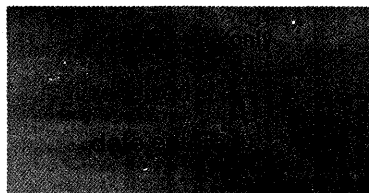


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



1982

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

1. Name

historic Elkins, Senator Stephen Benton, House

and/or common Halliehurst

2. Location

street & number Davis and Elkins College Campus not for publication

city, town Elkins vicinity of ~~Elkins~~

state West Virginia code 54 county Randolph code 083

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: closed 5/82

4. Owner of Property

name Board of Trustees, Davis and Elkins College

street & number Davis and Elkins College

city, town Elkins vicinity of state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Randolph County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Elkins state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

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

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Halliehurst was modeled after a castle on the Rhine River, which was admired by Mrs. Hallie Davis Elkins while visiting in Germany. Designed by architect Charles T. Mott, it was built in 1890 at a cost estimated to be in the vicinity of \$300,000. Mott, a nationally prominent architect in his own right, practiced in New York City between 1885 and 1912. He became a member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects in 1894. He entered into the partnership of Kafka and Mott for a period of three years (1893-1896), but otherwise engaged in practice as a sole proprietor. His firm was located at several prestigious New York addresses, and his last known address was White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, where he apparently retired in 1913. The American Institute of Architects has no record of his practicing after this date.

Halliehurst was a major commission for Mott, and his work on the Elkins estate spanned a period of at least fifteen years. Sketches of the building were published in American Architect and Building News, September 19, 1891. The exterior perspective drawing shows the building as it was completed. The interior sketches show the dining room with decorative ceiling and wall finishes that are not evident in the building today. It is doubtful that the decorative treatments were completed to the degree illustrated by the sketches. The two remaining interior sketches showing the library fireplace and the stairway from the great entrance hall to the second floor are quite similar to these same features as they exist today.

Halliehurst is an unusual building, marked by a steep hipped roof, cone-domed turrets and towers, a flat-roofed central tower, numerous dormers, and high stone chimneys. The first story of the main section is covered with shiplap wooden siding; the second and third stories, as well as the adjoining wing, are covered with brick. The foundation is ashlar stone. A flat porch roof surrounds the front and turreted side. Over the bayed front piece is a rounded second story porch adorned with simple Doric columns.

This porch, a later addition to Halliehurst, was completed in 1904. It can be reasonably assumed that Mott had a hand in this addition as he apparently had been working with Elkins on other building projects over the preceding 15 years. There were a number of other construction projects which took place on the estate at the time that Halliehurst was built, and in the years afterward. The ice house is reputed to have been built in 1890, and the barn and carriage house would necessarily have been constructed at the same time or shortly thereafter. Other buildings, including the Gate House, were built before 1900. (The current resident of the Gate House, a Miss Barry, is the daughter of Elkins' general supervisor and gateman, and was born in the Gate House in 1900, according to her great-niece, Linda Barry Davis of Elkins. Mrs. Davis' grandfather was born a few years earlier in another house on the estate.)

The Gate House, the ice house, and Halliehurst are the only structures of the original estate which remain today. The ice house has been converted into a coffee house (1967-68); the Gate House remains in use as a residence by a member of the Barry family; and Halliehurst itself has been through a variety of college uses. The ice house and Gate House are in good condition, whereas Halliehurst has been in need of repairs for several years. The last major repair on the building was made in the late 1960's, when the slate roof was removed and an asphalt shingle roof was applied. Since that time the College Aid has taken on several facelifting projects on the building's first floor interior. These projects have not to any great extent detracted from or destroyed the historic fabric of the building.

The replacement roof is currently showing signs of its age and will be useful for only a few more years. The building's wood shingle siding has weathered badly in the past few years and is in need of restoration and replacement. Other building features, including the 1904 porch, are in need of repairs.

Some of the outstanding features of Halliehurst are the huge fireplace in the main hall

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7. Description (cont.)

of Italian marble, with intricate carvings above the mantle; another large fireplace in the library, reputed to have been copied from a fireplace in the house on the Rhine which Halliehurst is modeled after; stained glass windows; ornate staircase and balustrade; large carved wooden doors at the main entrance; and a canopy which extends over the road, to protect visitors as they walked from their carriages to the door.

Excluding the above-mentioned repairs, there has been little essential alteration to the exterior of the building, other than the addition of a fire escape some years ago when the building was used as a dormitory. The interior has been altered to a greater degree, having been adapted over the years for use as the home of the college president, as a girls' dormitory; and as classrooms for the music, art, and drama departments. It has also housed the chaplain's office, college radio station, dispensary, and Presbyterian Guidance Center.

The grounds about the house were originally extensively planted, as is evidenced by a plant order placed by Elkins in 1904 - several hundred plants were ordered at one time. Early photographs also show the grounds in a well-groomed condition.

Senator Elkins is said to have maintained that he built the mansion out of wood because of the fortune he amassed in the lumber industry.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** Built 1890      **Builder/Architect** Charles T. Mott, architect

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Halliehurst's historical significance is twofold: It was the residence of U. S. Senator Stephen Benton Elkins (1841-1911) and the physical nucleus of present-day Davis and Elkins College.

Elkins was one of West Virginia's most influential politicians and industrialists. He served as Secretary of War under President Benjamin Harrison; authored two federal acts governing regulation of the railroads; founded the city of Elkins; was a co-founder of Davis and Elkins College; a leader in the development of the state's railroad, coal, and lumbering industries; a son-in-law of U. S. Senator Henry Gassaway Davis (whose West Virginia residence, Graceland, has already been named to the National Register); and the father of U. S. Senator Davis Elkins, who also lived at Halliehurst. Elkins was also a long-standing friend and political protege of James G. Blaine, a major power in the Republican Party in the second half of the 19th century.

Stephen B. Elkins was born in Perry County, Ohio, September 26, 1841. He later moved with his parents to Westport, Missouri, and graduated from the law department of the University of Missouri at Columbia in 1860. During the Civil War he enlisted in the Union Army as a captain in the Kansas Militia. He moved to the Territory of New Mexico in 1864, was admitted to the bar that same year, and settled down to practice law in Mesilla. He was active in territorial politics, serving as a member of New Mexico's house of representatives, district attorney, attorney general, U. S. distric attorney, and finally, was elected as a Republican Delegate to the 43rd and 44th Congresses.

Disappointed in New Mexico's failure to be admitted to statehood in 1875, Elkins moved to New York City where he resumed the practice of law. His marriage to Henry Gassaway Davis' daughter, Hallie, on April 14, 1877, was a primary factor in diverting his attention to West Virginia. (Elkins' marriage to Hallie was his second; he was previously married to Sarah Jacobs, on June 10, 1866. Sarah died before Elkins' first election to Congress, leaving him with two small daughters, Elizabeth and Sallie.) Davis had already begun building his West Virginia coal, timber, and railroad empire; after entering into partnership with his new son-in-law, the two men became a major force in the state's industrialization, beginning with their development of western Maryland and eastern West Virginia by extending the West Virginia Central & Pittsburgh Railway as far as Elkins, which it reached in 1889. (This became the Western Maryland Railroad when sold to the Gould interests in 1902.)

When the rails had been finished to a point some 14 miles from the Tygart River, Senator Elkins and his wife made a trip to the area to choose a location for the new homes planned by both Elkins and his father-in-law. They selected a site near the town of Leadsville, and construction work was first begun on Halliehurst, later on Graceland. In 1889, in honor of Senator Elkins, Leadsville changed its name to Elkins, and in 1900 the county seat was moved from Beverly to Elkins.

Stephen B. Elkins served as U. S. Senator from 1895 until his death on January 4, 1911. During that time he sponsored the Elkins Act of 1903, and the Mann-Elkins Act of 1910, setting penalties for rebates and regulating rates on railways. It is notable that Elkins, a Republican, managed to become a dominant political force in an otherwise Democratic state, under the sponsorship of his Democratic father-in-law. According to John Alexander Williams, "Elkins' transfer of his political residence to West Virginia was in

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Ambler, Charles H., A History of Education in West Virginia. Huntington, West Virginia: Standard Printing & Publishing Co., 1951.  
Davis and Elkins College Catalogue, 1923-23 and 1927-28. Elkins, West Virginia: Davis and Elkins College.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3/4 acre

Quadrangle name Elkins, W.Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	7	5	9	9	2	10	4	3	0	9	5	1	10
Zone		Easting				Northing							

B 

1	7	6	0	0	1	1	10	4	3	0	9	2	8	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

(see attachment)

### 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 Ralph Pedersen, Architect

organization Ralph Pedersen Architect

date June 10, 1982

street & number P. O. Box 1885

telephone (304) 624-9298

city or town Clarksburg

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 16, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 9/2/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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8. Significance (cont.)

other respects more than just a curiosity of personal or local history. It was an integral part of the process by which the political and economic resources of West Virginia were marshalled in the service of a national economy in process of industrialization and centralization." In speaking of both Davis and Elkins, Williams also notes that "They perfected West Virginia's modern political system...adapted the state's political representation along with its fuels and raw materials to the use of metropolitan industrialization...as much as the men who brought the state to life in 1863, these...were the makers of West Virginia as it is today."

Over the years, Halliehurst enjoyed the visits of many prominent national figures. Senator Elkins entertained lavishly, and held a number of important political meetings at Halliehurst. His friends at the national level included Benjamin Harrison, Grover Cleveland, and James G. Blaine, several of whom are known to have visited him at his Elkins estate. It is believed that at least one informal meeting of President Harrison's cabinet was held at Halliehurst. In 1889, a site was even chosen for the construction of a residence for President Harrison, although the house was never built. However, R. C. Kerens, railroad official, St. Louis financier, and associate of both Elkins and Davis, built a third mansion, Kerenscrest, on an adjacent hill. (This house has also been named to the National Register.)

Senator Elkins, along with Davis, was a founder of Davis and Elkins College in 1904, and donated 25 acres of land in the southern part of the town to serve as a campus. Later, the original college buildings were destroyed by fire, and in 1923, Elkins' widow deeded Halliehurst and 60 acres of land adjoining for a new campus. The college moved to its new quarters in 1926. The gift was made under restricted deed, Mrs. Elkins requiring that Halliehurst be used "for legitimate college purposes, exclusive of mens' dormitory purposes."

Hallie Davis Elkins enjoyed a certain distinction in her own right. She was perhaps the only woman who was the daughter, wife, and mother of a United States Senator.

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9. Major Bibliographical References (cont.)

- Davis and Elkins College Bulletin, 1972-73. Elkins, West Virginia: Davis and Elkins College.
- Frost, John F., "College Renovates Historic Hall," Preservation News, Dec. 1967, p. 7.
- Kennedy, Lawrence F., Biographical Dictionary of the American Congress, 1774-1971. Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1971.
- Lambert, Oscar D., Stephen Benton Elkins. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1955.
- Marquess, E. Lawrence, "The Political Career of Stephen Benton Elkins." Unpublished MA thesis. Indiana University, 1951.
- Vargo, Rodney, "Halliehurst Hall." Unpublished senior paper. Davis and Elkins College, 1970.
- Williams, John Alexander, "New York's First Senator From West Virginia: How Stephen B. Elkins Found a New Political Home," West Virginia History, v. 31, 1969-70, p. 73-87.
- Williams, John Alexander, West Virginia and the Captains of Industry. Morgantown, West Virginia: WVU Library, 1976.

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#10 Geographical Data - Verbal Boundary Description

Halliehurst is bounded on the north by a campus belt road, on the south by a broad lawn extending to a point 100 ft. south of the house front, on the east by a north-south line 30 ft. east of Halliehurst (mid-point between Halliehurst and the Library), and on the west by a driveway. The Gatehouse is bounded on the west by Sycamore St. and on the north and south by paved streets and on the west by a north-south line 40 ft. east of the gatehouse intersecting with paved streets (Tract 1, DB221 P367). From: "Property Map of Davis and Elkins College," Horner Brothers Engineers, Clarksburg, W.Va., April 1961. (Filed at Historic Preservation Unit, W.Va. Department of Culture and History).