



Internal Rating: CE

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

Street Address 301 East Main Street Romney WV 26757	Common/Historic Name/Both ☐ ☒ ☐ The Arnold House	Field Survey #	Site # (SHPO Only) HM-0092
Town or Community Town of Romney	County Hampshire County	Negative No.	NR Listed Date
Architect/Builder Unknown	Date of Construction Early 1900's	Style Two story wood frame	
Exterior Siding/Materials Wood Clapboard Siding	Roofing Material Metal	Foundation Stacked Stone	
Property Use or Function Residence ☒ Commercial ☐ Other ☐	UTM#		
Survey Organization & Date ZMM	Quadrangle Name Romney Part of What Survey/FR# FR:18-368-HM-3 Hampshire County		

Photograph

(2" x 3" Contact)

HM-0092

Site No.

Present Owners WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Phone #: 304-822-4800	Owners Mailing Address 301 East Main Street Romney WV 26757
Describe Setting Surrounded by approximately 22 buildings on 79.6 acre campus of the WVSDb. Consist of wooded Areas connect to athletic field and two baseball diamonds. _____ 79 _____ Acres _____ Archaeological Artifacts Present	
Description of Building or Site (Original and Present) _____ 0 _____ Stories _____ 0 _____ Front Bays 3865 square foot, two story wooden residential structure building in the early 1900's. The structure includes an original building two story addition, and an attached boiler room with cellar. <i>(Use Continuation Sheets)</i>	
Alterations ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, describe – Roof has been replaced	
Additions ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, describe – The Seton Hall Dorm was connected to it in the 1950's	
Describe All Outbuildings Approximately 22 buildings on 79.6 acres, which consist of two residential homes, three schools and several other buildings utilized by the WVSDb <i>(Use Continuation Sheets)</i>	
Statement of Significance See Continuation Page <i>(Use Continuation Sheets)</i>	
Bibliographical References <i>(Use Continuation Sheets)</i>	
Form Prepared By: Monica Ritchie Date: May 11, 2018	
Name/Organization: West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Address: 301 East Main Street Romney WV 26757 Phone #: 304-822-4801	



West Virginia Division of Culture and History
 State Historic Preservation Office

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WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME The Arnold House SITE# HM-0092

The George Arnold House is a late 19th century residence on the WVSDb campus in Romney, West Virginia.

After many hours of research, the writer of this document was unable to establish the exact date the house was built only that it was built in the 1900's, but was unable to locate who initially built the house, Henry Gilkeson or George Arnold. E. M. Gilkeson conveyed this property to Henry B. Gilkeson, on September 3, 1888. The deed does not provide a description of the condition or age of any buildings located upon the 2.69 acres. In 1921, when Henry Gilkeson willed his property to his daughter, Laura Gilkeson Arnold it was uncertain if it was only the land, or if there was a dwelling already set. At the Circuit Clerk's Office, the writer could only verify when the land was willed, and it did not specify whether it had a dwelling on it.

Henry Bell Gilkeson, father of Laura Gilkeson Arnold, was born in Moorefield, Virginia (now West Virginia) in 1850, he was the eldest son of a dry goods merchant, and was raised in Romney. After graduation from Hampden-Sydney College, Gilkeson became a schoolteacher and served as a Superintendent of the Hampshire County School district from 1877-1879. Later he studied law and started his practice in Romney. In 1887, following the death of John Collins Covell (Principal of the WVSDb), Gilkeson served as the principal of the WVSDb until 1888. He served in the WV Legislature as a state Senator representing the 12th district in the WV Senate (1890-1893), and as a member of the WV House of Delegates (1883-1885 and 1909-1911). Gilkeson served as the Mayor of Romney beginning in 1885 and was the first President of the Bank of Romney from 1888-1913. Henry Gilkeson died in 1921 and willed the land to his daughter, Laura Gilkeson Arnold, wife of George Sloan Arnold, Jr.

George Sloan Arnold, Jr. was born on April 8, 1885; he was the son of George Sloan Arnold Sr. who is known as having one of the finest farms in the South Branch Valley. In 1980, George Sloan Arnold, Jr. bequeathed the \$1.5 million, George S. Arnold Trust to Hampden-Sydney College. Mr. Arnold shared his alma mater with his father-in-law, Henry Bell Gilkeson and his brother-in-law Robert William Gilkeson. At that time it was the largest amount given by a living person and the institutions second-largest gift in its 204-year history. Arnold gave the trust in honor of the Gilkeson family. This scholarship is still awarded today to worthy students who demonstrate financial need and academic excellence. Preference is given to students from Hampshire County, West Virginia.

In 1983, Mr. and Mrs. Charles See obtained the property from Mr. George S. Arnold, a relative of Mrs. See's. This property is the piece, which the WVSDb wished to acquire. In July 1984, Mr. and Mrs. See wrote a letter indicating they did not wish to sell at this time, but would be willing to enter into an agreement with the WV Board of Education that the board would have the right of first refusal when they decided to sell. The See family was unwilling to sell out of respect for Mr. Arnold who was 99 years old at the time and living in a nursing home. They did not wish to sell the property while he was alive. After Mr. Arnold's death in March 1986, Charles and Sally See agreed to sell to the WVSDb and at the May 9, 1986 meeting of the WV State Board of Education unanimously voted in agreement.

(**note: When researching I found that there were two George Sloan Arnolds, one was the father born in 1843, and the other his son born in 1885. All of the documentation I found, even in archives at the County Clerk's office never stated their names with a Jr. or Sr., I had to go by their birthdates. Even their headstones at Indian Mound Cemetery does not distinguish between the two. I added Jr. and Sr. to this report to prevent confusion).

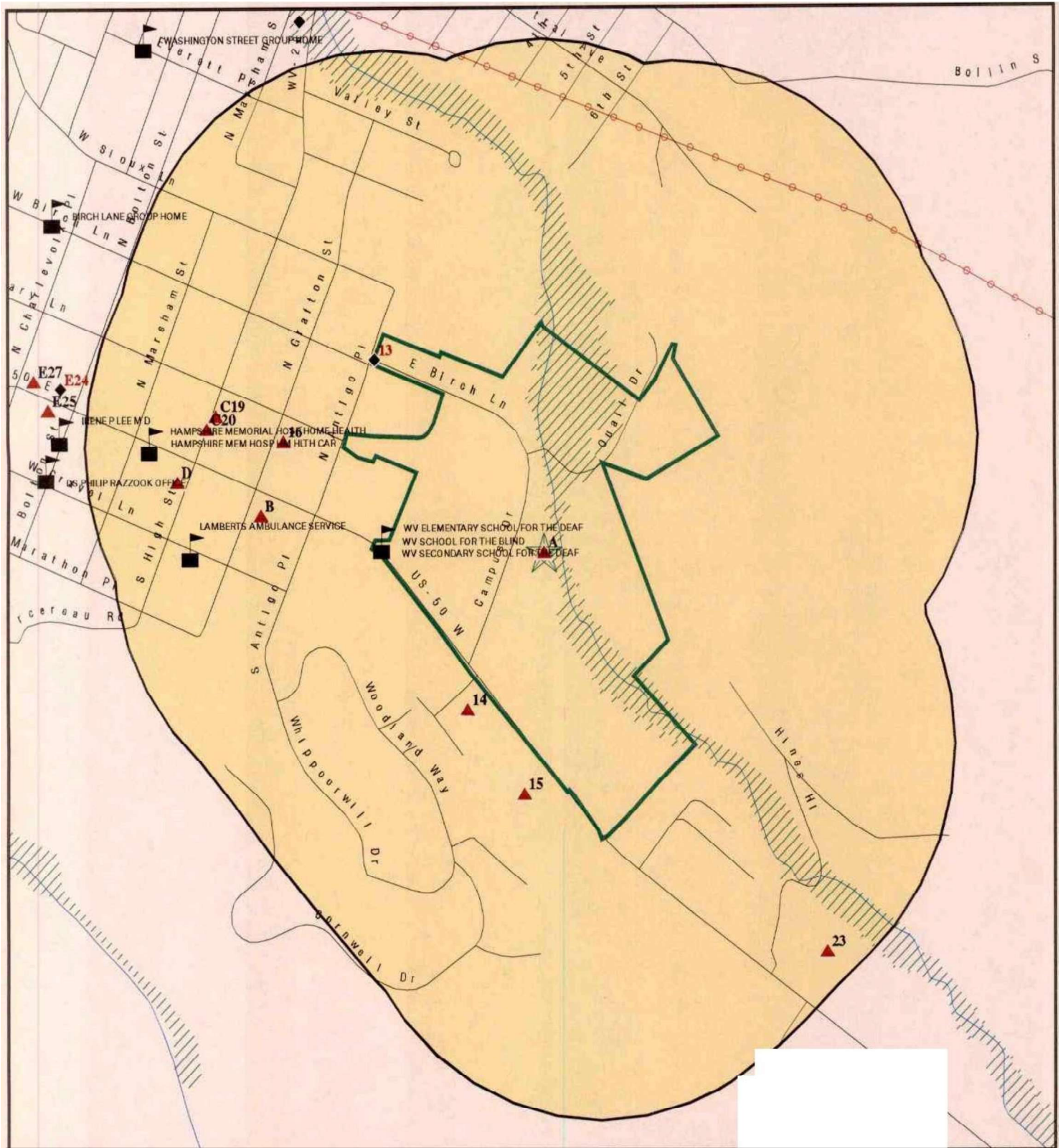


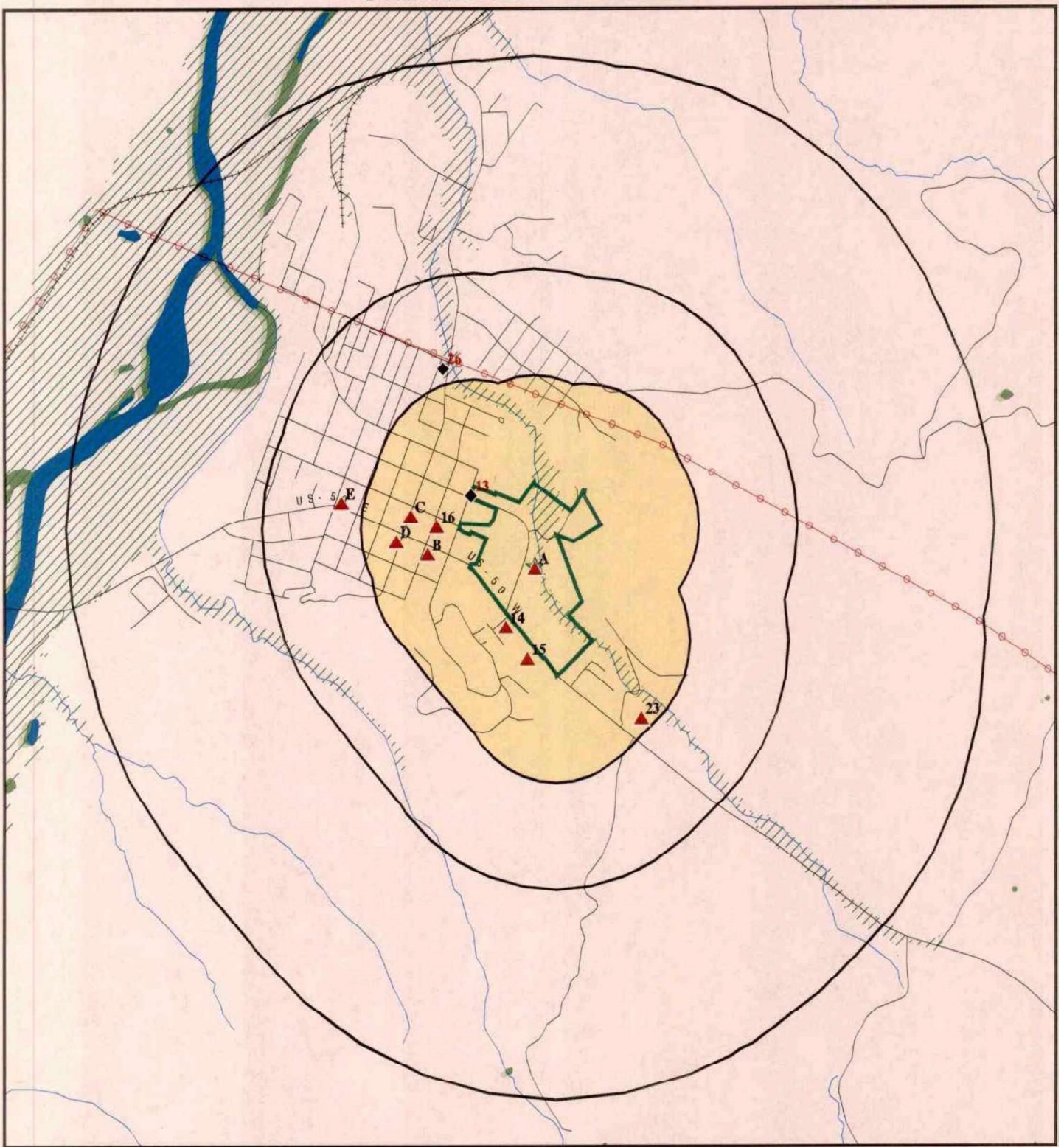














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Imagery Date: 9/26/2016 lat 39.343542° lon -78.752634° elev 812 ft eye alt 1212 ft

