

HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

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

(Staff Use Only)

File No:
Theme(s):
Neg No(s):
USGS Quad:
UTM Ref:

DISTRICT, SITE, BUILDING, STRUCTURE, OBJECT

1. NAME(S) historic/common: Gov. J. J. Cornwell House

2. LOCATION street/road: 230 Main Street

city/town: Romney
(incorporated/unincorporated)

3. USE/FUNCTION present: Funeral Parlor
original: Private Residence

(public/private, restricted)

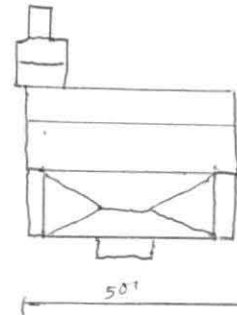
4. OWNER/ADDRESS present: Shaffer Funeral Home, Inc. (public/private)

original: John J. Cornwell

(phone no.)

5. PHOTO/SKETCH OF:

7. PLAN (include approx. dimensions):



6. LOCALE/ENVIRONMENT (map)

8. (A.) ACREAGE (approx):

$\frac{1}{4}$ Acre

(B.) VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

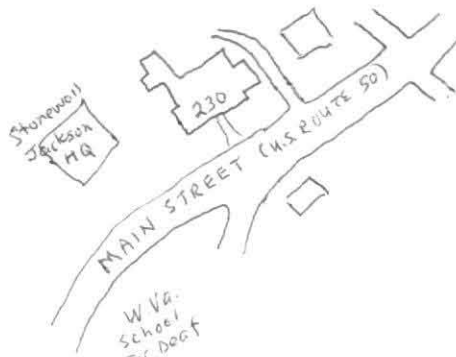
a fourth acre city lot bounded on the S. by U. S. Route 50, on the E. by the right side of a private drive, on the north by a private drive, and the W. by a hedge line.

PROPERTY NAME: Gov. J. J. Cornwell House

COUNTY: Hampshire

Survey Region: _____

Planning District: _____



9. DESCRIPTION (clarify as appropriate):

a. Exterior Fabric

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

b. Structural System

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

c. Roofing Material

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

d. Associated Structures (use/type):

outbuildings None _____
dependencies Garage _____
other _____

e. Integrity (include dates):

original site/relocated _____
alterations _____
additions Small two story wood addition to rear.

f. Condition:

excellent _____
good X _____
fair _____
deteriorated _____
abandoned _____

g. Threats: None.

h. Description:

A two story Colonial Revival American Four Square with hip roof and side gables. Very symmetrical, the front one story entrance portico is balanced

10. SIGNIFICANCE (use attachment sheet if necessary):

a. Architect/Builder/Engineer:

Not Known

b. Style/Period: Colonial Revival 4-Square

c. Date(s): c.1915

This was the home of John Jacob Cornwell, 15th governor of West Virginia. Cornwell (1867-1953) served in the West Virginia Senate from 1899 to 1907, and was the unsuccessful Democratic nominee for governor in 1904. Elected governor in 1916, Cornwell's administration (1917-1921) was chiefly concerned with matters relating to World War I. The state capitol burned in January, 1921 near the close of his term. He became an officer of the B&O Railroad after leaving office, rising to both a vice presidency and general counselship.

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Cornwell Papers, W.Va. State Archives, Dept. of Culture & History, Charleston, W.Va.

Morgan, John G., West Virginia Governors, 2nd ed., Charleston, Charleston Newspapers, 1980

12. FORM PREPARED BY Michael J. Pauley DATE January, 1986
4651 Victoria Road, Charleston, W.Va.

a. Address _____
b. Organization Hart and Pauley, Consultants
c. Phone no. 304-744-9342

ATTACHMENT TO HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT
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THE CULTURAL CENTER
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305

1. Name(s) Historic/Common: Gov. John J. Cornwell House

h. Description, Continued

by side porches and a porte-cochere. A single twin windowed hipped dormer pierces the roof at the front elevation. Porticos are flat roofed and are upheld by squared stucco columns. The grounds, though small, are nicely landscaped.



WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME Gov. J.J. Cornwell House

SITE # 0047-0007



Hampshire County Governors



JOHN JACOB CORNWELL

1917 - 1921

John Jacob Cornwell was born on a farm in Ritchie County, West Virginia, on July 11, 1867, the son of Jacob H. and Mary Taylor Cornwell. In 1869 his family moved to a farm on Jersey Mountain near Points. With the exception of brief terms at the State Normal School at Shepherdstown, now Shepherd College, and at West Virginia University, his formal education was received in Hampshire County Schools. He read law in the office of his brother and was admitted to the bar in 1896. His interest in *The Hampshire Review*, the local newspaper, began when he and his brother acquired it in 1890 and ended only with his death in 1953.

He served two terms in the State Senate between 1899 and 1906. In 1904 he was nominated by the Democratic convention as its candidate for governor and was defeated by a narrow margin. In 1916 he won the Democratic nomination for governor in the first statewide primary election and that fall was the only Democrat to be elected to a statewide office and the first Democratic governor since 1886.

His term coincided with World War I and the difficult readjustment period immediately following it. In addition to vigorous leadership in West Virginia's war effort, the major accomplishments of his term as governor included the settlement of the Virginia Debt, the establishment of the Department of Public Safety and the Budget Amendment.

Governor Cornwell ceased active participation in politics at the end of his term. He was elected a Director of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and appointed its General Counsel after he left the governor's office. He returned to his law office in Romney in 1946 where he was active until his death in 1953 at the age of 86.

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RATING ~~XXXX~~ CE
CONTEXT Residential

File No:	
Theme(s):	
Neg. No(s):	
USGS Quad:	
UTM Ref:	

HM-0047-0007

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

1. NAME(S), historic/common: Home of Governor John J. Cornwell
Shaffer Funeral Home

2. LOCATION, street/road: Main Street

city/town: Romney
(incorporated/unincorporated)

3. USE/FUNCTION, present: Funeral Home

(public/private,
restricted)

original: Private residence

4. OWNER/ADDRESS, present: Keith and Ila Shaffer
Romney

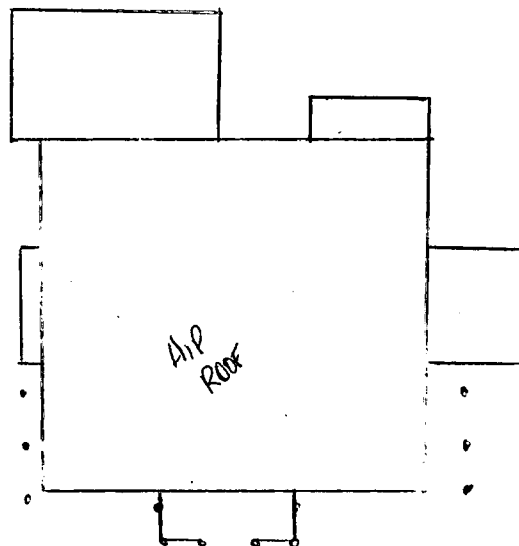
(public/private)

original: John J. Cornwell
Romney

5. PHOTO/SKETCH OF:

7. PLAN (include approx. dimensions):

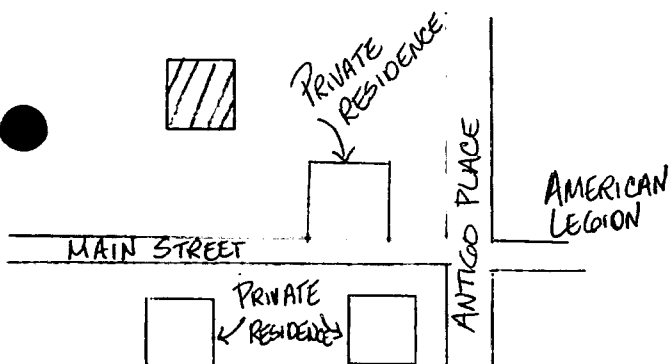
ATTACHED



6. LOCALE/ENVIRONMENT(map):

8. ACREAGE (approx):

30,492 Square Feet



Survey Region:	
Planning District:	

COUNTY: Hampshire

Handwritten notes and signatures on the right margin, including 'Hampshire' and 'Shaffer'.

HM-0041-0001

a. Exterior Fabric

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

b. Structural System

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

c. Roofing Material

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

d. Associated Structures (use/type):

outbuildings _____

 dependencies _____

 other _____

e. Integrity (include dates):

original site/relocated _____
 alterations _____

 additions At back of building - see
plan. _____

f. Condition:

excellent X _____
 good _____
 fair _____
 deteriorated _____
 abandoned _____

g. Threats:

None.

10. SIGNIFICANCE (use additional sheet if necessary):

a. Architect/Builder/Engineer:

b. Style/Period: AmericanFoursquarec. Date(s): ca. 1900

Built by John J. Cornwell, principal owner of the Hampshire Review from 1890 until his death in 1953, member of the State Senate and Governor for one term. A biographical sketch is attached. The large American Foursquare home contains elements common to its style, two jerkin head dormers are located on the east and west sections of the house.

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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 494.

Romney Bicentennial Program, 1762 - 1962, page 55.

Callahan, James Morton, History of West Virginia, old and new in one volume, The American Historical Society, Inc., 1923. Volume III, pages 234, 235.

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

Home of Gov. J.J. Cornwell - Shaffer Funeral Home

