

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only  
received  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic William B. Dunlap Mansion

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 1298 Market Street

not for publication

city, town Bridgewater

vicinity of

congressional district

25

state Pennsylvania

code 42

county Beaver

code 007

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 John And Catherine Provich

street & number 1298 Market Street

city, town Bridgewater

vicinity of

state Penna

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Beaver County Courthouse

street & number 3rd Street

city, town Beaver

state Penna

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Penna. Inv. of Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 11/15/79

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg

state Penna

# 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 Dunlap Mansion is an imposing structure of brick construction, standing on the bluff overlooking the Beaver River.

The Main floor is elevated, and is entered by ascending high steps leading to a portico'd porch at either the front or rear entrance. The porches are formed by four massive columns, each measuring thirteen feet high and forty-eight inches in circumference at their widest point, tapering to the top. These pillars were each constructed from a single tree with a hole the size of a silver dollar bored through the center for ventilation.

Used primarily for entertaining, the main floor has a large hall with four rooms leading off of it. The ball room is comprised of two of these rooms with a division between them by a pair of huge solid sliding doors. This aspect of division was created to facilitate both large and small formal functions. These dividing doors slide into the walls and are hidden when open. The entrance hall is also divided by a pair of doors to form a vestibule. These doors are not as large as those in the ball room and are hinged. The two other rooms on this level are a dining room and a drawing room.

The first floor level was used as a kitchen area and summer refuge. It is partially underground, with ground level being at the bottom of the window sills, and thus continually cool throughout even the hottest of summer weather.

Much of the window glass throughout the mansion is original hand blown with a greenish/blue tint to it.

There is a subterranean room that is the lowest depth of the structure. This room is under part of the first floor and was originally the wine cellar, but now houses the heating plant.

The spiral staircase descends the entire three stories, and continues its theme down into the wine cellar.

The foundation of the mansion is composed of uncoursed rubble and is topped by a layer of vermiculated stone. A Flemish Bond pattern with beaded mortar joints constitutes a majority of the masonry. The walls of all three stories are load bearing. There are interior bearing walls constructed of brick and covered with plaster through out the building.

Four chimneys top the structure, and are constructed entirely of brick with a running bond configuration. Each of these chimneys has two flues.

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The spiral staircase descends the entire three stories, and continues its theme down into the wine cellar. At the top of the staircase on the third floor is the "wi-dows watch". The background of the mansion is river related and this watch area was used to sight approaching river boats and activities along the banks of Beaver River.

The foundation of the mansion is composed of uncoursed rubble and is topped by a layer of vermiculated stone. A Flemish Bond pattern with beaded mortar joints constitutes a majority of the masonry. The walls of all three stories are load bearing. There are interior bearing walls constructed of brick and covered with plaster throughout the building.

Four chimneys top the structure, and are constructed entirely of brick with a running bond configuration. Each of these chimneys has two flues.

The interior floors are of tongue and groove cedar. The second and third floors remain intact, and in extremely good original condition. The flooring of the first floor, however, requires replacement. This is due in part to this level being lower than ground level.

Above the entrances at both ends of the building are small etched glass panels. These same type panels also appear at the floor level of the landing between the second and third floors.

The surrounding grounds were once covered by an intricate formal garden. From all discoveries made to date this was the most extensive garden of its type to be found in all of Western Pennsylvania. These gardens were made with and around mammoth rock faced cut stones with mollusk shells used as spacing or fillers between the foliage and stones. We are continually unearthing intact cut stones measuring up to eighteen inches thick, and up to two feet by four feet length by width. This garden was filled in and covered over at some point in time, but remains intact under the sod, waiting to be freed, restored, and replanted to its original beauty.

The original internal woodwork is being restored. This is only possible because it remains intact. This woodwork could never be duplicated today with its carved areas and intricate moldings and baseboards.

Through the years the mansion has had very few owners, and has stood vacant for only a short period, thus the structure remains authentic as it stood one hundred and forty years ago.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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 c. 1840

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The house known as the William B. Dunlap Mansion was constructed Circa 1840 and owned by James Arbuckle, of the Arbuckle Coffee Company, until April 13, 1865 when the father of William B. Dunlap, Samuel R. purchased the property. This structure is a well - preserved early mansion using a local interpretation of the Greek Revival Style. The interior and exterior still stand intact with little of any change in 140 years.

William B. Dunlap was 29 years of age when his father purchased the Mansion. He lived at home with his parents and used the mansion as his base of operations for his river transportation interests along with his brother Joseph H. Dunlap the Ohio River Transportation Business, operating between Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and New Orleans. From 1878 to 1889 he was assistant superintendent of the line during that period. This line was exclusively a heavy freight line, with several steamers and model barges for transportation road iron to down-river points and for bringing back iron ore from the Missouri Iron Mountain Company for Pittsburgh Furnaces. Mr Dunlap was in the employ of this transportation company for eleven years until 1889.

In 1890 William's father died and willed the mansion to William. William B. Dunlap continued his residence at the mansion through his term as senator, and for the rest of his life until his death in 1922 . His residency in the mansion spanned some 57 years.

In 1890 Mr. Dunlap was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate from the 46th Senatorial district.

The mansion is the most significant site associated with William B. Dunlap, and is the finest example of Greek Revival architecture surviving in Bridgewater today. There are several other historic houses remaining in Bridgewater today, but none can match the integrity nor grandeur of the mansion.

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It has miraculously survived use as a Veterans Social Club, which probably did the most damage to its authenticity with paint and nails. It narrowly missed being remodeled into a newspaper printing plant, a marina, and last the office headquarters of a group of multi-list realtors.

These were only signs of the impending dangers of our modern attitude towards significant architectural achievements. The structure is now in loving hands, but must still be monitored. Efforts toward continued restoration and maintenance must be encouraged to the fullest, in an effort to retain the grand magnificence of an era that cannot be duplicated in today's architectural attitude.

The mansion remains a sentinel of history in all the grandeur of the finest historic American architecture, and stands as a reminder of man's early achievements along the banks of the Beaver River gateway to western expansion.

The locale is steeped with almost forgotten national history. Aaron Burr launched his western campaign from the banks of the Beaver River with keel boats and equipment constructed at Bridgewater. At the time he recorded that he had spent the sum of thirty thousand dollars at Bridgewater because there were some five hundred craftsmen and manufacturers at this point along the Beaver River. It had been a stopping off point for immigrants traveling west from Pittsburgh on flat boats, and later a regular stop for river steamers on trips down the Ohio to Cincinnati and further on to the Mississippi.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .56

Quadrangle name Beaver, Pa

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	7	5	5	9	3	0	0	4	5	0	6	3	3	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John J. Provich, Jr.

organization Design Dynamics date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 2407 Duss Ave telephone 412-266-4826

Ambridge

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state Penna.

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

### State Historic Preservation Officer signature

ED WEINTRAUB, State Historic Preservation Officer date \_\_\_\_\_

For HCRS 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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## Bibliographical References

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- William Boyd Dunlap: History of Beaver County... Volume... Preface  
J. H. Bausman pg. 219  
pg. 233  
pg. 465  
pg. 1044  
pg. 326  
Beaver Valley Directory - 1921 pg. 215  
History of the Newspapers - 1905 pg. 97-98  
History of Beaver County - 1888 pg. 539  
(Warner)  
Moore's Standard Directory - 1909 pg. 19-C  
Legislative Hand Book Manual - pg. 665  
Pennsylvania (Smull)  
Encyclopedia of Biography - 1912 pg. 111-112
- Samuel Rutherford Dunlap: History of Beaver County :  
(J. H. Bausman 1904) Volume 1 pg. 769
- (W. B. Dunlap's)
- Biographical Sketches 1899 pg 161  
History of Beaver County 1888  
(Warner)  
Beaver County Centennial pg. 64  
Directpry 1876
- Joheph Hemphill: History of Beaver County Volume 1 pg. 213  
(W. B. Dunlap's Father) pg. 211  
pg. 197  
pg. 325  
pg. 327  
pg. 771  
Biographical Sketches 1899 pg. 161  
History of Beaver County 1888 pg. 121  
pg. 123  
pg. 126  
Beaver County Centennial Directory 1876 321  
pg. 322  
pg. 323

The House Beautiful Building Annual 1926 The Atlantic Monthly C.

A Treasury of Early American Homes 1949 Whittlesey House

All of the books researched in the completion of this form are in the library of the current owners of the Dunlap Mansion Mr. and Mrs. John J. Provich, Sr., and are housed at the Dunlap Mansion.



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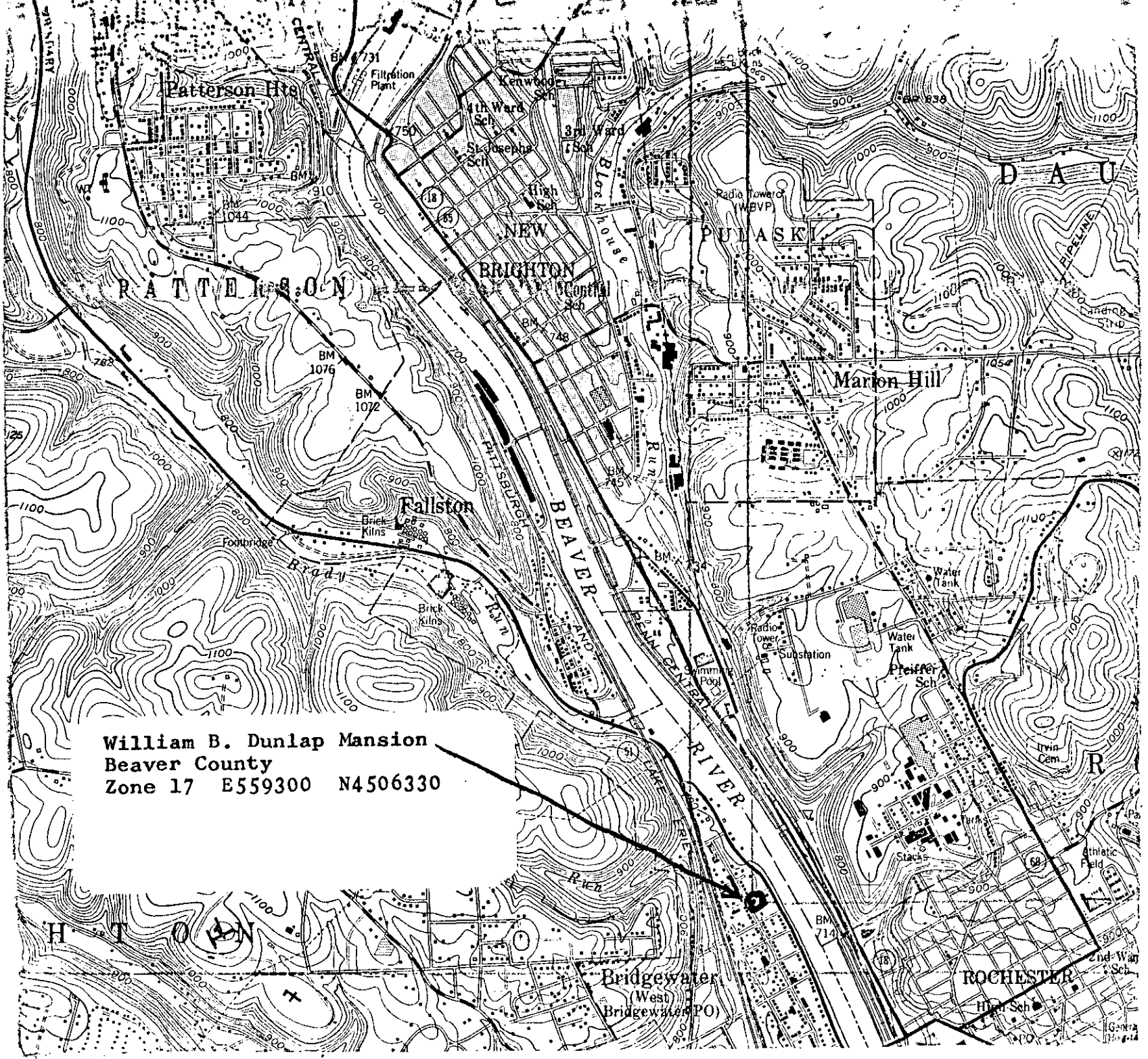
pg 7 387

Volume II (L. C. Walkinshaw)

The House Beautiful Building Annual . . . . 1926 . . . . The Atlantic Monthly Co.

A Treasury of Early American Homes . . . . 1949 . . . . by Whittlesey House

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Beaver County  
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