

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Hamilton Round Barn

and or common

2. Location

street & number County Route 11

not for publication

city, town Mannington ☒ vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Marion code 049

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> survey		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name West Augusta Historical Society

street & number c/o Route 3, Box 293

city, town Mannington vicinity of state West Virginia 26582

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marion County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Fairmont state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Round and Polygonal Barns of West Virginia has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ no

date September 1, 1984 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Unit, West Virginia department of Culture and History

city, town The Cultural Center, Capitol Complex, Charleston state West Virginia

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date

N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hamilton Round Barn, probably the best preserved of the state's round and polygonal barns, is circular in shape, 66 feet in diameter and 75 feet high at the center. It has horizontal clapboard siding of poplar, painted white, and a slate roof. Hamilton is reported to have had the slate shipped in from Indiana. The gambrel roof is topped by a six-sided cupola; the cupola's roof is a sectional cone, also covered in slate. The barn originally had two entrances, one on the ground level and an earthen ramp leading to the second level. At some point, an exterior stairway leading to a doorway on the second level was added.

The foundation is concrete, which serves as the flooring for the ground level where the dairy was located. The flooring of the second level is oak, supported by 6x6 posts on the ground floor. The main beams in the framing are 2x10 composite, with 2x4's for the stud walls and a roof system of shallow trusses of 2x's.

The dairy on the ground level originally had stalls for more than 20 cows, and was equipped with automatic waterers. This level now serves as a museum exhibit area. The second level, which the original owners divided to create an apartment in one half, is now used as a meeting area. There is an interior stairway - an unusual feature in a round barn - leading from the second level up to a platform under the cupola. The cupola itself has six large windows, with louvered shutters.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion	
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science	
1500-1599	X agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture	
1600-1699	X architecture	education	military	social	
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian	
1800-1899	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater	
X 1900-	communications	industry	politics government	transportation	
		invention		other (specify)	

Specific dates 1911-1912 Builder Architect A. A. Hamilton

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hamilton Round Barn is one of only five round and polygonal barns still standing in West Virginia. Round barns never enjoyed the same degree of popularity in this state as in other parts of the country, such as the Midwest, and the Hamilton Barn is probably the best preserved and best constructed of the 13 known to have been built here.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

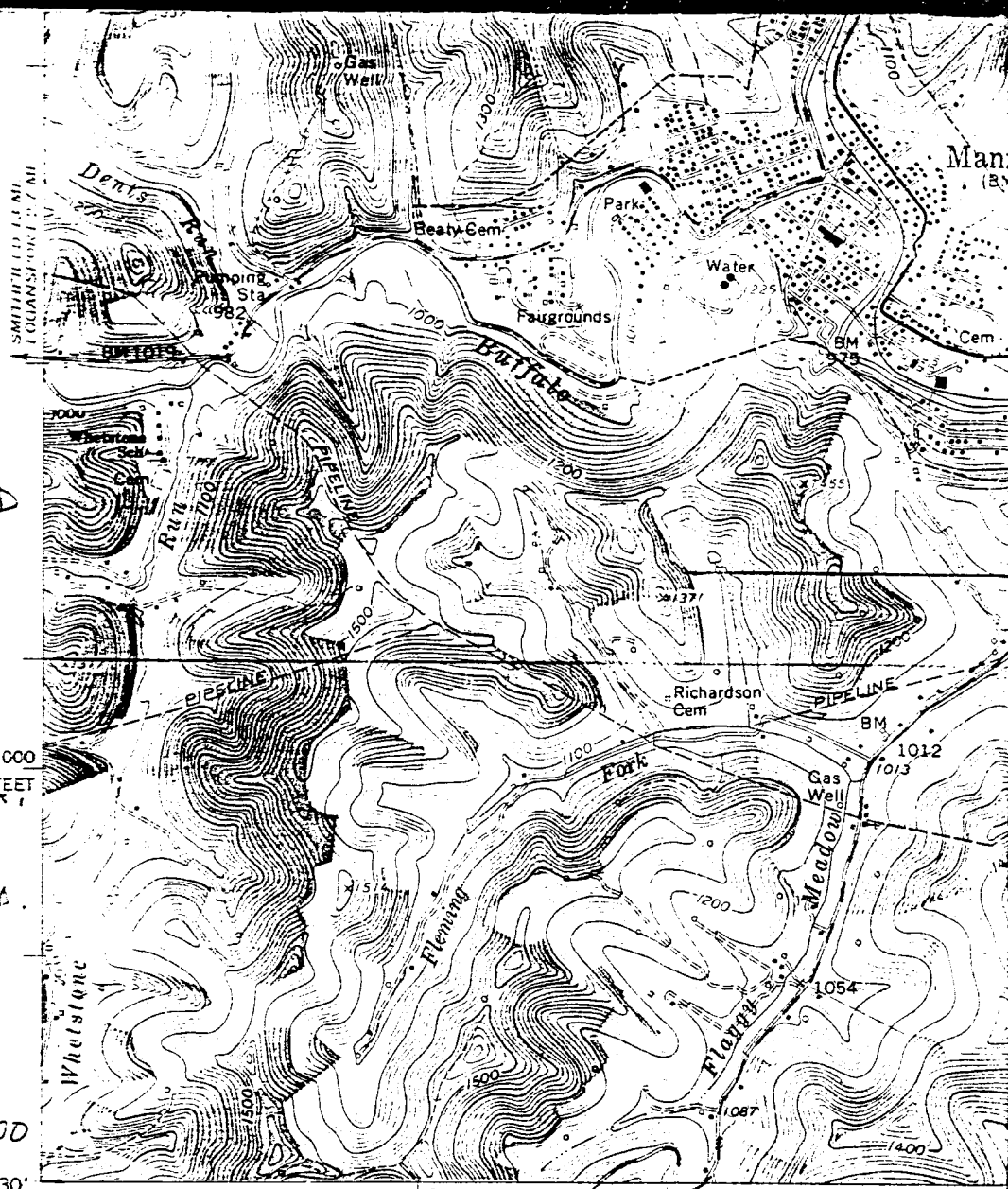
The Hamilton Round Barn at Mannington was built over a 10-month period in 1911-1912 at a cost of \$1900. It was constructed of materials taken primarily from the Hamilton farm, and the construction work was done by local carpenters who were paid 30¢ an hour. The barn is currently owned by the West Augusta Historical Society of Mannington, who purchased it in 1983 for \$5500. In 1982 it was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and has been recently renovated with the help of grant funds from the West Virginia Department of Culture and History.

Amos Hamilton, the original owner, first became interested in building a round barn during a business trip to Pennsylvania when he went to view a round barn he had been told about which was located between Greensburg and Pittsburgh. Hamilton is reported to have later returned to Pennsylvania to acquire the actual blueprints of that barn in order to construct his own round barn. The foreman in charge of construction was A. A. Hamilton, Amos' son, who owned a contracting firm in nearby Fairmont.

Amos Hamilton was one of the more progressive farmers of his day. The Hamilton Dairy, operating out of the round barn, was the first in the county to install milking machines, and was for many years the largest dairy farm in the area. And it was on the Hamilton farm, less than a mile from the site of the round barn, that oil was first discovered in Marion County. As a result of this discovery, Mannington grew from a village of 700 in 1889 to a community of nearly 4,000 by World War I, and the prosperity generated by the oil and gas boom helped bring about the circumstances leading to the construction of the Hamilton Round Barn.

HAMILTON ROUND
 BARN
 CO. RT. 11
 MANNINGTON
 VICINITY,
 MARION CO., W. VA.
 MANNINGTON, W. VA.
 Q172

UTM:
 17 557240/4374300



39°30'
 80°22'30"

BINGAMON 3 MI.
 SHINNISTON 11 MI.
 1760000 FEET

(WALLACE)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
 photographs taken 1957. Field checked 1960
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on West Virginia coordinate system,
 north zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 17, shown in blue
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
 Unlabeled wells are oil wells

4 1/2°
 TRUE NORTH
 MAGNETIC NORTH
 APPROXIMATE
 DECLINATION

