

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: Hancock
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Court House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hancock County First Court House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
High and Elm Streets

CITY OR TOWN: New Manchester
(formerly Pughtown and Fairview)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE West Virginia	CODE 54	COUNTY: Hancock	CODE 029
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input 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) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: *Hancock County Commission*
Dale Rudibaugh (Wellsville Feed and Supply Co.)

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hancock County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: *Wellsville New Cumberland*

STATE: *Ohio West Virginia*

CODE: 39

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Hancock County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: *New Cumberland*

STATE: *West Virginia*

CODE: 54

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Map of Pughtown by F.W. Beers Co., Recorded 1871

DATE OF SURVEY: 1871

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Hancock County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: *New Cumberland*

STATE: *West Virginia*

CODE: 54

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: Hancock
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(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 Hancock County First Court House, built in 1849, is a severely plain two-story brick structure, with a storage attic, twin chimneys, and (originally) a belfry. Its front entrance had a key-stone arch, with fanlight window above, the nearest approach to any ornamentation on the entrance. On the front, brick were set to give an offset and columnar effect. Front windows are symmetrically placed. Above the second story there is a formal sculptured course. The attic storage room also had a fanlight window in front.

The old belfry has only its base in place. Local people have been informed that the original bell is preserved, and is available to them if and when the old building is restored as planned.

The original Court House housed a court room for circuit court sessions, offices for the sheriff, clerks of the county and circuit clerks, assessor, and the offices of the County Court of Hancock County. There were storage and record rooms for recording court transactions and filing county papers.

The Court House building fell into disuse when the county seat of Hancock County was moved from Pughtown to New Cumberland. The original building has had a number of owners, some of whom made necessary repairs and certain alterations in the building's interior. No significant changes were made in the structure's exterior, save for the removal of the belfry's upper portion.

The exterior is in need of window replacement, door and roof repairs, and strengthening of the foundations.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1849

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" 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/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When Hancock County was created by its separation from older Brooke County by act of the Virginia Legislature, it became the northernmost portion of Virginia, and subsequently of West Virginia when the new state was admitted to the Union on June 20, 1863. Hancock extends farther north than Pittsburgh, and is bounded on the north and west by the Ohio River. Before it could function as a County unit it required a Court House, and this was built at a population center known as Fairview, later as Pughtown, and still later as New Manchester. The building was completed in 1849, and was put to immediate use as a storage depository for county records.

When the Civil War broke out, Confederate strategists were very much aware of the northwestern extremity of Virginia which extended within about 75 miles of Lake Erie. If the South could control all the area of Virginia, Hancock County and its neighbors to the south would form a wedge effectively cutting off the Middle West from the East. It thus became a matter of grand strategy for the Confederacy to hold the area which included Hancock County.

Hancock County residents, because of their nearness to the market in Pittsburgh, and because of the river traffic on the Ohio, were strongly Union in sympathy, and some of them took a leading part in the formation of West Virginia. The First Court House was a center for the expression of Union loyalty, and a place of muster for militia units which formed to protect the region against threatened cavalry raids.

While Hancock was still a portion of Brooke County, Virginia, it had accumulated an extensive pre-history, and an active history. Near the Old Court House is a mound of fresh-water clam shells which marks an Indian town of considerable size. It was here that the murder of the Indian Chief Logan's family took place, an event that led directly to Lord Dunmore's War in 1774.

Nearby is the Peter Tarr Iron Furnace, first in Virginia west of the Allegheny Mountains. At this foundry were produced many of the cannon balls used in naval engagements on Lake Erie in the War of 1812. Fort Holliday, a border fort before the Revolutionary War days, was also nearby.

At the present the Hancock County Historical Society, under the leadership of Frank D. Bowman and others, is planning to purchase the Hancock County First Court House to restore it, and to use it as headquarters for the society and as a community civic center. They hope to use it also as a community museum.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of the West Virginia Pan-Handle
 History of Hancock County
 Hancock County Court Records, now at New Cumberland, W.Va.
 Brooke County Court Records, now in Wellsburg, W.Va.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		40 ° 31 ' 50 "	80 ° 34 ' 35 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2 City lots**

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:
 Frank D. Bowman, (Parliamentarian, Hancock County Historical Society) For the

ORGANIZATION: West Virginia Antiquities Commission DATE: July 25, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

CITY OR TOWN: Morgantown. STATE: West Virginia 26506 CODE: 54

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: Maurice G. Brooks
 Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: March 26, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

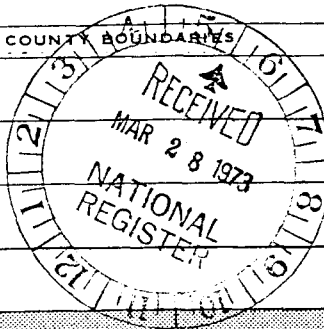
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CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40° 31' 54.5"	80° 34' 47.4"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3/4 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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Frank D. Bowman, (Parliamentarian, Hancock County Historical Society) For the
 ORGANIZATION
 West Virginia Antiquities Commission
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University
 CITY OR TOWN:
 Morgantown.
 STATE
 West Virginia 26506
 CODE
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National State Local

Name Maurice G. Brooks
 Maurice G. Brooks

Title State Liaison Officer

Date March 26, 1973

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 _____

LOCATION OF
(FIRST)
ORIGINAL
HANCOCK
COUNTY, W.VA.,
COURT
HOUSE

NEW MANCHESTER 4488

80° 34' 35" 32'30"
LONGITUDE

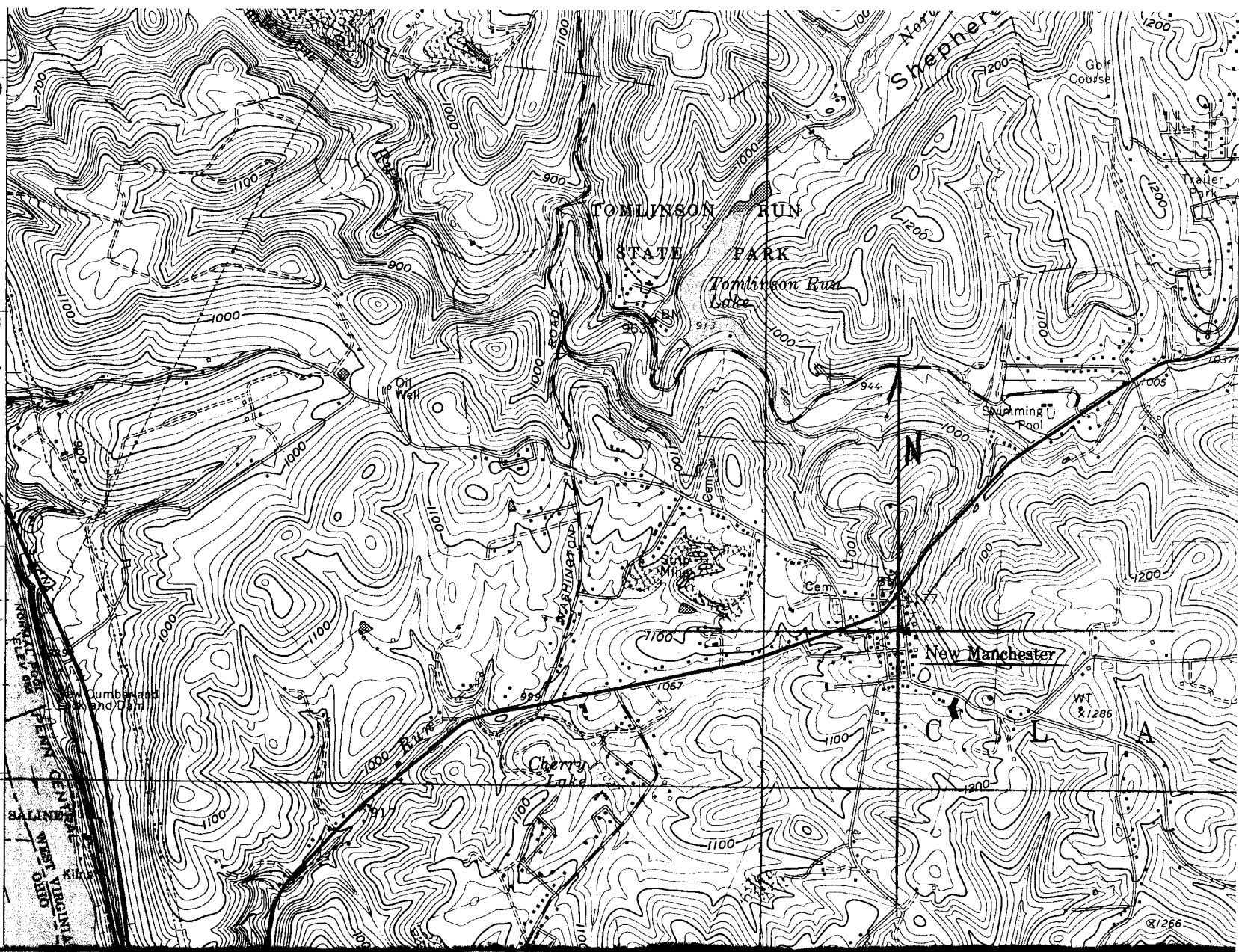
40° 31' 50"
LATITUDE

OLD COURT HOUSE
HANCOCK COUNTY
WEST VIRGINIA

UTM REFERENCES:
17/535580/4486680

740 000 FEET
(W. VA.)

ARROYO 3 MI.
WELLSVILLE 6.5 MI.





WEBSTER
SHERIFF