

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: Wirt
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUL 24 1974

468740  
 N 03222000  
 17  
 15

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Beauchamp-Newman <sup>House</sup> Museum

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Beauchamp, Alfred, House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Elizabeth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Third

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

COUNTY:  
Wirt

CODE:  
105

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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 (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Elizabeth Beauchamp Chapter--Daughters of the American Pioneers

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Elizabeth

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Wirt County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court and Washington Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Elizabeth

STATE:  
West Virginia

CODE:  
54

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

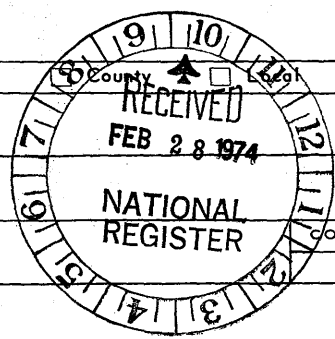
DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  
 State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

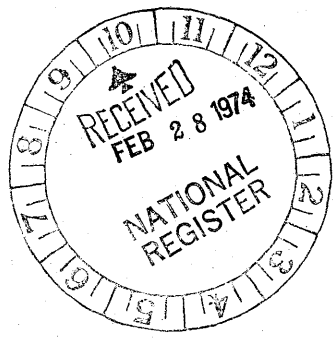
The Beauchamp-Newman Museum is of quite unusual architecture. Although it is a simple building, a variety of styles were used to achieve simplicity. The western end of the house has a plain gabled roof; the southern end has stepped gabled ends; and the southeastern corner is hipped.

A very simple brick cornice runs the length of the building. The brickwork is common bonded, and the lintels and sills are stone. The foundation is also stone. The structure rests on a slope; therefore, the foundation is higher toward the north than toward the south. At its high point, it is nearly level with the window sills. It is projected here from the rest of the facade and used as a watertable.

The northern side, which faces the Little Kanawha River, was first used by Alfred Beauchamp as the entrance to his general store. At the time the Daughters of American Pioneers bought the property, a large porch had been added to this entrance. The owners have since removed it, exposing the worn stone doorsill.

The doors on both the northern and eastern sides are located in the lower right corner. The one toward the south is more in the center of the facade.

Around 1900, a wooden, two-story section was added to the northwestern corner of the house. Today it is being covered with aluminum siding.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1848 (Used for County Court & Circuit Court)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |   |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | losophy                                       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | itarian                                       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wirt County, West Virginia, owes quite a bit of its history to the Beauchamp family. For example, the first recorded white settler to build a log cabin within the present boundaries of the county was William Beauchamp; in 1803 William's son, David, brought one of the first industries to the area by building a grist mill; and in 1848 David's son, Alfred, temporarily donated his home to be used as a base from which to organize the county administration.

From 1803 until 1817, the village was known as Beauchamp's Mill, but the name was changed to Elizabeth in the latter year. This change, however, was not made to sever relations between the Beauchamps and the townsfolk, for the new name was chosen in honor of David's wife, Elizabeth.

David's and Elizabeth's son, Alfred, was born in his "mother's town." Like his father, he became identified with the business interests of the area and, like his father, chose an "Elizabeth" as his bride. She was the former Elizabeth Henrietta Burns of Meigo County, Ohio.

It is estimated that Alfred Beauchamp built his home around 1840, but because the exact date is not known, it cannot be specified whether Elizabeth Henrietta was brought to the house or had it built for her after marriage. Whatever the case, the home became important to her, to the town of Elizabeth, and to the entire county of Wirt. On January 19, 1848, Alfred Beauchamp, who was already distinguished in the community, was honored by the Virginia General Assembly in a bill passed creating Wirt County from Wood and Jackson. One provision of the bill states "the justices of the peace commissioned and qualified as aforesaid, for the county of Wirt, shall meet at the house now the residence of Alfred Beauchamp in the county of Wood, situated in Elizabethtown, on the fourth Monday in May next." His home town was to be the county seat, and on May 23, 1848, the first county court convened at the Beauchamp home.

Not only was Alfred Beauchamp's home to become the first administrative court in Wirt County, but on April 4, 1848, the first circuit court convened in the house with the Honorable David McComas presiding. The first Wirt County bar was instituted at this meeting and among those obtaining permission to practice in the commonwealth was Arthur I. Boreman, first governor of West Virginia.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia. (Dec. 1847-Apr. 1848 Session).  
 Richmond: Samuel Shepherd, 1848. (p.39)  
Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia (Roane, Calhoun, Jackson  
 and Wirt Counties). New York: H.H. Hardesty & Co., 1884. (pp.297-99)  
 Roberts, Dorthy. "The Beauchamp Settlement at Tuckers Riffle, Little Kanawha  
 River." Unpublished paper. Elizabeth, W.Va., n.d. (Photo reproduced).  
 Smith, James L. Elizabeth, W.Va., in Review. N.p., n.d. (pp. 1-3)

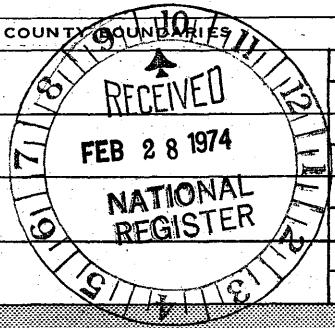
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		39 ° 3 ' 52.2 "	81 ° 23 ' 37.5 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1/2 Acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Ted McGee, Field Agent**

ORGANIZATION: **West Virginia Antiquities Commission** DATE: **October 25, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University**

CITY OR TOWN: **Morgantown** STATE: **West Virginia** CODE: **54**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Leonard M. Davis  
 Leonard M. Davis

Title: state Historic Preservation Officer

Date: February 22, 1974

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

A. P. Mortensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/24/74

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Kuehling  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7/22/74

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*(Continuation Sheet)*

STATE West Virginia	
COUNTY Wirt	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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JUL 24 1974	

*(Number all entries)*

**8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)**

Today the Beauchamp-Newman Museum, located in perhaps the most historic building in Wirt County, is filled with such tokens of the past as Civil War clothing, Indian relics, antique guns and antique dolls.

