

Internal Rating: CE (crit. A, C)
10/17/22

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

Street Address 24350 Northwestern Pike Romney, WV 26757 (Route 50)	Common/Historic Name/Both ☐ ☐ ☒ Koolwink Motel	Field Survey #	Site # (SHPO Only) HM-1430
Town or Community Romney, WV	County Hampshire	Negative No.	NR Listed Date
Architect/Builder Wallace H. Mauk	Date of Construction Residence/Office 1800's Rooms Built 1956 to 1969	Style	
Exterior Siding/Materials House/Office - Asbestos Siding Motel Buildings - Brick/Wood Trim Wood Siding	Roofing Material Residence/Office - Standing Seam Metal, Motel Buildings - (2) Asphalt Shingles and (2) Rubber Roof	Foundation Residence/Office - Stone Lower/Upper Buildings - Cinder Block	
Property Use or Function Residence ☐ Commercial ☒ Other ☐	UTM#	Photograph (2" x 3" Contact)	
Survey Organization & Date	Quadrangle Name		
	Part of What Survey/FR#		

Sketch Map of Property
Or Attach Copy of USGS Map



Site No.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME – Koolwink Motel - Description of Setting – Attachment “A”

SITE #

Description of Setting:

The Koolwink Motel is located one mile West of Romney in Hampshire County, West Virginia. Although its address on Northwestern Pike is part of US Route 50, the motel is nestled into a section just off the road which is backed by 25 acres of land. Twenty-four acres are woodland with a stream called Big Run crossing the property. A footbridge crossing the stream provides a full view of the stream and its waterfall.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME – Koolwink Motel - Description of Building – Attachment “B”

SITE #

Description of Building:

The Koolwink Motel is a Mid-century modern motel with stunning architectural design characteristics. The outdoor décor of the Koolwink Motel could appear on a picture postcard from any motel operating in the 1950's. The motel has been so immaculately maintained through the years that it almost looks new. The landscaping throughout the property is both inviting and soothing as it compliments the design of the motel and encourages passersby and guests to enjoy the pleasing setting through the seasons.

The site includes a residence containing the motel office. There are three one-story buildings and a two-story building each containing motel rooms. Beside the residence/office there are three buildings of different sizes containing 2 units, 4 units and 6 units. In addition to these units, there is a two-story 12 unit building on a hill, west and above the lower roadside units. Although the demands of the modern-day traveler require the amenities they expect, (wi-fi, flat screen TV's, etc.) those things melt into the overall flavor of the rooms. Each room remains decorated in colors of bathroom and bedroom styles of the late Fifties and early Sixties.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME – Koolwink Motel - Alterations – Attachment “C”

SITE #

Alterations:

The Koolwink Motel began as a tourist home in 1936 with rooms rented in the upstairs of the residence and in two small cottages containing two rooms each.

In 1956, a long foundation was laid out and one of the two cottages was placed on each end. When construction was complete, the Kool Wink Tourist Home was now the Koolwink Motel with eight small rooms.

1964 brought the next addition when the home's garage was moved away to allow for the construction of a two-unit motel building.

By 1966, the old “wash house” was moved away from the residence to make room for construction to begin on a six-unit building west of the residence.

An official office was constructed in 1966. (No longer was it a part of the living room of the residence.) The wall of the living room was removed and a glass wall with an office door was constructed in its place. A real office desk with an under the counter cash register, which is still in use today, was built along one wall.

Finally, in 1967 and 1968, a two-story, twelve-unit building was built on a hill northwest of the six units. The Koolwink Motel now had twenty-eight rooms to rent.

With all construction complete, the first motel building with eight tiny rooms was remodeled to make four large rooms. Now the Koolwink Motel had 24 rooms that it still cares for and rents today.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME – Koolwink Motel - Additions and Description of Outbuildings – Attachment “D”
SITE #

Additions:

In 1964 a two-unit building was built adjacent to the main building. In 1965, a 6-unit building was built on the other side of the main building. In 1968 a two-story, twelve-unit building was built uphill and behind the main building.

Description of Buildings:

- (1) Two-unit building
- (2) Six-unit building
- (3) Two-story, twelve-unit building

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME – Koolwink Motel – Statement of Significance – Attachment “E” SITE #

Statement of Significance:

The Koolwink Motel has been a family owned and operated business for 85 years. It first opened its doors in 1936 as the Kool Wink Tourist Home. Rooms were rented in the residence and two small cottages. The name Kool Wink comes from the cool breeze in this little valley. The cool breeze allowed one to get a good forty winks of sleep. The “C” was changed to a “K”. When the tourist home became a motel, the Koolwink name was changed to one word.

The Koolwink Motel has survived through the years because of its reputation for cleanliness of the rooms. The motel rooms and the outside of the building(s) have been maintained so that it still looks new. The motel is a part of the community because guests have stayed here to participate in community and local family functions. Over many years of good service, the Koolwink has become a destination for travelers who just like to stay here. New travelers are finding the Koolwink Motel for the first time on the internet.

The Koolwink is one of the businesses used by almost everyone locally who gives directions as an easily spotted landmark. As the twentieth century progressed and myriad changes in architectural style and rural scenery took place, the Koolwink has remained as a reminder of a kinder, gentler time. Regular visitors to the area would never consider staying in any of the “modern” hotels which have come and gone – they return to the Koolwink Motel as a reminder of previous visits and happier times.

For annual visitors riding the Potomac Eagle train, whether for the special holiday rides or the fall foliage tour, that experience is not complete without spending a restful night at the Koolwink Motel before returning to the hustle and bustle of the city.

The calming country-style charm of the Koolwink Motel was captured by photographer Michael Hunter Thompson in an eponymous photograph which has won “Best in Show” at the 2017 Allegheny National Photograph Competition and Exhibition.

The motel’s laid-back atmosphere was put to music by Del Paxton in his song “Koolwink”, available for listening on Spotify and YouTube. The song captures the feeling of sitting outside the motel, looking at and listening to local sights and sounds.

In magazines and travel guides, the Koolwink Motel is always mentioned as a must-see for visitors to West Virginia. It is loved by locals and visitors alike as a throwback to the time when longevity and solidarity were the cornerstones of any neighborhood.

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME – Bibliographical References – Attachment “F”

SITE #

Bibliographical References:

Feather, Carl E. Goldseal: West Virginia Traditional Life, “The American Dream in Romney”, Spring 2009 issue, pp. 54-61

Pierotti, MiKenna, WV Living, “Koolwink Motel”, Summer 2021 issue, pp. 40-41

Pierotti, Mikenna, WV Living, “Living in Romney”, Fall 2013 issue, pp. 77

Pittsburgh City Paper, September 12-19, 2018, issue, article, pg. 14

Hampshire Review, October 23, 2019, issue, page 1

Thompson, Deb justshortofcrazy.com, May 21, 2019, “A Retro Stay at the Koolwink”

Theonlylivinggirlinny.com, October 3, 2018, “Koolwink Motel”

Kool Wink Tourist Home with distances to other places

2013 WV Living, The Sesquicentennial Issue

2022 WV Living, Fall 22, Volume 15/issue 3

“50 Houses”, a book mentions the Koolwink Motel in the introduction

A Charleston, West Virginia Rock band named “A Story Told” recorded a song and video at the Koolwink Motel. The song is called “As Good As Gold”

“2022 Historic Lodgings” calendar, West Virginia Department of Arts Culture & History – State Historic Preservation Office

A song written about the Koolwink by Dylan England.

“Koolwink” on the album called “All Day, Every Day, All Night”

Del Paxton, 2017. Vinyl and CD

Hampshire County



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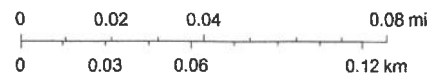
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Proudly Family Owned

The Koolwink Motel has been a family owned business for 70 years. It first opened its doors to the traveling public as a tourist home in 1936. Nora and Henry Klien rented rooms within their residence, as well as two small cottages.

When they retired in 1955, the Koolwink Tourist home was sold at public auction to their great-nephew Wallace Mauk, and his wife Pauline. In August of 1955, Wallace and Pauline moved in and have been owner/operators ever since.

In the late 50s, a long foundation was built. A cottage was placed on each end and units were constructed in the middle. The Koolwink went from four rooms to eight. More units were built in the mid 60s. Then, in the late 60s, the annex building was added on a hill in the woods.

Wallace designed and made drawings for all of the buildings and rooms that were eventually built over the years. He also did the majority of the electrical and plumbing work and supervised all the construction from start to finish.

Over these many years the Mauks have maintained and upgraded to keep up with the times. At present, the Koolwink Motel is a modern facility with a retro feel. This combination provides a unique experience in travel.

All the motel rooms are cared for as an extension of the Mauk's home. As a result, they are welcoming, comfortable, and exceptionally clean.

Wallace Mauk



[Contact](#)

24350 NORTHWESTERN PIKE ROMNEY WV 26757 | 1-304-822-3595

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Original Tourist Home



Cabins being built

