# National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form

**1. NAME**

**COMMON:**
Beauchamp-Newman Museum

**AND/OR HISTORIC:**
Beauchamp, Alfred, House

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
Court Street

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Elizabeth

**STATE:**
West Virginia

**COUNTY:**
Wirt

**CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Yes: Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Conservation work in progress</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE**

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Residential
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

**3. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**OWNERS NAME:**
Elizabeth Beauchamp Chapter--Daughters of the American Pioneers

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
Court Street

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Elizabeth

**STATE:**
West Virginia

**4. 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

**COUNTY:**
Wirt

**CODE:**
54

**5. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE OF SURVEY:**

**DATE OF SURVEY:**

- Federal
- State
- County
- Local

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

**CITY OR TOWN:**

**STATE:**

**COUNTY:**

**CODE:**

**6. INSTRUCTIONS**

- See instructions for completing applicable sections.
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.
**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.


Smith, James L. Elizabeth, W.Va., in Review. N.p., n.d. (p.1-3)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2 Acre

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

STATE CODE

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</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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

56.

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: February 22, 1974

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: ____________________________

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: ____________________________
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.
1. **NAME:** Beauchamp-Newman Museum

2. **LOCATION:**
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:** Court Street
   - **CITY OR TOWN:** Elizabeth
   - **STATE:** West Virginia

3. **MAP REFERENCE:**
   - **SOURCE:** United States Geological Survey
   - **SCALE:** 1:24,000
   - **DATE:** 1957

4. **REQUIREMENTS:**
   - To be included on all maps:
     1. Property boundaries where required.
     2. North arrow.
     3. Latitude and longitude reference.