



Internal Rating: _____

106 Rating: CE
FR# 03-08HM

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

Street Address US Route 50	Common ☐ /Historic Name/ ☒ Both ☐ Northwestern Turnpike	Field Survey # 00011	Site # (SHPO Only) HM-0112
Town or Community Romney	County Hampshire	Negative No. Roll 1, Frame 28	NR Listed Date
Architect/Builder	Date of Construction 1837	Style	
Exterior Siding/Materials	Roofing Material	Foundation	
Property Use or Function Residence ☐ Commercial ☐ Other ☒ Roadway	UTM Zone 17 E691977 N4356588		
Survey Organization & Date GAI Consultants, Inc. March 21, 2002	Quadrangle Name Romney		
	Part of What Survey/FR# Romney Bridge Replacement		

Sketch Map of Property
or Attach Copy of USGS Map



SITE NO.
00011

Present Owners Phone # _____	Owners Mailing Address
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Describe Setting A portion of the Northwestern Turnpike roadbed runs between Romney and the South Branch of the Potomac River crossing. The setting varies from a built-up town setting in Romney to rural near the river crossing.	_____ Acres <u>N/A</u> Archaeological Artifacts Present
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Description of Buildings or Site (Original and Present) See Continuation Sheet	_____ Stories _____ Front Bays (Use Continuation Sheets)
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Alterations ☒ Yes ☐ No	If yes, describe See Continuation Sheet
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Additions ☐ Yes ☒ No	If yes, describe
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Describe All Outbuildings 	(Use Continuation Sheets)
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Statement of Significance See Continuation Sheet	(Use Continuation Sheets)
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Bibliographical References <i>History of Bridges Across the South Branch on the Northwestern Turnpike (US Route 50), Hampshire County</i> by Brenda Kitzmiller (1991).	(Use Continuation Sheets)
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Form Prepared By: <u>Geoffrey B. Henry and A. Renee Sobota</u>	Date <u>May 1, 2002</u>
Name/Organization: <u>GAI Consultants, Inc.</u>	
Address: <u>570 Beatty Road, Monroeville PA 15146</u>	
Phone #: <u>412-856-6400</u>	

West Virginia Historic Property Form
Continuation Sheet

Name

Northwestern Turnpike

Field Survey #

00011

Description The Northwestern Turnpike was built beginning in the early 1830s between Winchester, Virginia and Parkersburg, (West) Virginia. The route of present-day US Route 50 follows the general alignment of the historic turnpike, although significant sections have been straightened, widened and/or rerouted over the years. **A portion of the original roadway, including switchbacks, runs west of the Mt. Pisgah cemetery southwest of Romney.**

Alterations/Additions As built, the Northwestern Turnpike descended by way of switchbacks southwest of Romney, veered to the west, and then crossed the South Branch of the Potomac River at a location 300 feet upstream from the present Romney Bridge. The river crossing was altered in 1874 when a new bridge was built to replace the previous bridge burned during the Civil War. USGS Quad maps from the 1920s show the switchbacks still in place. The portion of Route 50 between Romney and the Romney Bridge was realigned and straightened sometime thereafter and the switchbacks eliminated. The bridge approach was widened and straightened when the present Romney Bridge was constructed in 1936-1937.

NRHP Evaluation The Northwestern Turnpike is associated with the development of the antebellum Virginia turnpike system. However, the original turnpike route and roadbed between Romney and the South Branch of the Potomac River have been widened, paved, straightened and realigned and the river crossing has been shifted downstream. A small surviving section of the Northwestern Turnpike remains from a point east of the Mt. Pisgah Benevolence Cemetery to a point west of the West Virginia State Highway Garage, and contains a switchback that historically brought the road into the floodplain of the South Branch of the Potomac River from Romney. This small extant piece of the Northwestern Turnpike is recommended NRHP-eligible under Criterion A as a contributing section to the historic Turnpike route, which crosses West Virginia. The Northwestern Turnpike is not associated with an individual significant on the national, state, or local level and is not NRHP-eligible under Criterion B. The Northwestern Turnpike does not embody the distinctive features of a style, period, or method of construction and is not NRHP-eligible under Criterion C.

ATTACHMENT: USGS 7.5-Minute Romney, WV Quadrangle (1973, Photorevised in 1979) - Location of Northwest Turnpike