

HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

(Staff Use Only)

HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE & HISTORY
THE CULTURAL CENTER
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305

RATING

CONTEXT

~~CHD~~
Residence

UTM Ref:

USGS Quad:

Neg No:

Theme:

File No:

DISTRICT...SITE...BUILDING...STRUCTURE...OBJECT

1. NAME(S), historic/common: Blue Home

2. LOCATION, street/road: Main Street

city/town: Romney
(incorporated/unincorporated)

3. USE/FUNCTION, present: Private residence

(public/private, restricted)

original: Private residence

4. OWNER/ADDRESS, present: Madelyn Blue Romney

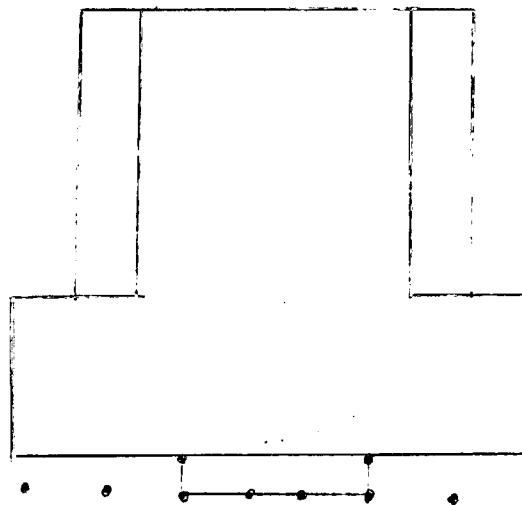
(public/private)

original:

5. PHOTO/SKETCH OF:

7. PLAN (include approx. dimensions):

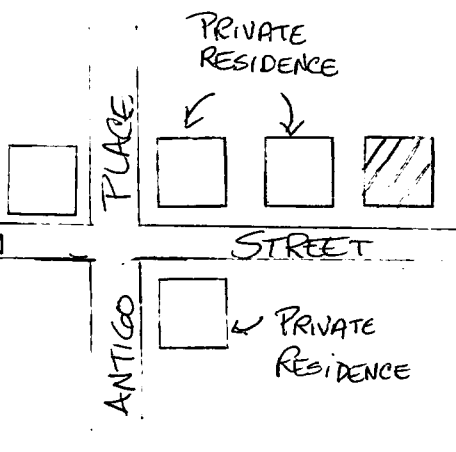
Attached



6. LOCALE/ENVIRONMENT(map):

8. ACREAGE (approx):

Lot size: 161' x 393' x 91'
x 393'



COUNTY: Hampshire

Survey Region: _____
Planning District: _____

HM-0047-0003

Handwritten signature/initials.

9. DESCRIPTION (clarify as appropriate):

HM-0047-0002

a. Exterior Fabric

stone _____
 brick _____
 concrete _____
 stucco X _____
 weatherboard _____
 clapboard _____
 board & batten _____
 shingle _____
 other German Siding _____

b. Structural System

masonry _____
 frame _____
 log _____
 metal _____
 other _____
 foundation Stone _____

c. Roofing Material

wood _____
 metal X _____
 slate X _____
 tile _____
 asphalt _____
 composition _____
 other _____

d. Associated Structures (use/type):

outbuildings _____

 dependencies _____

 other _____

e. Integrity (include dates):

original site/relocated _____
 alterations _____

 additions _____

f. Condition:

excellent X _____
 good _____
 fair _____
 deteriorated _____
 abandoned _____

g. Threats:

None, at present time.

10. SIGNIFICANCE (use additional sheet if necessary):

a. Architect/Builder/Engineer:

b. Style/Period:

Italianate

c. Date(s):

ca. 1890

This large, two story T-shaped home is situated on the eastern end of Romney. Architectural features include brackets under the eaves, two small attic windows topped with a triangular head containing decorative sawn work. The front porch is spatially divided into bays with through the use of columns with plain capitals and bases. A four bay triangular pedimented entrance projects from the main porch.

Local residents commonly refer to the home as the Blue Home, and indicate that it has been in the family for many years. The Blue family has been quite a prominent family in the area, It is known that John D. Blue owned the home, and a biographical sketch is attached.

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hampshire County Deed Book 126, page 508; 83, page 340; 80, page 454.

Pugh, Mary. Interview, September 6, 1984.

History of West Virginia Old and New and West Virginia Biography, The American Historical Society, Inc. Chicago and New York 1923, page 84

12. FORM PREPARED BY:

Nan Stevens

DATE September 1984

a. Address

P.O. Box 887, Petersburg, West Virginia 26847

b. Organization

Region VIII Planning and Development Council

Blue Home



ranked among the able lawyers of his day, always conducting his cases with admirable effectiveness and superior judgment. He had a comprehensive and accurate knowledge of the law, and never failed to exalt his profession, in which it was his ambition to excel, and lamented the tendency in later years to lower its ideals. He never failed to keep in mind the advice of Lord Coke, that 'he that knoweth not the reason of the law knoweth not the law.' At the trial of causes he was alert, adroit and untiring. In the argument of cases he reasoned well and convincingly. He was a dangerous opponent in debate, but was never spectacular nor offensive. He possessed a remarkably retentive memory and could cite cases with marvelous precision. He was always a student and remembered what he read, and his mind was accordingly stored and enriched not only by a knowledge of the law itself, but by the history of events culled from the classics and from profane and sacred writers as well, which he often used with telling effect in his arguments before courts and juries."

Mr. Bassel gave little time or thought to politics, though he was a democrat. The only office to which he was ever elected by the people was as a delegate to the state convention that prepared the constitution of 1872. His thorough knowledge of the law made him a valued adviser in that body, and the document bears the impress of his judgment. He was elected president of the State Bar Association in 1901, and for many years was a faithful attendant upon the annual meetings of the organization. The association was in session at Parkersburg the day of his death, and as a mark of respect twenty of its members were appointed to attend his funeral.

Mr. Bassel was a member of the Presbyterian Church. He was domestic in his traits and habits, and enjoyed the associations of an extensive friendship over the state. His first wife was Miss Martha Lewis, and by this union he was the father of six children. Mr. Bassel is survived by his second wife, who was formerly Miss Alice Bean. She continues to live at Clarksburg.

JOHN D. BLUE is one of the oldest men in the service of the Farmers Exchange of Romney, a business institution with a very interesting history.

The Farmers Exchange at Romney was founded in 1892, and the leading spirits in its organization were Dr. J. W. Shull and J. W. Thompson, both of whom have been on its Board of Directors from the beginning, and Mr. Thompson is now its president and Doctor Shull its secretary. Associated with them was the late George H. Johnson. The present Board of Directors comprise E. H. Blue, E. J. Fox, G. R. Hamilton, A. L. Ewers, the executive officers including Mr. John D. Blue. The business of the Farmers Exchange is merchandising, milling and the manufacture of ice. Prior to 1922 the Exchange also generated the electricity for Romney, but at the beginning of that year a new company was formed to take over that end of the business, called the Farmers Electric Company, of which J. S. O'Hare is manager and electrician.

The Farmers Exchange in its origin is reminiscent of the old semi-political organization known as the Farmers Alliance. It was one of a number of similar enterprises established under such auspices in Hampshire County, is the only one to survive and assume a permanent form and enjoy continued prosperity. The original investment in the enterprise was about \$2,000.00, and the business was exclusively merchandise. In order to raise the original capital for the opening of the store about one hundred men signed the note as security for the money. This successful business has had three managers, the first being C. W. Haines, the second, G. W. Arnold, and the third, John D. Blue, who has served longer than either of his predecessors. The Farmers Exchange also has the controlling interest in the stock of the Romney Grocery Company, a local wholesale house.

John D. Blue was born near Wappocomo in Romney District of Hampshire County, December 30, 1877, and has lived within a few miles of his birthplace all his life. His grandfather was Garrett I. Blue, who was born and spent his active life as a farmer in Hampshire County, and died about the close of the Civil war. He married Miss Long,

and among their children were Susan, Sallie, Ursula, John and Marcellus.

John Blue, father of the Romney merchant, was also born in Hampshire County, acquired his education in the country, and after some years as a farmer he became a county official twelve years before his death, being elected county assessor, and he was in that office when he died in 1903, at the age of about seventy. The first year of the Civil war he joined the Confederate Army as a member of the Eleventh Virginia Cavalry, and was in some of the severest battles of the war. Several times he was captured by the Federals, and finally was sent to the Federal prison on Johnson's Island in Lake Erie, and for a time was in Fort Delaware, being held until the close of the war. In later years he was much interested in the proceedings of the Confederate veterans, attended a number of reunions, and was an ardent democrat, working for the interest of his party and its candidates.

John Blue married Miss Ann Eliza Fox, whose father was Voss Fox and her mother, a Miss Harness. She died in 1899, at the age of sixty-eight. Their children consisted of Miss Sallie V.; Edwin H., present county assessor of Hampshire County; William F., who was accidentally killed while logging in the woods; George C. was with a coal company at Fairmont when he died in 1901; Rebecca, now Mrs. George H. Johnson, Jr., of Hampshire County; John David; and Mary Elizabeth, wife of Martin T. Hooper, who lives at Sacramento, California, and is a mechanical engineer.

John D. Blue spent the first eighteen years of his life on the farm, and while there attended country schools. He left the farm to become delivery boy and clerk in the Farmers Exchange Store at Romney, and in that service he has continued steadily through all the years and has been responsible in no small degree for the prosperity of the institution. He has been manager of the Exchange since 1906. Mr. Blue is also a stockholder in the Bank of Romney, has served on the Romney Council, is a democrat in politics, is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America, and is a Presbyterian. He assisted promoting the success of the various drives and campaigns in behalf of the Government during the World war, and he registered under the last draft law.

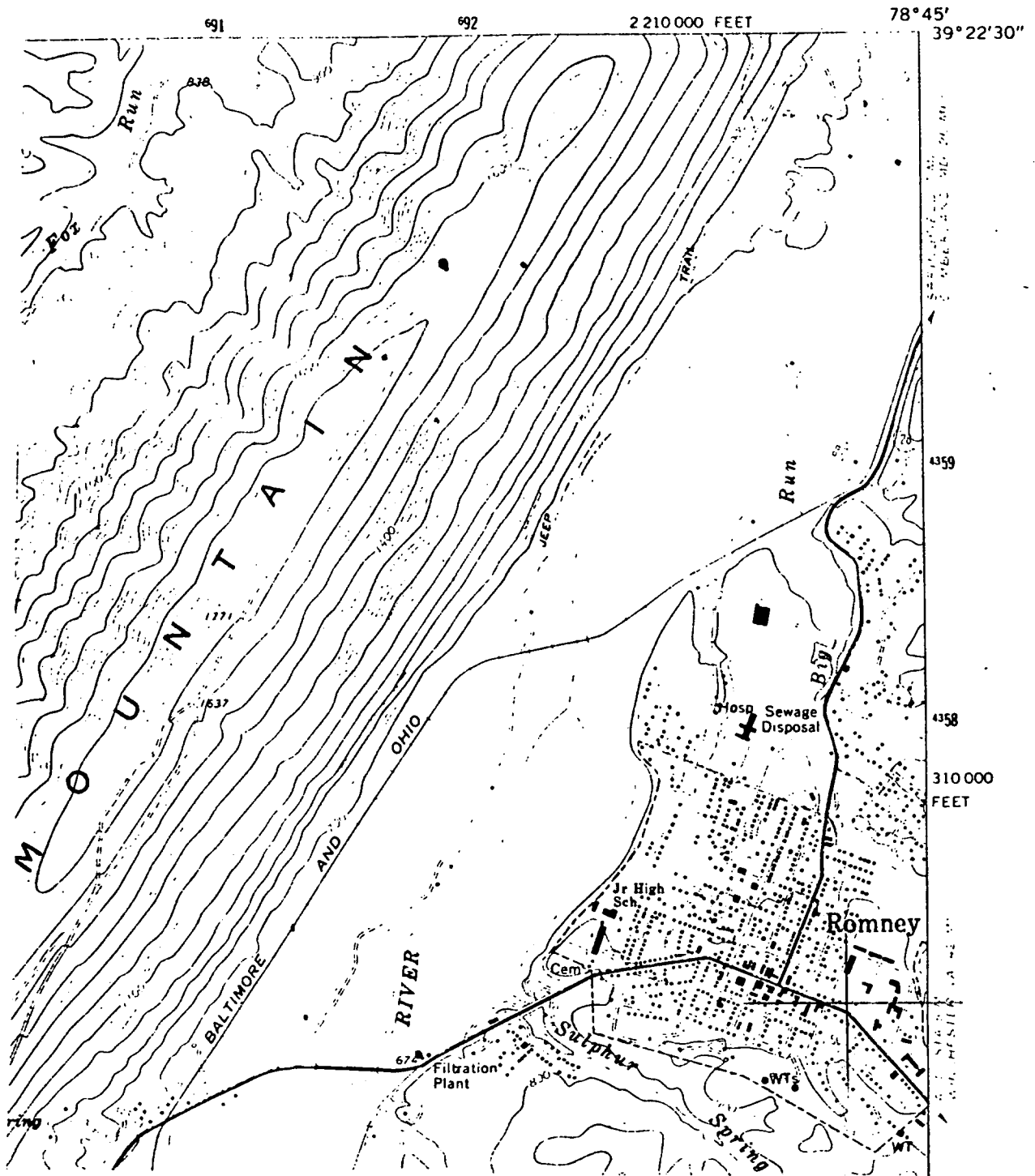
In Mineral County, September 24, 1902, he married Miss Mary D. Rinehart, a daughter of John W. and Helen (Howeson) Rinehart. She was born on Patterson Street in Mineral County, was reared on a farm and supplemented her country school advantages in the Shepherd College Normal, and was a teacher before her marriage. She is the oldest of six children, the others being Elijah, Mrs. Helen Herriott, Mrs. Ann Kuykendall, deceased, John Rinehart, a resident of Alberta, Canada, and Miss Minnie, who lives at the old homestead in Mineral County. The three children of Mr. and Mrs. Blue are: Helen, a graduate of the Romney High School and now a teacher in Hampshire County; John R., a high school student; and Cathleen.

HON. ROBERT W. DAILEY. In length of continuous service Judge Dailey is one of the oldest Circuit Court judges in the state. For thirty years he has presided over the courts of the Twenty-second Circuit, comprising Hampshire, Hardy and Pendleton counties, a record which has throughout been adorned by his sound abilities as a lawyer, his impartiality as a judge and the integrity of his personal character.

Judge Dailey, whose home is at Romney, was born in Hampshire County, April 18, 1849. His paternal grandfather, James Dailey, came to Virginia from Pennsylvania when a young man and achieved a creditable position as a farmer, banker and man of affairs. He died about 1824, when about fifty years of age. His first wife, and mother of a large family of children, was a daughter of Colonel Andrew W. Woodrow, who had served as clerk of the court at Romney. The second wife of James Dailey was Comfort Wood, whose grandfather, Colonel James Wood, was the founder of Winchester, Virginia, naming the place in honor of his native city in England. The children of Comfort Wood Dailey were: Dr. Robert Wood; Jean W., who became the wife of Charles Lobb; Harriet, who died un-

ROMNEY QUADRANGLE
WEST VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE/4 KEYSER 15' QUADRANGLE

5262 1 NW
(SPRINGFIELD)



Location of Blue Home

INVENTORY ROUTING SLIP

NAME OF PROPERTY: The Blue Home

LOCATION: Romney

COUNTY: Hampshire

DATE VISITED OR REVIEW OF INVENTORY FORM: 12-4-84

STAFF MEMBER INITIATED FILE: _____

WAS THIS FORM A RESULT OF HPF FUNDED SURVEY: yes

IS THERE A FINAL REPORT? _____ YES _____ NO

LEVEL OF DOCUMENTATION: ✓ MINIMUM ⓪ NATIONAL REGISTER

TYPE OF PROPERTY: ✓ ARCHITECTURE/HISTORY

_____ ARCHAEOLOGICAL

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY:

_____ INDIVIDUAL

_____ THEMATIC

_____ HISTORIC
DISTRICT

✓ M.R.A.

MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA

COMMENTS: Biographical sketch of Blue should be
condensed and included in statement of significance.
Can date of construction be determined? (typographical error
check significance.)

STAFF SIGNATURE: Amanda Cox

DATE: 12-4-84