

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Kuykendall Polygonal Barn

and or common

2. Location

street & number River Road (CO. RT. 8) not for publication

city, town Romney vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Hampshire code 027

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name C. Ellis Hood

street & number 11531 Coppermine Road

city, town Woodsboro vicinity of state Maryland 21798

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hampshire County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Romney 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 Kuykendall barn is a 15-sided two-story structure built around a central round wooden silo. The main framing members are wooden poles covered with vertical wood siding. The barn has a sectional conical roof, with a self-supporting radial sectional framing system covered with metal roofing and extending into a large dormer over the front entrance. The silo also has a conical roof covered with the same metal material. The type of foundation is not known, although the packed dirt ground floor suggests some kind of single pier or block under the main support posts at each angle of the polygon.

At some point, a rectangular wing roughly 80 feet long was added to the west side, probably fairly soon after the barn's construction, although the actual date is not known. The barn was built as a dairy barn, and the addition was apparently needed to accommodate a larger number of cows.

In addition to the uncommon 15-sided shape, the Kuykendall barn exhibits several other innovative features, primarily of a technological nature. The interior is arranged in a circular fashion around the center silo, which is constructed barrel-style, with vertical wooden staves bound by round metal hoops. The silo is circled by a wooden track with a wooden "silage car," which resembles an old wooden coal mine car. The track in turn is surrounded by a continuous feed trough, divided at regular intervals by slats to provide some separation of animals, although there are no complete stalls. This feed trough extends down the center of the addition, with a walkway on both sides so that cows could be fed from either side.

The second level - which is a full floor, rather than a platform - was intended for hay storage, and is equipped with a metal track and conveyor system set into the interior of the roof. The track runs in a full circle around the perimeter and extends out the dormer at the front of the barn. There is evidence that the track originally was equipped with a crane or fork designed to lift bales of hay into the barn from the outside and move them wherever the farmer wished on the second level. There are also openings at intervals in the flooring of the second level so that bales could be dropped through to the ground level. It is interesting to speculate on whether Kuykendall and Clowser got their idea for the second-level track and crane arrangement from the Loudon Machinery Company of Fairfield, Iowa, or perhaps even ordered the equipment from Loudon. As early as 1905 William Loudon was publicizing his patented track and hay fork as "the most perfect plan yet devised for handling hay in round barns," and later began supplying the actual plans for round barns in order to broaden the market for his farm equipment.

## 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** c. 1906 **Builder/Architect** John Clowser, Builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Kuykendall Polygonal Barn is the only 15-sided barn built in West Virginia, and one of only a few such known to have been constructed in the country as a whole.

This barn also exhibits a number of sophisticated technological innovations not encountered in any of the state's other round and polygonal barns. Most of these features are still intact.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

The Kuykendall Polygonal Barn, located on River Road about 10 miles south of Romney in Hampshire County, was built around 1906 by the Kuykendall family. The chief carpenter on the barn was John Clowser, whose descendants still live in the Romney area.

Now owned by C. Ellis Hood of Woodsboro, Maryland, the Kuykendall farm is one of the oldest in Hampshire, part of 405-acre land grant made by Lord Fairfax to Henry Van Meter in 1749. The property passed to Abraham Van Meter in 1804; to William Miller in 1833; to Thomas French and George Stump in 1845; to James Stump in 1870 and then to Robert White, trustee; to James Sloan in 1879; and from James Sloan to his daughter Hannah, wife of William Kuykendall, in 1882. It remained in the Kuykendall family until 1966, when Ellis Hood bought the farm from the estate of Edith Kuykendall.

As mentioned in the section on the physical appearance, the barn was equipped with various advanced devices designed to save the farmer precious time and labor. These features, which are intact except for the hay crane, point to a creative builder conversant with the latest developments in agricultural technology and willing to experiment. Such innovations, not present in other round and polygonal barns in the state, make the Kuykendall barn unique in West Virginia, and additionally valuable for the glimpse it provides of turn-of-the-century farming techniques.

The Kuykendall barn is also an excellent example of the transitional period in round/polygonal barn construction. The octagon shape, popular in the late 19th century, gave way to a true circular shape after the turn of the century, as advancing technical knowledge provided the basis for the necessary construction techniques. It was during this period in the early 1900's that the major portion of multi-sided barns were built, as farmers experimented with their own variations. The central wooden cylindrical silo and the circular interior arrangement are also representative of the transitional stage.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Brannon, Selden, W., ed., *Historic Hampshire*, McClain Printing Company, Parsons, West Virginia, 1976.  
Letter from C. Ellis Hood, Woodsboro, Maryland, July 2, 1984.  
Oral Interview with C. Ellis Hood, Woodsboro, Maryland, July 30, 1984  
Oral Interview with Alan Mitchell, Romney, West Virginia, June 18, 1984.  
Schultz, LeRoy G., "The Barns of West Virginia," *Goldenseal*, Volume 4, Numbers 2-3, April-Sept. 1978, p. 5

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 5 acres

Quadrangle name Moorefield

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

117	6816	1510
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 the convergence of Kiykendall Creek and County Route 8, the boundary line is formed by the Creek to the south and east and by a straight line 900 ft. long, 200 ft. parallel to and northeast of the barn, connecting the creek with Route 8 and the point of

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 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

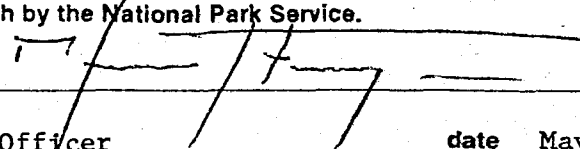
city or town Clarksburg state West Virginia

## 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

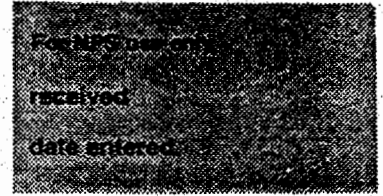
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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



Continuation sheet Kuykendall Polygonal Barn Item number 10

Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

beginning. Inclusive of the barn and immediate field.

5282 N SW  
(BURLINGTON)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

KUIKENDAL  
POLYGONAL

78° 52' 30"  
39° 15'

684000m E

685

686

KUIKENDALL  
POLYGONAL BARN  
COUNTY ROUTE 8  
ROMNEY VICINITY,  
ROMNEY, HAMPSHIRE  
Co, W. VA.

ITH:  
17/686 150/4344 900

