

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

It was in the 1880s that Dr. James W. Hale built his large, two-story plus basement brick house atop what was known in the Princeton, Mercer County, West Virginia, area as Temple Knob, a small rise said to have been used as a signal point by both Union and Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. Although not outstanding as a representative structure of a pure architectural type, Hale's house is substantial and has many Gothic Revival features. For example, each elevation has a gable under which is a pointed-arch window with panes divided by simple geometric tracery, the entire cornice has detailed work and gingerbread bargeboards and there is a large veranda completely around the west and south elevations. Surprisingly, it seems that the structure is more early Gothic than High Victorian, for it is harmonious in general effect and has a certain appearance of fragility despite its massive dimensions.

Approaching from the south (front), one is impressed by the deep porch which stretches across this entire elevation and around on the west side. It terminates on the southeast corner in a rounded section. Supported by more than twelve fluted columns and having a cornice with dentil molding, this is a feature of Greek Revival architecture, a style which is also followed in the smaller porch on the north elevation and balconies on both the front and rear.

Symmetry of design is evident throughout, especially in placement of openings. Each room has a window on both outer walls, and the first-floor entrances on front and back have central doors complete with sidelights and rectangular overlight. The door on the balcony of the south elevation has these elements also, but the balcony door on the north does not. High chimneys appear above the center of the gables on east and west and seem to stand as part of either side of the gables at north and south.

The interior follows an old standard, for it has a central hall running the entire length of each floor and the basement, with two rooms opening on each side of the hall (except for the unexcavated southwest corner of the cellar). Every room (including the old kitchen and dining room in the basement) on the east side is served by a fireplace, and all rooms on the first and second floors of the west also have this feature. The living room in the southwest corner of the first floor has built-in seats on either side of the fireplace while the library on the northwest has built-in bookcases. All rooms on the second level have built-in closets between the ends of the fireplaces and the walls.

Only minor alterations have been made since construction, and these only for convenience. A bath has been added near the balcony on the north (rear) of the second floor, but other than that, the main house is apparently unchanged. About 1918, a basement-level garage with kitchen above was added to the east side (it follows the main lines well), and an additional basement-level garage was placed on the east in 1962. Indoor plumbing was added around 1918, when the only major work seems to have been done.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1880s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house which Dr. James W. Hale built on a knoll overlooking what was then open land in the vicinity of Princeton, West Virginia, has certain Gothic and Greek Revival elements which make it an interesting architectural representative even though it has no outstanding features. Hale, who had served as a Confederate soldier when about fifteen years of age and lost an arm in battle, became a doctor after the Civil War and then took up the law profession.

James Hale was born in southwestern Virginia in 1847, descendant of a family which came west at the time of the Revolutionary War. It is said that his father, Daniel, was in poor health while serving as a Confederate soldier and James, not quite fifteen years old, was allowed to substitute for him when he exaggerated his age. At Piedmont, Virginia, in June of 1864, the young man was wounded and had to have his left arm amputated at the elbow and lost the little finger of his right hand.

Soon after the end of the war, he married and settled at Mercer Healing Springs in the newly formed state of West Virginia. There he taught school for some time before enrolling at the Baltimore Medical College and completing requirements to become a physician. His practice took him by horseback over much of the southern part of the state, and after about fifteen years and a devastating small-pox epidemic, Hale decided to give up medicine for the practice of law. Part of his reason for the switch in professions must have been because of the difficulty in working with only one arm, but what Dr. Hale took from medicine he gave to law. Until his death, he was known as one of the better attorneys in Princeton, and his firm of Hale and Pendleton had a fine reputation in the state.

It was about 1880 that Dr. Hale purchased a farm on the outskirts of the small town of Princeton. Here he built, on what was known as Temple Knob, a probable signal point during the Civil War, his large brick house and promoted the city's growth to the extent that much of his land became developed as the town proper. Although it cannot be said that the structure was of any pure form, it may be claimed that it carried through Gothic and Greek Revival features of relative sophistication for the time and location. The high gables on each elevation with the pointed-arch window of simple, but delicate, tracery prove to be "eye catching" and, with the addition of gingerbread bargeboards completely surrounding the cornice, are attractive. The wide veranda on the south and west elevations, a Gothic feature perhaps, is much like a portico of Greek Revival influence with its numerous fluted columns. The porch on the north (rear) elevation and the balconies on both front and rear also have fluted columns, and all porches have a dentil molding in the cornice.

Dr. James W. Hale was a man of many talents as his careers attest, and his house on Temple Knob may be said to be an outgrowth of his character.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information obtained from Mrs. C.L. Harer, granddaughter of Dr. James W. Hale, by F. Scott Rogers, Executive Director, Mercer County Bicentennial Commission. On file with the West Virginia Antiquities Commission, P.O. Box 630, Morgantown, W.Va.

Johnston, David E. A History of Middle New River Settlements and Contiguous Territory. Huntington, W.Va.: Standard Printing and Publishing Company, 1906. (pp. 296-97, 368-69, 406-09)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 7	4, 9, 1, 2, 8, 0	4, 1, 3, 5, 1, 5, 6, 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

October 8, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 630

TELEPHONE

(304) 296-1791

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Edward M. Davis

TITLE West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 10, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 3/12/96

ATTEST: *Robert B. Ketting*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Acting

DATE 3-12-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED DEC 9 1975	
DATE ENTERED	MAR 12 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE one

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Sanders, William. "James Hale--Princeton Doctor and Lawyer." (Newspaper article-source unknown at present). On file with the West Virginia Antiquities Commission, P.O. Box 630, Morgantown, W.Va.

"Temple Hill Sought as Historic Site," Princeton (W.Va.) Times, December 5, 1974.