

1585

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

received **AUG 19 1988**
date entered

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

NATIONAL REGISTER
SEP 30 1988

1. Name

historic East Hall

and or common

2. Location

street & number West Quadrangle - West Virginia State College not for publication

city, town Institute vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Kanawha code 039

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name West Virginia Board of Regents

street & number 950 Kanawha Boulevard, East

city, town Charleston vicinity of state W.Va. 25301

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kanawha County Courthouse

street & number Court and Virginia Streets

city, town Charleston, state W.Va.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title West Dunbar - Institute has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 28, 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records SHPO, Department of Culture and History

city, town Charleston, state W.Va.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date 1937
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

East Hall stands between the West Virginia State College Quadrangle and Barron Drive at the southwestern corner of the quadrangle opposite Fleming Hall. The modest, 2-story frame building faces east, although before 1937 it stood in a similar position several hundred feet away on the east side of the quad facing west. East Hall thus retains its earlier, historic name despite the change in location.

Now used as the Regents Center for Education and Research With Industry and for offices serving the West Virginia State College Foundation, East Hall prior to 1974 was the official home to presidents of West Virginia State College; it is the oldest building on campus.

The 2-story, frame house features a hipped roof with an east-facing minor gable centered with an arched window and decorated with a wooden openwork bargeboard and imbricated wood shingles. A major gabled walldormer pierces the rear roof cornice at the Barron Drive elevation. The hipped ends of the roof are articulated at the ridge with gablets, also decorated with openwork bargeboards.

Beveled board wood siding and simple corner boards painted white contrast with the red brick foundation. The rectangular building is fronted with a deep, now enclosed, veranda which runs along the entire house front. Columns of the porch are square and are designed with Doric capitals and narrow vertical panels. Late infill and jalousie windows now occupy the porch bays.

When it was built about 1893, East Hall was situated on the lower east side of the campus facing the quadrangle. The 1896 catalog of the West Virginia Colored Institute describes the building as having eight rooms and being occupied by boys as a dormitory. (There is also an attic not described in any of the printed material about the building.)

The 1898 catalog contains the following description:

East Hall is a wooden structure painted white. It contains eight large rooms. Here are placed the printing department, the library, and chemical laboratory. It is nearly surrounded with porches. This building is heated with steam. It is furnished with water and its sanitation is good.

The first alterations at East Hall were most likely made by Dr. John W. Davis when the house was being readied for his bride; at this time, the inside staircase was relocated from the front of the building immediately opposite the front door to the rear of the building. The staircase was widened, and it is supposed that the telephone niche now on the wall at the foot of the staircase was added.

Other changes were made after Dr. Davis's bride, Mrs. Ethel Davis, came to live in the house. A second bathroom was added upstairs on the guest side (south side), and space was taken from the kitchen to create a butler's pantry.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Ethnic Heritage: Black History
Specific dates	c. 1893	Builder/Architect	Unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

East Hall is now the oldest building on the West Virginia State College campus. For over seventy-five years it served as the home of the presidents of the institution, bearing silent witness to several historic periods in American education. During the building's existence, "The West Virginia Colored Institute," which was begun under the nation's 1890 Land Grant Act, was transformed from a small school to "West Virginia State College," an institution of higher education rendering exceptional service to the national as well as state black communities. With the passage of the "Brown vs. Board of Education" legislation, the institution immediately began enrolling white students and received national acclaim for its successful and historic desegregation under black leadership.

In addition to being "home" to the extraordinary educators who led West Virginia State College, East Hall also fulfilled a quasi-public function. It was used for official college entertaining, serving as the site of student and faculty receptions, and, in the days before public accommodations were integrated, housing numerous guests of the college for whom suitable lodgings were not available elsewhere.

J. Edwin Campbell was selected as the first principal of the West Virginia Colored Institute on April 1, 1892. In his report to the Board of Regents for that year he commented, "We have, ever since the opening of the institution, felt the urgent need of a boarding hall. Accommodation for students to even a small number cannot be found in the immediate vicinity of the Insitute." (Campbell, p.9)

Later, Morris P. Shawkey wrote, "During Mr. Campbell's second year, East and West Halls, frame structures, were erected as a boys' dormitory and a combined girls' dormitory and dining hall." (Shawkey, p.20).

Eighteen ninety three would have been the second year of Mr. Campbell's administration. The institution's catalog for 1893–94 also carries a picture of East Hall. The year of construction of East Hall is, therefore, fixed at 1893.

Initially, East Hall was used as a boys' dormitory. When a new boys' dormitory was built in 1897 (Atkinson Hall), East Hall became the site of the printing department, the library, and chemical laboratory. It is believed that this multi-purpose use of East Hall lasted only one year. When J. McHenry Jones was named principal in 1898, East Hall became his residence. The 1899–1900 WVC catalog labels East Hall as the "President's House."

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name St. Albans, W.Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	4	3	2	8	6	0	4	2	4	7	9	4	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 N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rodney Collins Architectural Historian

organization WV Department of Culture and History date June, 1988

street & number telephone 304-348-0240

city or town Charleston state W.Va.

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

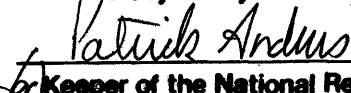
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 8/15/88

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 date 9/26/88
for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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From 1898 to 1974, East Hall was occupied by five presidents:

- (1) J. McHenry Jones, 1898-1909
- (2) Byrd Prillerman, 1909-1919
- (3) John W. Davis, 1919-1953
- (4) W.J.L. Wallace, 1953-1973
- (5) H.M. McNeill, 1973-1974

In 1974, Dr. McNeill moved to a residence in Charleston and East Hall was converted to use as an office building.

GUESTS

Since Booker T. Washington is known to have been on the campus of West Virginia State College as speaker and visitor, it is highly likely that he was a guest, probably for overnight, in East Hall.

Among other persons entertained as overnight guests were W.E.B. DuBois, Channing Tobias, Mary McLeod Bethune, Benjamin Mays, Jessie Faucett, George Washington Carver, Roland Hayes, Mordecai Johnson, Carter G. Woodson, and Clarence Cameron White.

Among those who were entertained in East Hall but did not spend the night were Governor Meadows, State School Superintendent W.W. Trent, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Madame Pandit, Harold Bauer, and Ralph Bunche.

Although Mrs. Roosevelt did not spend the night in East Hall, she rested in the guest room during the day.

REMINISCENCES

MRS. JOHN W. DAVIS: Mrs. Davis is the widow of Dr. John W. Davis who was the fifth president of West Virginia State College. She came to East Hall as a bride and found it a comfortable place to live. The large porch was often used for parties. Furniture was a combination of her own pieces and some which belonged to the state. Linens, dishes, etc. were her own although one set of china was purchased by the state toward the end of her residence in the house. Oriental rugs had been purchased prior to her arrival and were available for her use.

Dr. and Mrs. Davis continued to live in East Hall while it was being moved. Mrs. Davis says that the move only took a few days and she does not remember that it inconvenienced her.

In addition to entertaining visiting dignitaries, Mrs. Davis held receptions for freshman and senior students.

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MRS. EDMONIA GRIDER: Mrs. Grider was initially a student in the high school department of what was to become West Virginia State College and remained to take her baccalaureate degree. She continued her association with the institution after her graduation through her marriage to a member of the music faculty. She visited the president's house as student and as faculty wife; she is particularly aware of musical artists who were guests in the home when they presented programs at the college. Mrs. Grider recalled the staircase's being at the front of the house and the construction of the butler's pantry.

MRS. LOTTIE MORRIS: Mrs. Morris is the niece of Byrd Prillerman who was the fourth president of West Virginia State College. She remembers when the staircase was at the front of the building. Her sister, Flavilla, one of the early graduates of the institution, lived with the Prillermans and aided with the housework in exchange for room and board.

DR. AND MRS. W.J.L. WALLACE: Dr. Wallace is the President emeritus of West Virginia State College; he and Mrs. Wallace moved into East Hall in September, 1953 and lived there until June, 1973. During their residence, they preferred to refer to it as the President's "home," not "house," because they wanted to stress the concept of home; they saw East Hall as a place of residence as well as a quasi-public facility.

Mrs. Wallace redecorated the house, papering walls to cover the deteriorating plaster surfaces, having wall to wall carpet installed (the Oriental rugs were moved upstairs), installing brass light fixtures in the living dining, and circulatory areas. She also purchased some furniture to supplement what was already there and to replace worn out items. She enclosed the front porch to protect it from the fly ash emitted by Union Carbide.

When the Wallace's moved into the house, it was connected to the college's central heating system and was not air conditioned. They added personally owned window air conditioning units. Later, the house was removed from the central heating system and individual furnaces and a whole house air-conditioning unit were added.

The Wallace's continued the tradition of entertaining in East Hall. Among their guests were Meta Warwick Fuller, black female sculptor who had begun her artistic work at the time of the Harlem Renaissance. They also received students and faculty at the home, initially holding at least three receptions each year -- summer, fall, and mid-term. As the number of students increased at the college, the receptions became more difficult to host, lines of students waiting to get into the house were long. Initially, the mid-term reception was discontinued, and then all receptions were moved to the Prillerman Hall Lounge.

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Among nationally prominent individuals associated with West Virginia State College was John Warren Davis (1888-1980), president of the college from 1919 to 1953, leader in American education, and consultant to the Legal Defense and Education Fund. Dr. Davis resided at East Hall during his tenure as president of WVSC.

The following extracts are taken from the obituary of Dr. Davis appearing in the July 15, 1980, issue of the Charleston, W.Va., Gazette:

Davis was remembered by Dr. William J.L. Wallace, who succeeded Davis as president of the college in 1953, as an outstanding educator under whose tenure the institution grew from 21 students to a school - then solely for blacks - which at one point had about 2,000.

The college was 4 years old when Davis, a native of Georgia, came to West Virginia from Washington, D.C., where he had been executive secretary of the 12th Street Branch of the YMCA. Prior to that, he had been registrar of Morehouse College in Atlanta, where he received a bachelor's degree in 1911. In what Wallace called a miraculous transformation, Davis saw WVSC accredited with the North Central Association for Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1927, and greatly expanded its curricula.

"It was the first Negro institution to be accredited by a regional accrediting association," said Wallace, who termed that "quite an accomplishment."

Before retiring in 1953, Wallace said Davis prepared the college for the dual role it would serve following the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 decision that public schools be desegregated.

In 1952, Davis, who had announced that he would retire a year later, was given a leave of absence from the college and was appointed by President Harry Truman to be the U.S. director of Technical Cooperative Administration in Liberia. There until 1954, he oversaw aid to the African nation started by freed American slaves.

He served on President Herbert Hoover's Organization of Unemployed Relief and was appointed by President Truman to the first board of directors of the National Science Foundation.

During his educational career, Davis was a member of the National Advisory Committee on the Education of Negroes from 1948-51; the National Education Association; the Association of School Administrators; Conference of Presidents of Negro Land Grant Colleges; Society for the Advancement of Education; American Academy of Political Science and the Association of State College Presidents. He had been president of the West Virginia Council of State College and University Presidents.

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He had recently returned from the National Education Association convention in Los Angeles where he received the Trenholm Award for his outstanding contributions to education. He received honorary degrees from Morehouse College, State College at Orangeburg, S.C., Wilberforce University and Howard University.

He was the author of "Land Grant Colleges of Negroes," "Problems in the Collegiate Education of Negroes," "Negro Education vs. the Education of the Negro," "Minority Report National Advisory Committee on Education," and "Wilberforce University as a Cause," along with several other educational works.

Born the son of a merchant in Milledgeville, Ga., on Feb. 11, 1888, Davis was one of the founders of one of the first NAACP chapters in Atlanta. He was associated with the NAACP's legal defense fund for about 20 years, and Davis was head of its Herbert Lehmann Fund. He had also been a member of the national committee of the National Urban League.

Bibliography

Bickley, Ancella Jr. "Attitude Aided Progress - Ex-WVSC Head," Charleston Daily Mail, Sept. 28, 1979.

"John Warren Davis, ex-State President, Dies." Charleston Gazette, July 15, 1980.

National Register Criteria

Meets Criteria A and B

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Bibliography

Campbell, J. Edwin, "Miscellaneous," in Report of the Board of Regents of the West Virginia Colored Institute for the Year 1892, Charleston, Moses W. Donnally, Public Printer, 1892.

Shawkey, Morris P., West Virginia in History, Life, Literature and Industry, V 11, Chicago and New York, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1928.

West Virginia Colored Institute Catalogs, 1893-94, 1896, 1899-1900.

Personal interview with Dr. & Mrs. W.J.L. Wallace, 3/9/88.

Telephone interviews with Mrs. Ethel Davis (3/22/88), Mrs. Edmonia Grider (3/10/88), and Mrs. Lottie Morris (3/11/88).

Form Prepared by:

Dr. Ancella Radford Bickley
Retired College Administrator
Cross Lanes, W.Va.

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verbal boundary description

The nominated property is located at the southwestern corner of the college quadrangle and is bounded on the west by Barron Drive, on the north by MacCorkle Hall, on the east by a straight line running along the west side of Fleming Hall, and by a straight line running west from the mid-point of the west wall of Fleming Hall to Barron Drive, to form a square of approximately 150 feet.

Justification

The boundaries enclose the ground historically associated with the building since about 1937, roughly between MacCorkle Hall, Fleming Hall, and Barron Drive.