

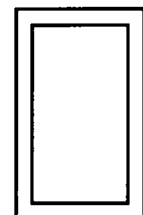


Internal Rating: _____

106 Romney: NE
FR# 03-8-HM

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

Street Address River Road at South Branch of the Potomac River	Common ☒ /Historic Name/ ☐ Both ☐ Old Romney Bridge Abutment	Field Survey # 00012	Site # (SHPO Only) HM-0113
Town or Community Romney	County Hampshire	Negative No.	NR Listed Date
Architect/Builder	Date of Construction Uncertain. May be associated with 1805, 1839-1841, or 1873-1874 bridges at this location	Style	
Exterior Siding/Materials	Roofing Material	Foundation Stone	
Property Use or Function Residence ☐ Commercial ☐ Other ☒ Bridge	UTM Zone 17 E691774 N4356384		
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 MapSITE NO.
00012

Present Owners Eugene H. Williams Phone #	Owners Mailing Address Box 2 River Road Romney, WV 26757
---	--

Describe Setting _____ .5 Acres N/A Archaeological Artifacts Present

The Old Romney Bridge Abutment is located 200 feet west of River Road approximately 1 mile south of Romney in a rural section of Hampshire County. The abutment stands along the east bank of the South Branch of the Potomac River and is surrounded by agricultural lands.

Description of Buildings or Site (Original and Present) _____ Stories _____ Front Bays

See Continuation Sheet

(Use Continuation Sheets)

Alterations If yes, describe

☒ Yes
☐ No

Additions If yes, describe

☐ Yes
☒ No

Describe All Outbuildings

(Use Continuation Sheets)

Statement of Significance

See Continuation Sheet

(Use Continuation Sheets)

Bibliographical References

History of Bridges Across the South Branch on the Northwestern Turnpike (US Route 50), Hampshire County by Brenda Kitzmiller (1991).

(Use Continuation Sheets)

Form Prepared By: Geoffrey B. Henry and A. Renee Sobota Date May 1, 2002

Name/Organization: GAI Consultants, Inc.

Address: 570 Beatty Road, Monroeville, PA 15146

Phone #: 412-856-6400

Name

Old Romney Bridge Abutment

Field Survey #

00012

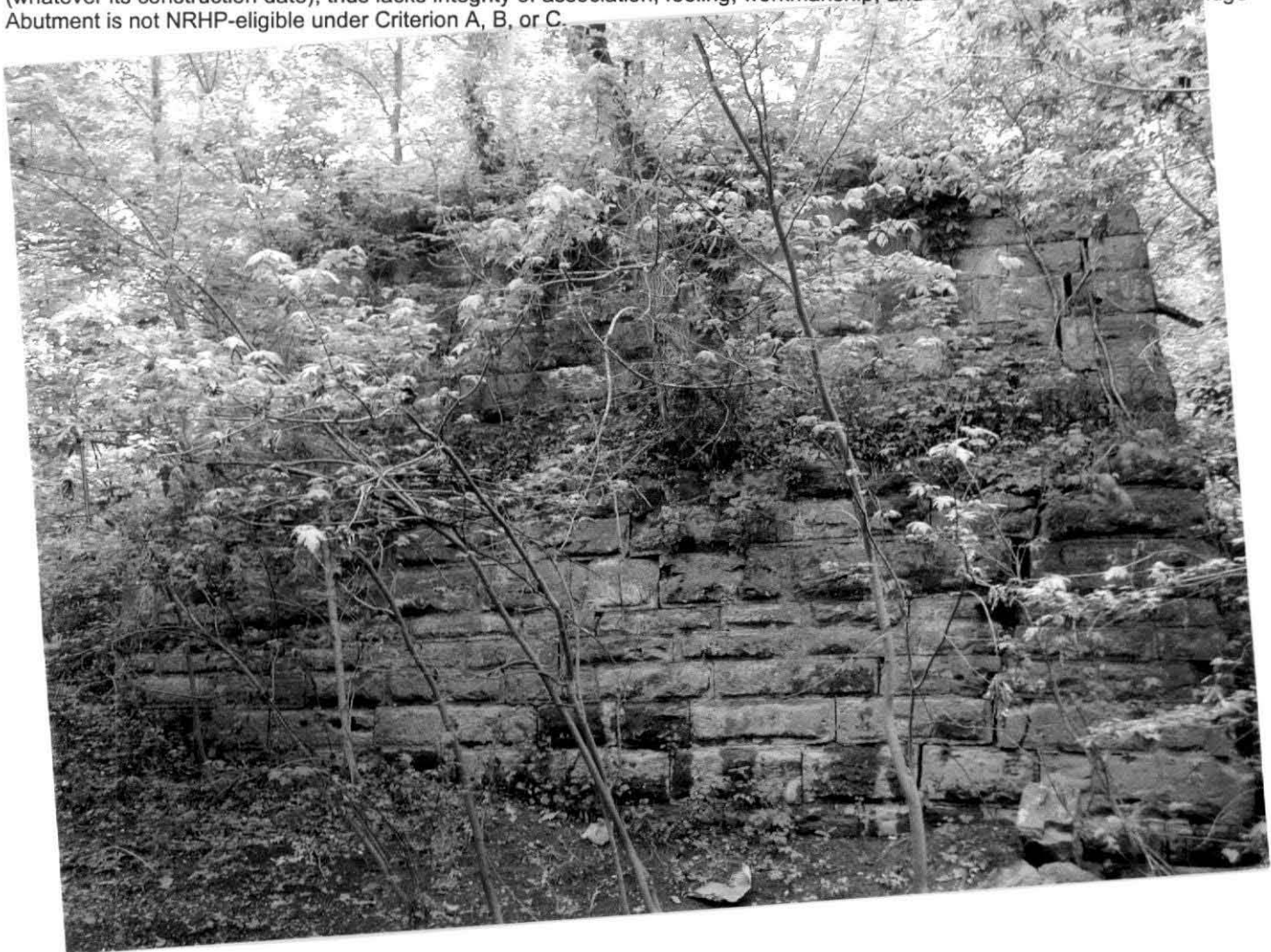
HISTORY

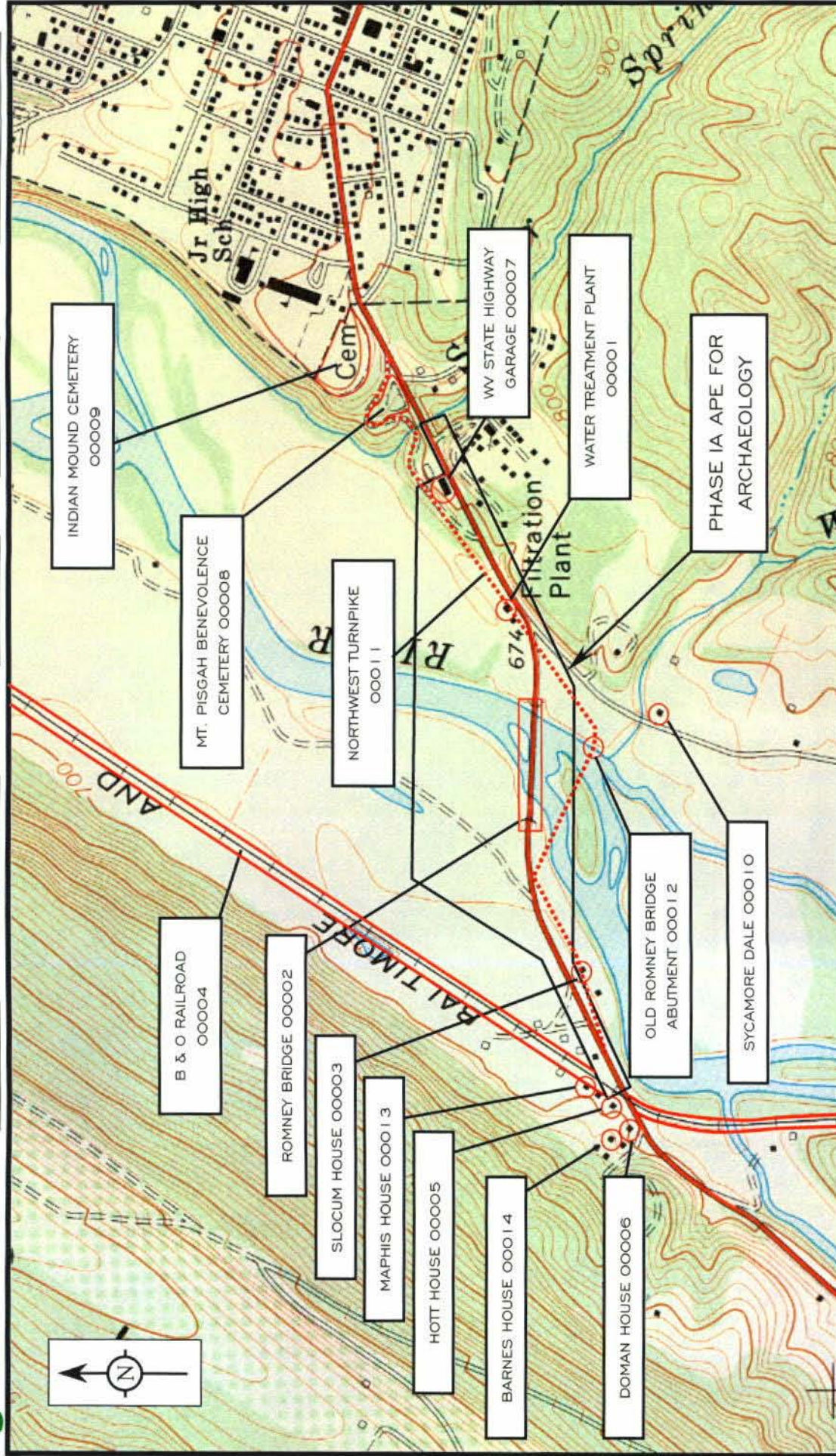
The current river crossing was formerly known as Parson's Ferry, after David Parsons who ran the ferry at this location in the late 1700s. In 1805, the Virginia General Assembly passed an "Act Incorporating a Company to Build a Toll Bridge over the South Branch of the Potowmak (sic) River" on the land of David Parsons (Kitzmiller 1991: 3). No information is known on the appearance of this first bridge. In 1831, engineer Claudius Crozet recorded his plans for the construction of a new bridge at this location as part of the Northwestern Turnpike. In 1838, the General Assembly authorized the Northwestern Turnpike Company to contract for the rebuilding of the bridge across the South Branch. (Kitzmiller 1991: 4). The bridge was reconstructed sometime between 1839 and 1841. General Lew Wallace's Union troops crossed the South Branch bridge during their raid on Romney on 12 June 1861, during which they encountered Confederate sniper fire coming from Sycamore Dale. This raid and the covered bridge are depicted in a contemporary lithograph. On 2 February 1862, troops under General Loring burned the bridge.

In 1874, a new bridge, this one a Whipple-Murphy metal truss bridge, was completed at a location at or near the 1841 bridge. The abutment may be the remainder of this bridge which was destroyed by the flood of 1936. It was replaced in 1936-1937 by the present bridge, an eight-span, pony truss/camelback bridge.

NRHP EVALUATION

This crumbling and deteriorated stone bridge abutment does not convey the bridge's historical significance, an essential definition of the concept of integrity. A single bridge abutment cannot stand for an entire bridge. The remains of the former Romney Bridge (whatever its construction date), thus lacks integrity of association, feeling, workmanship, and design. The Old Romney Bridge Abutment is not NRHP-eligible under Criterion A, B, or C.





LEGEND

..... = NORTHWESTERN TURNPIKE ROUTE

SCALE



FIGURE 1

LOCATIONS OF ARCHITECTURAL
RESOURCES INVENTORIED FOR
ROMNEY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

SOURCE: USGS 7.5-MINUTE ROMNEY, WV QUADRANGLE (1973,
PHOTOREVISED IN 1979)