

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Science Hall; Albert Hall; Liberal Arts Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Albert and Liberal Arts Halls

## 2 LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Davis and Elkins College

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Elkins

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY

Randolph

CODE

083

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES, RESTRICTED☐ YES, UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☒ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees of Davis and Elkins College

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Davis and Elkins College

CITY, TOWN

Elkins

VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia 26241

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Randolph County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Randolph Avenue and High Street

CITY, TOWN

Elkins

STATE

West Virginia

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## **DESCRIPTION**

### **CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### **CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### **CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### **DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Albert and Liberal Arts Halls form a detached complex of offices and classrooms on the Davis and Elkins College campus. While each building is distinct and separate, they were planned as a unit and connected by a graceful stone arcade which descends in steps from Liberal Arts Hall to Albert Hall, blending the whole into the hillside terrain.

Overall design is of a modified Georgian Revival style with brick exteriors laid in a Flemish bond (glazed headers) throughout. Originally each building had  $3\frac{1}{2}$  stories above ground and was topped by a gable roof with dormers and high dual chimneys at the ends of the slightly projecting center sections (recessed "wings" are at each end, those on Liberal Arts Hall being  $2\frac{1}{2}$  stories high). After a fire extensively damaged Albert Hall in 1956, however, the gable roof was removed and "temporarily" replaced by a flat roof that effectively eliminated chimney projections and all roofline features.

Service as educational offices and classrooms is facilitated by symmetry in lines and availability of abundant natural light from large window surfaces. Fenestration consists of 12/12 double-hung sash in center sections flanked by variations in wings of either dual 9/9 windows or 12/12 centers with 6/6 sidelights. Entrance areas in the middle of each end have recessed panels with between-floor windows in stairwells, top sections of which are arched and each opening has sidelights. Dormer windows are also arched (dormer roofs on Albert Hall were rounded as are those on the wings of Liberal Arts Hall, while those in the center section of the latter are gable roofed).

End doors are flat and have sidelights and overlights; those on the front differ in each building. The main entrance to Liberal Arts Hall is slightly projecting, forming a gable-roofed "portico" with Corinthian pilasters to either side of a paneled-recessed entrance. A semi-circular fanlight is above this door, and the entrance bay is flanked by small windows that aid in lighting the interior hall. Albert Hall's main entrance is a flat continuation of the surface of the rock-faced stone first floor and consists of a sidelighted door with semi-circular sunburst panel above. Windows to either side of the entrance bay have wooden panels beneath, a feature repeated in plaster with swags between second- and third-floor windows on this elevation.

Stone is used throughout to accentuate and break the brick facade. Albert Hall has a belt course projecting between first and second floors and another above the third level. Windows of both buildings have jack-arch lintels with stone keystones. The most impressive stone feature, though, is the seven-step arcade between buildings. It is also of rock-faced texture and has arched openings

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on all sides with an ornament in a scroll design atop each stepped section.

Among decorative features are swag-topped college seals at the front of each Albert Hall wing, circular openings with swags in the gable of wings on Liberal Arts Hall, and dentil row with modillions above in the main cornice of the latter (Albert Hall formerly had a cornice of modillions). In addition, there is a cupola atop Liberal Arts Hall; it sits upon a paneled brick base and is surrounded by a balustrade.

Exterior integrity of Liberal Arts Hall has been retained at a high level, but the 1956 fire required a number of alterations in Albert Hall. Besides the major change occasioned by roof removal, Corinthian pilasters that were paired at each side of end entrances and placed between bays along central sections at front and rear were taken down.

Interiors are rather plain and institutional with center halls and flanking offices and classrooms. Albert Hall, which originally had an auditorium on its top floors (funds were not available to finish this area), was renovated inside in 1957. Its most notable feature is a semi-elliptical fanlight above interior doors in the main entrance hall. Liberal Arts Hall is quite similar to Albert in floor plan. It is somewhat more refined, however. At present, the Davis and Elkins administration is considering restoration of Albert Hall's exterior to the period before the fire.

When originally constructed in 1924-26, these buildings formed the entirety of academic buildings at the "new" campus developed on the former "Halliehurst" estate of Mrs. Stephen B. Elkins. At that time, the campus was oriented toward an extensive rolling lawn at their front (west), and the area to the rear was wooded. Orientation has shifted since the 1960s, however, with new construction to the east and development of a belt road around the campus that passes to their rear. Because of this, what was originally the front of Albert and Liberal Arts Halls has become lesser viewed and used than ends and rear. Students, faculty, administration and visitors alike have the advantage, nonetheless, of enjoying that expanse of front lawn and viewing these attractive buildings against a backdrop of eastern hills.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1924-26 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Walter F. Martens

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Albert and Liberal Arts Halls at Elkins, Randolph County, West Virginia, represent the culmination of a new commitment to higher education at Davis and Elkins College as well as the opening of a period of growth that witnessed gratifying enrollment increases and a shift to a modern curriculum founded upon a proficient faculty and efficient physical plant. These buildings, works of one of West Virginia's most noted architects of that time, also demonstrated once again that the atmosphere for learning was enhanced by well-designed and esthetically appealing structures.

In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, West Virginia experienced significant activity in extractive and timber-related industries. Interior stands of virgin hard and soft woods awaited entrepreneurs who could raise sufficient capital to exploit their riches. Coal seams beckoned developers who could open faces, transport the mineral and market it efficiently. Processes involved in removal of natural resources soon led to boom conditions in much of the state, but the cyclical nature of an economy based upon such industry often combined with lack of standards and regulations to promote scarring of the land and crippling and impoverishment of numerous persons.

There were many businessmen of this period who applied some of their wealth in a philanthropic way, however, even endeavoring at times to insure that those benefits they received would be shared by individuals who had made it possible as well as by the community and state wherein fortunes were garnered. Henry G. Davis and Stephen B. Elkins (his son-in-law) were, generally speaking, of this sort. Each had built a palatial home in the town (named for the latter) which they had helped to found as hub of their railroading activity. Each had represented their adopted state in the United States Senate. In the early years of the twentieth century, each became a major benefactor and prime mover in establishment of a college at Elkins, solidifying that city's role as transportation, supply, and now educational center of a large area of this state where coal and timber were "king."

Having in mind the founding of a classical and engineering school, they made a proposition to Lexington Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in 1899 to establish a college at Elkins. With forty acres of land donated by Senator Elkins, \$40,000 given by Senator Davis, and \$23,000 contributed by Lexington Presbytery and citizens of Elkins,

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the college was begun and opened in September 1904. Enrollment increased slowly until by 1920 it was evident that a new building was needed. This requirement opened for general consideration whether the school should be moved to a larger center of population--some recommended Clarksburg--and whether a name change was in order.

Both questions were resolved with the college's acceptance of a gift from Mrs. Hallie Davis Elkins in the form of a 1923 deed to her family's "Halliehurst" property at the northeast end of town. Included were the large mansion house, adjoining swimming pool, several other buildings and about sixty acres of land. Among specifications in this transfer instrument were requirements that the name Davis and Elkins be perpetuated. Now the Board of Trustees decided to move the campus across town to the new site, using money they expected to receive from an ongoing Presbyterian fund raising campaign to erect new buildings.

Walter F. Martens, an architect from Charleston, West Virginia, then engaged in construction of the State Executive Mansion in that city, was appointed to devise an overall plan for the new campus. Centerpieces of development would be Liberal Arts and Science Halls, functional buildings with functional names appropriate to the two distinctly emerging educational concentrations of the day. Mr. Martens did a masterful job in using sloping terrain along a ridgeline to blend these modified Georgian Revival structures into a dignified educational complex, joining them with a splendid stone arcade that complements the whole and draws each together to form a unit.

Symmetrical facades--each elevation in a Flemish bond with glazed headers--with slightly indented "wings" at the ends were topped by gable roofs that incorporated dormers. High dual chimneys in an "H" pattern pierced interior walls, and multi-pane windows provided ample light for classrooms, offices and common areas. Detailing included fanlights above main entrances, swags placed around circular windows in gables and in panels between floors, fenestration highlighted by pilasters in Science Hall (the latter were removed after a 1956 fire), and a high cupola surrounded by balustrade atop Liberal Arts Hall. Together these buildings, along with Halliehurst mansion, would form the campus for the next thirty years.

Appropriate to a move to the new campus in 1926, faculty and staff of a high caliber had been recruited. They decided to adopt requirements of 128 semester credit hours to earn either a B.A. or B.S. degree, modernizing the curriculum by lessening emphasis on classical

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studies. Enrollment increased from 37 in 1918-19 to 185 in 1925-26 and 236 in 1926-27.

Among new faculty members appointed during this period of growth was Charles E. Albert, who returned in 1922 as Professor of Physics and Civil Engineering and Dean of the Men's Dormitory after having left in 1913 upon completion of two years of teaching. Professor Albert became Dean of the College in 1925 and later served as president from 1935 to 1939. It was only fitting that his long and productive association with the school and years of teaching in Science Hall were commemorated in the renaming of that building.

Albert and Liberal Arts Halls are now part of a mixed complex of old and new buildings that form today's Davis and Elkins College. Their orientation has been distorted somewhat with campus activity now centered on what was formerly their rear elevation, but they still form the heart of this school in many ways, especially serving as historical reminders of a commitment to the town of Elkins, a new campus, and, with nearby Graceland and Halliehurst Halls, the honoring of those two men who had played such large roles in founding this institution.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis and Elkins College Catalogue. 1920, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1957-58.  
"Cornerstone of New D&E Bldgs. Laid Yesterday," Elkins (W.Va.) Inter-Mountain, June 11, 1925.  
"New D&E Buildings Formally Dedicated Yesterday Afternoon," Elkins (W.Va.) Inter-Mountain, June 5, 1926.  
Ross, Thomas. "The Roaring Twenties and the Scarlet Hurricane: 1920-1929." Elkins, W.Va., 1979. Photocopied. (Draft chapter in proposed history of Davis and Elkins College)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Elkins, W.Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 600030 4309460

B 17 600070 4309400

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The nominated area is bounded on the east (rear) by a campus belt road, on the south by the steep hill that descends from Albert Hall to a large open field, on the west (front) by the edge of the terrace in front of Albert Hall and the tree line below the lawn in front of Liberal Arts Hall, and on the north by the campus library.

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, Historian

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Unit

DATE

Department of Culture and History

April 7, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

The Cultural Center, Capitol Complex

TELEPHONE

(304) 348-0240

CITY OR TOWN

Charleston

STATE

West Virginia

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

*Clarence Morrow*

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

L E A D S

ALBERT (B) AND  
LIBERAL ARTS (A)  
HILLS, ELKINS,  
RANDOLPH COUNTY,  
WEST VIRGINIA  
UTM REFERENCES  
A-17/600030/400718  
B-17/600030/400718





