

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

VLR 9/18/08
NRHP 11/14/08

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property


historical name Beaton-Powell House
other names/site number VDHR File # 174-5002-0016; Home Place

2. Location

street & number 32142 South Main Street (Route 35) not for publication N/A
city or town Boykins vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county Southampton code 175 zip code 23827

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official

10/1/2008
Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register

 other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- X private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- X building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th CENTURY/Greek Revival with Italianate embellishments

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
roof metal (standing seam)/wood shingle
walls wood/weatherboard
other brick/wood

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
X B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Exploration and Settlement

Period of Significance 1857-1954

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) Beaton, Edward (1806-1880)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
X Local government
University
Other

Name of repository: VDHR, Southampton County Courthouse

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing 1 18 303107 4050687 Zone Easting Northing 2 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William A. Johansen and Lisa L. Morin, owners
organization date May 2008
street & number 32142 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 14 telephone 757-654-9081
city or town Boykins state VA zip code 23827

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

- Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name William A. Johansen and Lisa L. Morin
street & number 32142 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 14 telephone 757-654-9081
city or town Boykins state VA zip code 23827

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**Beaton-Powell House
Southampton County, Virginia**

7. Description

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Beaton-Powell Home Place is located in Boykins, Southampton County, Virginia. Completed in 1857, this two-story plantation house has a living area that exceeds four thousand square feet and has an additional five hundred square feet of porch space. This residence has classic Greek Revival characteristics: the front portico with its pediment-like roof line supported by four columns; its bilateral symmetry; the corner pilasters that shoulder a wide entablature; the two- and four-panel doors; the two-over-two double hung sash windows and the five-inch exposure clapboard. The large roof overhang supported by massive brackets illustrates the Italianate influence. The milled timber framing is supported by a continuous brick foundation. All eight fireplace surrounds, exposed heart pine floors and most of its plaster walls, ceilings, crown molding and medallions are a few of the interior features that remain undisturbed. The original kitchen, which predates the house, still exists but has been relocated nearby, off the property. A noncontributing building on the property was constructed to complement the house.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The Beaton-Powell House has an abundance of Italianate embellishments but is primarily of the Greek Revival Style, alternately, in its antebellum heyday, called the National or Democratic and even the American Greek Revival Style.¹ This two-story plantation house was built in 1857 on a 600-acre tract of land, known as Boykins Depot by the town's founder, Edward Beaton.² The house is now located on a half-acre landscaped lot at the northwest corner of Main Street and Virginia Avenue in the Town of Boykins, Southampton County, Virginia.³ Three conspicuous diagonal braces link together four paired, seven-inch square chamfered columns that support the massive, elaborate two-tiered central portico which is capped with a gable roof.

Exterior Features

The five-bay, central passage house has a timber frame supported by a continuous running (common) bond brick foundation.⁴ Resting on level ground, the brick is eleven courses high (six exposed) and eight inches thick. Eight fireplaces are supported by three interior brick foundations which also serve as a framing base. Only one dedicated interior brick pier is used for frame support.

Consistency of the foundation and the milled framing--its dimensions (two-by-twelve joists, eight-by-eight sill, etc.), spacing, pegged mortise-and-tenon joinery, etc.--indicate that the footprint of the house, as it stands today, is the same as it was originally.⁵ Double fixed, colonial (lapped) pine weatherboards with five-inch exposure clad the exterior walls.

Popular in the Greek Revival and Italianate styles and made possible by improvements in glass technology, the builder installed forty-two large two-over-two, single-glazed, double-hung sash windows with wide vertical muntins.⁶ The first-floor pediment window lintels rest on six-inch wide, reeded, pilaster-like side trim and heavy window sills. The second-floor window trim is the same except for having rectangular lintels.

Entry to the great hall is made through double-leaf, two-panel doors that have arched protruding molding on the exterior side and inset squared molding at the interior panels. Identical double-leaf doors are found at the entry to the second-floor porch. A third pair of double-leaf doors are between the two large center passages (great and servants'). All of the other doors (interior and exterior) are single-leaf with four panels and all doors are pegged through-mortise-and-tenon construction, as are the window sashes. Exterior door trim matches the window

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

**Beaton-Powell House
Southampton County, Virginia**

treatment in dimension and design with the exception being the front entry doors. Here is found another notable feature of the house in the geometric-pattern etched glass of the transom and sidelights.⁷ One detail that makes the portico balcony opening stand out from the other windows and doors on the second floor is the pediment lintel matching the one just below it at the main entrance. The sidelights at this entryway have a geometric vertical and horizontal glazing bar arrangement that mirrors many of the homes in nearby historic Murfreesboro, North Carolina.

Outlining the clapboard siding at the bottom perimeter of the house is an eight-inch tall skirtboard. At each outside corner, in line with the skirtboard trim, are protruding blocks representing bases for the nine-inch wide, reeded, engaged pilasters.⁸ A proportionally appropriate capital completes the "column," which, in turn, supports the twenty-four-inch tall entablature. Included in the entablature is a unique six-inch wide molding attached to the fascia board and an Italianate Style, forty-inch deep roof overhang braced by numerous decorative, chamfered and sawn brackets.

The standing seam metal roofing was installed on the twenty-five degree pitch roof by a local contractor Joe Gregg and his son Louis after the historic Hurricane Hazel on October 15, 1954.⁹ Wooden fancy-butt (fish-scale) roof shingles still protect the projecting, two-story bay areas at the north and south gable ends behind the lattice work.¹⁰

In addition to the east-facing front portico with its scored first-floor concrete deck made to resemble marble and second floor wrought-iron balustrade, there is a two-tiered veranda supported by paired columns on the south side of the house. In the 1950s a corner of this veranda on the second floor was made into a full bath; recently, directly beneath it, an entrance room was constructed. At this time, the first floor of the porch is being restored to complement the original open second floor of the porch.

Interior Features

The consistency of the exterior details (foundation, corner trim, window and door trim, decorative brackets, etc.) is carried through to the interior, indicating again that the house was built at one time.¹¹ Throughout the house the tongue-and-groove, heart-pine flooring is one-inch thick and five-and-a-half inches wide. Long straight runs of small nails and/or nail holes in the flooring spaced three feet apart in both passages and many of the rooms give the telltale sign of floor cloths that once covered the floor boards. The now exposed flooring has large blonde areas in the middle of most rooms surrounded by finished, sun-mellowed portions which speak of yet another time when area rugs were once used.

The eleven-and-a-half-foot high walls downstairs and the ten-and-a-half-foot walls upstairs and all of the ceilings are covered with milled lathe and a three-step plaster finish. The simple coved and beaded plaster cornices in the parlors and center hall, the plaster ceiling medallions in the north parlor and grand hall and most of the plaster walls are still intact and in very good condition. Wooden picture rail molding of the same profile can be found throughout the house except for the rooms where there is a plaster cornice.

Generally, the interior trim is dimensionally the same but simpler as the back of the house is approached and simpler yet on the second floor. For instance, the base molding is all nine inches tall, but the front half of the first floor and the servants' hall have a fancy three-piece profile, while the back is a two-piece subdued version of the front, and the second floor is a single coved board. The same can be said of the eight fireplace surrounds, the showpiece of these being an arched marble with keystone surround in the north parlor. A relatively elaborate wood fireplace surround is in the south parlor with gradually more modest versions of the same toward the back and upstairs. Illustrating this same trend are the grand and servants' staircases: Only the grand staircase has scrolled stair ends; additionally, the newel post base, turned balustrade and handrail are a bit more showy than the servants' staircase. Interestingly,

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 3

**Beaton-Powell House
Southampton County, Virginia**

both staircase balustrades, handrails, and newel posts are made of black walnut. Everything else in the house, without exception, is made from a very tight grain, sappy pine (probably long leaf pine) and possibly cut at the owner's own mill which was located just north of Boykins.¹²

Based on a Federal/Georgian floor plan, the four thousand square foot house originally had two large central passages and eight spacious rooms.¹³ Through the years very little has been done to disturb its integrity. The closet under the grand stairway is now a powder room, which is accessible from the servants' hallway. Tastefully executed to complement their surroundings, two of the four upstairs bedrooms have their own full bath and it is planned to create bathrooms in the remaining two bedrooms. Also on the first floor at the southwest corner there is a full bathroom. The house also has about five hundred square feet of open porch space. All of the plumbing, electrical, and mechanical systems are up to date, totally replaced, and painstakingly concealed. Much of the original interior hardware (lift-off door hinges, surface mount locksets, etc.) are intact and in good working order. In restoring the house a sincere attempt has been--and is being--made to be true to its style. It has been observed that many details (corner pilasters, capitals, geometric-paned sidelights, doors, windows, exterior railing details, etc.) in this home are very similar, if not identical, to features of several homes built by Albert G. Jones in nearby historic Murfreesboro, North Carolina.¹⁴

Noncontributing Building

A noncontributing building on the property was built in 1996 with exterior details patterned after a Carpenter Style house in town. To make room for a gas station in the business district of South Main Street, this home was relocated prior to 1929 to 18221 Bryant Street. The similar single-story house was located directly across the street from the Beaton-Powell House, and local legend claims it first owned and built by Edward Beaton, but there is no documentary evidence to support this.¹⁵ Indeed, while it is a very modest residence, at least two of its prominent features, the engaged corner pilasters and the paned front door sidelights, are identical to the resource. Conducting a Reconnaissance Survey in 2001 for the Virginia Department of Historical Resources, surveyors Susan G. Horner and Kim M. Chen, of Richmond, Virginia, noted the similarities between the two houses.¹⁶

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 4

**Beaton-Powell House
Southampton County, Virginia**

8. Statement of Significance

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Completed in 1857, the Beaton-Powell House is located in Boykins, Southampton County, Virginia. It is a two-story, five-bay, center passage, timber framed, brick foundation house with three internal chimneys. Dominating the façade is a two-tier portico with chamfered columns, gable roof, and second-floor iron balustrade. The resource has weatherboard siding, two-over-two double-hung sash windows with pediment lintels, a standing-seam metal roof supported by decorative brackets and projecting two-story bays at the gable ends. In the 1950s a corner of the side veranda was enclosed for a bathroom; directly beneath it, an entrance room was constructed. The house was built and inhabited by Edward Beaton, founder of Boykins. Later, he gave it to his son, William, the town's postmaster and first mayor. William Powell, also mayor, became owner of the house in 1902. William's son, William Hugh, operator of a furniture and dry goods store in town, became the owner in 1922. Jackson Powell, William Hugh's son, Director of Instruction of Southampton County Schools, owned the house until his death. The house is essentially undisturbed, and is locally significant under Criteria B and C with a period of significance of 1857 through 1954 (when the roof was repaired after Hurricane Hazel), in the areas of Architecture and Exploration and Settlement. "The Home Place," as William Beaton called it, pictorially featured in the Daniel T. Balfour's *Southampton County and Franklin: A Pictorial History*, has been essentially undisturbed since 1857, is significant for its architectural expression, is important to American heritage, and should be preserved for generations to enjoy.¹

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

To tell the story of the earliest days of Boykins, Virginia would be to acquire an understanding of a then little known mode of transportation, the railroad. Edward Beaton (1806-1880) insightfully calculated that the proposed Portsmouth and Roanoke Railway would be his ticket to recognition and financial security for himself and his family. Edward Beaton made a daring but wise move for his time.

The Stimulus

Just four years after the nation's first railroad was chartered, the Portsmouth and Roanoke Railroad was chartered on March 8, 1832.² This was a line of track that would be constructed from Portsmouth, in the Tidewater area of Virginia, 78 miles west to Weldon, North Carolina, near the foot of the great falls of the Roanoke River. The borough of Norfolk, the town of Portsmouth, and many of the businessmen of the Hampton Roads area held an interest in the new venture.³ At the age of 29, Edward Beaton of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, also envisioned an opportunity. On March 19, 1835, in anticipation of the railroad's arrival, he purchased from Francis Rochelle a tract of land known as Boykins Farm in Lower Southampton County.⁴ Situated at an established north to south post route which passed over the Meherrin River at Boykins Bridge, north across the North Carolina/Virginia border through Cross Keys, to

Jerusalem (now Courtland), to Petersburg and points north, the proposed east-west railroad line intersecting at what would become Boykins Depot and later the Town of Boykins would surely be an ideal commercial junction.⁵

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 5

**Beaton-Powell House
Southampton County, Virginia**

A Vision Becomes Reality

Upon the completion of the Portsmouth and Roanoke Railroad the economic life of Southampton County was swiftly reoriented toward the depots. Boykins became a hub of business enterprise and Edward Beaton, along with his new wife, Martha Cain (1814-1855) of Sussex County, was there to capitalize on this situation.⁶ Edward had no way of knowing that his descendents--indeed the entire area--would benefit from yet another track, the Roanoke and Tar River Railroad, when it was completed in 1888.⁷ To this day, this 35-mile line from Boykins, Virginia, to Lewiston, North Carolina, is the only north-south rail route on the Southside of Virginia between the Atlantic coast and Weldon, North Carolina. Bustling river-port towns like Monroe on the Nottoway River to the east of Boykins were dealt a death blow with the coming of the rail line.⁸ Boykins was then and is now a very busy railroad junction.⁹

Edward Beaton profited from his apparent ability to anticipate and fill a need. He became the founder of the Town of Boykins,¹⁰ and built its first house.¹¹ He was also the first railroad station master in Boykins, the first postmaster (April 19, 1836-June 22, 1848) and the first merchant.¹² Other than the Beaton-Powell House, there are no extant buildings positively associated with Edward Beaton.

The records at the county seat of Southampton at Courtland show that Edward Beaton was a shrewd businessman. He continued to acquire land and other personal assets from his indebted neighbors.¹³ Edward's eldest son, William (1837-1902), profited in many ways from his father's dealings. On September 1, 1857, Edward Beaton legally granted to William a large portion of his holdings, including a tract of land known as the Boykins Depot Tract containing 600 acres. At this time, William also obtained from his father hundreds of additional acres, farms, livestock, crops and slaves.¹⁴

William Beaton

It was not until the 1850s that the Portsmouth and Roanoke Railroad (by then variously known as the Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad) really began to enjoy some of the prosperity conceived by its founders some twenty years earlier. Since the spring of 1835, the immense strides in transportation had catapulted the region in to the Industrial Era and the Beatons continued to benefit from the technological advances.¹⁵ At this prosperous time, Edward Beaton built the plantation home now known as the Beaton-Powell house.¹⁶ It is of interest to note that while William took possession of the land that the house was built on in September 1857, it wasn't until 1859 that William took possession of the house. This was possibly as a wedding gift for William and his new wife, Antoinette Pond (1836-1902). Of the house, land tax records note in the margin, "From Edward Beaton."¹⁷ Being a large house, it is likely that the Beaton home was used as a hospital during the 1863 siege of Suffolk, though there is no documentary evidence to support this.¹⁸ Located in the middle of Boykins, about three-hundred feet from the center of the railroad track to the front door of the house, it is the only house remaining in the business district of South Main Street.

Following in his father's footsteps, William M. Beaton was a successful businessman. He was said to be a peaceable man and just in all his dealings. He owned a store and a cotton gin at Boykins Depot in the banner cotton county of Virginia.¹⁹ A hand-drawn map made in the mid 1800's known as the Leigh map also shows a Beatons Mill just north of Boykins Depot, suggesting that William's domain encompassed all aspects of plantation life from producing, to processing, and finally to transporting much of the area's cash crops.²⁰

To bolster his financial prowess Beaton became the most prominent member of one of the few Whig families from Lower Southampton County.²¹ In 1860, William Beaton was very likely a founding member of the Boykin's Chapter

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 6

**Beaton-Powell House
Southampton County, Virginia**

of the Knights of the Golden Circle (KGC).²² This was a secret society founded to promote the interests of the Southern United States and prepare the way for annexation of a "golden circle" of territories in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean which would be included in the United States as southern or slave states. In the end, despite his strong southern allegiance, the civil war caused less economic hardship for William than for many.²³

At a special session of the Virginia legislature on November 24, 1884, an Act was approved to make a town corporate by the name of the Town of Boykins. William M. Beaton was thereby declared and appointed the first mayor. William's younger brother Samuel was appointed as one of the six new councilmen. As mayor, William would have been easy to access as he was also again serving, for over four years this time, as the postmaster in his store on Main Street. He had previously been appointed as postmaster and served from July of 1857, through the Civil War, to December of 1865. William's sister Sarah and brothers Samuel and Edger also served as postmasters collectively for some thirty years. During this first mayor-council administration it was decided that cinders from the Seaboard railroad engines would be used to help build Main Street. It is said that these cinders grew to the depth of over three feet.²⁴ Interestingly, these cinders were used for more than just a base for Boykin's roads. They were also used as a foundation pad for the concrete front porch deck of the Beaton-Powell House that replaced the original wooden deck.

William M. Beaton and his wife Antoinette conveyed to the trustees of the local Baptist congregation, by deeds dated August 28, 1876 and November 12, 1888, the property upon which the first Baptist church was erected and upon which the brick structure now stands. Shortly before his death in 1880, Edward Beaton furnished the lumber to build the first Baptist church. It was a frame building consisting of a main auditorium, two classrooms and a balcony. William and Antoinette also deeded to the trustees of the Methodist congregation the present site of the Methodist church.²⁵ As the Recording Steward, William's penmanship is well preserved on many church documents now on file at the Library of Virginia in Richmond.²⁶

Transference of Property

At the age of 65, William M. Beaton died on March 12, 1902. His wife Antoinette died just three months thereafter on June 16.²⁷ At the time of their deaths large tracts of the Beaton property were sold east and west of Main Street. These tracts of land included what are now Bryant Avenue, and Elizabeth, Wilson and Marshall Streets, as well as Beaton and Virginia Avenues and Broad Street. The Beatons' extensive land holding within the limits of the Town of Boykins explains, in part, why there were only four dwelling houses not on Main Street until 1904.²⁸ Route 186, one of the two principal streets in Boykins, is named Beaton Avenue demonstrating the historical impact of the Beaton family on the community.

On September 20, 1902, a deed was drawn up between the children of William and Antoinette Beaton, both recently deceased, and the Powells, William L. Powell and A. L. Powell (partners trading under the firm name of Powell Brothers of Newport News). "What is known as the Home Place of the late W. M. Beaton" along with 11.67 acres was thereby transferred to the Powells for the sum of \$3,920.00. A detailed description of the property on the west side of Main Street is included in the deed.²⁹ This deed is on record at the Southampton County Courthouse in Courtland, Virginia.

The Powell Legacy

William A. Powell was born on November 24, 1851; he married Martha F., born on May 15, 1853.³⁰ Together, they would be the first of four generations of Powells to care for William Beaton's Home Place for nearly 100 years.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 7

**Beaton-Powell House
Southampton County, Virginia**

William A. Powell served as mayor of Boykins.³¹ In February 1922, William and Martha conveyed the house by deed to their son, William Hugh Powell, born on July 8, 1886 in nearby Branchville, Virginia.³² He married Blanche Moseley, born on June 12, 1888 in Brunswick County, Virginia.³³ W. Hugh Powell established and operated a successful furniture and dry goods store in Boykins. Norman S. Beaton, grandson of Edward Beaton and town historian, described W. Hugh as "very unassuming and ... a friend to many people of all walks of life."³⁴ Longtime family friend and Chowan College Professor Annabelle Crouch reminisced on August 27, 1997 that she often heard Blanche say, "This house is my palace."³⁵ Following the death of W. Hugh Powell on November 18, 1950 and Blanche Moseley Powell on April 20, 1959, the Beaton-Powell house was left to the three children of W. Hugh and Blanche: W. Hugh Powell, Jr., Jackson (Jack) Moseley Powell and Frances Powell Britt.³⁶ Subsequently, Hugh transferred his share of the property to Jackson and Frances who lived in the house until their deaths.³⁷

Jackson Powell, born in March 1916, served as a professor in the Language Department of Chowan College, in nearby Murfreesboro, North Carolina, from 1934 to 1941. In 1956, he became principal of Boykins Elementary School, a position he held until 1967 when he was appointed Director of Instruction of Southampton County Public Schools.³⁸ For many years he served as a town councilman and was also superintendent of the Boykins Baptist Church Sunday School.³⁹ Hugh Jr. and Jack became co-owners of the supermarket that their father had founded. Frances Powell, born in March 1911, married James T. Britt, Jr., born in July 1900.⁴⁰ Frances worked many years at the Boykins Post Office. When Jack passed away in April 1995, the last of Hugh Sr. and Blanche's children, he left the house to the care of Sylvia Powell Edwards, the sole offspring of Hugh Jr. and Eloise.⁴¹ On June 18, 1996, Sylvia entrusted the care of the Beaton-Powell Home Place to William A. and Paula L. Johansen and Lisa L. Morin.⁴²

Both the Beaton and Powell families were instrumental in the development of the Town of Boykins. Their legacy lives throughout Boykins. Under the stewardship of both families, the house remains without significant alterations and offers an opportunity to experience history and to imagine how the Beatons and the Powells lived in eventful times now past. The architectural integrity of the house extends a sense of timelessness and continuity. Its mere existence proves its strength against the tests of time, change, and nature. Being the only residential building in the South Main Street business district, the Beaton-Powell house is sure to benefit from the Town of Boykins' recent acceptance as a Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Commercial District Affiliate. It becomes increasingly important that the Beaton-Powell Home Place be preserved as important to American heritage.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 8

**Beaton-Powell House
Southampton County, Virginia**

9. Bibliography

- Balfour, Daniel T. *Southampton County & Franklin: A Pictorial History*. Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 1989.
- Beaton, Norman S. *Boykins: One Hundred and Twenty Years, 1835-1955*. Franklin: The Tidewater News, 1955.
- Beaton, Norman S. and Martha. "Edward Beaton and His Descendents from 1806 – 1951." Boykins: Town of Boykins Town Hall, 1951.
- Beaton, William. *List of Officers of the Church for the Years 1880-1883*. Available at the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, Reel 830.
- Benson, Tedd and James Gruber. *Building the Timber Frame House: The Revival of a Forgotten Craft*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1995.
- Bickett, Larry. larry@acornmfg.com "Nail Dating." 4 April 2007. Personal e-mail (4 April 2007).
- Bryant, Bill. *Tomorrow Jerusalem*. Bloomington: First Books Library, 2001.
- Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia. *Deed Book 23*. Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1836.
- Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia. *Deed Book 24*. Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1840.
- Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia. *Deed Book 25*. Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1843.
- Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia. *Deed Book 26*. Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1846.
- Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia. *Deed Book 27*. Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1850.
- Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia. *Deed Book 28*. Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1850.
- Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia. *Deed Book 29*. Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1857.
- Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia. *Deed Book 47*. Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1902.
- Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia. *Deed Book 64*. Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1922.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 9

**Beaton-Powell House
Southampton County, Virginia**

Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia. *Deed Book 137*. Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1959.

Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia. *Deed Book 416*. Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1996.

Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia. *Land Book 1851-1859, Districts 1 & 2, Southampton County*. Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1859.

Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia. *Will Book 25*. Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1950.

Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia. *Will Book 27*. Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1953.

Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia. *Will Book 47*. Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1994.

Crofts, Daniel W. *Old Southampton: Politics and Society in a Virginia County, 1834-1869*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1992.

Del Sordo, Stephen. *Reconnaissance Level Survey Report*. Richmond: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2000.

Edwards, Spier. Letter to Mr. Michael L. Holsteen, General Manager, CSX Railroad, Florence Division. 30 July 2003.

Horner, Susan G. and Kim M. Chen. *Virginia Department of Historic Resources 2001 Reconnaissance Survey*. Richmond: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2002.

Jackson, Albert and David Day. *The Complete Home Restoration Manual*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992.

Leigh, Reverend Joshua. *The Meherrin Circuit*, mid-nineteenth century (hand drawn). Available at the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, Reel 830.

McMullen, Stephen. "Town Not Backing Off Summons Issued for Train Blocking Crossing." *The Tidewater News*, 31 July 2003.

Paradis, Thomas. thomas.paradis@nau.edu "Re: Architectural Question." 2 January 2008. Personal e-mail (2 January 2008).

Parramore, Thomas C. *Southampton County, Virginia*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1992.

Phillips, Jay. "Rail Heritage: CSXT's History." n.d. <http://csx.history.railfan.net/history/history.html> (10 August 2007).

Poore, Patricia. *The Old-House Journal: Guide to Restoration*. New York: Penguin Books, 1992.

Prince, Richard E. *Seaboard Air Line Railway, Steam Boats, Locomotives and History*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000.

Sommer, Robin Langley. *The Old House Book*. New York: Barnes and Noble Books, 1999.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 10

**Beaton-Powell House
Southampton County, Virginia**

Southampton County Historical Society. "Beechwood Cemetary, Boykins, VA." n.d.
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~vaschs/Bwoodcem.txtml> (24 February 2008).

USGenWeb, "Southampton Census 1860," n.d., <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/va/southampton/census/1860/0141.gif> (24 February 2008).

Vann, J. D. *Physical Survey Showing Property Surveyed for Lisa L. Morin and William A. Johansen* [map]. 1:30. (Deed book 137, page 62), 1996.

The Virginian Pilot. "Jackson M. Powell." Obituary. 21 April 1995.

Wilson, J. A. *Map of Prince George, Surry, Sussex, and Southampton Counties* [map]. Washington, D. C.: Library of Congress, 1865.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 11

**Beaton-Powell House
Southampton County, Virginia**

10. Geographical Data

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Copied from Deed Book 137, pages 62-63, boundaries of the Beaton-Powell House are described this way:

Being and situated on the west side of Main Street in the Town of Boykins, Southampton County, Virginia, known as a part of the late W. M. Beaton Homeplace, and described as follows: Beginning at the southeast corner of the brick barber shop building on Main Street and running along the west side of Main Street in a southerly direction about 129 feet to the intersection of Main Street and Virginia Avenue; thence westerly along Virginia Avenue a distance of 157 ½ feet to the residence lot of J. C. Blowe; thence a northerly direction along the J. C. Blowe residence lot 139 ¾ feet to the property now or formerly owned by W. W. White, Jr.; thence an easterly course along the said W. W. White, Jr. line 57 ½ feet to the northwest corner of the said barber shop building lot; thence following said barber shop building lot in a southerly direction 16 feet; and thence 100 feet in an easterly direction to the point of beginning.

The Beaton-Powell House boundary is also shown on the accompanying plat entitled "Physical Survey Showing Property Surveyed for Lisa L. Morin and William A. Johansen" and "Southampton County Tax Map" obtained from the Southampton County government offices, Department of Commissioner of Revenue. Also known as tax parcel 112A-(5)-BK5-6 in the Town of Boykins, Southampton County, Virginia.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Beaton-Powell House sits on property historically associated with it as the hub of activity on its former 600-plus acre plantation. The home now occupies a one-half acre corner lot (tax parcel 112A-(5)-BK5-6) in the Town of Boykins, Southampton County, Virginia.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photographic Data Page 12

**Beaton-Powell House
Southampton County, Virginia**

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following is the same for all photographs:

Property: Beaton-Powell House/DHR 174-5002-0016

Location: Southampton County, Virginia

Photographer: William A. Johansen

Date of Photographs: April 23 and May 9, 2008

Digital images stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

- Photo 1 of 8: Main House, east elevation
- Photo 2 of 8: Main House, south-west elevation
- Photo 3 of 8: North Parlor, marble fireplace
- Photo 4 of 8: Front Hall, entrance
- Photo 5 of 8: Front Hall, stairway
- Photo 6 of 8: South Parlor, fireplace
- Photo 7 of 8: Bedroom, south east
- Photo 8 of 8: Servants' Hall, stairway

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Endnotes Page 13

**Beaton-Powell House
Southampton County, Virginia**

Endnotes for Section 7: Detailed Description

¹ Thomas Paradis, Director, NAU Office of Academic Assessment, thomas.paradis@nau.edu "Re: Architectural Question," 2 January 2008, personal e-mail (2 January 2008); Patricia Poore, *The Old-House Journal: Guide to Restoration* (New York: Penguin Books, 1992), 17; Robin Langley Sommer, *The Old House Book* (New York: Barnes and Noble Books, 1999), 11.

² Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia, *Land Book 1851-1859, Districts 1 & 2, Southampton County* (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1859), 340, 366, 392; Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia, *Deed Book 29* (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1857), 176-8; Norman S. Beaton, "Boykins: One Hundred and Twenty Years. 1835-1955," *The Tidewater News*, 1955, 1; Larry Bickett, larry@acornmfg.com "Nail Dating," 4 April 2007, personal e-mail (4 April 2007).

³ J. D. Vann. *Physical Survey Showing Property Surveyed for Lisa L. Morin and William A. Johansen* [map]. 1:30. (Deed book 137, page 62), 1996.

⁴ Stephen Del Sordo, *Reconnaissance Level Survey Report* (Richmond: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2000). Tedd Benson and James Gruber, *Building the Timber Frame House: The Revival of a Forgotten Craft* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1995), 14.

⁵ Susan G. Horner, architectural historian, and Kim M. Chen, historic preservationist and architectural historian, personal interview by author, Boykins, Virginia, 23 May 2002.

⁶ Poore, 17.

⁷ Susan G. Horner and Kim M. Chen, *Virginia Department of Historic Resources 2001 Reconnaissance Survey* (Richmond: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2002), 4.

⁸ Poore, 17.

⁹ Louis Gregg, telephone interview by author, 16 February 2008.

¹⁰ Albert Jackson and David Day, *The Complete Home Restoration Manual* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992), 59.

¹¹ Horner and Chen, interview.

¹² Reverend Joshua Leigh. *The Meherrin Circuit*, mid-nineteenth century (hand drawn). Available at the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, Reel 830.

¹³ Paradis.

¹⁴ E. Frank Stephenson, Jr., local historian, noted professor (Chowan University) and published author of local history, personal interview by author, Murfreesboro, North Carolina, 2 February 2008.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Endnotes Page 14

**Beaton-Powell House
Southampton County, Virginia**

¹⁵ Mrs. Kitty Lassiter, oldest surviving continuous resident of Boykins, personal interview by author, Boykins, Virginia, 18 February 2008.

¹⁶ Horner and Chen, interview.

Endnotes for Section 8: Historical Background

¹ Daniel T. Balfour, *Southampton County & Franklin: A Pictorial History* (Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 1989), 111.

² Jay Phillips, "Rail Heritage: CSXT's History," n.d., <http://csx.history.railfan.net/history/history.html> (10 August 2007).

³ Richard E. Prince, *Seaboard Air Line Railway, Steam Boats, Locomotives and History* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000), 5.

⁴ Norman S. Beaton, *Boykins: One Hundred and Twenty Years, 1835-1955*, (Franklin: Tidewater News, 1955), 1.

⁵ J. A. Wilson. *Map of Prince George, Surry, Sussex, and Southampton Counties* [map]. (Washington, D. C.: Library of Congress, 1865).

⁶ Thomas C. Parramore, *Southampton County, Virginia* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1992), 125.

⁷ Prince, 5.

⁸ Bryant, 252.

⁹ Spier Edwards, Vice-Mayor, Town of Boykins. Letter to Mr. Michael L. Holsteen, General Manager, CSX Railroad, Florence Division. 30 July 2003; Stephen McMullen, editor. "Town Not Backing Off Summons Issued for Train Blocking Crossing." *The Tidewater News*, 31 July 2003: 1.

¹⁰ Daniel T. Balfour, *Southampton County & Franklin: A Pictorial History* (Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 1989), 109.

¹¹ Beaton, *Boykins*, 1.

¹² Balfour, 109; Norman S. and Martha Beaton, "Edward Beaton and His Descendents from 1806 – 1951," (Boykins: Town of Boykins Town Hall, 1951), 2.

¹³ Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia, *Deed Book 23* (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1836), 559; Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia, *Deed Book 24* (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1840), 72, 455; Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia, *Deed Book 25* (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1843), 614, 634; Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia, *Deed Book 26* (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1846), 334, 480, 548, 583; Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia,

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Endnotes Page 15

**Beaton-Powell House
Southampton County, Virginia**

Deed Book 27 (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1850), 210, 491; Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia, *Deed Book 28* (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1850), 6.

¹⁴ Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia, *Deed Book 29* (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1857), 176-8.

¹⁵ Parramore, 134.

¹⁶ *Building the Timber Frame House: The Revival of a Forgotten Craft* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1995), 8.

¹⁷ Daniel W. Crofts, *Old Southampton: Politics and Society in a Virginia County, 1834-1869* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1992), 233; Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia, *Land Book 1851-1859* (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1859), 340, 366, 392.

¹⁸ Balfour, 109.

¹⁹ Crofts, 80, 232.

²⁰ Reverend Joshua Leigh. *The Meherrin Circuit*, mid-nineteenth century (hand drawn). Available at the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, Reel 830.

²¹ Crofts, 232.

²² Parramore, 154-5; Crofts, 173, 232.

²³ Crofts, 232.

²⁴ Beaton, *Boykins*, 2, 5, 6-8.

²⁵ Beaton, *Boykins*, 10, 13.

²⁶ William Beaton. *List of Officers of the Church for the Years 1880-1883*. Available at the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, Reel 830.

²⁷ Southampton County Historical Society, "Beechwood Cemetery, Boykins, VA," n.d., <http://www.rootsweb.com/~vaschs/Bwoodcem.txtml> (24 February 2008).

²⁸ Beaton, *Boykins*, 2.

²⁹ Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia, *Deed Book 47* (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1902), 797.

³⁰ Southampton County Historical Society.

³¹ Beaton, *Boykins*, 8.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Endnotes Page 16

**Beaton-Powell House
Southampton County, Virginia**

³² Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia, *Deed Book 64* (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1922), 301-5.

³³ Southampton County Historical Society.

³⁴ Beaton, *Boykins*, 29.

³⁵ Annabelle Crouch, personal interview by author, Boykins, Virginia, 27 August 1997.

³⁶ Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia, *Will Book 25* (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1950), 264-6; Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia, *Will Book 27* (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1953), 369-70.

³⁷ Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia, *Deed Book 137* (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1959), 62-3.

³⁸ "Jackson M. Powell." Obituary. *The Virginian Pilot*. 21 April 1995: B7.

³⁹ Beaton, *Boykins*, 12.

⁴⁰ Southampton County Historical Society.

⁴¹ Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia, *Will Book 47* (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1994), 181-3.

⁴² Circuit Court of Southampton County, Virginia, *Deed Book 416* (Courtland: Circuit Court of Southampton County Records Room, 1996), 820-1.