

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 31 1975
DATE ENTERED APR 14 1975

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME * *Blackman - Bosworth Store*

HISTORIC Bosworth Store Building; S.N. Bosworth's Cheap Cash Store;
David Blackman's Store

AND/OR COMMON
Bosworth Store Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Main and Court Streets

CITY, TOWN Beverly

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

STATE West Virginia

___ VICINITY OF
CODE 54

COUNTY Randolph
CODE 083

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
___ DISTRICT	___ PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___ AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	___ UNOCCUPIED	___ COMMERCIAL ___ PARK
___ STRUCTURE	___ BOTH	___ WORK IN PROGRESS	___ EDUCATIONAL ___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	___ ENTERTAINMENT ___ RELIGIOUS
___ OBJECT	___ IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	___ GOVERNMENT ___ SCIENTIFIC
	___ BEING CONSIDERED	___ YES: UNRESTRICTED	___ INDUSTRIAL ___ TRANSPORTATION
		___ NO	___ MILITARY ___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Randolph County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER Box 1164

CITY, TOWN Elkins

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
West Virginia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Randolph County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Randolph Street

CITY, TOWN Elkins

STATE
West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bosworth Store Building in Beverly, Randolph County, West Virginia, presently consists of two distinct elements: the original, c. 1828, portion of the building to the south and an 1894 addition to the north. The older section was built on a cut-stone foundation which provided a low basement under the entire structure. Of two-story brick construction, it was made so as to allow a great deal of natural light into the store from the south and east (front) elevations. The south has four windows on each floor while the east now has two on the first floor and three on the second. The rear portion has only one window (on the north side of the second floor), and the north elevation (now enclosed) has two toward the rear of the first floor. Most windows are presently 2/2, double-hung sash, but the originals (and replacements of the last several years) were 9/6. This section has a gabled roof with a metal covering. It is completed in Flemish bond on the front and south and common bond on the rear (west) and north. There is a high brick chimney in the back portion of the north side, and this houses two fireplaces on each level.

The 1894 addition is on a cut-stone foundation also, but there is no basement. The front is such that only the section enclosing the stairwell is flush with the older unit, the rest being set back several feet. Door placement provides a rear, side and front entrance, and there are three windows on the rear, four on the side and four on the front. Side and rear windows are all 2/2, double-hung sash, while those in the front of the part set back from the street are dual 1/1 with a 2/2 in the second floor of the stairwell and a small diamond-shaped window on the first floor. Except for the diamond-shaped opening, all doors and windows are arched and have stone sills. The roof gives a flat appearance, but it slopes gently to the rear. Brick on the front is of a finer quality than elsewhere and is laid in a stretcher bond while the other elevations are common.

The interior of the older section is as originally designed on the first floor--a large open room in the front and a small room to the rear--but the second floor has been partitioned at various times to form new arrangements. There are now three rooms and bath on the second level. Both plumbing and electricity have been added in the twentieth century. The 1894 portion has two rooms downstairs and two up.

Until the 1894 section was added, the older part had a stair to the second floor on the exterior of the north elevation. Frame outbuildings, probably used for storage purposes, were located to the rear, and a lean-to was attached to the back of the building for some time. The main entrance to the store was through a central door at the front which had a rectangular transom. This opening was repeated on the second floor with a door through which stored materials could be placed or removed. It is believed that the original roof was partially destroyed during high winds in the latter half of the nineteenth century, and this is substantiated in part by the difference in the color of the brick on both gables. First-floor windows were shuttered at one time.

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1828, 1894 (constructed) BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bosworth Store Building is mainly significant in its nearly 100 years of use as a general commercial unit in a small community which served as the center of a wide-spread and diverse area of Virginia and West Virginia. Adding to its importance was short-term use as county courthouse, post office and semi-official meeting place. Its owners were among the leaders of the community, and their services reached far beyond the provision of commercial goods.

Probably constructed soon after David Blackman purchased the town lot in 1827, the store building was the first commercial brick structure in Beverly and one of the earliest in its part of Virginia. When Blackman married in 1824, his wife's father gave the couple several slaves. Although it is said David did not believe in slavery, he apparently retained these and used their labor in burning bricks and building his storehouse.

Of significance is the fact that the building served its initial purpose for about a century, passing from the Blackman family to a fellow named Barlow and coming into the possession of Squire Newton Bosworth in 1881. The latter operated the store into the twentieth century; it finally closed its doors as a commercial enterprise and was devoted entirely to storage in the late 1920s.

As a general merchandise outlet, the store handled all types of goods, from grains to materials to household furnishings. Farmers and craftsmen from the outlying area, as well as Beverly, congregated at this centrally located building--across the main street from the town square and nearby courthouse--thus making it one of the social attractions and communication center. In fact, a newspaper was published here for a time, and stories tell of people gathering around the front or in the interior to pass news of births, deaths, farming, politics and the weather.

During the Civil War, the little town of Beverly was frequented by Union and Confederate troops alike, and the old storehouse saw its share of the military. Townsfolk had used its underground "vault" for years to protect valuables (a practice which would continue after the war). This was located in the basement under the small back room of the store. The only entrance was through a trap door in the floor, for the entire area was sealed below ground. This "bank" became particularly important as troops passed through or encamped. Several items of the Civil War period have been discovered in the interior, including bayonets and bullets, and names of soldiers were found scrawled on some of the walls on the first floor.

Among other uses, the building apparently was the temporary seat of county government during a portion of 1865, and S.N. Bosworth operated the post office here for a few years. When controversy arose over moving the county seat to Elkins in the late nineteenth century, this is said to have been the meeting place of area residents opposed to the move. It is even told that a group congregated in the structure and planned to do physical harm to anyone who attempted to remove court records from the nearby county building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bosworth, A.S. A History of Randolph County, West Virginia. Elkins, W.Va. (?): n.p., 1916. (pp. 306-08)
- Elkins, W.Va. Randolph County Courthouse. Deed books.
- Interview, Mr. John Ward and Misses Genivieve and Elizabeth Ward with James E. Harding, Research Analyst, West Virginia Antiquities Commission. Information on file at the West Virginia Antiquities Commission, Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3/4 acre

UTM OK CD

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	59,715,9,0	4,219,915,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James E. Harding, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

March 10, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

TELEPHONE

(304) 292-1527

CITY OR TOWN

Morgantown

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.

SIGNATURE

Leonard W. Davis

TITLE West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 25, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/14/75

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

APR 10 1975

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The first owner, David Blackman, was a land- and horse-trader as well as merchant. He also helped in the construction of the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike through the area, subscribing \$200 for the purpose in 1840. Another owner, Squire Newton Bosworth, was the son of a well-known area doctor, and his father and his wife's father both served for a period as county clerks. Bosworth was a member of the 31st Virginia Infantry (Confederate) during the Civil War.

Since closing as a store, the structure has been used for a variety of purposes. One of these was as a recreational center for the National Youth Administration during the 1930s. In 1973 the Randolph County Historical Society purchased the property, and it now serves as a meeting place and museum.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)

Maxwell, Hu. The History of Randolph County, West Virginia. Parsons, W.Va.: McClain Printing Co., 1961. (pp. 199-200, 300-01, 331-35).
Morgantown, W.Va. West Virginia Collection, West Virginia University Library. Spencer and Alston G. Dayton Papers. Item No. A & M 1216.