

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **MAY 29 1985**
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not for publication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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic survey	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<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			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> 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.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gioulis, Michael, Historic Properties Inventory, Historic Preservation Unit Files, Charleston, West Virginia, July 29, 1982.

Schultz, LeRoy G., "The barns of West Virginia," *Goldenseal*, Volume 4, Numbers 2-3, April-Sept. 1978, p 51

Oral Interview with G. Max Hamilton, Mannington, West Virginia, August 17, 1984.

Oral Interview with Russel Fluharty, Mannington, West Virginia, August 16, 1984.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property One Acre

Quadrangle name Mannington

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

17	5 5 7 2 4 0	4 3 7 4 3 0 0
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point of convergence of Hamilton Driveway/Road with County Route 11, (50 ft. southeast of the barn) the boundary line runs 200 ft. in a straight line along the west edge of the driveway/road, thence in a straight line 200 ft. westward, thence 200 ft. in

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph Pedersen, A.I.A., Architect / Margo Stafford

organization Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, Inc.

date September 1, 1984

street & number P. O. Box 1135

telephone 624-9298

city or town Clarksburg

state West Virginia 26302

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date May 2, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

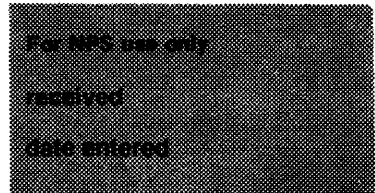
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet

Hamilton Round Barn

Item number 10

Page 2

a straight line southward to County Route 3, thence along the north edge of County Route 3 the point of beginning; forming a square and inclusive of the round barn only. There are no dependencies.