



WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

HM-0098

STREET ADDRESS

US 50

Tax Parcel: Romney 26-6

COMMON/HISTORIC NAME

☐ Common ☒ Historic ☐ Both

Hamilton House

NO. IN SURVEY

039-H-Hm33

NO. OF BAYS

3

1

FRONT

SIDE

TOWN OR COMMUNITY

Romney

COUNTY

Hampshire

NEGATIVE NO.

NOT VISIBLE
FROM ROAD



ARCHITECT/BUILDER

Unknown

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1834-1848

EXTERIOR BUILDING FABRIC

Aluminum; Weatherboard

STORIES

2

DATE

NAT. REGISTER LISTED

STATE REGISTER LISTED

ROOFING MATERIAL

Asphalt Shingles

STYLE (STAFF USE ONLY)

Greek Revival

PROPERTY USE OR FUNCTION

Single Dwelling (Current)

Single Dwelling (Historic)

TYPE OF FOUNDATION

Continuous Stone

QUADRANGLE NAME

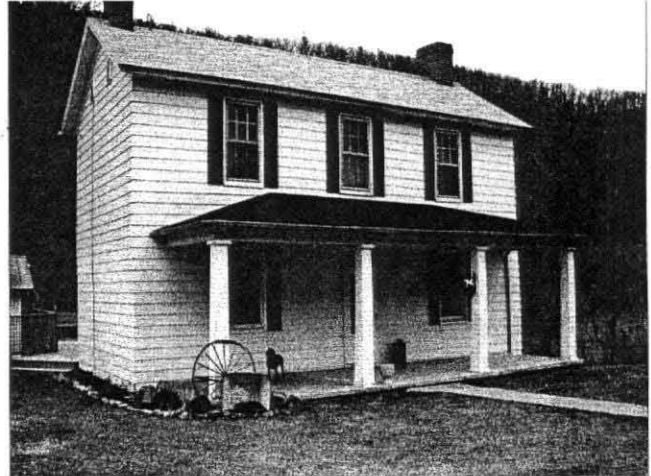
Romney

SURVEY ORGANIZATION

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
5088 West Washington
Second Floor
Charleston, WV 25313

PART OF WHAT SURVEY

Romney Core Run Road



DATE 03/23/1999

SITE NO.

PRESENT OWNER

Richard & Carmen Davis

OWNER ADDRESS**GENERAL CONDITION OF PROPERTY**

Stable

ADDITIONS**IF YES, DESCRIBE**☒ Yes ☐ No**ALTERATIONS****IF YES, DESCRIBE**☒ Yes ☐ No See continuation sheet**NO. AND NATURE OF OUTBUILDINGS**

See continuation sheet

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY (ORIGINAL AND PRESENT)

See continuation sheet

HISTORIC/CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

See continuation sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

FORM PREPARED BY

Cultural Resources Section

DATE

2/21/00

ADDRESS

Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. 550E
West Washington Second
Floor Charleston, WV
25313

HAMILTON HOUSE (039-H-Hm-33)

Number and Nature of Outbuildings

There are three outbuildings on the property. A large frame barn is located about 235 feet to the south of the house. An icehouse/dairy is on the north side of the house. The barn and the icehouse were built after the Civil War. A modern two-car frame garage is about 110 feet north of the house, in the area that was previously the orchard.

Resource Description

The resource is a single-family dwelling located on the south side of Highway 50. It is a two-story frame I-house with a two-story rear ell with an enclosed porch on the north. Measuring three bays wide by one bay deep, it rests on a continuous foundation of stone. The resource is clad with aluminum and weatherboard siding; its side-gabled roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The six-over-six light, double-hung windows are original. A one-story three-quarter-width hipped-roof porch supported by four Doric-styled square columns is centered on the front elevation. There are several Greek Revival stylistic details. These consist of the low pitch of the roof, the hipped-roof porch with supporting square posts, six-over-six windows and the transom over the front door.

Historical/Cultural Significance

Historical research indicates that the resource was built between 1834 and 1850.

The Greek Revival style was most popular from 1830 to 1865. Besides the external characteristics, the Hamilton House interior features the center hall layout and a Greek Revival fireplace on which "post and lintel form in a simple mimicry of Greek construction" (Southern 1978:78).

Isaac Means, who built the gristmill on the property, lived in a manor house on the west side of Mechanicsburg Gap (Brannon 1976:406). In his will he listed the mill property separately from his plantations. In November 1834 Ephraim Means, then residing in Ohio, conveyed the property "lying on Mill Creek... the same tract whereon the grist mill now stands" (HCDB 30:50) to Charles Caldwell for \$200. In 1846, after a chancery court suit, Hampshire County Sheriff Vance Fox conveyed the entire mill and 100 acres to Samuel Caldwell for \$425 (HCDB 39:505).

He in turn sold the "tract of land... on Mill Creek... with the mill and other improvements thereon containing 100 acres" to Robert Cummins in 1848 for \$650 (HCDB 43:314). The house could have been the improvement mentioned, particularly because the assessed value increased \$225 in only two years. In 1851 the one hundred-acre parcel had as assessed value of \$2000, \$1800 of which was for buildings. A notation stated "\$1600 added for building." Because there were four millwrights living at the house in 1850, it can be assumed that at least some part of the \$1600 increase was for mill improvements. There are no extant land books earlier than 1851. The assessment was the same from 1854 to 1860 (HCLB 1851, 1854-1860).

The house was featured in two accounts of Civil War skirmishes in the area. In the 1897 *History of Hampshire County*, Maxwell stated that the house was hit by a cannonball in the Battle of Hanging Rocks Pass in September of 1861. In *Elwood's Stories of the Old Ringgold*

**CONTINUATION
SHEET**

Cavalry, 1847-1865, the author stated that the incident occurred in the October 25, 1861 action. Both accounts state that the house was hit by Confederate artillery firing from the cemetery about a mile and a half north of the house. The six-pound ball struck between two boards, which cracked but did not break from the impact. None of the subsequent owners of the dwelling repaired the damage.

The structure is illustrated in the center of an 1863 lithograph of a Union encampment that surrounded the house, showing that the two-story porch on the rear ell, where the cannonball hit, was not enclosed. The barn and icehouse are not in the picture; there is one small shed outside the fence and one or two (one could be a shed or a tent) inside, but it is not known if they are associated with the house or the encampment. The house was likely used as the camp headquarters; in the lithograph the officers' tents were near the house. Metal detection has located officers' accoutrements near the house (Wolford 1999 personal communication).

In 1877, after another chancery suit, the heirs of Robert Cummins sold the land to W. V. Herriot. A survey was done in conjunction with this transaction; the parcel totaled 134 acres (HCDB 58:146-147). In 1897 the 134 acre parcel was conveyed to William Taylor (HCDB 72:31), who then willed the property to his daughter Clyde T. Wirgman in 1899 (HCWB 22:532). She in turn conveyed the part of the Herriot land on the east side of the Northwest Grade to George R. Hamilton in 1904 (HCDB 78:257-258). In 1994 the heirs of George R. Hamilton sold the 22 acres to Richard and Carmen Davis, who are the current owners of record (HCDB 354:679).

National Register Eligibility Assessment

The resource was evaluated under the Criteria of Evaluation for the National Register of Historic Places. It was found to be *not eligible* because of loss of integrity. Several alterations have occurred: the front and sides of the resource have been covered with aluminum siding, the roof now has asphalt shingles, and a deck was constructed on the left side of the house.

Bibliographic References

Brannon, S. W.

1976 *Historic Hampshire: A Symposium of Hampshire County and Its People, Past and Present*. McClain Printing Company, Parsons, West Virginia.

Elwood, J. W.

1914 *Elwood's Stories of the Old Ringgold Cavalry, 1847-1865: The First Three Year Cavalry of the Civil War*. J. W. Elwood, Coal Center, Pennsylvania.

Gray, L.

1863 *Camps of the 4th Brigade 1st Division 8th Army Corps near Romney, Virginia*. Kreb & Bro, Lithographers, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Hampshire County Land Records

Hampshire County Deed Books

Hampshire County Land Books

Hampshire County Will Books

CONTINUATION
SHEET

Maxwell, H. and H. L. Swisher

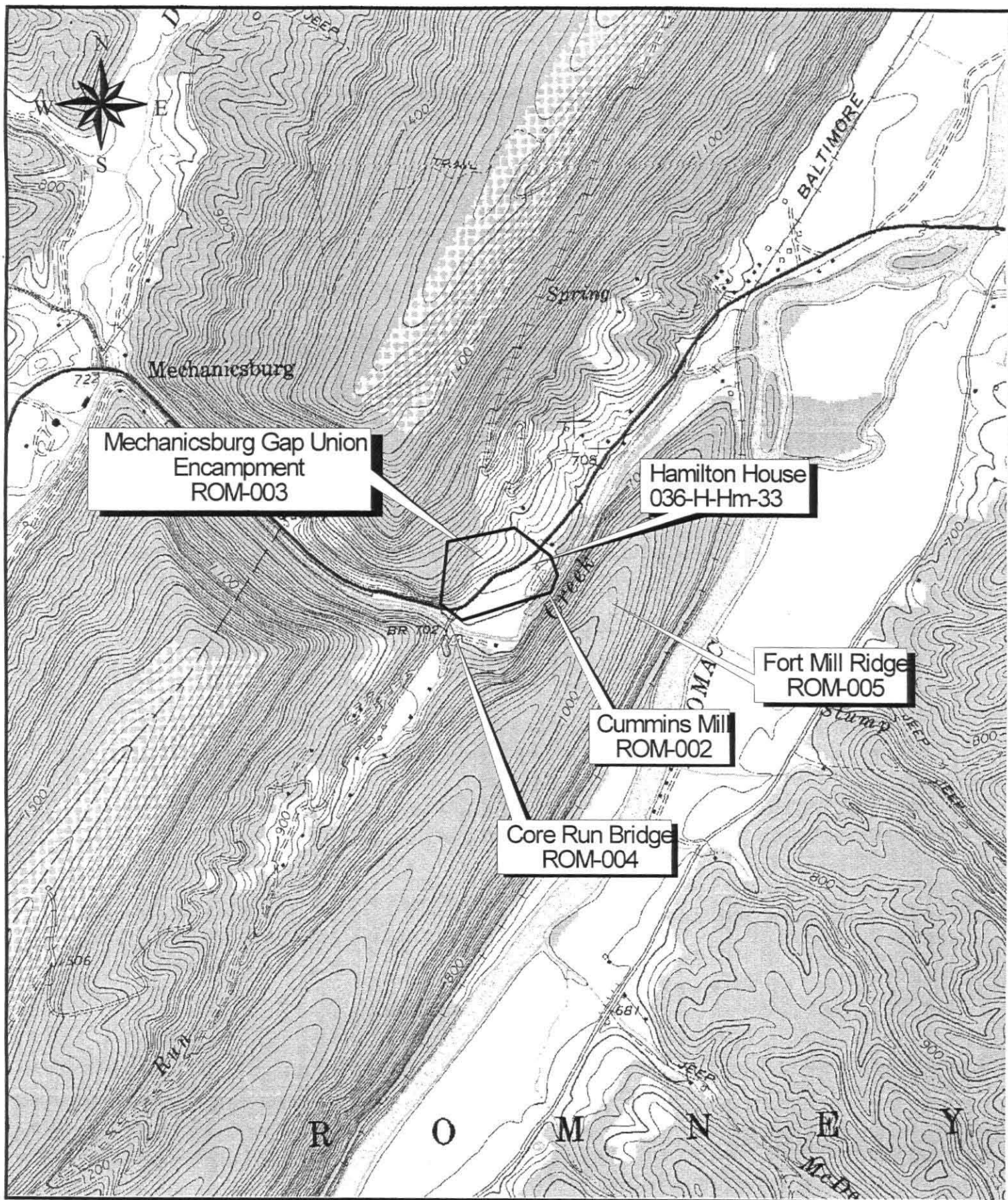
1897 *History of Hampshire County, West Virginia, from Its Earliest Settlement to the Present.*
A. Brown Boughner, Printer, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Southern, M.

1978 "The I-House as a Carrier of Style in Three Counties of the Northeastern Piedmont,"
pp 70-84 in *Carolina Dwelling: Towards Preservation of Place: In Celebration of the North*
Carolina Vernacular Landscape, edited by D. Swain. North Carolina State University
Press, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Wolford, R.

1999 Personal communication.

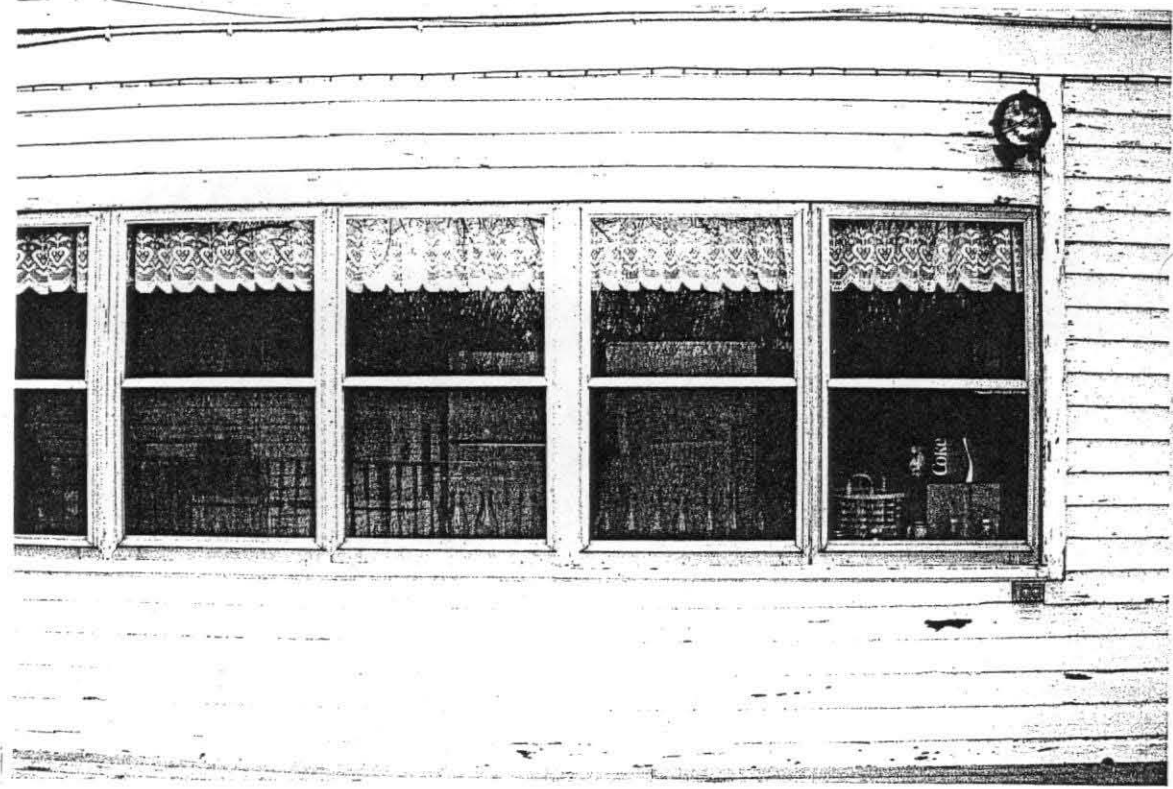


**Location of Historic Resources in the
US 50 Project Area near Romney, WV**

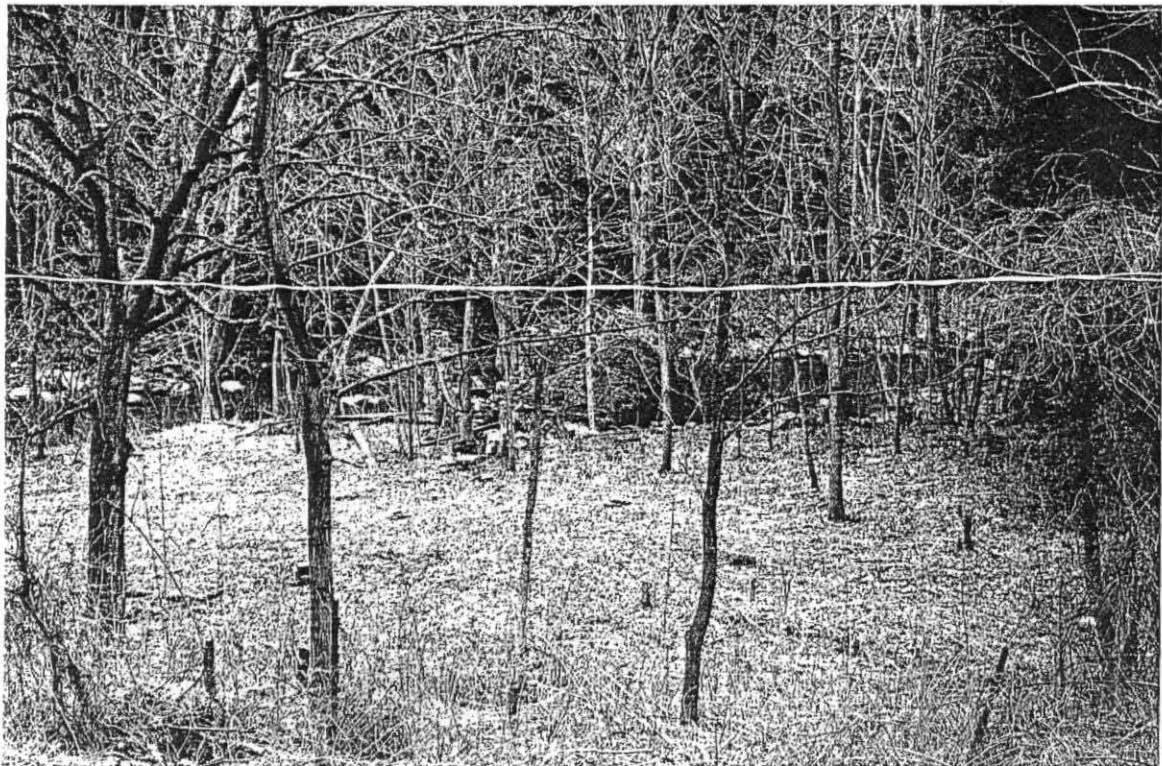
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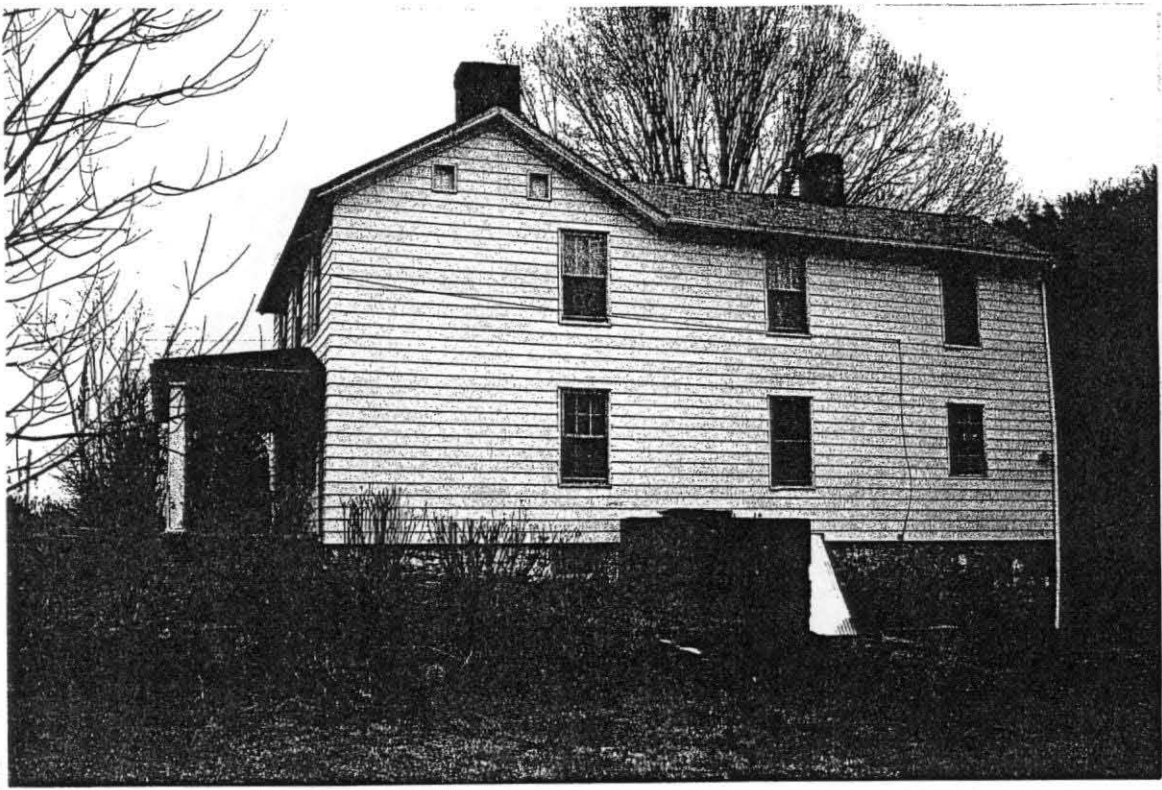


Hamilton House (039-H-Hm-33)
Enclosed porch, facing south

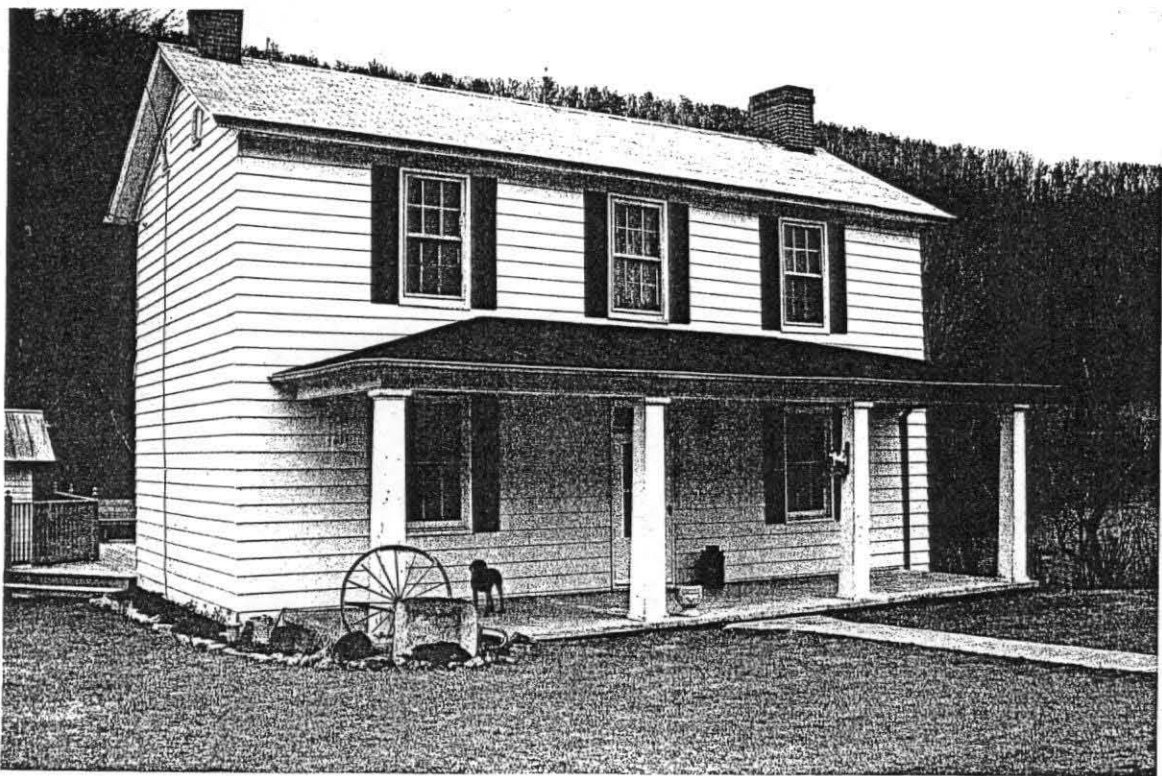


Cummins' Mill (ROM-003)
View of mill from Hamilton House,
facing southeast





Hamilton House (039-I-Hm-33)
South elevation, facing northwest



Hamilton House (039-I-Hm-33)
Front façade, facing southeast