

HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

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

RATING CHD
CONTEXT Commercial

(Staff Use Only)

UTM Ref:	USGS Quad:	Neg No:	Theme(s):	File No:
HM-0047-0004				

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

1. NAME(S), historic/common: Opera House
Ideal Theatre
Ben Franklin Store

2. LOCATION, street/road: Main Street

city/town: Romney
(incorporated/unincorporated)

3. USE/FUNCTION, present: Retail Store

(public/private,
restricted)

original: Theater

4. OWNER/ADDRESS, present: Madelyn Blue
Romney

(public/private)

original:

5. PHOTO/SKETCH OF:

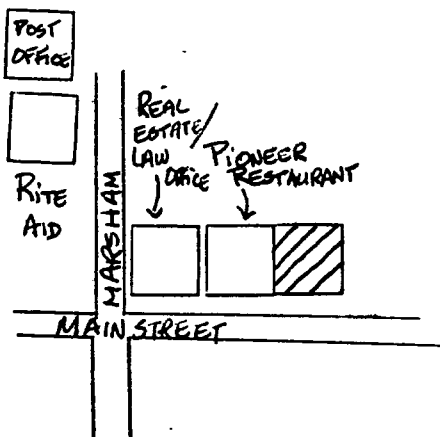
7. PLAN (include approx. dimensions):

ATTACHED.

6. LOCALE/ENVIRONMENT (map):

8. ACREAGE (approx):

Lot Size:
55' X 152'



Survey Region:	Planning District:

COUNTY: Hampshire

HM-0047-0004

9. DESCRIPTION (clarify as appropriate):

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a. Exterior Fabric

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

b. Structural System

masonry _____
frame X _____
log _____
metal _____
other _____
foundation _____

c. Roofing Material

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

d. Associated Structures (use/type):

outbuildings _____
dependencies _____
other _____

e. Integrity (include dates):

original site/relocated X _____
alterations (date unknown) _____
Store front altered - to the
large open windows it has today.
additions _____

f. Condition:

excellent _____
good _____
fair X to _____
deteriorated X _____
abandoned _____

g. Threats:

None, at the present time.

10. SIGNIFICANCE (use additional sheet if necessary):

a. Architect/Builder/Engineer:

b. Style/Period:

Commercial

c. Date(s):

ca. 1900

see attached

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Pugh, Mary., Interview - August 22, 1984.

The Review., January 8, 1919., Volume 36. Number 16., (copy attached).

Historic Hampshire, A Symposium of Hampshire County, its People, Past and Present.,
Hampshire County American Revolution, Inc., McClain Printing Co., Parsons,
West Virginia, 1976, page 489.

Hampshire County Deed Book 126, page 58; 83, page 340; 80, page 454. Will Book 25,
352.

12. FORM PREPARED BY Nan Stevens : DATE September 1984

a. Address Post Office Box 887, Petersburg, West Virginia 26847
b. Organization Region VIII Planning and Development Council.

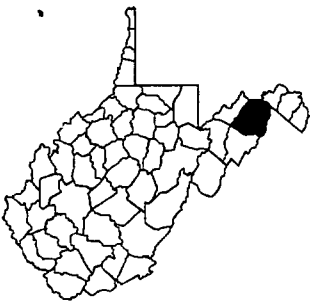
Over the years (according to local residents) this building has housed the Opera House, the Ideal Theatre, Alpine Bowling, and currently the Ben Franklin Store. Advertisements from The Review (now the Hampshire Review) in 1909 boast that the Opera House provided "Good clean entertainment each night" and indicated a price range of movies being 10, 15, and 20 cents, with a "Big Vitagraph Blue Ribbon Programme".

A January 2, 1935 advertisement in the Hampshire Review gave the billing for Saturday, January 5 as being "Defense Rests" with Jack Hott and Jean Arthur, also, the fifth chapter of the serial "Red Ridder".

The building facade has changed somewhat over the years to accomodate large slate glass windows. The building has played an integral role in the evolution of Romney's downtown area.

Opera House - Ben Franklin Store



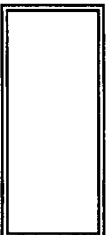


Internal Rating: _____

**WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY
INVENTORY FORM**

HM-0047-0004

Street Address 24 West Main Street	Common/Historic Name/Both O O O	Field Survey # 10	Site # (SHPO Only) HM 042
Town or Community Romney	County Hampshire County	Negative No. 1	NR Listed Date
Architect/Builder	Date of Construction c.1920	Style	
Exterior Siding/Materials Concrete Block, Formstone, and Terra Cotta Tiles	Roofing Material	Foundation	
Property Use or Function Residence O Commercial + Other O	UTM #	Photograph (2" x 3" Contact)	
	Quadrangle Name Romney		
Survey Organization & Date Aarcher, Inc. Field Survey October 2006 and February 2007	Part of What Survey/FR# FR-5-233-HM-1		

Sketch Map of Property
or Attach Copy of USGS Map

Site No.

N



Present Owners

Owners Mailing Address

Phone #

Describe Setting

_____ Acres

_____ Archaeological
Artifacts Present

Description of Buildings or Site (Original and Present)

_____ 2 _____ Stories _____ 2 _____ Front Bays

This building features a concrete block front wall, and side walls built with large (1' x 5") terra cotta tiles. A stepped parapet distinguishes the roofline of this otherwise plain and altered building. The 1st story commercial front is faced with formstone. This appears to be a later treatment. The metal-and-glass door and the flanking plate-glass windows appear to be later considerations. Second-story windows are arranged in pairs and also are not original to the building. The side entrance leading to the upper level does retain an original transom light. This commercial building experienced a series of alterations, but it retains much of its essential historic character and massing.

(Use Continuation Sheets)

Alterations

☒☐

If yes, describe: The 1st story commercial front is faced with formstone. Second-story windows are arranged in pairs and also are not original to the building.

Yes

No

Additions

☐☒

If yes, describe:

Yes

No

Describe All Outbuildings

(Use Continuation Sheets)

Statement of Significance

Contributing.

(Use Continuation Sheets)

Bibliographical References

(Use Continuation Sheets)

Form Prepared By: Sherri Marsh Johns

Date: April 2007

Name/Organization: Archer Inc.

Address: 910 Commerce Road, Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone #: (410) 897-9100

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME Romney Commercial Historic District

SITE# HM-0142

10. 24 West Main Street (c. 1920)

Deed Reference 382/143 Part of Lot 57

Negative #1

Contributing: Field Survey #10



Located on the west side of 8 Main Street, this 2-story, 2-bay building features a concrete block front wall, and side walls built with large (1' x 5") terra cotta tiles. A stepped parapet distinguishes the roofline of this otherwise plain and altered building. The 1st story commercial front is faced with formstone. This appears to be a later treatment. The metal-and-glass door and the flanking plate-glass windows appear to be later considerations. Second-story windows are arranged in pairs and also are not original to the building. The side entrance leading to the upper level does retain an original transom light. This commercial building experienced a series of alterations, but it retains much of its essential historic character and massing. It remains a contributing resource within the Historic District.