United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property
   Historic name: West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
   Other names/site number: N/A
   Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
   (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location
   Street & number: 199 Depot Street
   City or town: Romney  
   State: West Virginia  
   County: Hampshire
   Not For Publication: [ ]  
   Vicinity: [ ]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
   I hereby certify that this □ nomination □ request for determination of eligibility meets
   the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
   Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   In my opinion, the property □ meets □ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I
   recommend that this property be considered significant at the following
   level(s) of significance:
   □ national  □ statewide □ local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   □ A □ B □ C □ D

   Signature of certifying official/Title:  
   Date: 3/3/2022

   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

   In my opinion, the property □ meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria.

   Signature of commenting official:  
   Date:

   Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) ______________________

Signature of the Keeper ____________________________________________

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: 

Public – Local  x

Public – State

Public – Federal
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property Hampshire, WV

County and State

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s) [x]
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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<th>Noncontributing</th>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- AGRICULTURE / animal facility
- AGRICULTURE / storage
- AGRICULTURE / processing
- AGRICULTURE / outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- OTHER / storage
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property

Hampshire, WV

County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER / Wisconsin Dairy Barn

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation / CONCRETE; Walls / WOOD; Roof / ASPHALT; Other: METAL / tin

Narrative Description Summary Paragraph

The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDB) Dairy Barn stands in the town of Romney, situated in the South Branch Valley of present-day West Virginia. Facing south toward Depot Street, the barn was constructed in 1930 to house dairy cows and other livestock associated with the subsistence farming operations of the residential school. The almost entirely symmetrical massing of the red- and white-painted Wisconsin Dairy Barn is defined by intersecting gambrel roofs topping the U-shaped barn, comprised of eastern and western wings connected by a central wing. Each of the three gambrels encompass a cavernous second-story hay mow. At the first-floor barn level, the poured concrete floor is formed into multiple levels defining the edges of access alleys, livestock pens, and feed mangers. With dozens of operable windows and an interior painted almost entirely in white and light blue, the naturally light-filled barn is also equipped with a collection of early twentieth century agricultural tools including automatic watering bowls, tilting feed mangers, and an overhead conveying track. A clay block silo dating to 1938 is attached to the barn and is considered part of the larger contributing barn building. North of the barn, a manure pit with metal overhead track supports spans the courtyard between the two rear wings and is a contributing structure. A gabled concrete block creamery building with steel casement windows is situated east of the silo. Constructed c. 1945, the building is contributing as a significant component of the agricultural operations of the WVSDB. Despite deterioration of material over time resulting from water intrusion, the two buildings and structure within the nominated parcel retain integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

See continuation sheets.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Hampshire, WV

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

- [ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

- [x] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

- [ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

- [ ] B. Removed from its original location

- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave

- [ ] D. A cemetery

- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

- [ ] F. A commemoratory property

- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
EDUCATION
AGRICULTURE
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

**Name of Property**

**County and State**

**Period of Significance**

1930-1951

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Louden Machinery Company (architect)

John Linthicum (WVSDB construction supervisor)

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDB) Dairy Barn is significant at the statewide level under Criterion A in the area of education for its association with subsistence farming and agricultural education at the WVSDB, and as a rare remaining example of a typical dairy barn constructed between 1920 and 1930 at public residential schools across the state. From its construction in 1930 until the end of farming operations at the school in 1951, the dairy barn served as the heart of agricultural education and production at the school, making it locally significant under Criterion A in the area of agriculture. Additionally, the barn is significant at the statewide level under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a well-preserved example of a high-style Wisconsin Dairy Barn designed by the Louden Machinery Company. The light-filled barn reflects a nationwide interest in improved sanitation, livestock health, and efficiency that characterized the Industrial Revolution. The overhead conveying system which historically linked the barn and manure pit represent a direct predecessor to the conveying equipment used in the construction of the atomic bomb, and later, for the Apollo Program. Despite some roof deterioration on the barn building and some loss of material on the former manure pit, the property retains integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn Hampshire, WV

Name of Property County and State

Narrative Statement of Significance

See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)


Herrmann, Louis F.; Stelzer, R. O.; and Bowling, G. A., "Milk-Production Costs in West Virginia." Morgantown, WV: West Virginia Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station Bulletins, 1936.


West Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn


WVSDB. “Dairy Herd to be Sold.” *West Virginia Tablet,* Jan-March 1951.


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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register
____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
____ designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

**Primary location of additional data:**

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
_X_ Other State agency
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy
Barn

Name of Property

____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other

Name of repository: West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): HM-0053 (WV SHPO Site ID)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _Less than one acre________

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or × NAD 1983

1. Zone: 17 S          Easting: 693335          Northing: 4357857
2. Zone: 17 S          Easting: 693408          Northing: 4357829
3. Zone: 17 S          Easting: 693403          Northing: 4357884
4. Zone: 17 S          Easting: 693351          Northing: 4357904

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary includes the roughly rectangular lot surrounding barn, creamery, and manure pit and is defined by a chain link fence. Refer to dashed red boundary line of accompanying sketch map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary encompasses the land historically associated with agricultural operations at the WVSDB that retains integrity while excluding redeveloped former grazing land to the north and heavily wooded riverbank that does not share an association with the agricultural operations of the barn property. The contributing creamery building east of the barn partially falls on the adjacent parcel, which is state owned, has been developed...
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy
Barn

Name of Property: West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy
County and State: Hampshire, WV

separately, and is not included in the nomination. Refer to dashed red boundary line on accompanying sketch map.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Paula McClain / Preservation Associate and Historian
organization: Mills Group
street & number: 88 High Street
city or town: Morgantown state: WV zip code: 26505
e-mail: pmcclain@millsgrouponline.com
telephone: 304-296-1010
date: December 2021

Additional Documentation

See continuation sheets.

Photographs

See continuation sheets.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.
Location and Setting
The WVSDB Barn is located at 199 Depot Street in the town of Romney, seat of Hampshire County. Formed in 1753, Hampshire is the oldest county in present-day West Virginia and borders both Maryland and Virginia. The county encompasses the northern extent of the South Branch Valley, which features some of the largest expanses of flat, arable land in the Mountain State.

The town of Romney sits on the eastern shore of the South Branch River near the western border of Hampshire County. At slightly less than one square mile in size, the town contains a typical collection of mostly nineteenth-century civic and commercial buildings concentrated around the intersection of West Virginia Route 28 and U.S. Highway 50, which serve as High and Main Streets, respectively. A grid of 25 roughly square uniform blocks unfolds from this intersection, orienting the town in a southwest-northeasterly direction.

The nominated property faces south toward a twentieth-century northern continuation of the original 25-block street grid built out with modest one- and two-story single-family dwellings. Non-residential development in the neighborhood is limited to two religious facilities and a small number of automotive repair shops. One such garage dating to the 1940s sits immediately south of the nominated property, opposite Depot Street.

During its period of significance (1930-1951), the barn was situated on a high plateau at the southeast extent of a gently sloping 70-acre agricultural field bounded to the north and west by the alignment of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.¹

Along with a small caretaker’s cottage to the west, the barn and its associated outbuildings remained the only development on the land until 1957, when a hospital facility became the first major construction north of the barn on former farmland.

Site
Today, the rectangular, 0.89-acre lot containing the barn makes up the southeastern corner of an irregular, 10-acre parcel. Apart from the nominated property, this acreage represents the remaining undeveloped former farmland, much of which contains the steep sloping banks of Big Run. A tributary of the South Branch of the Potomac River that parallels WV 28 through town, the waterway is surrounded with clusters of dense native vegetation.

All other former farm acreage has been carved into large parcels that make up the town’s industrial park, along with a collection of single-level healthcare and office complexes dating to the late twentieth century.

¹ Today, Depot Valley Road follows the former railroad alignment.
A chain link fence defines the boundary of the nominated area, aligned with a visible rectangular clearing in the foliage that rises from the riverbank. Surrounded with trees and native shrubs, the tree-lined lot encompasses the barn, manure pit, and creamery building. The fence has been replaced many times, does not contribute to the significance of the site, and is counted as a non-contributing structure.

East of the barn lot, a long two-story rustic ranch office building is situated on a lower plateau of Big Run. West of the nominated area, the parcel is bounded by Red Bud Lane, which leads north toward the industrial park.

The remains of a wood frame outbuilding measuring approximately 20 by 12 ft, largely overgrown with vegetation, are located northwest of the barn, outside of the nominated area. Historic aerial photographs indicate the presence of this resource as early as 1947. However, this structure is not counted in Section 5 due to its location outside of the nominated area and loss of integrity.

WVSDB Dairy Barn 1930 one contributing building

Foundation
The barn is made up of three wings, with east and west wings measuring 74 by 36 ft and a central wing measuring 43 by 30 ft. Poured concrete serves as the barn foundation and interior floor surface, rising 18 inches above grade. Wood wall framing made up of members spaced every 24” is anchored to the foundation and sheathed with 6” horizontal wood plank siding, which forms both the interior and exterior surfaces (Figure 1, Figure 2). Floor joists of the east and west wings span east-to-west in 12 ft spans, joining at beams which “intersect with the lines of stanchions and the partitions between the stalls, and rest on concrete piers built below the concrete floor” (Photo 22).

The wood frame walls extend 5 ft above the floor of the hay mow, which sits at 9 ft above the first-floor level. Sawn wood trusses follow the spacing of the framing, forming the gambrel arch that gives the building its traditional shape. The truss design allows for a completely open hay mow with a height of 27 ft, unobstructed by structural posts.

Primary (South) Elevation
The primary (south) elevation measures approximately 120 ft and is divided into 21 bays, with seven bays roughly equally distributed across the three wings. A small gambrel-shaped wall dormer is centered on this elevation, defined by the expansive gambrel roof ends of the east and west wings (Photo 3).

Secondary (East, West and North) Elevations
The outermost walls of the east and west wings measure 80 ft long and are divided into eleven bays, with a window centered on each. At the east elevation, the silo is attached to the barn via a small gable-roofed hallway. The north elevations of the east and west wings are mirrored, flanking the rear
courtyard with a symmetrical five-bay pattern of alternating single leaf doors and windows (Photo 7).

Courtyard Elevations
The rear courtyard is formed from the side walls of the barn’s three wings and measures approximately 36 ft by 40 ft. The east and west elevations are divided into seven bays, each with a window, while the central wing is divided into six bays in a pattern of alternating windows and single leaf doors. Shed-roofed dormers are centered on the gambrel roofs over the east and west sides of the courtyard.

Doors, Windows and Trim
All exterior doors at the barn level are wood plank with x-shaped cross bracing in the upper half. Most of these are full single doors but two are Dutch, with upper and lower halves that can operate independently (Photo 12). One wood-framed screen door remains at the easternmost corner of the south elevation (Photo 5).

All barn-level windows are wood framed, with nine divided lights set in a single sash. Sold as Louden Window Ventilators in the 1915 catalog, the sashes pivot horizontally around a “dog” and hinge (Figure 3). In addition to providing ample natural sunlight to the interior spaces, these windows played a significant role in the overall ventilation system during its use as a dairy barn. The configuration allows sashes to both tilt in at the top and raise away from the wall, achieving three different levels of ventilation for varying weather conditions. Most windows retain metal window shields on the interior, used to direct cold air upwards and push warmer air down toward the cows.

Window and door casings include lintels with a beaded top edge. A wider trim band spans the barn horizontally at the height of the side walls; corner boards extend down from this point while frieze trim extends up to roof peaks. Windows, trim, wall vents, and eaves are painted white throughout the exterior, with doors and clapboard siding painted red.

Roof
Two shed-roofed dormers carry the slope of the upper roof over delicate four-light fixed wooden windows rising from the slope of the lower roof on either side of the central wall dormer (Photo 4). At the roof peak on the north face of the east wing, a section of metal track associated with an internal hay carrier system emerges from between two sliding doors beneath a hay hood roof extension (Photos 7 and 8). At the header of the westernmost first-level door, an eight-ft long section of overhead track emerges with half of a forked hay carrier suspended from its northern end (Photo 11).

Pointed cupola-shaped tin vents with built in lightning rods top the roof, which is sheathed in variegated dark grey asphalt shingles. These vents represent just part of a larger whole-barn ventilation system, which includes intake vents placed in intervals along the side walls, interior “foul air” intake vents, sub-floor clay tile ducts, and adjustable vent flues running vertically through the hay mow which emerge at the roof ridge through the cupolas (Figure 4). Fresh air enters the barn along its entire interior perimeter.
through a narrow horizontal opening between the foundation and bottom of the interior wall planks. In addition to carrying “foul air” out of the barn, the clay tile ducts serve to insulate the barn floor, helping cows to remain comfortable through cold weather (Figure 5).

Silo

Constructed in 1938, the silo is tied into the east side of the barn with a wood frame access hallway at the southernmost door (Photo 5). This small connector carries the design and materials of the barn to meet the clay block silo, which stands with a diameter of 15 ft and a height of 36 ft (Photo 6). The original bell-shaped roof of the silo is no longer present, and the top trim of a south-facing door opening into the connecting hallway clearly illustrates an upward slant to the east, suggesting changing settlement rates between the two structures. A gable roof with exposed rafter tails topping the hallway flares out slightly to meet the edge of the silo.

A poured concrete pathway measuring approximately 45 ft long by 4 ft wide runs from east to west and serves to connect the silo on the east side of the barn and the creamery building. This structure was likely used to move wheeled equipment into the creamery and has a larger, scored section in the middle measuring approximately 15 ft long by 10 ft wide. The paving has experienced some deterioration, particularly along the perimeter.

Interior

Poured as part of the barn’s foundation, the concrete interior floor is divided into feed and litter alleys (Figure 4). The first level of the barn is divided into continuous lines of livestock pens for cattle, pigs, and horses, along with small ancillary feed rooms, arranged along access alleys (Photo 14). Interior floor surfaces, set at various levels for use as easy-to-clean access alleys, mangers, and gutters, follow the alignment of these partitions. One alley runs the length of the barn from east to west, bisecting the central wing and providing a clear path from the southernmost door on the west elevation to the silo access door on the east (Photo 13). Six additional alleys, divided between the east and west wings, extend to the north, leading to exterior doors on the north elevation (Photos 15, 18, 21, 22). Narrow cross alleys run east to west at the northernmost bay of both wings and are divided with wood plank gates (Figure 6).

Aligned with the in-facing rows of cattle stalls, each of which features cork brick flooring to provide a soft and non-slip surface, two rows of circular metal columns support girders running the length of the east wing and are aligned with the two in-facing rows of cattle stalls. A similar alignment is present in the west wing (Photos 14, 15, 17, and 18). In the central wing, two girders span from east to west; while the walls of the feed room support the southernmost girder, the northernmost is supported with two additional metal posts placed between livestock pens. Above the columns, girders are boxed in beadboard which continues as the finished ceiling surface, hiding the floor joists of the hay mow above. Pivoting wood plank hatch doors reinforced with cross-bracing are located along the ceiling and serve as part of the barn’s ventilation system (Figure 5, Photo 22).
Interior frame walls are finished with horizontal wood planks attached directly to the wood framing. Throughout the interior, walls and ceilings are painted white; light blue paint is applied below the line of the windowsills (Photo 19). This color scheme carries through to nearly all elements placed on the walls such as hay chutes and helps to enhance the quality of natural light throughout interior spaces (Photo 30).

**Interior Layout: Central Wing**

At the north wall of the central wing, four steel livestock pens measuring approximately 3 ft high flank a central door leading to the rear courtyard on the north wall of the central wing. On the south wall, two larger pens measuring five ft high flank a central feed room which provides access to the central hay mow via an L-shaped stair (Photos 12, 24, 25). Livestock pens throughout constructed of steel pipe balusters are aligned with level divisions in the concrete floor. Some gate openings are framed with a steel pipe header (Figure 7, Photo 20). Pipe steel is also used to form the curved profiles of cattle stanchions and stall dividers throughout the barn (Figure 8).

**Interior Layout: West Wing**

The west wing contains two larger livestock pens, fifteen cattle stalls, five horse stalls, a tackle room, storage closet, and a room with three additional wood-frame box stalls, used to isolate sick cows from the herd.² Located on the south wall, the steel livestock pens are each outfitted with a galvanized steel Louden tilting manger (Photo 28). The line of inward-facing cattle stalls extends north with a concrete manger basin spanning its width. Steel cattle stanchions and automated water bowls, along with manger dividers, are largely intact. Reportedly designed to be shaped “like your knee,” the automated water bowls dispense water with the push of an animal’s nose (Figure 11, Photo 29).³

The infirmary pens, horse stable, and a small feed room are situated along the westernmost wall, opposite the line of cattle stalls. The stable contains five horse stalls, divided with horizontal wood planks set beneath a metal view guard (Figure 10, Photos 17 and 18). Galvanized steel feed boxes and water bowls are provided in each stall, and an adjacent tackle room is lined with iron harness hooks (Figure 11, Photo 19). A framed opening measuring approximately 12” square is located near the ceiling of this room and opens into the feed room with a metal screen, possibly as a component of the whole building ventilation system. The hay mow level above this wing is not currently accessible due to water damage at both access points (Photo 23).

**Interior Layout: East Wing**

The south wall of the east wing is divided into four steel pens, while the rest of the wing is dedicated to two mirrored lanes of cattle stanchions and mangers as seen in the west wing. With a total capacity for 30 cows, the stalls in this wing are divided by a central elevated feed alley. The hay mow above this

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West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property: Hampshire, WV

County and State: N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable): N/A

The West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind Dairy Barn is accessible from a wooden ladder mounted to the west wall. At the hay mow level, wood Shawver trusses and ventilating ducts open on either side of a vaulted roof, and two boxed hay chute openings project up toward the overhead track and pulley system installed at the roof peak. Although the hay mow of the west wing is not currently accessible, it likely generally mirrors the arrangement of the east hay mow.

An overhead track system which historically allowed for the mechanical conveying of hay and feed circulates through the entire barn (Figure 12, Figure 13). A single overhead track runs from the westernmost door through to the silo access door on the east elevation. At the east and west wings, the track turns 90 degrees to tie into north-south oriented lengths which serve livestock stalls in each wing (Photo 23). Historically, additional sections of track emerged from the innermost doors on the north gambrel ends and met over the concrete manure pit north of the barn, creating a circular system. Although most of the exterior track, along with bins and other conveying equipment associated with the track is gone, the interior sections of track are largely intact.

**Integrity**

Despite the industrial and institutional development that now occupies the former grazing land north of the property, the lot surrounding the barn itself remains in its original location and retains integrity of location and setting. The barn and its associated outbuildings have undergone very few alterations since original construction and retain a high degree of integrity of design and workmanship. There has been some loss of integrity of materials with the progressive deterioration of the roof; however, the formed concrete floors, wall and ceiling materials, and remaining barn equipment provide the barn with a high degree of integrity of materials. Although no longer owned by the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind, the barn maintains integrity of association for its contribution to the subsistence agricultural operations of the school. Together, these qualities bestow the barn with a high degree of integrity of feeling.

**Creamery Building**

**Exterior**

40 ft east of the silo, a small side-gabled concrete block building painted in the same shade of red as the barn is reported to have once served as a creamery for processing dairy products from the barn. The entry door opening, its door missing, is located on the west elevation facing the barn, along with an eight-light steel casement window topped with a two-light transom (Photo 31). Three more identical windows, with glazing painted from the exterior, are situated on the north elevation. East of these windows, an infilled square window and set of double wooden doors provide exterior access to a separate storage room located on the northeast corner (Photo 32). A concrete block chimney is centered on the gabled end of the east elevation, with two more 8-light casement windows beneath transoms to the south of the chimney and one square 4-light clerestory window to the north. A twelve-light casement window beneath a tripartite transom is centered on the south elevation, and the remains
of a single-leaf wood screen door open to the eastern half of the building (Photo 33). The south-facing slope of the roof deck is almost entirely deteriorated and missing.

Interior
The interior of this building is defined by two main spaces that appear to have been used for agricultural processing and storage during the period of significance. The westernmost room is the largest and in the best condition (Photo 34). A floor drain is centered on the concrete floor in this room, directly beneath two horizontal metal bars suspended from the ceiling. An opening on the east wall of this room leads to the storage room, with two casement windows and a single-leaf screen door opening into the space. Chain link fencing currently covers these openings (Photo 35). The 12 light casement window illuminates a small room accessed via a paneled single leaf door from the storage room. The concrete block interior wall finish is painted light blue in every space except in the southwest corner, where it is painted white.

Integrity
Despite severe roof deterioration, the building retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, feeling and association.

Manure Pit and Overhead Track Supports 1930 one contributing structure
Approximately 15 feet north of the barn are the ruins of a rectangular poured concrete manure pit measuring 40 ft by 12 ft (Photos 9 and 10). Five metal posts rise from the northernmost interior side of the pit; the westernmost three remain attached to brackets as well as a section of overhead track. Historically, this track connected to both overhead tracks emerging from door headers on the north gambrel ends of the barn.

Integrity
While retaining integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association, the manure pit has experienced severe deterioration of both metal track and concrete basin, leading to some loss of integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. Despite this, the feature served as an important part of the operation of the farm and was a piece of the larger Louden conveying system utilized in the barn. For these reasons, the manure pit is considered a contributing structure.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8  Page 1

Narrative Statement of Significance

Criterion A: Education 1930-1951
The WVSDB Dairy Barn is significant for its association with the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDB) and with other West Virginia public institutions. As one of the nation’s first public schools for specialized instruction of white deaf and blind children, the WVSDB was among dozens of public institutions in the state whose facilities were overseen by the State Board of Control. The regulatory board was one of several established under Governor William E. Glasscock reflecting increased government involvement, including the Department of Public Roads, a Public Service Commission, and a Department of Agriculture.4 With increasing standards for food production, the health department was placed in charge of inspecting all dairy products, resulting in a wave of new dairy barn construction at residential schools throughout the state between 1920 and 1930. Falling dairy prices, advances in farming technology, and closing of some institutions ultimately resulted in the demolition of most of these barns.5 With the termination of the dairy operation at the WVSDB in 1951, the barn was adapted for reuse as storage for the school, as it remained until its acquisition by the Town of Romney.

Criterion A: Agriculture 1930-1951
The WVSDB Dairy Barn is significant for its association with the school’s subsistence farming program and for its association with early twentieth century advances that contributed to the eventual industrialization of American agriculture. Like other residential schools during the early twentieth century, the WVSDB depended on a robust agricultural production program to provide for the nutritional needs of its teachers, staff, and students. Replacing a dark and overcrowded barn located immediately adjacent to the Administration Building, the 1930 barn was designed to accommodate a collection of patented Louden equipment. The overhead monorail conveying system and automatic water bowls are representative of technology that contributed the steady standardization, automation and industrialization of the American agricultural industry. Louden was also an early adopter and promoter of research demonstrating the effect of livestock well-being on production, arguing that “an improvement giving comfort and making cows contented is a good investment.”6 Although no longer used for agricultural purposes, the Dairy Barn at WVSDB retains nearly all of its original interior Louden features, including overhead conveying track, automatic water bowls, feed bins, cattle stanchions, and livestock pens outfitted with cork flooring.

5 Other Louden barns in the state dating to this period are extant at the former Industrial Home for Girls in Industrial and Reymann Memorial Farms in Wardensville.
Criterion C: Architecture 1930-1938
The WVSDB Barn is architecturally significant as a well-preserved example of a Wisconsin Dairy Barn designed by the Louden Machinery Company. The company published pattern books of barn plans and offered free planning services prominently featuring patented Louden equipment, as did contemporary companies specializing in various types of agricultural equipment. In addition to offering hundreds of potential configurations for barns of varying uses, these books generally illustrated the use of modern construction including poured concrete foundations and floors to improve ease of cleaning, open-span trusses to maximize hay storage capacity, and clay block tile for insulation and ventilation. While similar to barns constructed according to plans like the James Manufacturing Company, Louden examples are defined by large gambrel roofs, roof vents, and ample fenestration at the barn level. Despite some roof deterioration, the WVSDB Dairy Barn retains these and other character defining features, such as sliding doors and hay hoods for the protection of metal conveying track.

Historical Context
Agricultural Operations at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind, 1870-Present
The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (herein referred to as WVSDB) were established in 1870, only seven years after the creation of the state, largely as a result of the efforts of blind educator Howard Hille Johnson. Born in 1846 to prominent residents of Franklin, Virginia, Howard and his older brother, both of whom were nearly totally blind from childhood, were instructed by a private tutor before attending the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Staunton.

Created in 1839, the state-run school in Staunton was the second in the nation to offer specialized instruction to both deaf and blind white students following the establishment of the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in 1818. With the creation of the country’s first state school for deaf students in Kentucky in 1823 and schools established for blind students in Pennsylvania and Ohio in 1833 and 1837, respectively, Staunton served the entire state of Virginia until the creation of the state of West Virginia in 1863.

Returning to the newly formed state upon his graduation from the Virginia Institute, Johnson began teaching school in Moorefield and lobbying for the creation of a school roughly following the Staunton model in West Virginia. Johnson was 24 years old when the bill establishing the school was passed on March 3, 1870. The state entered into negotiations with the cities of Wheeling, Clarksburg, Parkersburg, and Romney to determine the location of the new school.

The Literary Society of Romney, of which Johnson was a member, ultimately donated the 15-acre campus of the former Romney Classical Institute to the state for use as the new WVSDB. Formed in 1819 as the Polemic Society of Romney, the society promoted the advancement of literature and

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science, creation of a library, and expansion of educational opportunities in the region. The group constructed a building in 1846 to accommodate the expansion of the Romney Academy, a local college preparatory school incorporated in 1814 and eventually renamed the Romney Classical Institute.

The school was largely dissolved during the Civil War, with students and faculty divided between Union and Confederate sympathies and large parts of the school's archives and campus destroyed. The transfer of the property to the WVSDB presented a chance to repurpose and create a new identity for the campus and its relationship to the Town of Romney. September 29, 1870 marked the beginning of the new school's first term under the direction of superintendent H. H. Hollister, formerly of the Ohio School for the Deaf (Figure 15).8

Room and board were provided to students and instructors in an extension of the supportive environment of the classroom, as was common in other schools specializing in deaf and blind education.9 With a total enrollment of thirty students during its first term, the school relied upon subsistence farming to meet nutritional needs of its students, staff, and faculty. Most of the agricultural work was completed by students and staff, a pattern which continued until 1951 when the program was discontinued. Early agricultural production is documented in an article from the 1884 West Virginia Tablet, newspaper of the WVSDB, noting a stable, meat house, and chicken house on campus. A cow barn was located behind the administration building “which was somewhat offensive both of sight and smell.”10

With the expansion of school facilities in response to growing enrollment numbers near the turn of the twentieth century, redevelopment of the farmland near campus and relocation of farming operations were required to accommodate additional livestock and increase overall food production. The land on which the Dairy Barn stands today was part of a hundred-acre tract purchased in 1901 from A. B. C. Whitacre under direction of superintendent James T. Rucker (Figure 16).11

Parley DeBerry served as president of WVSDB between 1914 and 1917, and again from 1923 to 1933. A 1927 article by DeBerry in the Mineral Daily News explained: “We need a new and better barn. Our dairy herd of 25 cows is housed in a building that is entirely unfit. It is too small, cold and unsanitary. We need more land for pasture and for growing forage for the herd and vegetables for the schools.”12 Despite requesting state funding for the construction of a new barn, the request was turned down, forcing the school to use privately raised funds for the project.

8 Dr. Patsy Shank, WV Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Historical Perspective 1870-2010 (Romney: WVSDB, 2010).
11 Dr. Patsy Shank, Ibid.
Although records indicate relatively little involvement with the State Board of Control during the 1920s, the WVSDB dairy barn was ultimately constructed according to a plan either custom-designed by the Louden Machinery Company or created from the modification and combination of other plans published in the company’s barn plan books (Figure 16). This was likely due to the implementation of dairy facility inspections by the state health department that determined whether products could be safely consumed by residents.

The State Board of Control also oversaw the construction of Louden dairy barns at eight other state-funded institutions during the decade, including four individual barns at the Agricultural Experimentation Station in Morgantown and the Weston State Hospital (Figure 19, Figure 24). In 1949, a series of articles by Charles Armentrout in the Charleston Gazette criticized the conditions at the Weston State Hospital, which was at the time the epicenter of experimental lobotomies in the state. Despite describing the patient wards as “miserable depreciated quarters that could never pass minimum inspection standards for domestic animals,” he praised the institution’s Louden dairy barn for its natural light and sanitary conditions, noting the discrepancy between the living conditions of livestock and humans at the hospital.

The former Industrial School for Boys in Lakin, a segregated facility that was closed in 1956, had a U-shaped dairy barn similar in configuration to the nominated resource (Figure 20, Figure 21). While the barns in the Morgantown complex have been demolished along with those in Lakin, Huntington, Hopemont, and Weston, remnants of these barns are extant at varying levels of integrity in Grafton, Industrial, and Wardensville (Figure 22, Figure 23).

The barn and a single-family residence for farm managers were both completed in 1930. John Linthicum, who later became mayor of Romney, served as construction supervisor during this period and constructed the barn with the help of locals looking for work. The barn was completed in 1930 at a total cost of $16,662.07. The previous year, the school opened its first on-campus bakery, which provided all baked goods on campus and sold overages. Upon its completion, the barn became the new physical center of all agricultural operations as it housed the institution’s herd of dairy cows and was adjacent to expansive grazing land.

An article written by student W. S. Dodrill in the school’s edition of the Tablet dated March 10, 1930 described the completed barn from the perspective of the school’s dairy cows: “Each cow inspected her

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new environment with the caution and precision of a boy exploring his first cave. [...] They placed their noses in the automatic drinking cups, then quickly jerked them away, again and again each cow did this until she had learned the simple but essential function of this part of her equipment. [...] After considerable inspection [...] each cow settled down for the night in bewilderment, realizing that such great change had taken place in such a short time and wondering what the next morning might bring forth. They, like Cinderella, thought it ‘too good to be true.’” The author also explains the need for such a facility, writing, “without plenty of sanitary milk a child is not likely to have good health. The barn [...] has already increased the quality [of the milk] substantially.”

A report to the War Production Board in 1943 reported 30,000 gallons of production in eggs and milk, along with the production of soybeans, hay, tomatoes, sweet corn, snap beans, carrots, and various fruits. A cannery was constructed in 1936 and began producing applesauce, canned peaches, pears, tomato juice and ketchup. Two years later, the silo was constructed immediately east of the dairy barn and connected via an existing exterior doorway. The existing creamery building, located east of the silo, was constructed c.1940. A photograph featured on the May 1946 issue of WVSDB’s Tablet newspaper captures seven students playing on another Louden product, a piece of playground equipment called a “Whirl-Around” (Figure 18).

With the construction of the barn and silo, the school had greatly increased its capacity for food production while also capitalizing on increasing industrialization of agriculture through the use of Louden systems. An article in the 1946 edition of the Tablet details food production operations at the school, noting a herd of 45 Guernsey milking cows and flock of 500 chickens. The article also explained the annual butchering of approximately 65 hogs, along with the butchering of one cow per week, on average, and identified Ray Himes as the current Farm Manager.

Despite greatly improving the condition of dairy cows and allowing for the increased regulation of production, a 1936 report on milk production costs in the state observed that “Buildings embodying the most desirable features of dairy-barn construction resulted in depreciation costs higher than average, no matter how efficiently they were utilized.” In 1946, the National School Lunch Program was signed into law, placing the nutrition of the nation’s school children into the hands of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Along with increasing food industrialization and standardization, this led to the evolution of private, contract-based food service companies whose product could be scaled up and down to meet the needs of institutions of any size. As a result, subsistence farming operations at the WVSDB ceased in 1951.

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18 Marla Pisciotta, Historic Barn to be Restored, Lancaster Farming.
20 Louis F. Herrmann; Stelzer, R. O.; and Bowling, G. A., "Milk-Production Costs in West Virginia," (Morgantown, WV: West Virginia Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, 1936), 11.
with the sale of the dairy herd, as "sufficient milk can be purchased cheaper than it can be produced."  

Despite this, the WVSDB retains strong ties to the agricultural community today through participation in various vocational programs. In 1960, the WVSDB became the first school for deaf students to charter a chapter of Future Farmers of America, a nationwide agricultural education program.

Louden Machinery Company and Industrialization of American Agriculture, 1841-1945

The Louden Machinery Company was established in 1892 by William Louden, whose upbringing on a farm in rural Iowa led him to patent hundreds of systems and products that contributed to the industrialization of agriculture during the Second Industrial Revolution. Born in 1841 in Cassville, Pennsylvania to parents who had emigrated from Ireland the previous year, Louden was less than a year old when the family purchased 500 acres in Jefferson County, Iowa, and relocated to establish a farmstead there. Despite being the oldest of eight siblings, William’s poor health in childhood prevented him from performing some of the more laborious chores associated with the maintenance of a family farm, including hauling large quantities of hay, feed, and litter.

Louden found farm labor rewarding, leading him to consider the application of new technology to improve farm operations. He taught public school for two years before patenting his first invention, a hay carrier, in 1867. The following year, he left teaching to focus his efforts exclusively on the manufacture and sale of his hay carrier and married Mary Jane Pattison, who supported the construction of his first shop in Fairfield in 1869. However, impacts of the Second Industrial Revolution had not yet reached rural America, and within two years, he found himself in debt with a wife and two young daughters to support.

In 1871, Louden borrowed money to buy a wagon and team of horses and began selling his hay carrier systems using door-to-door sales and free trials. Traveling the region's farms, he offered free trials of his conveying system through the entire haying season, from mid-May to early fall. In the fall, he would return to collect the system and get feedback from farmers, most of whom reportedly chose to keep and pay for the labor-reducing machinery. This approach proved the effectiveness of the hay carrier as well as its adaptability to a variety of existing barns.

Occasionally, the system was not compatible with traditional barns, stabilized by heavy cross-timbers which obstructed the path of the hay on its track. Eventually, Louden’s solution to this situation was to provide plans for construction of a new barn designed to harmonize impeccably with all types of Louden machinery. In the late nineteenth century, however, Louden still struggled to maintain the business and marketing operations needed to profit from his inventions.

William and Mary Jane formed a partnership in 1887 to form the Louden Machinery Company, and his younger brother Robert joined the corporation in 1889. In 1892, the brothers recruited Fairfield businessman C. J. Fulton to lead business operations. By 1900, the company had established a

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21 WVSDB, “Dairy Herd to be Sold,” West Virginia Tablet, Jan-March 1951.
second factory located in Ontario, Canada, and in 1909, the first branch office in the United States was established in Albany, New York, to be followed with dozens of other regional offices throughout the country. During this time, marketing efforts ramped up in the form of participation in expositions such as the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition and other World Fairs. In 1905, the company began publishing promotional material, distributing *Fitting Up Barns with Louden Hay Tools*, and later, Louden General Catalogs, to local lumberyards. General Catalogs illustrated the wide variety of mechanisms available for purchase through the company.\(^{22}\)

In 1906, an Architecture Department was established to address the inclusion of conveying systems into the planning and construction of new barn buildings. Albert H. Neller, head pattern-maker, led the department from its inception and worked closely with William on a number of patents, often designing products from rough sketches or verbal descriptions. The two men reportedly shared similarly high levels of determination along with a driving compulsion for improvement and enjoyed a symbiotic and productive working relationship until William’s death in 1931. In 1914, the company began publishing Louden Barn Plans, pattern books sent alongside General Catalogs which included of hundreds of barns in a variety of styles, sizes, and functions. The foreword to these publications included 20 pages of “General Instructions for Barn Construction,” promoting modern construction techniques such as balloon framing over poured concrete foundations and briefly explaining the science behind some of these systems.\(^{23}\)

In addition to promoting the construction of sanitary, well-ventilated, light-filled barns, the company also encouraged greater investment in the health and well-being of dairy animals with the promotion of products such as flexible stanchions, individualized automated water bowls, and soft stall flooring. Rooted in emerging science touting the superiority of milk produced by comfortable, healthy cows, many of these products served as the basis for equipment still used at small-scale farms today. Louden plans also placed a notable emphasis on aesthetics, soliciting the following explanation for skeptics: “A beautiful farmstead need in no way conflict with the economical operation of the farm, but on the other hand, the convenient buildings would very much reduce the labor problems.”\(^{24}\)

By 1920, while dairy equipment made up the largest sector of the company’s catalog, the steady automation of manufacturing in the United States prompted the continued development and improvement of the overhead track system that conveyed the original hay carrier. While Louden had patented nearly every product associated with monorail tracks up to that point, the J. C. Porter Company of Illinois held the patent to a steel bar design that was essential to the forward evolution of the monorail system. In the interest of moving forward with development, Louden purchased the Porter


company, which had originally specialized in a different type of hay carrier before developing a line of steel playground equipment. With the purchase, Louden began advertising its new line of playground equipment. One of the top selling products was the “Whirl-Around,” made up a two-tiered concentric ring suspended from a central pole. Children could sit or stand on either the upper or lower ring as the contraption spun and pivoted from a central pole (Figure 18).25 26

Also during the 1920s, growing use of the automobile called for a new solution for the operation of garage doors. Most garage doors were paired and swung outward, presenting a problem during inclement weather. Louden patented the “Louden Garage Door Hanger,” which allowed for a large door to roll up and onto an overhead track based on his hay conveying tracks. This concept provided the basis for the roll-up garage door systems used universally today. Additionally, modern barn door hanging hardware, the use of which increased with the growth of the Farmhouse and Industrial styles at the beginning of the twenty-first century, is based on Louden’s 1895 patent for sliding barn door hangers.

After William Louden’s death in 1931, the company reduced operations significantly, with large-scale layoffs, including that of Albert Neller, in 1932, and the closure of two headquarters locations in 1935. In 1939, William’s youngest son, R. Bruce Louden, succeeded his uncle, Robert, as president, and under his leadership, the company began to shift its focus toward developing the overhead conveying system for use in larger industrial operations, eventually creating handling equipment that assisted in the manufacture of the atomic bomb in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.27

The Louden family sold the company to Mechanical Handling Systems, Inc., of Detroit in 1953, which continued operation of the Fairfield plant under the Louden name. Although discontinuing the farm line in 1965, the Louden factory continued to be engaged in the production of systems for the defense industry and emerging space program, constructing overhead cranes used in the first instrumented Apollo capsule into space.28 Although ownership of the plant, still located at 200 N 6th Street in Fairfield, changed hands several times during the remainder of the twentieth century, it still manufactures products used in “an endless variety of the country’s manufacturing, processing and fabricating plants, chemicals, aircraft, automotive, metals, food, paper, rubber, steel, and many other industries,” now under British company FKI Industries.29

26 A photo of students playing on a Louden Whirl-Around appears on the cover of the October 1945 issue of The West Virginia Tablet, school newspaper of the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind. Online access: https://4.files.edl.io/de75/03/10/20/142213-5a7df4a0-0dd9-42c7-a203-53c445ae967f.pdf
27 William C. Page and Joanne R. Walroth, 22.
Chronology of Barn Development in West Virginia, 1725 - 1945

The earliest barns in present-day West Virginia were constructed by European immigrants practicing subsistence farming to protect crops and farm animals. These buildings served an essential role in agricultural operations and were usually designed by farmers who attempted to balance protection with ventilation. Traditional Dutch and English building practices, combined with practical considerations for the climate, shaped early barns in the region, mostly single-story log structures with steeply-pitched roofs and open spaces between logs to allow for ventilation.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century, increased availability of hewn lumber and new framing methods allowed for the popularization of single-story wood-framed barns with central aisles. Exterior openings were limited to access doors for livestock and small windows to aid in ventilation, often augmented by cupolas set at the roof ridge. Lumber industrialization also presented the opportunity to utilize the space above the barn for hay storage; however, access to this space was challenging. Relying upon a hillside or built-up bank to access the upper level, so-called Bank Barns were constructed of stone at and below grade, where animals were housed, and wood framed above. Upper stories often cantilevered over the first, providing extra shade and protection to the level below. While some are set beneath gable roofs, gambrel trusses (as seen in Dutch Colonial homes) gained popularity as they allowed for additional storage capacity with the same footprint.

The rising popularity of sawn wood construction during this time, as well as new technologies for wood preservation, led farmers to begin applying protective coatings to exterior surfaces of barns and other wood outbuildings in the late eighteenth century. The earliest pre-mixed paints, which were white and relied upon the availability of lead, were not available in rural America until nearly a century later. Instead, early barn paints were produced by individual farmers from skimmed milk, lime, and linseed oil. Rust produced by the chemical reaction between skimmed milk and lime resulted in a dark red colored paint, which also absorbed sun and retained heat in the winter. As ready-mixed paints became more available, the distinctive red color was already a nationally-recognized standard for barns and other wood agricultural buildings.30 Despite growing accessibility through the turn of the century, white paint remained expensive and its use was generally limited to trim associated with barn doors, as the contrast was thought to help cattle locate and navigate toward the barn. Barns painted entirely in lead-based white paint stood as indications of status, suggesting both cleanliness and wealth, but were mostly limited to those adjacent to major transportation routes like the National Road, as suggested by research conducted by economist Rick Nevin.31

Barn design was significantly impacted by Federal intervention into family farming operations in the late nineteenth century. Increasing concern over low nationwide agricultural production led to the establishment of the USDA and land grant colleges in the years leading up to the American Civil War,

and passage of the Hatch Act of 1887 required the establishment of “State Agricultural Experiment Stations” at one university in each state.\(^{32}\) In addition to researching agricultural issues and new technologies for the improvement of agriculture, the architecture and engineering departments provided barn plans at little to no cost to farmers.

Plans and publications by college research stations and groups such as the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, established in 1907, had a significant influence on the development of barn architecture between 1880 and 1920, and were largely responsible for the brief surge in popularity of round barns during this time. Round and polygonal barns were able to accommodate the largest number of farm animals within the smallest footprint, and true round barns eliminated angular corners which created wasted space by their very nature. Generally, interior layouts were radial, with stalls arranged along exterior walls around a central hay chute, reducing the walking distance and time required to feed an entire herd of cattle. In West Virginia, the form appeared within northern agricultural regions, indicating the interest of farmers in utilizing modern building techniques to improve efficiency.\(^{33}\) Four of these, constructed between c. 1890 and 1912, were individually listed in 1985 as part of a statewide effort to identify extant resources of the type.\(^{34}\) Ultimately, the increased automation of farming operations during the early twentieth century led most farmers to abandon the round barn form for more expansive, linear versions.

The USDA combined thousands of designs commissioned by the architecture and engineering departments of State Agricultural Experiment Stations into pattern books that were distributed to farmers by mail or through lumberyards. Similarly, material suppliers and associations, architects, and builders in the private sector offered barn planning services to a wide variety of farmers and compiled single-page overviews of various plans into pattern books. These publications invariably highlighted the importance and superiority of the product or service represented by the respective company, but also often included an abundance of information about modern building practices and architectural theories. Rooted in the tradition of Vitruvius, who published a series of architectural guidebooks between 30 and 15 BCE, the concept was reimagined and expanded upon in 1570 by a Venetian architect, Andrea Palladio.\(^ {35}\) The earliest such work in the United States was published for reference by builders and carpenters, and while similar manuals followed, they were often complex and overly technical.


\(^{34}\) Resources listed as part of this effort include: Rankin Octagonal Barn, constructed c. 1890 in Silverton, Reference No. 85001551; Ralphshnyder Decagonal Barn, constructed 1890 and relocated to Masontown, Reference No. 85003111; Kuykendall Polygonal Barn (collapsed) constructed 1906 in Romney, Reference No. 85001549; Hamilton Barn constructed 1911-12 in Mannington, Reference No. 85001548.

In 1841, Andrew Jackson Downing published the first American pattern books aimed at helping average middle-class property owners to decide on overall design themes and learn to work with an architect or builder. This approach proved highly effective for both educational and marketing purposes and was ultimately replicated by companies like Aladdin Homes, Sears, Roebuck and Co., and Montgomery Ward, all of whom supplied both home and barn plans during this period.

In 1906, the Louden Machinery Company established an Architecture Department and began a free barn planning service, publishing its first pattern book under the title “Louden Barn Plans” in 1914. Louden Barn Plans continued to be published intermittently for the next thirty years, after which nationwide trends toward suburbanization and prefabrication reduced the demand for pattern books. Farm owners throughout the country began to rely upon these resources, rather than their ancestral building knowledge, to inform construction of barns through the early twentieth century.

The combined effects of the Dust Bowl and Great Depression led to a significant drop in barn construction in the 1930s, with open-air pole barns gaining prevalence. In the 1940s, working from the previous success of pattern books, several companies began to produce kit barns and houses made up of numbered pieces that could be assembled on-site. The evolution of the kit home led to the eventual prevalence of metal prefabricated barns, which would come to represent a growing number of resources in the second half of the century. Ultimately, prefabricated metal barns became the preferred construction type for both small family farms and large industrial agricultural operations throughout the country. Today, the prefabricated barn remains a ubiquitous twentieth-century resource type throughout the region’s agricultural landscape.

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37 Minnesota Historic Farms Study, Planning and Building Farm Structures, p. 5. 19.
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Section number Figures Page 1

FIGURES LOG

Name of Property: West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
City or Vicinity: Romney
County: Hampshire
State: West Virginia

Figures

Figure 1 Illustration of floor and structural system utilized in nominated resource.
Figure 2 Illustration of structural system utilized in barn building. Detail of windows utilized in the nominated resource.
Figure 3 Detail of windows utilized in the nominated resource.
Figure 4 Illustrated detail of ventilation utilized in nominated resource.
Figure 5 Illustrated overview of ventilation system utilized in nominated resource.
Figure 6 Illustrated detail of wooden gates utilized in nominated resource.
Figure 7 Illustrated detail of typical steel pens with tilt feed bins utilized in nominated resource.
Figure 8 Patent illustration of cattle manger and dividers utilized in nominated resource.
Figure 9 Patent illustration of typical automated water bowls utilized in nominated resource.
Figure 11 Catalog page illustrating harness hooks present in nominated resource.
Figure 10 Catalog page illustrating horse stall guards present in nominated resource.
Figure 12 Patent illustration of typical overhead conveying track utilized in nominated resource.
Figure 13 Patent illustrations of typical feed and litter carrier bins utilized in nominated resource, showing bin in both upright (Fig. 1) and unloading (Fig. 2) positions.
Figure 14 Patent illustration of hay-carrier system designed by William Louden.
Figure 15 Overview of WVSDB campus c. 1900.
Figure 16 Overview of farmland north of Depot Street under cultivation of corn and potatoes, c. 1916.
Figure 17 Photograph of WVSDB Dairy Barn with silo, c. 1940.
Figure 18 Photograph of WVSDB students using Louden Whirl-Around playground equipment, 1946.
Figure 19 1930 Photograph of four Louden barns at Experiment Station in Morgantown.
Figure 20 1930 Photograph of dairy barn at segregated Industrial School for Boys in Lakin.
Figure 21 1930 photograph of rear courtyard and exterior conveying system at segregated Industrial School for Boys in Lakin.
Figure 22 1920 Photograph of dairy barn being constructed at Reymann Memorial Farms in Wardensville.
Figure 23 1920 Photograph of dairy barn at School for Girls in Industrial, extant today.
Figure 24 1930 photograph of dairy barn interior at Weston State Hospital. Note overhead conveying system, automatic watering bowls, and poured concrete mangers.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 1. Illustration of floor and structural system utilized in nominated resource. Image reprinted from "Louden Barn Plans, 1915," Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The Superstructure

Figure 2. Illustration of structural system utilized in barn building. Image reprinted from "Louden Barn Plans, 1915," Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 3. Detail of windows utilized in the nominated resource. Image reprinted from “Louden Barn Plans, 1915,” Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield, p. 16.
Another Good System of Ventilation

- RUN VENT FLUES UP THRU ROOF

VENT FLUES IN CEILING CAN BE REGULATED TO SUIT WEATHER CONDITIONS, TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY OF AIR IN BARN.

FOUL AIR INTAKE AT END OF BARN CONNECTED TO TIE UNDER STALL FLOOR.

NO DAMPER, THIS FLUE IS ALWAYS OPEN FROM INTAKE UP THRU ROOF.

FRESH AIR INTAKE IS CONTINUOUS AROUND FOUR SIDES OF BARN EXCEPT WHERE INTERRUPTED BY DOOR OPENINGS AND FOUL AIR FLUE.

FRESH AIR FLUE IS INSULATED AROUND INSIDE OF WALL INSULATES BARN FLOOR FROM COLD FOUNDATION WALL.

FOUL AIR CIRCULATES THRU TIE FROM ONE END OF BARN TO THE OTHER END AND ENTERS FLUE WHICH GOES THRU ROOF.

Figure 4. Illustrated detail of ventilation utilized in nominated resource. Image reprinted from "Louden Barn Plans, 1915," Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield, p. 27.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Figure 5. Illustrated overview of ventilation system utilized in nominated resource. Image reprinted from "Louden Barn Plans, 1915," Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield, p. 28.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property: West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
County and State: Hampshire, WV

Name of multiple listing (if applicable): N/A

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Figure 7. Illustrated detail of typical steel pens with tilt feed bins utilized in nominated resource. Image reprinted from “Louden Barn Plans, 1915,” Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield, p. 111.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number: Figures: Page 8

Figure 8. Patent illustration of cattle manger and dividers utilized in nominated resource. US1457850A, filed Feb 9, 1922 and issued June 5, 1923. Image courtesy Google Patents.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property: West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Hampshire, WV

County and State: Hampshire, WV

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Figure 10. Catalog page illustrating horse stall guards present in nominated resource. Image reprinted from “Louden General Catalog no. 46,” Louden Machinery Company, Fairfield, p. 209.

West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property: Hampshire, WV

County and State: N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable): 

Section number: Figures Page 11

Figure 13. Patent illustrations of typical feed and litter carrier bins utilized in nominated resource, showing bin in both upright (Fig. 1) and unloading (Fig. 2) positions. US876578A, filed May 16, 1907 and issued Jan 14, 1908. Images courtesy Google Patents.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property: Hampshire, WV

County and State: N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable): Figure 15. Overview of WVSDB campus c. 1900. Image courtesy West Virginia Regional and History Center, ID no. 012636.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

<table>
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _Figures_ Page 15

Figure 16. Overview of farmland north of Depot Street under cultivation of corn and potatoes, c. 1916. Image courtesy West Virginia Regional and History Center, ID no. 026141.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property: Hampshire, WV
County and State: N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable):

Figure 17. Photograph of WVSDB Dairy Barn with silo, c. 1940. Image courtesy Town of Romney.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 18. Photograph of WVSDB students using Louden Whirl-Around playground equipment, 1946. Image courtesy WVSDB Tablet Archives.
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**Figure 19.** 1930 Photograph of four Louden barns at Experiment Station in Morgantown. Image courtesy West Virginia Regional and History Center, ID no. 025319.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 20. 1930 photograph of dairy barn at segregated Industrial School for Boys in Lakin. Image courtesy West Virginia Regional and History Center, ID no. 013558.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property

Hampshire, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Figure 21. 1930 photograph of rear courtyard and exterior conveying system at segregated Industrial School for Boys in Lakin. Image courtesy West Virginia Regional and History Center, ID no. 013551.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Section number  Figures  Page  21

![Figure 22. 1920 Photograph of dairy barn being constructed at Reymann Memorial Farms in Wardensville. Image courtesy West Virginia Regional and History Center, ID no. 017619.](image-url)
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 23. 1920 Photograph of dairy barn at School for Girls in Industrial, extant today. Image courtesy West Virginia Regional and History Center, ID no. 012839.
Name of Property
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

County and State
Hampshire, WV

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 24. 1930 photograph of dairy barn interior at Weston State Hospital. Note overhead conveying system, automatic watering bowls, and poured concrete mangers indicating that image was previously presented upside-down. Image courtesy West Virginia Regional and History Center, ID no. 012839.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number: Photos Page: 1

PHOTO LOG

Name of Property: West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
City or Vicinity: Romney
County: Hampshire
State: West Virginia
Photographer: Mills Group
Date Photographed: April 2021

Photos 1-34

Photo 1 Overview of south-facing façade of barn, facing north.
Photo 2 Overview of building and setting, facing northeast.
Photo 3 Central wing of south façade from street, facing north.
Photo 4 Typical shed roofed dormer and ventilation present throughout barn roof.
Photo 5 View of hallway connecting barn to silo, facing north.
Photo 6 Overview of east elevation of barn and silo, facing northwest.
Photo 7 Overview of north gambrel end of east wing, facing south.
Photo 8 Detail view of track extension and hay hood roof extension at north elevation of east wing, facing southwest.
Photo 9 Overview of rear courtyard from rear lot line, facing southeast.
Photo 10 View of former manure pit and posts for overhead track, facing east.
Photo 11 Detail view of existing overhead track emerging from north side of east wing with remains of hay fork, facing northeast.
Photo 12 Interior view of feed room and stairs to central hay mow, facing southwest.
Photo 13 Interior view of southernmost cross-alley, facing west.
Photo 14 Interior view of livestock pens on south wall of west wing, facing southwest.
Photo 15 Interior view from center of east wing, facing north. Note manger and cattle stalls defining east side of alley.
Photo 16 Interior view of cattle stalls and litter alley in west wing, facing northwest.
Photo 17 Interior view of entry door to horse stall room, facing east.
Photo 18 Interior view of horse stalls, facing southeast.
Photo 19 Interior view of tackle room at south end of horse stall room, facing south.
Photo 20 Interior view from central wing toward east wing, facing east.
Photo 21 Interior view of eastern half of east wing, facing south.
Photo 22 Interior view of ceiling ventilation hatch at east wing, facing south.
Photo 23 Interior view of typical 90-degree turn in overhead track, facing east.
Photo 24 Interior view of hay mow above central wing, facing east.
Photo 25 Interior view of vent in central hay mow, facing west.
Photo 26 Interior view toward south gable end of east wing at hay mow level, facing southeast.
Photo 27 Interior view toward north gable end of east wing at hay mow level, facing northeast.
Photo 28 Detail view of typical handle on tilt mangers.
Photo 29 Detail view of typical automated water bowl found throughout barn.
Photo 30 Detail view of typical wall-mounted hay chute.
Photo 31 Exterior view of creamery building, facing east.
Photo 32 Exterior view of creamery building, facing northwest.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 2

Photo 33 Interior view of western room in creamery building, facing northwest
Photo 34 Interior view of eastern room in creamery building, facing southeast.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Photo 1. Overview of south-facing façade of barn, facing north.
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West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photo 2. Overview of building and setting, facing northeast.
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Photo 3. Central wing of south façade from street, facing north.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 6

Photo 4. Typical shed roofed dormer and ventilation present throughout barn roof.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photo 5. View of hallway connecting barn to silo, facing north.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 8

Photo 6. Overview of east elevation of barn and silo, facing northwest.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

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Photo 7. Overview of north gambrel end of east wing, facing south.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 10

Photo 8. Detail view of track extension and hay hood roof extension at north elevation of east wing, facing southwest.
Photograph 9. Overview of rear courtyard from rear lot line, facing southeast.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photo 10. View of former manure pit and posts for overhead track, facing east.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _Photos_ Page _13_

Photo 11. Detail view of existing overhead track emerging from north side of east wing with remains of hay fork, facing northeast.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 14

Photo 12. Interior view of feed room and stairs to central haymow, facing southwest.
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National Park Service  

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Continuation Sheet  

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West Virginia Schools for the Deaf  
and the Blind Dairy Barn  

Photo 13. Interior view of southernmost cross-alley, facing west.
Name of Property: West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
County and State: Hampshire, WV
N/A

Photo 14. Interior view of livestock pens on south wall of west wing, facing southwest.
Photo 15. Interior view from center of east wing, facing north. Note manger and cattle stanchions defining east side of alley.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _Photos_ Page _18_

West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photo 16. Interior view of cattle stanchions and litter alley in west wing, facing northwest.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

West Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Photo 17. Interior view of entry door to horse stall room, facing east.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photo 18. Interior view of horse stalls, facing southeast
Name of Property
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Photo 19. Interior view of tackle room at south end of horse stall room, facing south.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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West Virginia Schools for the Deaf
and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Photo 20. Interior view from central wing toward east wing, facing east.
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West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property: West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
County and State: Hampshire, WV

Name of multiple listing (if applicable): N/A

---

Photo 21. Interior view of eastern half of east wing, facing south.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf
and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number  Photos  Page  24

Photo 22. Interior view of ceiling ventilation hatch at east wing, facing south.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf
and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photo 23. Interior view of typical 90-degree turn in overhead track, facing east.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

United States Department of the Interior
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Photo 24. Interior view of haymow above central wing, facing east.
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**Name of Property:** West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

**Hampshire, WV**

**County and State:** N/A

**Name of multiple listing (if applicable):**

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Photo 25. Interior view of vent in central haymow, facing west.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section number Photos Page 28

Photo 26. Interior view toward south gable end of east wing at haymow level, facing southeast.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

United States Department of the Interior
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Section number Photos Page 29

Photo 27. Interior view toward north gable end of east wing at haymow level, facing northeast.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 30

Photo 28. Detail view of typical handle on tilted mangers.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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West Virginia Schools for the Deaf
and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photo 29. Detail view of typical automatic water feeder found throughout barn.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _Photos_ Page 32

Photo 30. Detail view of typical wall-mounted hay chute.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 33

Photo 31. Exterior view of creamery building, facing east.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn

Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Photo 32. Exterior view of creamery building, facing northwest.
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Photo 33. Interior view of western room in creamery building, facing northwest.
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Dairy Barn
Name of Property
Hampshire, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photo 34. Interior view of eastern room in creamery building, facing southeast.
WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND (WVSDB)
DAIRY BARN
199 Depot Street, Romney
Hampshire County, West Virginia
SKETCH MAP - NOT TO SCALE

Nominated Property Boundary
Photo Vantage Points 1-34

Wood Building Ruin Outside of Nominated Boundary
Manure Pond Contributing Structure
1930 Dairy Barn Contributing Building
Concrete Paving
C. 1938 Silo Addition
C. 1945 Creamery Contributing Building
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDB) Dairy Barn
199 Depot Street, Romney
Hampshire County, West Virginia

USGS Map Section
Romney, WV 1973

UTM Coordinates
NAD 1983, Zone 17 S
1: 693378, 4357867
2: 693375, 4357873
3: 693375, 4357874
4: 693375, 4357874
WVSDB Dairy Barn
199 Depot Street, Romney
Hampshire County, West Virginia
LEVEL 2 SKETCH PLAN - NOT TO SCALE

Photo Vantage Points  24-27 ➤