



WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

Address Rt. 50	Common/Historic Name/Both ☐ ☐ ☐ Old Rt. 50 bridge over South Branch River	Field Survey # HM-1259	Site # (SHPO Only) see also HM-0105
Town or Community Vanderlip vicinity	County Hampshire	Negative No. WV_Hampshire County_HM-1259.tif	NR Listed Date
Architect/Builder WV DOH	Date of Construction Circa 1936	Style Bow truss bridge	
Exterior Siding/Materials Metal	Roofing Material Metal	Foundation Stone/concrete	
Property Use or Function Residence ☐ Commercial ☐ Other ☒ Bridge	NAD 83 UTM# 17S 0691690E/ 4356760N		
Survey Organization & Date Rasmussen and Rasmussen Fall 2010	Quadrangle Name Romney		
	Part of What Survey Hampshire County		

Sketch Map of Property
Or Attach Copy of USGS Map

Site No.

Present Owners WV Department of Highways Phone #	Owners Mailing Address
Describe Setting Bridge spans South Branch of the Potomac River on U.S. Rt. 50, and has been replaced by a newer bridge. _____ Acres _____ Artifacts Present	
Description of Building or Site (Original and Present) N/A Stories ___ N/A ___ Front Bays <i>(Use Continuation Sheets)</i>	
Alterations ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, describe	
Additions ☐ Yes ☒ No	
Describe All Outbuildings N/A <i>(Use Continuation Sheets)</i>	
Statement of Significance Threatened by demolition, noncontributing <i>(Use Continuation Sheets)</i>	
Bibliographical References <i>(Use Continuation Sheets)</i>	
Form Prepared By: Barbara Rasmussen Date: November 10, 2010 Address: 224 Wilson Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26501 Phone #: (304) 292 7652	



West Virginia Division of Culture and History
 State Historic Preservation Office

This program receives federal funds from the National Park Service. Regulations of the U. S. Department of the Interior prohibit unlawful discrimination in department Federally Assisted Programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of Federal Assistance should write to: Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.



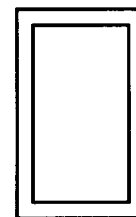
Internal Rating: _____

Romney

**WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY
INVENTORY FORM**

see also HM-1259

Street Address US Route 50	Common ☐ /Historic Name/ ☐ Both ☒ Romney Bridge	Field Survey # 00002	Site # (SHPO Only) HM-0105
Town or Community Romney	County Hampshire	Negative No. Roll 1, Frames 5-7	NR Listed Date
Architect/Builder E.R. Mills of Charleston and J.M. Francesca & Company of Fayetteville	Date of Construction 1936	Style Camel-back, pony truss	
Exterior Siding/Materials Steel	Roofing Material	Foundation Concrete	
Property Use or Function Residence ☐ Commercial ☐ Other ☒ Bridge	UTM Zone 17 E691754 N4356547		
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.
00002

Present Owners WVDOH Phone #	Owners Mailing Address
--	------------------------

Describe Setting The Romney Bridge is located along US Route 50, 0.7 miles southwest of Romney in a rural section of Hampshire County. The bridge crosses the South Branch of the Potomac River and is surrounded by bottom land, primarily vacant fields. There are scattered residences within the bridge view shed.	Acres <u>N/A</u>	Archaeological Artifacts Present
---	------------------	----------------------------------

Description of Buildings or Site (Original and Present) See Continuation Sheet	Stories	Front Bays
(Use Continuation Sheets)		

Alterations ☒ Yes ☐ No	If yes, describe See Continuation Sheet
--	--

Additions ☐ Yes ☒ No	If yes, describe
--	------------------

Describe All Outbuildings None
(Use Continuation Sheets)

Statement of Significance See Continuation Sheet
(Use Continuation Sheets)

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)

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>	

Name

Romney Bridge

Field Survey #

00002

Description The Romney Bridge (WVDOH Bridge No. 14-50-7.23) carries two-lane US Route 50 over the South Branch of the Potomac River. The bridge superstructure consists of eight spans. Spans 1 and 8 are simple wide flange beams measuring 50 feet. Span 2 is a simple riveted camel-back, through-truss span measuring 180 feet. Spans 3 through 7 are simple riveted pony truss spans measuring 100 feet. The overall length of the structure is 795 feet, four inches from out to out of back walls. The bridge is supported on reinforced concrete substructure units that are either founded atop or partially into shale. The abutments are designated as full-height open units. The seven piers are designated as two column bents or open piers with a partial web wall. The bridge has a 31 foot-wide reinforced concrete deck. There is a 5-foot-wide reinforced concrete sidewalk located along the upstream side, supported by brackets and additional stringers. The truss members in spans 2 through 7 serve as protection along the roadway.

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 1839-1841 bridge. This in turn was replaced in 1936-1937 by the present bridge, an eight-span, pony truss/camelback bridge. The Romney Bridge superstructure units were built by E.R. Mills of Charleston and the substructure by J.M. Francesca & Company of Fayetteville. The steel superstructure was manufactured at Bethlehem Steel in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Alterations/Additions The Romney Bridge, built in 1936-1937, has been repaired and altered extensively over the last 20 years. According to WVDOH inspection reports from 1991 and 2001, the expansion assemblies over the piers have been repaired numerous times. In 1989 the expansion assembly over pier 4 was replaced and in 1990 the expansion assembly was replaced over pier 3. In 1997, the portal and intermediate bracing of span 2 was raised. Also in 1997, the original deck was removed between stringers 1 and 2 and between stringers 6 and 7 in each of the eight spans. In early 1998, strengthening repair plates were welded to the inside channel of the lower chord upstream. Major renovations were performed to the Romney Bridge in 1999. New abutment back walls were poured, 38 exterior stringers and 18 interior stringers were replaced, lower lateral ends and correction plates were replaced, and new cantilever beams were installed. Exterior deck bays were replaced for the entire length of the bridge. New strengthening plates were welded to the web area of stringers 1 and 3 of span 2. New floor beam strengthening tiers also were installed on each pier cap.

NRHP Evaluation The Romney Bridge is not associated with an historical event or series of events significant on the national, state, or local level and is not NRHP-eligible under Criterion A. The 1839-1841 covered bridge at Romney was associated with the raid on Romney in June 1861, but this bridge was burned during the Civil War and none of it is incorporated in the present bridge. The Romney Bridge is not associated with an individual significant on the national, state, or local level and is not NRHP-eligible under Criterion B. The Romney Bridge is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C as a pony truss/camelback bridge completed to the design of E.R. Mills of Charleston, with the substructure by J.M. Francesca of Fayetteville.

West Virginia Historic Property Form
Continuation Sheet

Name

Romney Bridge

Field Survey #

00002



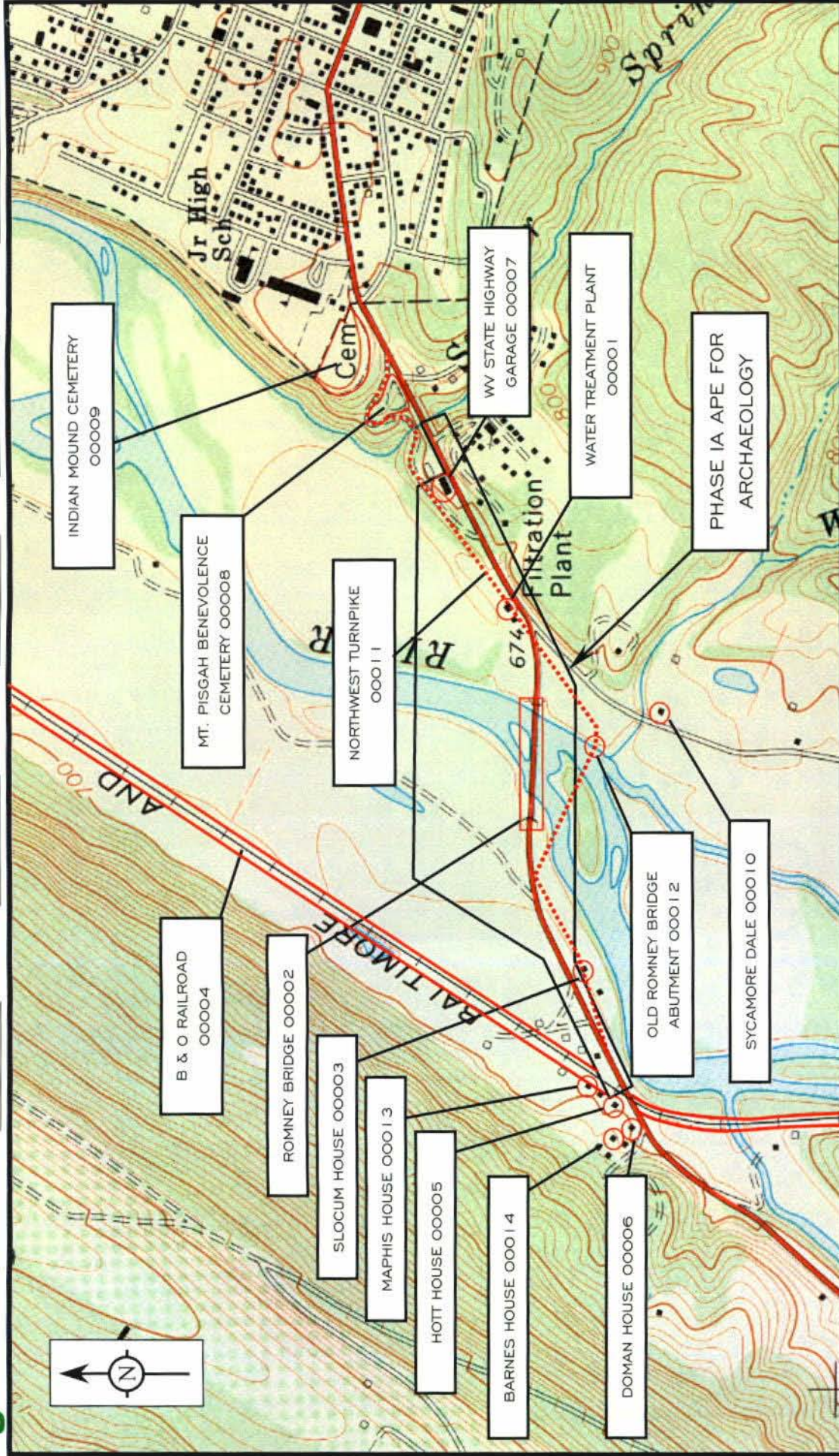


FIGURE 1

LEGEND
 = NORTHWESTERN TURNPIKE ROUTE
 SCALE
 0 1000 FT

LOCATIONS OF ARCHITECTURAL
 RESOURCES INVENTORIED FOR
 ROMNEY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

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