

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

RATING APR 82
CONTEXT Ex Set / M61

UTM Ref:

USGS Quad:

Neg. No.:

Theme(s):

File No:

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

HM-0069

1. NAME(S), historic/common: None assigned

Stone Fort

2. LOCATION, street/road: Aprx. 450' west of River Rd.
8 miles south of

city/town: Romney, WV
(incorporated/unincorporated)

3. USE/FUNCTION, present: Storage shed

(public/private,
restricted)

original: Settlers' fort during French
and Indian war (?)

4. OWNER/ADDRESS, present: C. Ellis Hood
Woodsboro, Maryland

(public/private)

original: ?

5. PHOTO/SKETCH OF:

7. PLAN (include approx. dimensions):

Attached

6. LOCALE/ENVIRONMENT(map):
No. 2a on map

8. ACREAGE (approx):
405 acres

Survey Region: _____
Planning District: _____

COUNTY: Hampshire

a. Exterior Fabric

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

b. Structural System

masonry _____
 frame _____
 log _____
 metal _____
 other 2 levels of hewn
joists, 7" & 10" above
floor. Stone
 foundation _____

c. Roofing Material

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

d. Associated Structures (use/type):

outbuildings _____

 dependencies _____

 other _____

e. Integrity (include dates):

original site/relocated Orig. site
 alterations South wall (chimney?)
removed, supposedly used in
house addition (West) chimney
Window added, gable of N. wall
 additions _____

f. Condition:

excellent _____
 good _____
 fair _____
 deteriorated X
 abandoned _____

g. Threats: Water draining from main house 48'
 away is pooling at north end of fort,
 causing collapse of corner. E wall

10. SIGNIFICANCE (use additional sheet if necessary):

a. Architect/Builder/Engineer:

unknown

b. Style/Period: NO stylec. Date(s): c. 1755-60 (?)

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Brannon, S. W. (Ed.). Historic Hampshire. Parsons, WV: McClain, 1976

12. FORM PREPARED BY

Eugene Williams

EUGENE H. WILLIAMS

a. Address

RIVER ROAD DATE 2-84

b. Organization

ROMNEY, WEST VA. 26257

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME Stone Fort

SITE # Ab 692 Hm-0069



"Stone Fort" at Van Meter House

Strong local tradition identifies this as a fort, built for defense against the French and Indians, circa 1755.

Its unusual tapering portholes, originally eighteen in all, support such a use, at least in plan. Other evidence is the lower level of joists which would permit use of the upper portholes. It is assumed that the taper of these portholes was to allow pivot space for a rifle. The hewn joists are haphazardly spaced, suggesting hasty construction. The upper ones are secured to the wall plates with iron dogs, driven in, another unusual feature.

It is obvious that from early in its life this building has functioned as a smokehouse; all joists hold forged meat hooks, and a hollowed-log meat-salting trough remains in place.

Possibly this building was built with a dual purpose in mind: that is, a meat house with double-functioning air vents/gun portholes, and a well-provisioned stronghold.