

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**  
RECEIVED MAY 15 1975  
DATE ENTERED JUN 26 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC "Pendleton Heights;" Pendleton, William K., House

AND/OR COMMON "Pendleton Heights" *Wellsburg*

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Bethany College Campus

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
First

CITY, TOWN  
Bethany

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE  
West Virginia 54 Brooke 009

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
___DISTRICT	___PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___AGRICULTURE	___MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	___UNOCCUPIED	___COMMERCIAL	___PARK
___STRUCTURE	___BOTH	___WORK IN PROGRESS	___EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	___ENTERTAINMENT	___RELIGIOUS
___OBJECT	___IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	___GOVERNMENT	___SCIENTIFIC
	___BEING CONSIDERED	___YES: UNRESTRICTED	___INDUSTRIAL	___TRANSPORTATION
		___NO	___MILITARY	___OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Bethany College

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Bethany STATE West Virginia  
VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Brooke County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Wellsburg STATE West Virginia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Pendleton Heights" on the campus of Bethany College at Bethany, Brooke County, West Virginia, is today distinguished by its fine Gothic lines as seen in its several distinct sections when viewed from the exterior. The south (front) elevation presents a large central section which is really the old main house. This has a steep gable in the center which runs perpendicular to the full roofline. There is a single arched window in the gable, three arched, double windows on the second floor and two sets of windows on the first floor. Of the latter, one is a double window with flat lintel and the other is a three-sided bay. A deep porch (presently being re-floored) crosses about half of the first-floor area. To the left of the main unit is a section which has a roofline running perpendicular to the roof of the former and forming gables at the south and north elevations. A three-sided entranceway with arched openings leads to the main door, also arched. The second floor of this part has two arched windows, and there is an oval-shaped window on the gable. Additional projections are formed on the west and east of the south face, the former being a small, one-room unit and the latter housing a garage in the basement and a library-office on the first floor.

Arched windows and steep gables are carried through on all sides. The east has a double arched window in the projection with a smaller arched window in its gable. The main house has a gable on this end and has arched windows on the second floor and in the gable. The west shows the high gable of the main part with two gables (each with arched window) on the perpendicular segment. The first floor of this segment has two flat windows near the front, while the one-story projection has double, flat windows and steep gable. Windows and doors are similar on the rear. An additional gabled projection is at the back of the western segment, and there is a dormer on the roof of the main portion of the house.

The interior consists of basement and three floors. The main part has fireplaces on first and second floors housed in the dual chimneys on each end. There is also a chimney in the western section. To the left of the entrance hallway is a large and well-appointed dining room off which is a breakfast area in the extreme projection on the west. At the right of the entrance hall is a long sitting room with fireplaces on each end. A hall to the rear of this room leads to the back exit and the stairwell to second and third levels. The stairway has fine handrails and turned balusters to the top. The second floor contains living quarters, and the third was once a large, open ballroom which is now used for storage.

"Pendleton Heights" of today, though, is quite different from the original structure of 1841. A lithograph of 1856 depicts a box-like house with central portico approached by high stairs. The first and second floors had central halls off which opened several rooms. On the first level were double parlors at the left, and at the right was a sitting room and cross hall leading to family sleeping quarters. The basement housed dining room, kitchen and service area, while the top floor was used for entertainment in the ballroom. It had high, dual chimneys on each end of a hipped roof. There was one window to each side of the main entrance door and three windows on the upper level. The structure as described above in basically incorporated as the main part of the present house, but the changes made over the years have completely obliterated its style.

Major alterations which produced the Gothic lines of today were accomplished about 1872 in order to bring the then president's house to a harmonious relationship with the architectural style of Bethany College's main building which was nearby. At that time, the gables included a good bit of gingerbread, and the front porch was not as deep as now. Projections and additions were placed on the structure as needed, especially to provide

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1841, 1872

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Pendleton Heights" is a fine example of Gothic architecture used to bring a smaller, box-like house to grander proportions in keeping with the Collegiate Gothic lines of the main building of Bethany College, a building designed in part by William K. Pendleton, owner of the Heights and second president of the college. Pendleton was a member of Bethany's first faculty, son-in-law of Alexander Campbell (founder of the college and one of the prime movers in the Disciples of Christ (Christian) church), member of the West Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1872, superintendent of the state's public schools in 1873 and from 1876 to 1881, and educational leader in general. What is more, "Pendleton Heights" became the first campus home for females at the college and helped to end an experiment in favor of coeducation. Today, the hilltop location which overlooks campus and town serves as the home of the college's president, Cecil H. Underwood, former governor of West Virginia.

Alexander Campbell began a church-related college at Bethany in northwestern Virginia in 1840. Assembling an outstanding faculty for the day, he saw to it that quality education could be had through the efforts of qualified people teaching the virtues of secular knowledge combined with good Christian influence. Among the finest on his faculty was William Kimbrough Pendleton, descendant of the illustrious Virginia Pendletons, graduate of the University of Virginia and husband of Campbell's daughter, Lavinia. He took up his position as professor of natural philosophy in November 1841, and in that year constructed his residence on a hill above what would become the campus of Bethany College.

Pendleton's first house was grand and imposing for its time and place, large and square with three floors, including a ballroom across the entire upper level. This was a quite suitable accommodation until 1872, apparently, but in that year Pendleton had the structure completely restyled in a Gothic manner, probably to complement the main college building which he and Campbell had designed earlier. "Pendleton Heights" was transformed into essentially what it is today, the old main house having had steep gables, arched windows and a three-sided bay added; a new unit which had gables perpendicular to the roofline of the main house was constructed on the west side and also had its steep gables, arched windows and three-sided bay. Other projections of one story or more were placed at the east and west, and all was graced by gingerbread in the main front gables, intricate design in the cast iron railing of the porch and the three-sided, arched entranceway.

W.K. Pendleton's reputation expanded as his association with Campbell and the school continued and as he enlarged his interest in politics. An ardent Whig, he was a member of the Young Men's National Ratification Convention which endorsed the nomination of Harrison and Tyler. He ran for membership in the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1850 but was defeated, a fate which followed him when he joined the Know Nothings and was nominated to Congress. During the Civil War, Pendleton became associated with the Democratic party and retained his affiliation from then on. In 1871 he was chosen as representative from his senatorial district to the West Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1872.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atkinson, George W. and Alvaro F. Gibbens. Prominent Men of West Virginia.

Wheeling, W.Va.: W.L. Callin, 1890. (pp. 340-45)

Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Bethany College, 1889. Bethany, W.Va., 1889. (pp. 30-31)

Coe, Austin. "Historic Disciple Buildings in Bethany, West Virginia." In "A History of Bethany's Campus" folder, File Box VB1, Archives, Bethany College Library, Bethany College, Bethany, W.Va.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM OK  
HL

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 7	5, 3, 7, 4, 8, 0	4, 4, 5, 0, 5, 8, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James E. Harding, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

April 15, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Old Mountainlair, West Virginia University

TELEPHONE

(304) 292-1527

CITY OR TOWN

Morgantown

STATE

West Virginia

## 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 National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Leonard M. Davis*

TITLE West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 12, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/26/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE JUN 25 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE one

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

for plumbing and electrical conveniences. In 1935 "Pendleton Heights" was renovated to about its present, Tudor Gothic appearance.

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Bishop Campbell's failing health led to Pendleton's virtually assuming the presidency of Bethany by 1861, and he was chosen to fill that post from 1866 until 1886. At the latter date he retired from the office but continued in an emeritus position and remained a member of the Board of Trustees even while living in Florida many years thereafter. In 1889 he sold his home to the college for a nominal sum, and since that time, with the exception of a few years in the early 1890s, "Pendleton Heights" has served as the fitting home of the president of Bethany College. It is presently occupied by another who has been active in the realms of politics and education, Cecil H. Underwood, former governor of West Virginia.

Pendleton contributed much to general education beyond the confines of Bethany. While filling an interim appointment as West Virginia State Superintendent of Public Schools in 1873, he helped draft a new school law, and in 1876 he was elected State Superintendent, a position he held along with his college duties until 1881.

An interesting sidelight to the significance of "Pendleton Heights" is its use from 1890 until 1892 as the college's boarding house for female students. Bethany had become coeducational by 1881, but women, as with most students, had to find suitable room and board in the surrounding area. This made their status a bit precarious in a day when college coeducation was on rough footing, so the addition of a female boarding program put this system in the position of "an acknowledged and assured success" in the words of the college vice president of the day. The young ladies still had to provide their sheets, pillowcases, towels, napkins, napkin ring, fork, teaspoon and lamp, but they had found a permanent place on the campus of Bethany College.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

"Pendleton Heights" folder, File Box VB1, Archives, Bethany College Library, Bethany College, Bethany, W.Va.

Power, Frederick D. Life of William Kimbrough Pendleton. St. Louis: Christian Publishing Co., 1902.