

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 Kanawha Hotel  
and or common

2. Location

street & number 111 Court Street not for publication  
city, town Elizabeth vicinity of  
state West Virginia code 54 county Wirt code 105

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	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Robert B. and Winnie H. Murray  
street & number P. O. Box 681 (111 Court Street)  
city, town Elizabeth vicinity of state WV 26143

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wirt County, West Virginia, Courthouse  
street & number  
city, town Elizabeth state WV 26143

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no  
date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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 <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kanawha Hotel stands at the foot of Court Street on city lot 1A overlooking the Little Kanawha River and the site of the Elizabeth town landing. The building's strategic location next to the river made it a 19th century focal point of activity as river travelers, traders, and later oil boom workers utilized its facilities. The nearby county courthouse also generated business as visitors or court personnel found the hotel a convenience for necessities such as lodging and meals.

The Kanawha Hotel is a log core, clapboard covered building which assumed its present appearance about 1870 with several frame additions. As a settlement period structure in the town of Elizabeth, it is of particular interest as the earliest known log building in the county. Logs which form the original multi-story pen are especially large and handsomely hewn. The log portion of the structure is that block upon which the two frame additions were constructed in 1870. The log pen measures 46'8" x 26'; its log fabric was examined in several sections as removal of interior wall coverings in several spots was necessitated to address wiring and plumbing problems. Two additions, built in 1870 or shortly thereafter, are of frame construction, and the building itself is covered in clapboarding, thus hiding the large log crib at the time of the remodelings. A one-story side porch, and a 2-story front porch, were also constructed about 1870 and survive much as they were built.

The first floor of the hotel consists of a small lobby, a large dining room, two bedrooms, a bathroom, and an anteroom. Spaces of the second floor are divided among five bedrooms, a bathroom, and a hallway. The hotel's attic level is composed of two bedrooms. A stairway connects the separate floors. A front bedroom on the second floor is traditionally referred to as the "Judge's Room"; it has a built-in walnut corner cupboard containing legal books. The huge, square logs are visible in this room.

The first addition, measuring 13' x 24', contains the kitchen and a stairway leading to two bedrooms on the second floor. The second addition, attached to the first, is one story in height, is a single undivided space, and measures 24' x 12'6".

The roofing of the main block is standing seam metal.

Overall condition of the building is fair. Deterioration of the eaves is the result in part of moisture penetration. Wood siding evidences some deterioration, though undulation of the siding along the walls is somewhat typical of such surfaces that have log backing.

### Outbuildings

A 19th century well pavilion stands at the southeast corner of the hotel. The pyramidal roof is covered in metal and is carried by four wooden turned columns. The pavilion is a contributing resource.

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The meter house northeast of the hotel is of later construction; it does not contribute to the significance of the nominated property.

Total Contributing Resources - 2  
(hotel building and well pavilion)

Total Noncontributing Resources - 1  
(meter house)

Breakdown of Contributing Resources  
(hotel building is 1 contributing building)  
(well pavilion is 1 contributing structure)

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

**Specific dates** ca. 1800; ca.1870 **Builder/Architect** Manlove Beauchamp

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Kanawha Hotel, the oldest building in Elizabeth, Wirt County, West Virginia, and possibly the oldest building in the county, was built circa 1800 by Manlove Beauchamp. The two-story, hand-hewn log structure located near the Little Kanawha River, served as an early center for those engaged in commerce in the area; it was the locally important hotel and social center. Early hotel record books indicate that guests included trappers, oil field workers, salesman, judges, circuit riders, and fox hunters. The dining room served "family style" fare to hotel guests and local residents. From 1812 until the hotel ceased operations around 1918, one room was named the "Judge's Room" and was held in reserve for when the judge came to hold court. The arrival of the steamboat around 1843 brought an increase in shipping and tourist trade to the area and to the hotel. The bedrooms in the hotel were separated for privacy by hanging quilts from the rafters until the building was remodeled around 1870. The hotel remains in much the same layout as it did at that time. The building contains an important log core structure. Its evolution from settlement period residence/tavern to community hotel evidenced the making of a significant local landmark of vernacular architecture.

The area along the Little Kanawha River was settled on Tomahawk Claims as early as 1784. The date of the first permanent settlement is 1796 when William Beauchamp settled on 1400 acres purchased from Thomas Dare in 1792. Surveys were tied to Tuckers Ripple on the Little Kanawha River, now the town of Elizabeth. The first deeds recorded in Wood County in April 1800 are to William's sons, Manlove and David, for tracts of 100 acres. (Wirt County was formed in 1848 from parts of Jackson and Wood Counties.)

Manlove Beauchamp built a log structure on his tract, near a landing on the Little Kanawha River, which was to become the Kanawha Hotel.

As a stimulus to the milling industry, and to provide a more convenient way of getting bread stuff, the Beauchamps made a wooden dam across the river at the northern end of what is now Court Street, and at the upper end of the old wharf. A structure to be used for milling purposes was built at the southern end of the dam. In it machinery was installed in such a way as to obtain the power created by the fall of the river water as it was diverted above the dam. With that power, the milling machinery was turned, and the stone burrs ground the corn into meal and the wheat into flour as the grains were passed through between them. There came a time when the Beauchamp mill ceased to be operated. Some records indicate it was destroyed by fire in 1822, while others indicate it was torn down. The dam was taken down to the bottom timbers, which were left in place. Some of those remaining timbers yet show when the water is drained off to an extremely low ebb. At some time in earlier days, a ferry was established across the river a short distance below the mill and landing under lovers leap.

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Manlove sold his holdings in 1817 and moved his family to Illinois. In 1833, George Rockhold opened a tavern in the log house, and in 1837, following his death, Thomas Tavenner purchased the "tavern house" and 17½ acres that in 1848 were surveyed into lots and added to the Town of Elizabeth. Kanawha Hotel is situated on Lot 1A.

William Beauchamp died October 11, 1808 at the age of 65 years and was buried on a point near the location of the Tucker Creek Bridge, close by the side of Pike Street. His grave appears to be the oldest at that place. Other members of the Beauchamp family along with a number of the early settlers are buried there and it is known as the Beauchamp cemetery.

A metal plate has been posted at the southwest corner of Court and Juliana Streets on which it is stated that Elizabeth was settled by William Beauchamp in 1796; and that it was named for the wife of David Beauchamp in 1852 (it had been named in 1822 when first incorporated as a town at the insistence of David Beauchamp and it just retained the name when re-incorporated in 1852). The person who had the plate made did not follow history back far enough.

According to the Wirt County Deed Books, Lot 1A containing one acre and the abandoned tavern house were sold to Bushrod Creel in 1864, an early pioneer in the oil industry. An old picture of the town shows an old drilling rig on Lot 1A on the bank of the Little Kanawha River. In the 1870 census of Wirt County, the long abandoned tavern house was identified as the Kanawha Hotel, owned by P. H. Dailey, born in Ireland.

Mr. Dailey remodeled the old log structure into a "modern hotel" by dividing it into rooms and covering the giant logs with clapboard siding. He constructed other additions to the structure making it much as it appears today. Within the walls is enclosed the old log house built by Manlove Beauchamp around 1800.

The era from 1870 to 1910 was one of unprecedented growth in population for Wirt County. The 1870 census shows 4,804; and in 1910 a population of 10,284. Elizabeth, the county seat, became a mill town. Hotels and livery stables flourished and the town outgrew its boundaries. Located near the wharf on the Little Kanawha River where the steamboats docked, and only a short distance from the Courthouse, the Kanawha Hotel was a mecca for travelers.

The old record books of the Kanawha Hotel show daily accounts in the hotel management. The books not only show some of the prices but who stayed and where they were from. Records show people came from as far as England and brought with them their maids and servants. Many conventions were held at the hotel. According to the record books one such convention was the "Delegates for the Republican Senatorial Convention", held on

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Thursday, August 30, 1894. Other guests included trappers, oil field workers, salesmen, judges, circuit riders and fox hunters who had a state fox hunt each year and the participants would stay at the hotel and hire a lady to cook cornbread for the fox hounds.

One of the early excitements of the area was caused by the discovery of oil at Burning Springs in 1860. An oil refinery was established in Parkersburg and that oil was first put in wooden barrels and taken out on wagons by horse teams by way of Elizabeth to Parkersburg. Elizabeth was a stopping place for overnight lodging and the hotel did a flourishing business. After a time the barrels were loaded on barges and floated downstream to Parkersburg where it was refined and fitten for use in making lights to take the place of candles. Such use of the river created a demand for means of making the river more easily navigated by holding back the rapid flow of the water, which resulted in the construction of dams and locks in the river, the first of which was built in Palestine in Wirt County in about 1872.

For purpose of raising money with which to build those dams, the Little Kanawha Navigation Company was organized by the Rathbones of Parkersburg, and the county of Wirt took stock in it to the amount of forty-thousand dollars by issuing bonds for that amount, and the rest of the dams were built in the early seventies. Then steamboats began to pass up and down the river from Parkersburg to Burning Springs which made it much easier to get in and out of Elizabeth. They carried goods in and produce out and Elizabeth became a more desirable place of business and the tourist trade flourished.

Milling of all sorts seemed to be abundant during the early years of Elizabeth. One finds reference to lumber mills, flour mills, wool mills where the wool was carded and made into soft open rolls, part of which were sold and part returned to the farms where it was spun into yarn and made into cloth or footwear.

The oil and mill industries made Elizabeth a lively and thriving place while they continued to operate and the Kanawha Hotel with its close proximity to the river and the wharf where the steamboats landed provided an important service as host to many who engaged in the thriving commerce of the period.

The Kanawha Hotel remained a vital part of the commerce and travel industry of the area until the first paved road, Route 21, completed in 1924 from Elizabeth to Parkersburg, and the river boats discontinued in 1928. It was then sold as a private residence.

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The Kanawha Hotel is the oldest building in Elizabeth and is thought to be the oldest building in Wirt County. As so often occurred with log buildings of the settlement period in West Virginia, the Kanawha Hotel evolved as a result of additions that gave the building a more refined appearance; typically, the log building acted as a large frame upon which later accretions appeared as local circumstances dictated. Noteworthy in this regard is the clapboarding which undulates across the expanse of the walls, a resulting effect of the relationship between settling wall and facing materials.

Bibliography

Mountain Trace, Volume 1 No. 4

West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia (Comstock, Richwood, WV)

History of Wirt County, West Virginia (Elizabeth Beauchamp Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution)

Elizabeth, WV In Review (James L. Smith - 1949)

Newspapers:

"Old Kanawha Hotel for Sale"; Wirt County Journal, April 21, 1982

"Little Kanawha River Traffic"; Wirt County Journal, February 20, 1980

Legal Records: Wirt County Courthouse; Deed Book 165, p. 183  
Wood County Courthouse

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.225 acre  
Quadrangle name Elizabeth, WV Quadrangle scale 1:24,000  
UTM References  
A 1 7 4 6 5 9 6 9 4 3 2 3 7 7 4  
Zone Easting Northing  
B  
Zone Easting Northing  
C  
D  
E  
F  
G  
H

Verbal boundary description and justification  
Beginning at a stake on Court Street thence N48-55E 9.98 ft.; thence n21-54E 216.85 ft.; thence S51-44E 283.38 ft.; thence S48-55W 255.50 ft.; thence N41 05W 180 ft.: Deed Book 165, p. 183; Deed Book 1, p. 29 (see sketch map and red line)  
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 Willis J. Ridenour, Coordinator; and Rodney Collins, Dept. of Culture and History  
organization Little Kanawh RC&C Area date April 1986  
P. O. Box 2062, 304/348-0240  
street & number Room 2510 Federal Building telephone 304/420-6671  
city or town Parkersburg state WV 26102

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:  
national state X 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 October 7, 1986  
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



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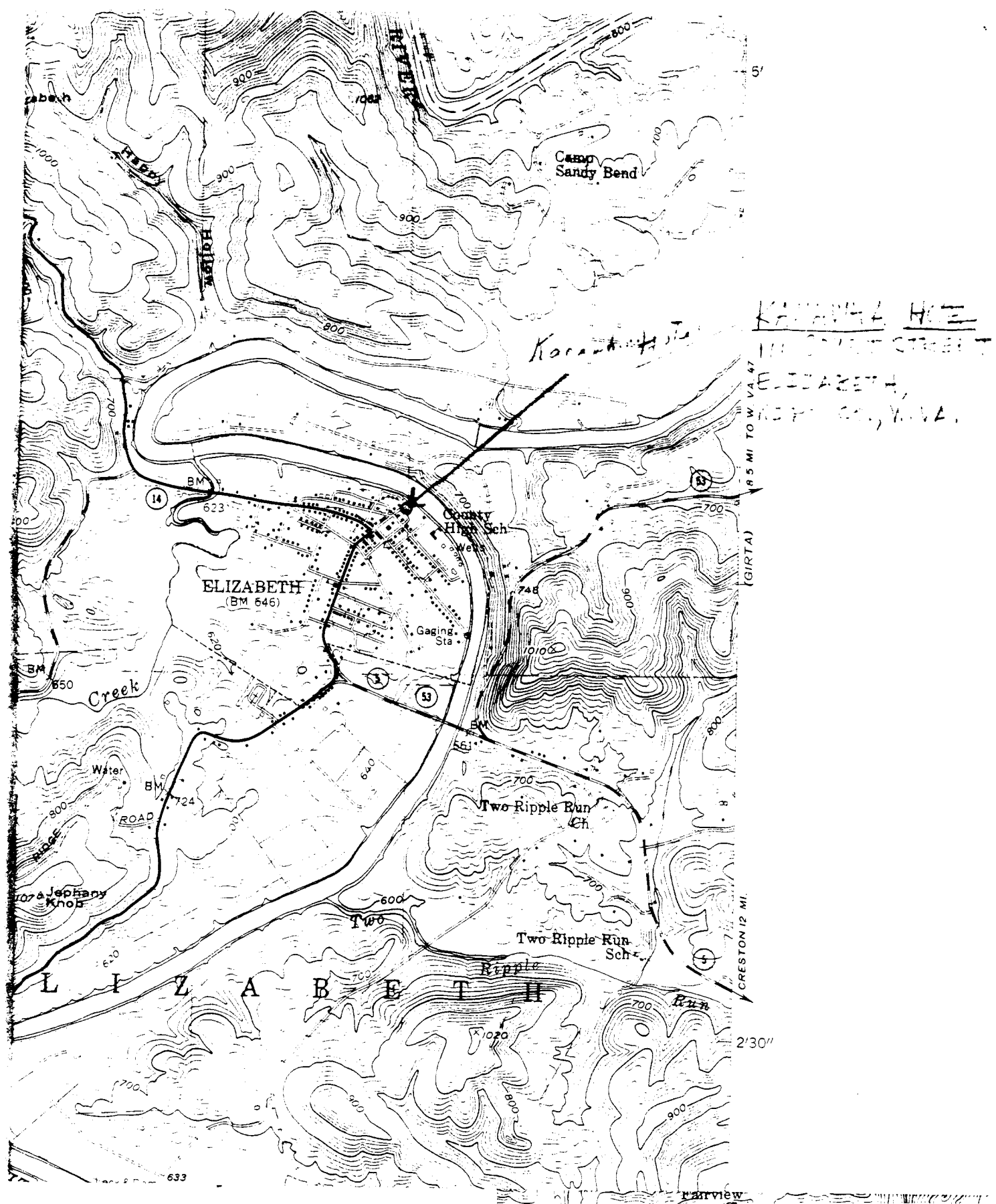
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Justification

The lot containing 1.225 acres provides a suitable open space about the nominated resoucre that helps to define the historical relationship of the building to its place on Court Street, next to the Little Kanawha River. This open space runs to the river's edge thus helping to circumscribe the hotel's historical role as a key riverfront property.



PLAT OF SURVEY  
OF  
KANAWHA HOTEL LOT

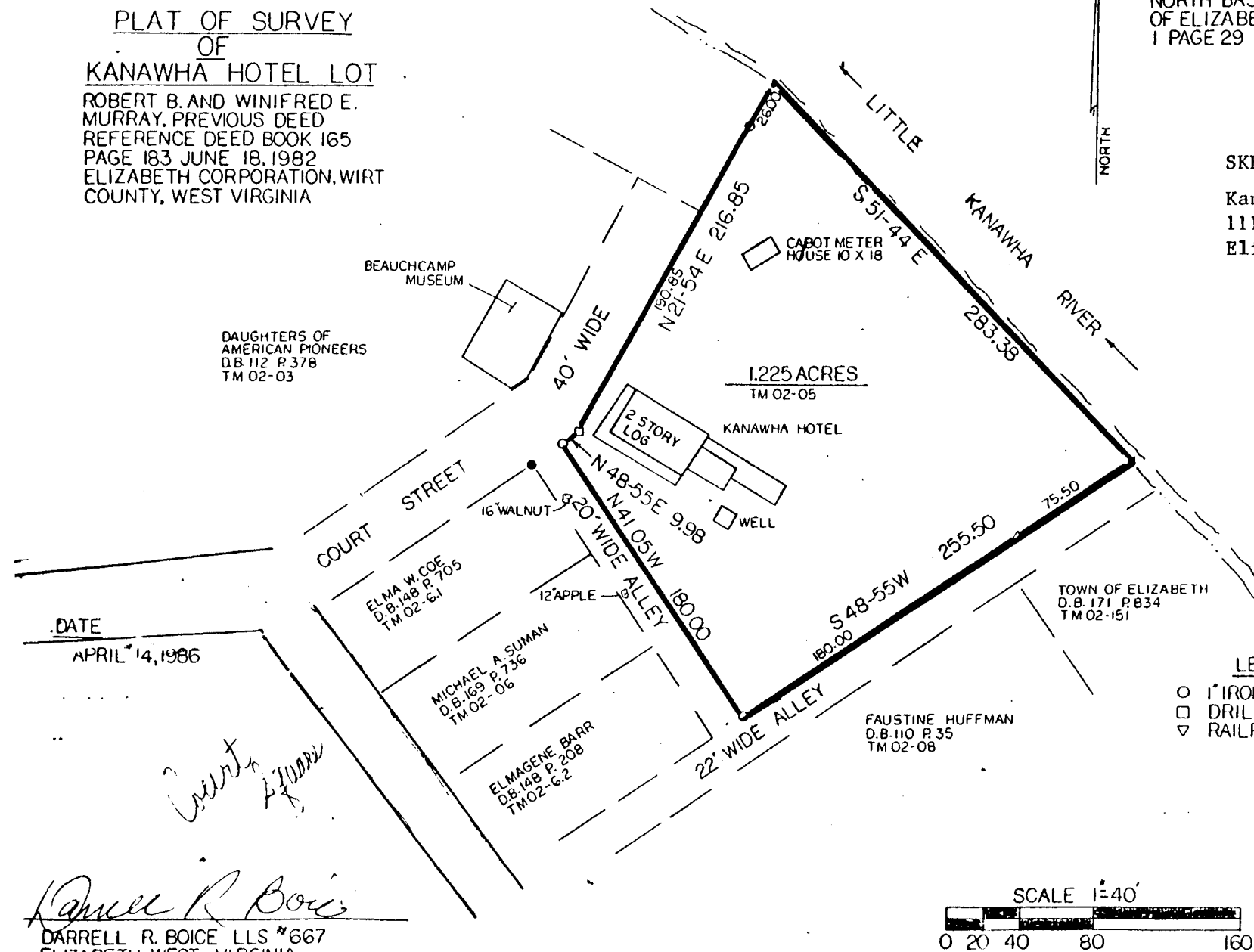
ROBERT B. AND WINIFRED E.  
MURRAY, PREVIOUS DEED  
REFERENCE DEED BOOK 165  
PAGE 183 JUNE 18, 1982  
ELIZABETH CORPORATION, WIRT  
COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

NOTE - DISCREPANCIES EXIST IN RECORDED RECORDS  
CONCERNING THIS LOT. THIS LOT SURVEYED BY ITS  
CURRENT DEED DESCRIPTION AND ADJOINING DEED DES-  
CRPTION. THIS SURVEY BELIEVED CORRECT UNTIL NEW  
AND SUPERIOR EVIDENCE PROVES OTHERWISE.

NORTH BASED FROM PLAT  
OF ELIZABETH DEED BOOK  
1 PAGE 29

SKETCH MAP

Kanawha Hotel  
111 Court Street  
Elizabeth, Wirt Co, WV





RIVERVIEW