

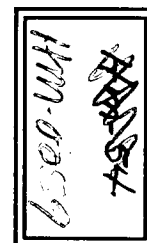


RATING NR CC  
 CONTEXT Arch

# WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

*HM-0059*

|                                                                         |  |                                         |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| STREET ADDRESS<br>8 miles So. of (Co. Rt. 8)                            |  | COMMON/HISTORIC NAME<br>HARMISON HOME   | NO. IN SURVEY<br><i>HM-0059</i>             | NO. OF BAYS<br><div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div><input type="checkbox"/><br/>FRONT</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/><br/>SIDE</div> </div> |
| TOWN OR COMMUNITY<br>Romney <i>WV</i>                                   |  | COUNTY<br>Hampshire                     | NEGATIVE NO.                                | NOT VISIBLE FROM ROAD <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                               |
| ARCHITECT/BUILDER                                                       |  | DATE OF CONSTRUCTION<br>1760            | EXTERIOR BUILDING FABRIC<br>Plastered Stone |                                                                                                                                                                              |
| DATE _____<br>NAT. REGISTER LISTED _____<br>STATE REGISTER LISTED _____ |  | ROOFING MATERIAL<br>Metal               | STYLE (STAFF USE ONLY)                      |                                                                                                                                                                              |
| PROPERTY USE OR FUNCTION                                                |  | TYPE OF FOUNDATION<br>Stone             | PHOTOGRAPH<br>(2" X 3" CONTACT)             |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                         |  | QUADRANGLE NAME<br>Romney               |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                              |
| SURVEY ORGANIZATION AND DATE<br>WVSHPO - 1990 (1976)                    |  | PART OF WHAT SURVEY<br>Hampshire County |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                              |



SITE NO.

## PRESENT OWNERS

John Decker Harmison  
(822-5682)

## OWNER ADDRESS

Romney, WV

## GENERAL CONDITION OF PROPERTY

Good

## ADDITIONS

☐

YES

☐

NO

IF YES, DESCRIBE

## ALTERATIONS

☐

YES

☐

NO

IF YES, DESCRIBE

## NO. AND NATURE OF OUTBUILDINGS

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY (ORIGINAL AND PRESENT)

This property contains a two-story plastered stone and frame house. There are 12 rooms in the stone section. Each room has a door to the outside, but not to the other rooms. The frame addition has five rooms with similar arrangements. Each room in the stone section has a fireplace. The plaster covering the exterior stones is engraved to look like stones painted white. Adjacent buildings include a stone spring house, a barn and a log corn crib.

## HISTORICAL/CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

There is much evidence of prehistoric occupation of this site. A number of points, pieces of pottery and other artifacts have been found near the house. The first historic account dealing with the site was in relation to the Fairfax lands. This area was included in lot number #1 and was surveyed April 8, 1748. The survey party included both George Washington and Lord Fairfax. The site was referred to as the Fairfax Mill site or Reserve. The first settler was Peter Kuykendall. In 1753 Luke Decker bought the property and probably built the stone house, he died in 1767. The County bought the property in 1795 for a poor farm and it remained such until 1945. During this time the County built a frame addition. In 1945 the property was bought by a Mr. Bowman of Wheeling. Harmisons bought the property in 1962 or 1963.

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

FORM PREPARED BY Karen F. Storer  
Phil Pitts

DATE JAN. 1990  
1976

ADDRESS WVS#PD

# WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME HARMISON HOME

SITE #

HM 34

HM-0059



# WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME HARMISON HOME

SITE #

*Hm-0054*

*Hm-0059*



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

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

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

1. NAME(S), historic/common: Hampshire Parish House  
Poor House (Proposed)

2. LOCATION, street/road: East of River Rd.  
apr. 9 miles south of  
city/town: Romney, WV  
(incorporated/unincorporated)

3. USE/FUNCTION, present: Hunting lodge (rental prop.)

(public private,  
restricted)

original: Parish House (?)

4. OWNER/ADDRESS, present: David Harmison  
RT. 4 Bx. 28 Romney, WV 26757

(public private)

original: Trustees of the Parish of Hampshire (?)

5. PHOTO/SKETCH OF:

7. PLAN (include approx. dimensions):

Attached

6. LOCALE/ENVIRONMENT(map):

No. 1 on map

8. ACREAGE (approx):

360 acres

COUNTY: Hampshire

Survey Region: \_\_\_\_\_  
Planning District: \_\_\_\_\_

## a. Exterior Fabric

stone \_\_\_\_\_  
 brick \_\_\_\_\_  
 concrete \_\_\_\_\_  
 stucco scored as stone  
 weatherboard see photo  
 clapboard \_\_\_\_\_  
 board & batten \_\_\_\_\_  
 shingle \_\_\_\_\_  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

## b. Structural System

Quarried sand stone  
 masonry \_\_\_\_\_  
 frame \_\_\_\_\_  
 log \_\_\_\_\_  
 metal \_\_\_\_\_  
 other \_\_\_\_\_  
 foundation Stone

## c. Roofing Material

wood \_\_\_\_\_  
 metal X corr. & stand, seam  
 slate \_\_\_\_\_  
 tile \_\_\_\_\_  
 asphalt \_\_\_\_\_  
 composition \_\_\_\_\_  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

## d. Associated Structures (use/type):

outbuildings Spring house  
Kitchen/wash room (ruins)  
 dependencies \_\_\_\_\_  
 other Cemetery for the poor, 400'  
to the south

## e. Integrity (include dates):

original site/relocated Orig. site  
 alterations Stairs changed; upper S.  
windows converted to doors  
opening on added porch c. 1805

additions \_\_\_\_\_

## f. Condition:

excellent \_\_\_\_\_  
 good \_\_\_\_\_  
 fair X  
 deteriorated \_\_\_\_\_  
 abandoned \_\_\_\_\_

g. Threats: Maintenance neglect

## 10. SIGNIFICANCE (use additional sheet if necessary):

## a. Architect/Builder/Engineer:

## b. Style/Period:

c. Date(s): 1793-1805 (?)

Hampshire Co., W.V. Deed Book #14, p. 62-65.

Hampshire Co., W.V. Deed Book #9, p. 118.

## 11. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Mead, W. Old Churches, Ministers and Families of  
Virginia. (Philadelphia: J.P. Lippencott & Co.)

Peterkin, G. W. A History and Record of the Protestant Epi  
Episcopal Church In the Diocese of West Virginia. Charleston,  
 West Virginia: Tribune Co., 1902.

WPA: Historical Records Survey. "Inventory of the  
 Church Archives of West Virginia, Protestant Episcopal  
 Church." c. 1938.

## 12. FORM PREPARED BY

Eugene Williams

EUGENE W. WILLIAMS

visit 2-84, 9-84  
10 - 84

## a. Address

2 RIVER ROAD

## b. Organization

ROMNEY, WEST VA.

DATE

26757

### Hampshire Parish House/ The Poor House

This lot, number one, was first granted to Peter Kuykendall in 1749 by Lord Fairfax. Luke Decker bought the land in 1758 and his son, John, inherited it.

The stone house which stands on it long served as a poor house for Hampshire County. Its plan is unusual: none of the six ground floor rooms connect, each having one door opening to the porch. Upstairs there are six rooms as well, partitioned into two three-room wings. Access from downstairs was apparently by two sets of winding stairs (now gone).

All twelve<sup>rooms</sup> have a fireplace with mantle and one window opening North. Two rooms downstairs with more elaborate woodwork probably served a formal function.

In 1793 John Decker sold the land to the "Trustees of Hampshire Parish, in the county of Hampshire."

The formation of Hampshire County in 1753 included the formation of a Parish (of the Episcopal Church of England.) Anyone living in the county was automatically a member of the Parish, regardless of religious belief. This meant that in addition to taxes, all were liable to pay tithes to the Parish for support of the clergy.

The Vestry (later "Trustees") of the Parish, an elected body, served the function of today's police in the county. They also administered aid to the poor, and were empowered to purchase land and put up houses for the use of the clergy and the Parish.

It is possible then that the Parish Trustees, after buying this land, had the stone house built as a Parish house.

Land so owned by the Episcopal Church, bought with tithe money, were referred to as "Glebe lands". (It is noteworthy that this area is still locally called "the Glebe".)

In 1802 the Virginia General Assembly sought to dissolve any vestige of a state church. An Act was passed empowering the Overseers of the Poor in each county to sell the Glebe lands, when vacated.

The Hampshire County Overseers of the Poor, noting the "resignation and removal of the Rev. J.H. Reynolds", in 1805 sold the property to its former owner John Decker. He sold it back to the Overseers of the Poor that same day. Presumably soon after, it assumed its function as a poor house.

It is proposed that this is one of the last Parish houses put up by a Vestry of the "Established Church", and that it was built between the years of 1793 and 1805.

# WEST VIRGINIA ANTIQUITIES COMMISSION

## HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

| Inv | Res | Prep | Sub | Acc | Rej |
|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|

Please send completed forms to:  
 West Virginia Antiquities Commission  
 Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University  
 Morgantown, West Virginia 26506

|   |                   |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | NAME              | COMMON                                                                                  | HARMISON HOME                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|   |                   | and/or HISTORIC                                                                         | OLD COUNTY HOME, COUNTY POOR FARM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2 | LOCATION          | STREET & NUMBER                                                                         | 1/4 MILES SOUTH OF <del>PO</del> (COUNTY ROUTE B)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|   |                   | TOWN                                                                                    | ROMNEY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|   |                   | COUNTY                                                                                  | HAMPSHIRE COUNTY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3 | STATUS            | OWNER'S NAME                                                                            | JOHN DECKER HARMISON                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|   |                   | OWNER'S ADDRESS                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|   |                   | PROPERTY USE                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|   |                   | PUBLIC ACCESS                                                                           | YES: NO: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REMARKS:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 4 | LEGAL DESCRIPTION | COURTHOUSE AT WHICH RECORDED                                                            | HAMPSHIRE COUNTY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|   |                   | ADDRESS                                                                                 | ROMNEY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|   |                   | APPROX. ACREAGE                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 5 | SITE DESCRIPTION  | CONDITION                                                                               | GOOD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|   |                   | PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (include photograph if possible)                                   | THIS PROPERTY CONTAINS A TWO STORY PLASTERED STONE AND FRAME HOUSE. THERE ARE 12 ROOMS IN THE STONE SECTION. EACH ROOM HAS A DOOR TO THE OUT SIDE BUT NOT TO THE OTHER ROOMS. THE FRAME ADDITION HAS FIVE ROOMS WITH SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS. EACH ROOM IN THE STONE SECTION HAS A FIREPLACE. THE PLASTER COVERING THE EXTERIOR STONES IS ENGRAVED TO LOOK LIKE STONES PAINTED WHITE. ADJACENT BUILDINGS INCLUDE A STONE SPRING HOUSE, A BARN AND A LOG CORN CRIB.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 6 | SITE SIGNIFICANCE | TIME PERIOD                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|   |                   | STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE                                                               | THERE IS MUCH EVIDENCE OF PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION OF THIS SITE. A NUMBER OF POINTS, PIECES OF POTTERY AND OTHER ARTIFACTS HAVE BEEN FOUND NEAR THE HOUSE. THE FIRST HISTORIC ACCOUNT DEALING WITH THE SITE WAS IN RELATION TO THE FAIRFAX LANDS. THIS AREA WAS INCLUDED IN LOT NUMBER 1 AND WAS SURVEYED APRIL 8, 1748. THE SURVEY PARTY INCLUDED BOTH GEORGE WASHINGTON AND LORD FAIRFAX. THE SITE WAS REFERRED TO AS THE FAIRFAX MILL SITE OR RESERVE. THE FIRST SETTLER WAS PETER KUY KENDALL. IN 1753 LUKE DECKER BOUGHT THE PROPERTY AND PROBABLY BUILT THE STONE HOUSE. HE DIED IN 1767. THE COUNTY BOUGHT THE PROPERTY IN 1793 FOR A POOR FARM AND IT REMAINED SUCH UNTIL 1945. DURING THIS TIME THE COUNTY BUILT A FRAME ADDITION. IN 1945 THE PROPERTY WAS BOUGHT BY A MR. BOWMAN OF WHEELING. HARMISONS BOUGHT THE PROPERTY IN 1962 OR 1963. |
| 7 | MAP               | ROUGH MAP OF PROPERTY IN RELATION TO SURROUNDINGS (show route numbers and street names) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 8 | FORM PREPARED BY  | NAME                                                                                    | PHIL PITTS, RESEARCH ASSISTANT<br>West Virginia Antiquities Commission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|   |                   | ADDRESS                                                                                 | Morgantown, West Virginia 26506                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|   |                   | DATE                                                                                    | JANUARY 1976                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

# WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM

## CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME Harrison Home  
Romney Vic - Hampshire Co.

SITE # HM-0059

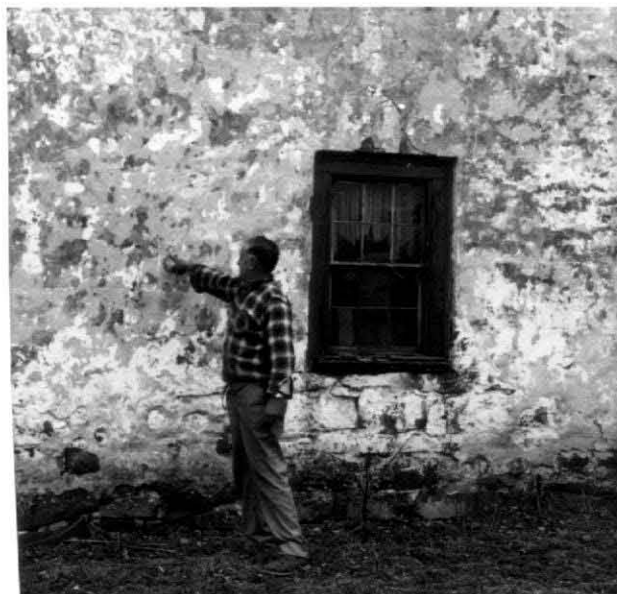


# WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM

## CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME Harrison House  
Romney Vicinity - Hampshire Co.

SITE # Hm-0059



# WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME Harrison House  
Romney Vicinity - Hampshire Co.

SITE # Hm-0059



# WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM

## CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME Harrison Harse  
Remnant of

SITE # Hm-0059



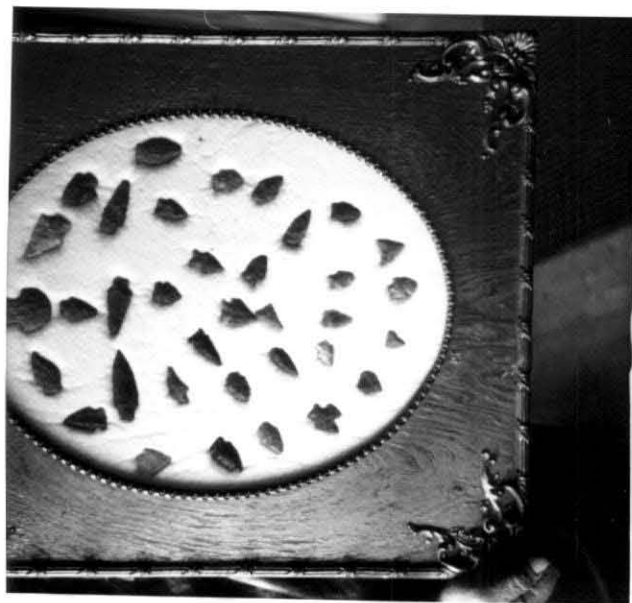
# WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM

## CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME Harrison Home

SITE # HM-0059

Bonney Vicinity - Hampshire Co.



WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM  
CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME Harrison Hume  
Barnes Vic - Hampshire Co.

SITE # HM-0059

