

1587

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 NATIONAL REGISTER

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

1. Name

historic Canty House

and or common "The Magnolia"

2. Location

street & number W.Va. State Route 25 _____ not for publication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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 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 Court House

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 1960's
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Canty House is located at the northeast corner of the campus of West Virginia State College on State Route 25, at Institute, West Virginia, 9 miles west of Charleston.

At the time of construction about 1900, Canty House was a simply designed, two-story farm house. In 1923, however, Colonel Canty carried out a massive renovation project which gave the house the form that it now has.

Neo-Classical Revival stylistic elements are well represented in the design of Canty House. A modified rectangle, the 2-story frame house features flanking 2-story side galleries and a center pedimented pavilion, in this case a portico, occasionally seen in Greek Revival architecture of the 19th-century Midwest. The side gables and front-facing pedimented gable lend the house an air of formality.

The dominant feature of the house is the 2-story portico which shelters a doorway with a semi-elliptical overlight and sidelights. Both the door and sidelights are multi-paned. Centered in the facade above the entrance is a wood balcony with classical consoles and a wood railing. The balusters are decorated with classical-style wood grilles. A door opens onto the balcony.

Two Corinthian wood columns with fluted shafts carry the triangular pediment of the portico.

The tympanum of the portico is stuccoed and centered with an arched window. A dentil row details the cornice of the entablature and raking cornice of the pediment. Another classical feature of prominence includes the Doric-style square columns that carry the side galleries.

When West Virginia State College purchased the property, the house had to be moved to make room for a new building that was being constructed. No internal changes are believed to have been made at that time although the house was placed on a new foundation. Later, when Canty House served as the campus health center, some temporary partitions were added to provide the needed configuration.

Canty House remains close to its original site and setting within the West Virginia State College community.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

Contributing	1 building
Noncontributing	<u>0</u>
Total	1

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Continuation sheet East Hall

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Perhaps the most dramatic change made at this time was the 1937 move of the building from the east side of campus to the west side to make room for the new physical education building that was to be constructed. As a part of the move, the house was turned completely around so that it would continue to face the quadrangle.

During the residency of Dr. and Mrs. Wallace, the bookcases in the second living room were added, and the front porch was enclosed.

Despite the move to West Quadrangle in 1937, East Hall remains close to its original site and setting within the West Virginia State College community. The building continues to serve a useful purpose on the campus and retains its historic identity, despite minor alterations, while conveying a strong sense of association with events and persons significant to the development and growth of black education in West Virginia and the nation.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

1 contributing building

Total - 1

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 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		Ethnic Heritage: Black History

Specific dates 1923 **Builder/Architect** James Canty

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Meets National Register Criteria B and C.

The Canty House is one of the most architecturally distinctive buildings in Institute. Now a part of the holdings of West Virginia State College, it was privately built and privately owned until the 1960's when it was purchased by the college. Since its purchase, West Virginia State College has used the Canty House as an office building and, for a time, as the campus health center. Originally, however, the building was the home of "Colonel" James Munroe Canty who was one of the early instructors at the West Virginia Colored Institute which later became West Virginia State College. Colonel Canty also served as the Institute's acting principal during the summer of 1898 between the resignation of J.H. Hill and the appointment of J. McHenry Jones.

The residential architecture of the West Dunbar/Institute area is, for the most part, a vernacular type common to tract housing of the period that may be described as builder style housing, workers housing, and modes that derive from common circulation plan books. "There is little stylistic reference and buildings were constructed of locally-available materials." (Marshall, p. 38). Canty House, however, is quite apart from the ordinary, according to Marshall:

The most important house in the area is the Classical-style James M. Canty house, located near the state road on the West Virginia State College campus. The house features fluted Corinthian columns supporting a dentiled pediment at the front portico. Mr. Canty called the house "The Magnolia". The house has several interesting architectural details including a fan light over the double entrance doors, pilaster corner boards and a balcony at the second floor opening above the entrance doors (Marshall, pp. 38-42).

James Canty was born on December 23, 1863 in Marietta, Georgia, the son of slave parents James and Adella Canty. He attended public school in Marietta but was graduated from Tuskegee Institute. While at Tuskegee, in addition to his "literary" work, Colonel Canty learned blacksmithing and taught himself pipe and machinery work, eventually "piping" the first girls' bathroom at the Institute. After his graduation, he worked for a time as the commandant of students at Tuskegee and then returned to Marietta where he worked at his trade in a carriage shop and did machine work for two furniture factories and a planing mill (Canty, pp. 209-313).

As a result of Booker T. Washington's recommendation to J.M. Hill, principal of the West Virginia Colored Institute, Canty was appointed as its "Superintendent of Mechanics" in January 1893. In addition to teaching in two departments, Canty also provided the mechanical services to the Institute. Of his duties he said in 1905:

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name St. Albans, W.Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	4	3	3	3	8	0	4	2	4	8	3	0	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 Dr. Ancella Radford Bickley

organization Retired College Administrator

date May, 1988

street & number

telephone 304-348-0240

city or town Cross Lanes

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

Patrick Andrews
for Keeper of the National Register

date 9/23/88

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Until the fall of 1898 my duties were many and varied, as I had no assistance in carrying on the industrial work of the school. I taught blacksmithing, carpentering, and mechanical drawing. Beside this, I have had to put the sewerage system into the institution, and the heating apparatus into several of the school buildings. Still a part of my time in 1894 was devoted to teaching in the literary department. My work now, while as exacting as ever, is more along the line of superintending the mechanical industries and in teaching mechanical drawing (Canty, p. 315).

Known by the military title of "Colonel" stemming from his experiences with the para-military emphasis at Tuskegee, Canty began the military training corps at the West Virginia Colored Institute during his term as the acting principal. He was also quite interested in sports and encouraged physical training at the Institute (Daily Mail).

Colonel Canty was married twice. The first time to Sarah J. Harris with whom he had three children. His second marriage was to Florence Lovett with whom he had four children. Mrs. Grace Mitchell, a daughter of the second marriage still resides in Institute, West Virginia.

Canty House is significant primarily for its considerable architectural value and as the surviving structure most importantly associated with James M. Canty. Moreover, the house remains close to its original site and setting within the West Virginia State College community.

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Continuation sheet

Canty House

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Bibliography

Canty, James., "The Story of a Supervisor of Mechanical Industries," in Tuskegee and its People, Booker T. Washington, ed., 1905.

Caswell, Cheryl, "The Puzzle of Institute's History Slowly Being Pieced Together." The Charleston Daily Mail Metro West, September 12, 1984.

"Pioneer W.Va. Educator Dies," The Charleston Daily Mail, February 17, 1964.

Interview with Mrs. Grace Canty Mitchell, Summer, 1987.
Pictures, courtesy of Mrs. Mitchell.

Marshall, Paul D., Historical and Architectural Survey: West Dunbar/Institute Area, Kanawha County, W.Va., September 28, 1984.

Form Prepared by:

Rodney Collins
Architectural Historian
West Virginia Department of Culture and History

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 2

Canty House

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated resource stands in a 100-foot square approximately midway between College Drive and Washington Avenue facing State Route 25 (Fairlawn Avenue). The midway point between Washington Avenue and College Drive is 250 feet approximately and the north boundary is State Route 25.

Justification:

The site includes the Canty House only and immediate grounds associated with the structure.