NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIVED OMB No. 10024-0018

NOV 27 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. Sealing with the Sextra sequence 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 an 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.

. Name of Property
istoric name Castle Heights Academy Historic District
ther names/site number Castle Heights Military Academy
. Location
treet & number Castle Heights Avenue North at Cadet Court N/A not for publication ity or town Lebanon N/A vicinity tate Tennessee code TN county Wilson code 189 zip code 37087
. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this in 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title Date In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)
State or Federal agency and bureau
. National Park Service Certification
hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Entered in the Signature of the Keeper Little Communication
See continuation sheet National Register
determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet ☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register ☐ removed from the National Register.
□ other, (explain:)

Castle Heights Academy Historic District	
Name of Property	

Wilson County,	TN
County and State	

5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resource (Do not include previously	ces within Property listed resources in count)		
□ private □ public-local	□ building(s)☑ district	Contributing	Noncontributing		
public-State	site	5	1	buildings	
☐ public-Federal	structure			sites	
	☐ object			structures objects	
		5	1	Total	
Name of related multiple (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	property listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of Contrib in the National Reg	uting resources previ jister	ously listed	
N/A		1			
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions	s)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)			
EDUCATION: school		COMMERCE/TRADE: professional			
EDUCATION: library		VACANT			
EDUCATION: education r	related				
7. Description					
Architectural Classificati (Enter categories from instructions		Materials (Enter categories from ins	tructions)		
Collegiate Gothic, Classic	•	foundation sandstone, CONCRETE, BRICK			
		walls STONE, BRICK, CONCRETE			
		roof ASPHALT			
		other METAL, WO	טטט		

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

Castle	Heights	Academy	Historic	District
NI				

Wilson County, TN
County and State

Name of Property County and S

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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	EDUCATION ARCHITECTURE
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
☑ 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 who's components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1902 - 1941
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.) Property is: N/A A owned by a religious institution or used for	Significant Dates 1902, 1905-1906, 1915-1916, 1941
religious purposes. B removed from its original location.	Significant Person (complete if Criterion B is marked) N/A
□ C moved from its original location.□ D a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
 ☐ F a commemorative property ☐ G less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years. 	Architect/Builder Chamberlaine, Tom - architect; Seagraes, W.D builder; Buchanan, I.W.P builder
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets	.)
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on o	ne or more continuation sheets.)
 □ 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 	Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University Other Name of repository: Library & Archives, Cumberland University, Lebanon, TN

Castle Heights Academy Historic District				County, TN	
Name of Property		С	ounty an	d State	
10. Geographical Data					
	-				
Acreage of Property approximately 8.5 acres					
UTM References	Leb	anor	n TN :	314 NE	
(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)			.,		
1 16 562260 4007540		3			
Zone Easting Northing		0	Zone	Easting	Northing
2		4			
			□s	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			-:		
Tr. Tomit reputed by					
name/title RoAnn Bishop and Carroll Van West					
organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation		(date	September 1995	
street & number PO Box 80, MTSU		telep	ohone	615-898-2947	
city or town Murfreesburo	_ state	<u></u>	1	zip code <u>371</u>	32
Additional Documentation					
submit the following items with the completed form:					
Continuation Sheets					
Maps	ما مليست	! .			
A USGS map (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating the prop	епу'ѕ ю	catic	on		
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having la	arge acı	reage	or nu	merous resources.	
Dhotographs					
Photographs					
Representative black and white photographs of the prop	perty.				
Additionalitions					
Additional items (Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items					
·					
Property Owner					
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)					
name see continuation sheet					
street & number		····		telephone	
city or town	state)		zip code	

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 listing. 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.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

NPS Form 10-900-a

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

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Castle Heights Academy Historic District, Wilson Co., TN

VII. Description

Castle Heights Historic District is situated on a slightly wooded knoll in a mixed residential and commercial area just north of West Main Street, about one and one-half miles from the town square in Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee. The proposed district contains approximately five acres that contain the only extant concentration of historic buildings associated with the Castle Heights Academy and includes at its south boundary the property of the Mitchell House (NR 12/06/79).

The proposed district is the only remaining, intact portion of the former 225-acre Castle Heights School, a well-known private, turn-of-the-century college preparatory school and, later, a military academy. The school closed in 1986, and since that time, most of its seventeen brick and stone buildings have been vacant, vandalized and left to decay. Within the past two years, at least seven of the buildings on the east side of Cadet Court have been razed to make way for an extension of Castle Heights Avenue North and the construction of some new medical and professional office buildings. Among the historic buildings recently razed were MacFadden Gymnasium, Rice Academic Building, Ingram Barracks with its attached Natatorium, The Armory, the power plant, Tower Barracks, and the old Target Range.

The six buildings in the proposed district are clustered together on the west side of the old campus, dominated by the Main Administration Building, whose massive structure sits castle-like at the top of the knoll at the end of Castle Heights Avenue North and in the center of the circular Cadet Court. Joined by concrete walkways and foot paths and shaded by large hardwoods, the buildings seem to offer a quiet retreat from the busy activity along West Main Street.

1. The Main Administration Building (1902) is the architectural centerpiece of the Castle Heights campus. Designed by architect Tom Chamberlain and built by W.D. "Bud" Seagraves in 1902, it originally was used to house dormitory rooms, a gymnasium, recitation rooms, a spacious dining hall, and a kitchen. Twice, in 1915 and in 1916, it was heavily damaged by fire, but was restored to its original plan. It is Collegiate Gothic in style, three stories in height, of brick construction and Cookeville sandstone foundation, with a deterriorated flat asphalt roof. Its symmetrical facade contains three

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Castle Heights Academy Historic District, Wilson Co., TN

distinct sections, with a projecting center tower, with Gothic battlements, and matching Gothic turrets on either end. The red-brick walls display distinctive linear designs in the bands of contrasting-colored bricks around the windows and in the pilasters, lintels, arches, and belt courses. The windows are all one-over-one double-hung windows. The third story row of windows in the projecting center section are defined by rounded arches. (C)

- 2. Rutherford Parks Library (1905) was made possible by a handsome bequest from a former Castle Heights student, Rutherford Parks of Dallas, Texas. This restored Collegiate Gothic building is a one-story, red brick building, with a sandstone foundation and belt courses of sandstone. It has a three bay symmetrical facade, with a projecting central entrance, approached by three sandstone steps. In a stone arch over the original wooden double door is spelled "Rutherford Parks Library." The door also has original sidelights and transom. Blond brick turrets adorn the corners, and the castellated roof line is highly decorative. The roof is covered with asphalt. (C)
- 3. McFadden Foundation Auditorium (1941) is located south of the library. It is an example of Classical Revival architecture. This style, popular from 1900 to 1920, is identifiable by its symmetrical arrangement, large proportions, pedimented portico, unadorned roof line, and the pilasters which flank its sides. The auditorium is a two-story, rectangular building of red brick, with a concrete foundation, and a deterriorated flat asphalt roof. Its five bay facade features a full-height, but less than full width, pedimented porch supported by four sandstone classical columns with plain capitals. Twelve sandstone steps lead up to original wooden entrance doors to the auditorium. Each of the five bays features a 16-pane, colored-glass window on the second level. These windows continue in a routine pattern on both sides of the auditorium. Within each of the three center bays on the front facade is an eight-panel, double, wooden door surrounded by an arched panel of colored glass. Between the top of the door and the colored-glass surround is an elliptical panel of colored glass. (C)

NPS FORM 10-900-A (8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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Castle Heights Academy Historic District, Wilson Co., TN

- 4. Mildred Armstrong Hospital (circa 1905) was named for school President Col. H.L. Armstrong's wife, Mildred. Located west of the library, the two-story red brick hospital has a brick foundation and its roof is in the process of being replaced in the summer of 1995. The Collegiate Gothic style building features corner turrets, blond brick pilasters between the three bays, and decorative blond brickwork around each rectangular one-over-one double hung windows. The windows are original, however, new anodized metal storm windows cover the original wood windows. The primary entrance, or facade, of the building was at the north gable-end of the building. A small stoop provided access to double wooden doors, each with a large, single window in the top half of the door. (C)
- 5. President's Home (1902 stands immediately west of the Main Administration Building. The two-story, brick asphalt shingle roof dwelling is asymmetrical in composition and reflect both Queen Anne and Classical Revival styles. Its dormered, hip roof has two protruding gable sides. A one-story Classical Revival style porch spans the front two-thirds of the house and extends into a portico on the east side. A single, round arched window with sidlights graces the gable end on the front facade. Other windows are rectangular, one-over-one. The original front door is mostly glass with a wooden frame and a transom window. (C)
- 6. The Laundry Building (circa 1960) is a rectangular, concrete-block building with a frame, gable-end roof covered in asphalt shingles. The front facade features two wooden doors, one on each side of a stationary, three-panel, rectangular window. A small, square window is located on both the north and south sides of the building. (NC, due to date of construction.)
- 7. The Mitchell House (NR 12/06/79) is a two-story, Crab Orchard stone faced building in Classical Revival style that features a two-story Corinthian capital portico. Built on a concrete foundation, it has an asphalt shingle gable roof. Built in 1906, it was converted into the elementary school in 1936. The upstairs bedrooms were converted into classroom; the rear parlors on the first floor became offices and a kitchen; and an apartment for the headmaster was added to the rear ell. (C)

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Castle Heights Academy Historic District, Wilson Co., TN

VIII. Statement of Significance

The Castle Heights Academy Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in education in Lebanon and Wilson County and under Criterion C, as an excellent and rare example of early twentieth century campus architecture, especially Classical Revival and Castellated Gothic architecture in Lebanon and Wilson County, Tennessee.

Like many rural counties in Tennessee, Wilson County lacked an adequate educational system at the turn of the century, especially for high school education. In the early 1900s, railroad promoters and businessmen were also extending the tracks of the Tennessee Central Railway east from Lebanon into the Cumberland Plateau. The years of 1901-1902, consequently, were years of opportunity for the civic capitalists of Lebanon, who decided that a new private, preparatory school would be a good way to enhance the image of Lebanon as well as taking advantage of the improved transportation linkages the town now possessed through the tracks of the Tennessee Central.

The Castle Heights Academy was established in 1902 as a private school for boys and girls and converted into a military academy in 1917. When the old Cumberland Preparatory School in Lebanon closed in 1902, math professor I.W. P. Buchanan, along with Cumberland University president David Earle Mitchell, Cumberland English professor Dr. Lahan Lacy Rice, and Lebanon resident Amzi W. Hooker, decided to establish a new school to help prepare young men and women for college. The result was the Castle Heights Academy.

The site chosen for the new school was two plots of land owned by Mitchell on West Main Street in Lebanon. Buchanan bought a half interest in these lots, which consisted of four acres, two rods, and twenty-five poles. Tom Chamberlain was the architect for the project, and W.D. "Bud" Seagraves was the construction contractor.

The main barracks, a massive building 215 feet long and 250 feet deep, was constructed on a hill overlooking West Main. The foundation was Cookeville sandstone, and the roof

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Castle Heights Academy Historic District, Wilson Co., TN

boasted castle-like battlements of red pressed brick. On the first day of school, September 10, 1902, ninety-four boarding students and fifty-nine day students showed up for class.

The school's new, large building—designed to house dormitory rooms, a gymnasium, recitation rooms, a spacious dining hall, and kitchen—was soon bursting at the seams. By 1904, a new gymnasium and tower building for students were erected. These were followed by two larger buildings for recitation rooms, a study hall, and quarters for students on the top floors. A year later, the school received a handsome bequest from a patron in the form of the Rutherford Parks Library.

Until 1914, Buchanan supervised the construction of all these buildings, with the exception of a new boiler house and a swimming pool. After he returned to Castle Heights in 1930, he contracted for three additional buildings, including the extant MacFadden Auditorium.

At the end of the first year, Dr. Rice bought a one-third interest in the school and became associate headmaster. Professor Oscar Newton Smith, a Princeton graduate, joined the faculty in 1903, and became resident headmaster and director of athletics. Many of his alma mater's traditions were brought to Castle Heights. These included adopting the tiger as school mascot, borrowing the Princeton "locomotive" yell, and putting the identical inscription of "Lux Veritas" on the school seal.

Shortly after coming to Castle Heights, Smith also bought an interest in the school from Hooker and Mitchell. From 1903 to 1913, Rice, Buchanan and Smith formed a triumvirate of headmasters. In that year, however, Buchanan decided to go into the construction business, and the partnership was dissolved. Rice then became sole owner, with the title of president.

A few months before the United States entered World War I, Rice decided to convert Castle Heights Academy into a military academy. "It was a precarious step, but ultimately worked to the advantage of the Academy and the U.S. forces," Rice wrote, "since several hundred students volunteered and helped win the war."

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Rice continued with the academy until 1921, when he sold the institution to a group of the faculty. The school twice declared bankruptcy and went through at least two reorganizations until, in 1928, the entire property was acquired by publisher Bernarr MacFadden, who made the school the principal beneficiary of the MacFadden Foundation. Colonel Harry L. Armstrong became president in 1929.

With a new owner came new changes. Macfadden, a strong proponent of physical fitness whose magazine, <u>Physical Culture</u>, was internationally known, implemented a new diet and a new routine that emphasized exercise and athletic competition. Under his influence, Castle Heights added several new sports to its program and began to compete in athletics on a nationwide scale. In February 1929, the basketball team toured the North and, in ten days, won four out of five games, including a victory over the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. In September that year, nearly 200 students enrolled at Castle Heights, the largest enrollment since the school's founding. During the previous decade, no more than fifty cadets had enrolled in a single term.

In 1936, the Mitchell House (NR 12/06/79), along with 150 adjoining acres, was acquired and became the home of Castle Heights' new Junior School. Designed by architects George W. Thompson, Henry Gibel, and Christian A. Asmus, the Mitchell House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. It is a large, two-story, rock-faced residence of Classical Revival style, with a two-story Corinthian portico and one-story porches on each side. It was built in 1906 as a residence for David E. Mitchell, who helped established the Castle Heights School. When the house began service as the Junior School, it was altered, with the upstairs bedrooms converted into classrooms, the rear parlors on the main floor converted into offices and a kitchen, and the back porch enclosed and made a hallway. Bathrooms also were added to the house, and an apartment for the headmaster was added to the rear ell.

The first period of significant campus expansion and development under the McFadden Foundation ended in 1941 when the foundation erected the Classical Revival-styled McFadden Foundation Auditorium. MacFadden died in 1959, and his son-in-law became president of the MacFadden Foundation in 1962. Soon, a program of capital

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improvement was begun that involved construction of Astronaut Hall, Pioneer Hall and Arnold Hall. The McClellan Learning Center was added in 1977.

Poor planning and leadership forced the MacFadden Foundation to offer the school campus for sale in 1974. At that point, three men — Lebanon banker and businessman J. Roy Wauford Jr., newspaper editor Carl Wallace and former Castle Heights teacher and administrator J.B. Leftwich — formed the Castle Heights Foundation, purchased the property and began operating the school.

Having been a male-only institution since 1917, the school opened its doors to girls again in 1973 and also began allowing day-student enrollment. Still a military school, the academy was, in 1979, one of only 27 such schools in the United States. Ultimately, declining enrollment during the Vietnam era, increasing competition from private day schools, new federal regulations and changes in society's mores combined to force the school's closing in 1986. Yet, its significant contribution to education to Wilson County is still manifested today by the many Castle Heights alumni who live and work in this community.

The historic district's architectural significance lies in its surviving mixture of Castellated Gothic, Classical Revival, and Queen Anne styles of architecture. All three styles were popular in the early twentieth century. The Castle Heights Academy, however, is most interesting in that its surviving buildings represent a blending of two distinct types of architecture for school campuses. The Castellated Gothic style is associated with late nineteenth century and early twentieth campus architecture. Architect Ralph Cram at Princeton University and James Gamble Rogers at Yale University turned to the Medieval Gothic for their new buildings constructed from 1900 to 1930. The Castellated Gothic variation found at Castle Heights became a particularly appropriate architectural statement for a military school. There is little surprise, therefore, that when a WPA writer visited the academy in the late 1930s, he/she counted 14 castellated buildings on the campus. The Classical Revival style of the McFadden Foundation Auditorium represented another popular campus style. A very impressive local example was at the campus of the George Peabody College for Teachers (NHL, 10/15/66), which developed in nearby Nashville from the mid-1910s to the 1940s.

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Castle Heights Academy Historic District, Wilson Co., TN

It also reflected the architecture of the earlier Mitchell House, which McFadden had converted into a new elementary school in 1936. Architecturally, the Mitchell House and new auditorium marked a new age in the development of the academy campus. The other style found at the historic district is Queen Anne, appropriately at the President's Home. The domestic associations of Queen Anne set the President's Home apart from the prevailing theme of the campus landscape, just as one would want a "private" home to be.

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Castle Heights Academy Historic District, Wilson Co., TN

IX. Bibliography

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Castle Heights Academy Historic District, Wilson Co., TN

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Wilson County Tax Maps 68C, Group A, Parcel 14, Lebanon, Tennessee.

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Castle Heights Academy Historic District, Wilson Co., TN

X. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The Castle Heights Academy Historic District contains approximately 8.3 acres and consists of seven building as marked on the attached map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries contain all of the extant historical property associated with Castle Heights Academy.

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Castle Heights Academy Historic District, Wilson Co., TN

Castle Heights Academy Historic District

Wilson County, TN

Photos by: Carroll Van West

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Date: November 1994

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission

2941 Lebanon Road Nashville, TN 37243

#1 of 8

Macfadden Foundation Auditorium, east (front) facade, facing west

#2 of 8

Rutherford Parks Library, east facade, facing west

#3 of 8

Main Administration Building, south (front) facade, facing northeast

#4 of 8

Main Administration Building, south (front) facade, facing northwest

#5 of 8

Main Administration Building, west facade, facing southeast

#6 of 8

President's Home, south facade, facing northwest

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Mildred Armstrong Hospital, north facade, facing southwest

#8 of 8

Laundry building, south and east (front) facades, facing northwest

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Castle Heights Academy Historic District, Wilson Co., TN

List of Owners

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