

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001732 Date Listed: 12/4/91

Elm Hill Ohio WV  
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name \_\_\_\_\_

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Patrick Andrus*  
for Signature of the Keeper

2/3/92  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

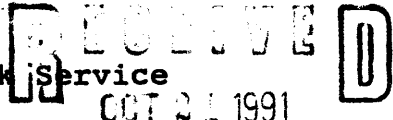
Michael Pauley with the WV SHPO has clarified that this property is privately owned. The property is nominated under Criterion B for its association with John Campbell, but the nomination does not include an Area of Significance to reflect his importance. The State says that Politics is the appropriate Area. The nomination form is officially amended to include this information.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1732



United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: "Elm Hill"

other name/site number: Campbell- Bloch House

2. Location

street & number: W.V. Route 88 (Bethany Pike)

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Wheeling

vicinity: N/A

state: WV county: Ohio

code: 069

zip code: 26003

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: \_\_\_\_\_

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	_____	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of relate property listing: N/A

=====  
4. State/Federal Agency Certification  
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Wm. J. [Signature] \_\_\_\_\_ Date 10/16/91  
Signature of Certifying Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====  
5. National Park Service Certification  
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Patrick W. Andrews 12/4/91  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

for \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action  
Signature of Keeper

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic:	<u>Domestic</u>	Sub:	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
	<u>Domestic</u>		<u>Secondary Structure</u>
Current :	<u>Same as above</u>	Sub:	<u>Same as above</u>
	_____		_____
	_____		_____

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification:

Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation stone roof standing seam metal  
walls brick other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: State.

Applicable National Register Criteria: B, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1835- 1882

Significant Dates : c. 1850

Significant Person(s): Dr. John C. Campbell  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Not Known  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References  
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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

N/A 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: N/A

=====  
10. Geographical Data  
=====

Acreage of Property: 19.33 acres

UTM References:		Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>17</u>	<u>527650</u>	<u>4438040</u>	B	<u>17</u>	<u>527520</u>	<u>4437920</u>
C	<u>17</u>	<u>527280</u>	<u>4438100</u>	D	<u>17</u>	<u>527310</u>	<u>4438320</u>

Verbal Boundary Description:    See continuation sheet.

The nominated property is inclusive of the 19.33-acre tract identified as parcel #7, surrounded by acreage of the Wheeling Country Club, on Ohio County Assessor's Map RD-14, Richland District, Feb. 1960, Wheeling, W.Va.

Boundary Justification:    See continuation sheet.

The property is inclusive of broad lawns and open areas that form a significant setting between Bethany Pike and the rear property lines. Within this green space stand the house, smoke/spring house, barn, and cemetery.

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11. Form Prepared By  
=====

Name/Title: Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian

Organization: W.V. Div. of Culture & History Date: July 25, 1991

Street & Number: The Cultural Center Telephone: (304)348-0240

City or Town: Charleston State: WV ZIP: 25305

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"Elm Hill" is eligible for entry in the National Register under Criterion C as a distinctive and highly significant example of Greek Revival architecture in West Virginia. The house and setting derive additional significance under Criterion B for their association with Dr. John C. Campbell (1793-1882), an influential citizen of Wheeling who practiced law, held public offices, and managed banking interests. Elm Hill's period of significance begins with the establishment of the Sprigg Cemetery c.1835 (after 1819), includes the c.1850 construction date of Elm Hill, and ends in 1882 with the death of John C. Campbell.

An early reference to the name "Elm Hill" occurs in a funeral notice appearing September 10, 1866, in the Wheeling Intelligencer for Samuel Sprigg Campbell, son of Dr. John C. Campbell. Friends of the family were advised that they might attend services at Elm Hill by taking hacks provided by the family for the trip to Elm Hill from downtown Wheeling. The house as viewed by those 19th-century visitors is little changed in the late 20th century. The agricultural fields, orchards, and farm buildings are gone, but the open spaces about the house and the small Sprigg burial plot survive much as they did in the previous century.

The elegant architectural features of Elm Hill identify it as a high-style Greek Revival house designed by an architect or master builder. The house, among the finest, non-temple form examples of the style in the state, contains unaltered fabrics ranging from ornamental plasterwork to refined architrave trim produced by craftsmen in Wheeling's burgeoning building trades industry. Master builders were working in Wheeling and architects were beginning to notice Wheeling where a rising demand for professional services accompanied the expansion of Wheeling business and industry prior to and after the Civil War. Prominent architects from the East found occasional work in Wheeling, such as Thomas U. Walter, who in 1837 designed Wheeling's Greek Revival-style Merchants and Mechanics Bank (destroyed), and Ammi B. Young in 1859, who designed the city's United States Custom House.

Elm Hill's symmetrically placed window and door openings are set beneath heavy classical cornice heads ornamented with acanthus leaf consoles and dentils. The wide frieze treatments and trabeated doorway are characteristic of the Greek Revival style, though the cornice bracketing of the house and three-bay porch are less frequently seen outside the deep South. Uncharacteristic of the Greek Revival style at Elm Hill are mid-19th-century round-arch marble mantels often stylistically associated with Italianate or Renaissance-style buildings. Of the several significant surviving examples of Greek Revival architecture in Wheeling the Brues House (c.1853) on Wheeling Island, the First United Presbyterian Church (1831), and the old St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (1837) at Byron and 12th Street, all feature triangular pedimented porticoes. Elm Hill's variations, including its dormered low hipped roof and octagonal lantern, are rare and exceptional surviving stylistic interpretations in Wheeling.

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Elm Hill was an expensive house by mid-19th-century Ohio County standards. When land upon which the house was built was divided in 1846 between Samuel Sprigg's daughters, Elizabeth (Sprigg) Chapline and Amelia Vance (Sprigg) Campbell, who married Dr. John C. Campbell, of Wellsburg, in 1844, about 453 acres came into possession of the Campbells. When Campbell moved to Wheeling from Brooke County where he had been a successful attorney, the Campbells built Elm Hill, probably about 1850.

John C. Campbell was a native of Ireland who studied medicine in his early years. After arriving in America, Campbell went to Dartmouth College, graduating in 1818. He later studied under Philip Doddridge, the noted lawyer, at Wellsburg. In 1829 Campbell was appointed Commonwealth's Attorney for Brooke County, an office he held until 1852. Campbell was also elected from Brooke County to the House of Delegates of the Virginia Assembly for the sessions of 1830-31, 1831-32, and 1832-33. In the 1853-54 session of the Assembly Campbell represented Ohio County. About 1849, Campbell was elected president of the North Western Bank of Wheeling. At the time of the Civil War Campbell served in the 12th Virginia as a surgeon. Later in the war, about 1862, he became either Judge Advocate or Assistant Judge Advocate for the Department of West Virginia.

Although John C. Campbell's legal career was well established before he came to Wheeling about 1849, his election from Ohio County to the Virginia Assembly for the 1853-54 session and service as president of Wheeling's North Western Bank are indications of his social prominence.

Elm Hill's Late History

Elm Hill was sold in 1936 by Joseph Speidel, Jr., to Thomas M. Bloch, president of the Bloch Brothers Tobacco Company. The famous West Virginia company was founded about 1879 by S.S. and Aaron Bloch; it was the first to produce ribbon-cut tobacco and the first company to buy leaf tobacco for the manufacture of chewing tobacco. Bloch's most famous of several tobacco products is Mail Pouch, often recognized by the traveling public for the brightly painted barn signs in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and several Mid Western states. In West Virginia: A Guide to the Mountain State, the 1941 state Writers' Program publication, appears the following:

Mail Pouch, especially during the development of oil and gas in West Virginia, was generally used by drillers and their helpers. It is said that when the Kansas and Oklahoma oil fields opened later, and experienced workman went West, a package of Mail Pouch-indicating a West Virginian-was as good as a letter of introduction in getting a job.

Elm Hill's elegant presence on the landscape of Wheeling's rolling hills after nearly a century and a half of residential use is a testament to the quality of the house's design and structural integrity. Given the attention that so many happy owners have lavished upon it, Elm Hill's future seems assured.

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Among the great houses of West Virginia only a few occupy a more idyllic setting or retain a higher degree of architectural integrity than Wheeling's "Elm Hill", a c.1850 Greek Revival mansion nestled amid shade trees on a secluded 19-acre esplanade above Bethany Pike (W.V. Rt. 88), adjacent to the golf course of Wheeling Country Club. The Country Club Hill section of Wheeling has evolved in the 20th century from gently rolling hill farms, of which Elm Hill was once an integral part, to a quiet suburbia containing Oglebay Park, one of the nation's finest urban parks. The property's broad lawns, bisected by a 1000 feet-long driveway, are not visible from Bethany Pike.

The two-and-one-half-story brick house with a low two-story wing stands on a slight promontory facing northwest. The L-shaped plan is dominated by the very formal square block of the house proper which features a symmetrically detailed entrance facade, a 3-bay entrance portico, formally detailed side elevations, and a low hipped roof punctuated with grouped hipped dormers, high pierced chimneys, and an octagonal bell-cast roofed central cupola. The vertical effect of massing is typically Mid-Victorian and is achieved in part by the raised ashlar foundation and placement of tall, formal floorlength windows at the ground floor. At first glance the impression is of an Italianate country house with heavily bracketed cornices and ornate cornice heads. These details however are essentially classical in spirit, recalling their period use in Greek Revival houses of the late Antebellum South.

Marked symmetry, formality, and attention to detail indicate the skill of a yet unidentified architect or master builder. Elm Hill possesses the high style of a fine town house (It closely resembles the Henry K. List House at 827 Main Street, Wheeling.) with outstanding trim, mantels, and ornamental plasterwork produced by craftsmen in the growing building trades industry in Wheeling, which by the 1850s was becoming a major American manufacturing center. Architects of national stature were known to have designed buildings in Wheeling for wealthy local clientele. The Greek Revival Merchants and Mechanics Bank, 1837 (destroyed), by Thomas U. Walter, is a good Wheeling example.

"Elm Hill", the historic name of the house, features a central formal hall plan bisecting the 4-over-4 arrangement of rooms. Opening onto the entrance hall are parlor (right), reception/library (left), and dining room (left) with floorlength double-hung, 6 over 9, windows providing the rooms with a generous flow of natural light. Wrought iron balconets gird the windows on the exterior, a detail which provides a final touch to the piano nobile effect of the first floor plan. Door and window casings on both the first and second floors are of white-painted yellow poplar construction designed in elaborate architrave trim. The first floor trim is more elaborate featuring acanthus corner blocks in the shouldars of the door trim and cornice bed moulding in a leaf-and-tongue motif. The parlor crown cornice, about fourteen feet above the floor, is a complementary, deep ornamental plaster moulding with a ceiling-level band of rosettes. Large plaster foliar-style rosettes anchor two Wheeling



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crystal Hobbs-Brokunier chandeliers; these fixtures occupy the central ceiling space in each of the two right parlors. The wall between the parlors was removed by the Thomas Bloch family soon after purchase of the house in 1936 to form a two-room-deep living room suitable to large-scale entertaining. This alteration is the only major interior change to the original fabrics.

Mid-19th-century stylistic elements of significance throughout the house include marble mantels with round-arched openings, six-panel doors, and an open-well four-flight stair. Bloch family 20th century additions to the dining room (after 1936) include installation of Zubert French scenic wallpaper that presents views of Boston Harbor, Natural Bridge of Virginia, Niagara Falls, and New York City Harbor.

The continuous rail of the staircase rises three floors to the attic. The stair is a wide, elegant structure whose treads each hold three turned balusters. At the head of the stair is the attic hall upon which rooms open through doorways finished in painted casing. Light floods the attic hall from the open octagonal cupola that functions as both a skylight and ventilation shaft. Modern blinds block the direct sunlight streaming through the cupola's eight windows; a north facing window is filled with a large attic fan.

### The Grounds

Much of the land at Elm Hill is open lawn landscaped with shade trees, evergreens, and shrubbery. To the immediate southeast corner of the house stands a c.1850 detached, contributing two-room brick spring house/smoke house. The one-story brick dependency with hipped standing seam metal roof, is divided in half with the right room accommodating the spring house function, and the left portion serving the need to store meats. Between the doors to the building just above the lintels an iron anchor star secures the brick masonry wall.

Across the small back yard northeast of the house is a contributing frame one-and-a-half-story board-and-batten barn/garage dating to the late 19th century. It has traditionally existed for the storage of vehicles and equipment used for estate maintenance. Housing has also been provided here.

Approximately halfway between Elm Hill and Bethany Pike thirty feet northeast of the paved access road is a small contributing c.1835 cemetery containing the graves of at least two members of the Sprigg family, owners of the property before it passed into the hands of the Dr. John C. Campbell family through Campbell's wife, Amelia Vance Sprigg. The low sandstone retaining wall survives, perhaps originally supporting a cast iron fence. Two headstones containing Sprigg names mark the graves. At

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the time of acquisition of the Elm Hill estate by Thomas M. Bloch in 1936, the cemetery was surrounded by an orchard that disappeared in subsequent years. The 19th century use of the Sprigg-Campbell property now comprising large acreages of Oglebay Park and the Wheeling Country Club was for agriculture, although J.C. Campbell was professionally trained in medicine and practiced law for much of his adult life. Little from the farm period survives at Elm Hill.

Integrity

While land uses at Elm Hill have changed somewhat through the years, the dominance of the house on the landscape has not. Built on a high place, Elm Hill appears much as it did in the 19th century with the possible exception that the exterior walls seem to have been painted in the early decades of the 20th century, as shown in Charles J. Milton's Landmarks of Old Wheeling and Surrounding Country, 1943, p. 15. The paint was removed using an abrasive cleaning method several decades after acquisition of the property by the Blochs. The brick remains in sound condition as of the writing. The only other alteration of consequence occurred when the present owners removed the wall between the two right parlors to create one large living room. Elm Hill is otherwise in an excellent state of preservation after nearly 150 years of residential use.

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Bibliography

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- Leonard, Cynthia Miller. The General Assembly of Virginia, July 30, 1619 - January 11, 1978: A Bicentennial Register of Members. Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1978, pp. 355, 359, 363, 456.
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- West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia. Richwood, W.Va.: Jim Comstock, 1976, vol. 4, p. 789.
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# ELM HILL, WHEELING, W.VA.

(15)

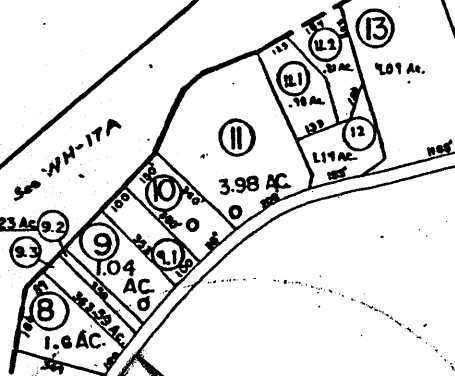
1091.44 AC. (C)

OGLEBAY PARK

SEE RD-13

DRAFTED AT  
1" = 100'  
RD-14-J

See WH-17B



See WH-17A

BE TINARY  
RD-14

(14)

259.16 AC.

WHEELING COUNTRY CLUB

TOTAL

(14.1)

34.21 AC.

- " " " "
1. ELM HILL
  2. SMOKE / SPRING HOUSE
  3. BARN / GARAGE
  4. CEMETERY

RD-B | RD-14  
RD-16 | RD-17



SEE RD-17

WADDLE