

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 15 1975

DATE ENTERED JUN 5 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

HISTORIC "Elmhurst"; The Caldwell Place

AND/OR COMMON "Elmhurst" *Use this*

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
U.S. Route 60

CITY, TOWN
Caldwell

STATE
West Virginia

___ VICINITY OF
CODE
54

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

COUNTY CODE
Greenbrier 025

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Lake (Dorothy) Polan, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 1700

CITY, TOWN Huntington

___ VICINITY OF

STATE West Virginia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Greenbrier County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Court and Randolph Streets

CITY, TOWN Lewisburg

STATE West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Elmhurst," situated in the town of Caldwell, Greenbrier County, West Virginia, is an imposing brick house which was constructed in 1824 on the banks of the Greenbrier River near where a toll bridge replaced a ferry crossing in 1821. Its location was no accident, and it served for many years as a tavern and inn along the James River and Kanawha Turnpike.

Built on a low foundation, the two-story structure is well proportioned. The main section is approximately fifty feet wide and forty feet deep, and an ell (about 50' x 25') extends along the east side. Structural design is largely symmetrical, as may be seen in window and door placement. The builder apparently planned well in providing several openings for each room, and doors allow easy access to the north (front) and east elevations of the main house. Windows, except in the smaller, southern part of the ell, are now 9/9, double-hung sash, similar to the small-paned originals, but these have recently replaced 2/2 sash which had been used since the latter part of the nineteenth or early part of the twentieth century. Also, shutters were once placed at the windows in the main section but have since been removed. Chimney placement is somewhat unusual, for the east elevation has its dual chimneys on the exterior while on the west side they are incorporated in the wall.

The ell is really of two units, the northern part being the same height as the main house, and the southern section (which was used as kitchen and servants' quarters) being somewhat lower. The former has three openings on each floor of the interior (west) side, two on each floor of the east and a chimney placed in the wall of the gable. The smaller unit has two openings on both levels of the sides and a large exterior chimney on the gable. The ell encloses an interior porch which runs across the rear of the main house and along the west elevation of the extension.

The entrance porch is now a two-story open portico supported by four square columns and capped by an ornamental stepped gable. Originally, this was a double portico with balustraded first and second floor porches. At one time, the east side had a small portico over the entrance on that side, but this was enclosed about 1890 and then enlarged in 1972 to the two-story frame arrangement of today.

In addition to the high, dual chimneys on the main section's gables, one of the outstanding features of the exterior of "Elmhurst" is the entrance door. It is deeply set into the wall and has reeded pilasters on each side of its nearly four-foot width. What adds even greater emphasis are the arched overlight and the sidelights, each displaying delicate designs in ovals, circles and distorted diamonds.

The main section of the interior follows a "double-pile" style with wide central hall and two large rooms opening on each side. A finely carved stairwell is located well to the rear of the hall. The ell has one room on each floor in the northern section and one room downstairs and three up in the old servants' area. The frame addition on the eastern elevation has a sun porch on the first floor and a sleeping porch on the second.

Although some of the larger rooms have been partitioned to provide bathrooms and closet space, there has been little structural change even on the interior. Mantels in some of the principal rooms are hand carved, and several have reeded pilasters and sunburst medallions over the hearth. Floors throughout the house are wide pine boards. The original kitchen (now used for storage) was on the first floor of the back part of the ell, and it had a massive arched fireplace with a dutch oven on each side. This has been covered over in recent years, however.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1824

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Among the many houses built in western Virginia after the James River and Kanawha Turnpike greatly facilitated travel and stimulated commerce between east and west was "Elmhurst," a stately structure erected near the confluence of Howards Creek and the Greenbrier River. Size, style and detail combined to make this more than a good inn at which to rest and enjoy a meal. The builder offered excellence in accommodations and made journeys a little more pleasant for those who traveled by horse or stage, those who drove livestock east and those who wished to see the countryside surrounding the mineral spring resorts of the area.

Increase in travel on the so-called State Road, which later became the James River and Kanawha Turnpike, brought the need for a bridge to carry the traffic over the Greenbrier River near the location of the old Anderson Ford east of Lewisburg. The latter had served its purpose well when volume was light, but high water in spring and a rough river bottom began creating problems. Finally, a toll bridge was constructed over the Greenbrier near its confluence with Howards Creek in 1821. Taking advantage of a necessary stop to pay the toll-taker, Henry B. Hunter built a large house on the east bank in 1824 and offered lodging and victuals for men and the necessary supplies for animals. The addition of barns, wagon and blacksmith shops and a gristmill made the stop even more inviting.

Hunter's creation was a handsome two-story brick house with fourteen rooms. A great double porch with balustraded sides and a stepped-gable top greeted guests. The main entranceway was a delightful sight, featuring a nearly four-foot wide door with reeded pilasters to the sides and overlight and sidelights geometrically divided into ovals, circles and diamonds. The high dual chimneys promised sufficient heat when the weather was cold, and the large fireplace in the kitchen with its dutch ovens on each side signified the availability of fine meals. Inside the main house, wide central halls on each floor led to four large rooms with hand-carved mantels. Of course, many of the lesser guests would have stayed in the rooms of the ell (where kitchen, dining room and servants' quarters were located), but they, too, could appreciate the quality of the structure which would be sure to offer a comfortable night's lodging or a tasty repast.

Although the increasing population in the west and the easier movement of goods over improved roads fostered the need for stops such as "Elmhurst," it was the existence of inns like the latter which made travel a bit more pleasant. This helped in its own way in the development of commerce between east and west and added emphasis to the requirements of better roads, waterways and railroads into the interior. Stages needed a place to stop and change horses while giving their passengers a chance to rest and have a meal, drovers and wagoners required food for their animals as well as themselves, and the people who frequented the spas of the area sought out a place which could offer exceptional fare and fun. "Elmhurst" admirably satisfied these, and the house attracted well-known people to the "picnic parties" held here by guests from the nearby Old White

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Dayton, Ruth Woods. Greenbrier Pioneers and Their Homes. Charleston, W.Va.: West Virginia Publishing Co., 1942.
- _____. Lewisburg Landmarks. Charleston, W.Va.: Education Foundation, Inc., 1957. (p. 41)
- Fasick, Ralph N. "Places of Historic Interest in Greenbrier County." MA problem, West Virginia University, Morgantown, W.Va., 1940.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

UTM OK
HR

A	17	553150	4181440	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				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

C.E. Turley, Research Assistant and James E. Harding, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

April 2, 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Leonard M. Davis

TITLE West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

May 12, 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

6/5/75

ATTEST

W. R. ...

DATE

JUN 3 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Hotel where the white sulphur and other springs had been drawing the wealthy and powerful for years. One such party is said to have honored President Martin Van Buren and his Secretary of War in August of 1837.

The old turnpike which helped to greatly increase east-west commercial contact was a much-traveled route during the Civil War also. After a battle in the Lewisburg area in 1862, Confederate General Heth withdrew, burned the old toll bridge over the Greenbrier River and set up gun emplacements and trenches near the tavern. "Elmhurst" escaped destruction in 1864 only because an illness in the owner's family prevented the evacuation of all inhabitants. Federal forces went to the extent of having an army surgeon examine the bed-ridden member in order to confirm that movement would cause her death.

Changing emphasis on modes of transportation and commerce, especially due to engineering refinements of the railroad, brought an end to the once flourishing business of inns such as "Elmhurst." With the coming of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway shortly after the Civil War, the old tavern became a less frequented place. It retained its fine architectural qualities, however, and continued to be an attraction for special gatherings. "Elmhurst" stands today as imposing and appealing as ever.