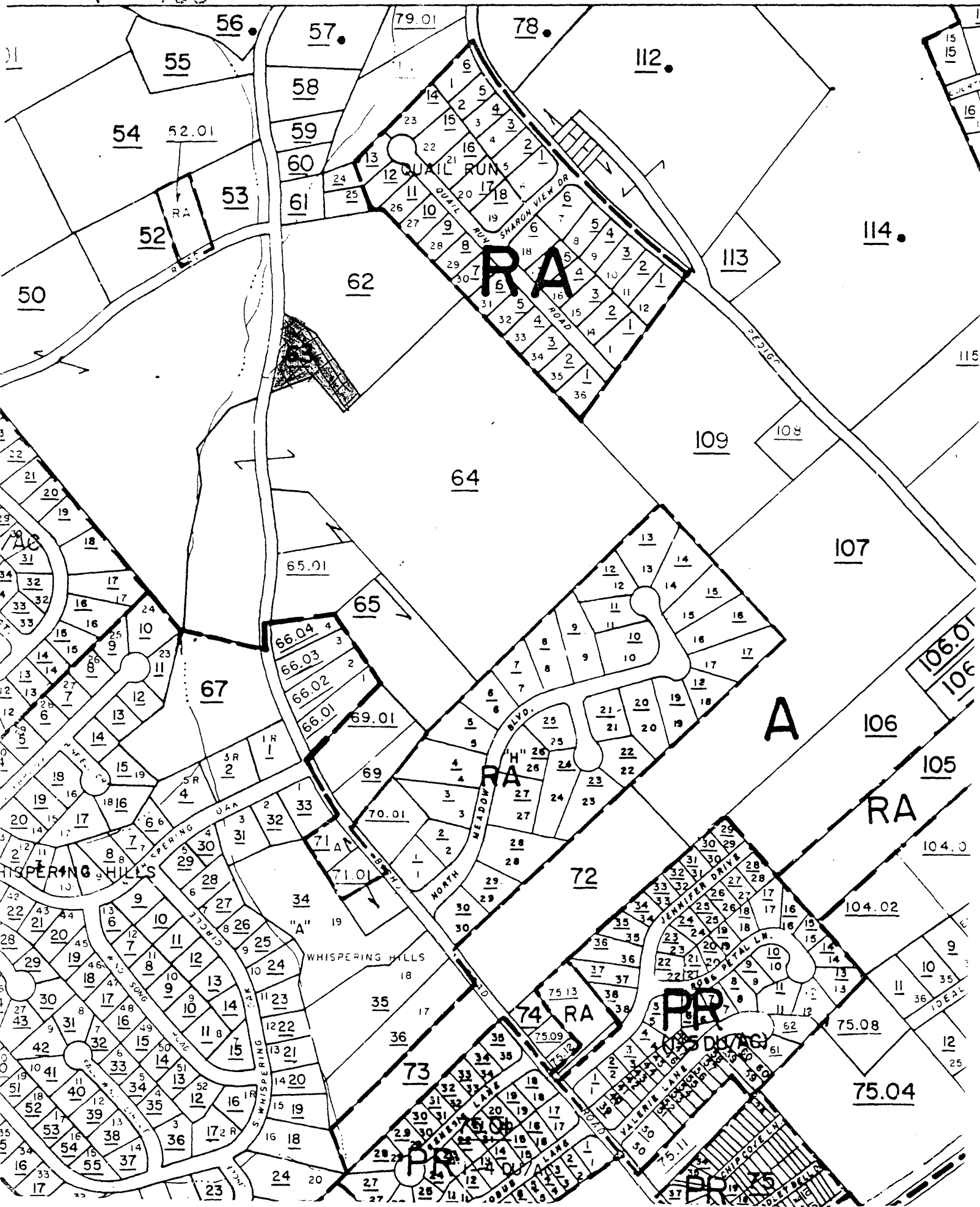
Facing west, east elevation of the structure  
8 of 11

Facing north, chimney on the east of the south facade and outbuilding  
9 of 11

Facing west, interior fireplace and wall details on west chimney  
10 of 11

Facing north, interior stair and door details in the east front room  
11 of 11

Bishop, Alexander, House  
Knox Co. TN  
1" = 400'



**RA**

**RA**

**A**

**PR**

**PR**

**PR**

