NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 10024-0018
(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Fairmont Normal School Administration Building
other name/site number: Fairmont State Administration Building

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2. Location

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street & number: Locust Avenue not for publication: ____
city/town: Fairmont vicinity: ____
state: W. Va. code: WV county: Marion code: 046 zip code: 26554

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ✓ 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 ✓ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ✓ statewide ___locally.
(__ See continuation sheet.)

William C. Kamar 2.4.94
Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
____ entered in the National Register ___ 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): _____		

Fairmont Normal Admin. Bldg.
Name of Property

Marion County, WV
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:
(Check as many boxes as apply)

__ private
__ public-local
_X_ public-State
__ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

_X_ building(s)
__ district
__ site
__ structure
__ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)
EDUCATIONAL: Administration	EDUCATION: Administration
Classrooms	Classrooms
Social	

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
(Enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation STONE, CONCRETE
Walls BRICK, STONE, TERRA COTTA
Roof BALLASTED MEMBRANE
Other

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

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.)

_X_ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

__ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

_X_ 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 whose components lack individual distinction.

__ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:
__ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

__ B removed from its original location.

__ C a birthplace or grave.

__ D a cemetery.

__ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

__ F a commemorative property.

__ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
EDUCATION
PERFORMING ARTS: Drama

Period of Significance
1915-1927

Fairmont Normal Admin. Bldg. | Marion County, WV
Name of Property | County and State

Significant Dates
1915-17: Original Construction
1923: Founding of Alpha Psi Omega
1927: Construction of West Wing

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Paul A. Davis, III, Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

_ 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
X University
_ Other

Name of Repository: Fairmont State College

Fairmont Normal Admin. Bldg.
Name of Property

Marion County, WV
County and State

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: one and one half (1.5) acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	572210	4370500	2	__	_____	_____
3	__	_____	_____	4	__	_____	_____

__ 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.)

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Robert E. Crites - Civil Engineering/Architectural Student

Organization: Fairmont State College Date: December 1, 1993

Street & Number: 11 Upland Drive Telephone: (304) 363-3085

City or Town: Fairmont State: WV ZIP: 26554

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Fairmont Normal Admin. Bldg.
Name of Property

Marion County, WV
County and State

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Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Fairmont State College

Street & Number: Locust Avenue Telephone: _____

City or Town: Fairmont State: WV Zip: 26554

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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 listings. 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 20503.

Fairmont Normal School Administration Building
Marion County, WV

Description

The first thing you observe upon entering the Fairmont State College campus is the Administration Building. It is a large three-story structure which sits atop a hill overlooking Locust Avenue. A symmetrical arrangement of stairs descends to Campus Drive, which encircles the building. These stairs, with large walls of cut stone, are an integral part of the building's setting. The building's foundation is constructed of concrete and clad in terra-cotta tile of 4" thickness. The masonry walls are sheathed in a light colored brick and ornamented with limestone and terra-cotta details.

The building's symmetrical facade is composed of eight ionic columns, with fluted shafts made of Indiana Blue Limestone, grandiose ornamented cornices/lintels, and flowing granite steps. Greek mouldings with dentils adorn the upper perimeter of the building.

The original building, built between 1915 and 1917, measured 265' by 65' in plan. It included the central portion of the building and its east wing; the west wing was planned for construction at a later date. In 1927 a matching west wing was added to house a larger library and to complete the building's symmetrical form. The building retains its original appearance and is well maintained by the College's administration.

Fairmont Normal School Administration Building
Marion County, WV

Statement of Significance

The Fairmont Normal School Administration Building is historically significant for its connection with the successful growth of the oldest of West Virginia's state teachers schools, all six of which were established shortly after the Civil War (the other five were Marshall College, West Liberty, Shepherd, Concord and Glenville). It is also significant in its association with the school's exceptional drama program and the founding of the national drama fraternity of Alpha Psi Omega. Lastly, it is significant architecturally as a distinctive example of the work of the Philadelphia architect Paul A. Davis III.

The Administrative Building is a majestic work by "one of the most influential of Philadelphia's Beaux-Arts trained architects" (Tatman, Moss, Biographical Dictionary). Paul Armon Davis III was an 1894 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a B.S. in Architecture. He was elected to the AIA and was the president of the Philadelphia chapter. "According to his AIA application, he entered the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, Attending both the Atelier Pascal and the Atelier Frequet. Davis was committed to the Beaux-Arts method of teaching architecture. Chief among his designs were the campus development at West Virginia University in Morgantown, W.V., and the American Bank and Trust Co. building in Philadelphia for which Davis, Dunlap, and Barney received the gold medal of the Architectural League of New York for 1929. (Tatman, Moss). Davis was a traditionalist and a practitioner of institutional architecture. He was a member of the Societe des Architectes Deplomes, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and the Beaux Arts Society.

The Fairmont Normal School, established in 1865 by Marion County Superintendent John N. Boyd, grew from discrepancies between eastern and western Virginians. "Virginia made numerous provisions for education over the years, but never provided free primary schools for all citizens. The framers of the constitution of the new state of West Virginia in 1862, reflected Virginia's aristocratic attitude toward public education and provided for a state-wide system of free public schools for all children to be supported by the interest from a school fund which they provided and by general taxation" (Turner).

Fairmont Normal School Administration Building
Marion County, WV

Statement of Significance (continued)

John Boyd's intent in establishing the Normal School was to instruct new teachers, as well as to provide brush-up skills for the established teachers. There was great concern for the supply of teachers in the area, and the standards had become very low. "With the conclusion of the war in 1865, West virginians were able to give more serious attention to problems of education and particularly to the need for teachers" (Turner). In Fairmont, plans were discussed immediately for the construction of a building, but funds were difficult to find. The state legislature came through with an allocation of five thousand dollars for the purpose and erection of buildings. There were two qualifications: "one provided that the money must be refunded to the state if the school ever failed to operate for eight months in succession, and the other required the governor to appoint five 'discreet citizens' as commissioners to consult with the board of directors and to disburse the state's money (Turner).

The first school building for the new normal school was constructed in 1867, and was located on Quincy and Main Streets. The school progressed and became so populated, a larger building was needed. In 1892 the stone was laid for a second building located on Fairmont Avenue.

In 1912 the school passed from its preparatory school phase to a college program for teachers, but remained under the name of normal school until the 1920s. Student enrollment expanded, and there was need for a larger building. Under the instruction of the school's president, Joseph Rosier, "a new site of 18 1/2 acres was purchased on Locust Avenue and construction of a new building, which was to be the present Administration Building, was begun in 1915" (Turner). The site was previously known as the Kennedy farm. The cornerstone was laid on October 11, 1915, by Lodge Number Nine of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. A copper casket was placed in the cornerstone, containing: a normal catalog, a state directory, a Marion County directory, a copy of The Mound for 1915, the faculty list for 1915, the July issue of the Normal Bulletin, letterhead and envelopes of the school and its departments, pictures of the original normal and the Fairmont Avenue normal, a picture of the 1915 student body, a program of the exercises of the day, current copies of the Fairmont West Virginian and the Fairmont Times, the reports of the Board of Control and the Board of Regents for 1914-15, a West Virginia Panama Exposition badge, records of the senior class of 1916 including a class medal, roll and yell, and a copy of the West Virginia School Journal.

Fairmont Normal School Administration Building
Marion County, WV

Statement of Significance (continued)

The original construction planned for a main building with east wing only. The auditorium was to be supported by 18" square brick piers. Ductwork for the building was run underground. The new building was thought to be a fine architectural achievement, blending monumental design with the most practical and functional considerations.

The ground floor housed the Lyceum Society Room (YMCA) and the Mozart Society Room (YWCA), along with the auditorium, library and administrative offices. The second floor housed science, biology, chemistry, music and domestic art classrooms.

One of the most significant events in the Fairmont school's history was the formation of the Alpha Psi Omega drama club. The club, formed in 1923 as The Masquers, wanted to secure a national charter. They were turned down by the existing fraternity of Alpha Psi and by the National Collegiate Players. Paul Opp, a speech teacher in the administrative building, contacted E. Turner Stump of Marshall College for the purpose of calling a state speech meeting. At the meeting Alpha Psi Omega was formed and Opp was named secretary of the first chartered school. Following Fairmont, several schools obtained charters. In 1926 Alpha Psi Omega published Playbill Magazine. Currently there are nearly a thousand chapters of Alpha Psi Omega located in every U.S. state, and some foreign countries.

In 1928 Harry Leeper, a drama teacher at East Fairmont High School and a former student of Opp, approached his Opp concerning a letter he had received from Earl Bank of Casper, Wyoming. The question arose about having an extension of Alpha Psi Omega for high schools. Following several after-school meetings, the National Thespian Society was formed, named for the first greek actor, Thespis. Dramatics, the national thespian magazine also had its roots at Fairmont State Normal School.

In 1992 Fairmont State College celebrated its 125th year of existence. The school has been called "a vital part of the life of its community, and a strong influence in the educational development of our state" (Times, 1912). As in the past, Fairmont State College continues to contribute significantly to the community at large.

Fairmont Normal School Administrative Building
Marion County, WV

Bibliography

Archives, Fairmont State College. The Mound, 1915.

Archives, Fairmont State College. Fairmont State Normal School Catalog, 1924-25.

Boughter, I. F. Fairmont State Normal School, A History. Fairmont: Fairmont State Normal School, 1929.

Kime, Wayne R. and Snyder, Barry. Perspectives, Volume 3, Number 1 (Spring 1993).

Lough, Glenn D. Now and long Ago: A History of the Marion County Area. Fairmont: Glenn D. Lough, 1969.

Lough, JoAnn. "A Legacy of Cause and Effect." Speech given at Fairmont State College, April 26, 1993.

Physical Plant, Fairmont State College. Paul A. Davis III original blueprints for Administrative Building, 1914.

Straight, Earl N. "Number One College Soon to be 100." Marion County in the Making. 1963.

Tatman, Sandra L. and Moss, Roger W. Biographical Dictionary of Philadelpia Architects.

Times West Virginian. October 12, 1915 and January 16, 1912.

Turner, William P. A Centennial History of Fairmont State College. Fairmont: Fairmont State College, 1970.

Interviews:

Arnold, Lee (Historical Society of Pennsylvania) Philadephia.
Baroni, Debra B. (FSC Instructor, local historian) Fairmont, WV.
Collins, Rodney (Division of Culture and History) Charleston, WV.
Kime, Wayne R. (FSC Instructor, local historian) Fairmont, WV.
Koontz, Betty (local historian) Fairmont, WV.
Lough, JoAnn (FSC Instructor, local historian) Fairmont, WV.
McDougal, Mary (local historian) Fairmont, WV.
White, Ryland (local historian) Fairmont, WV.

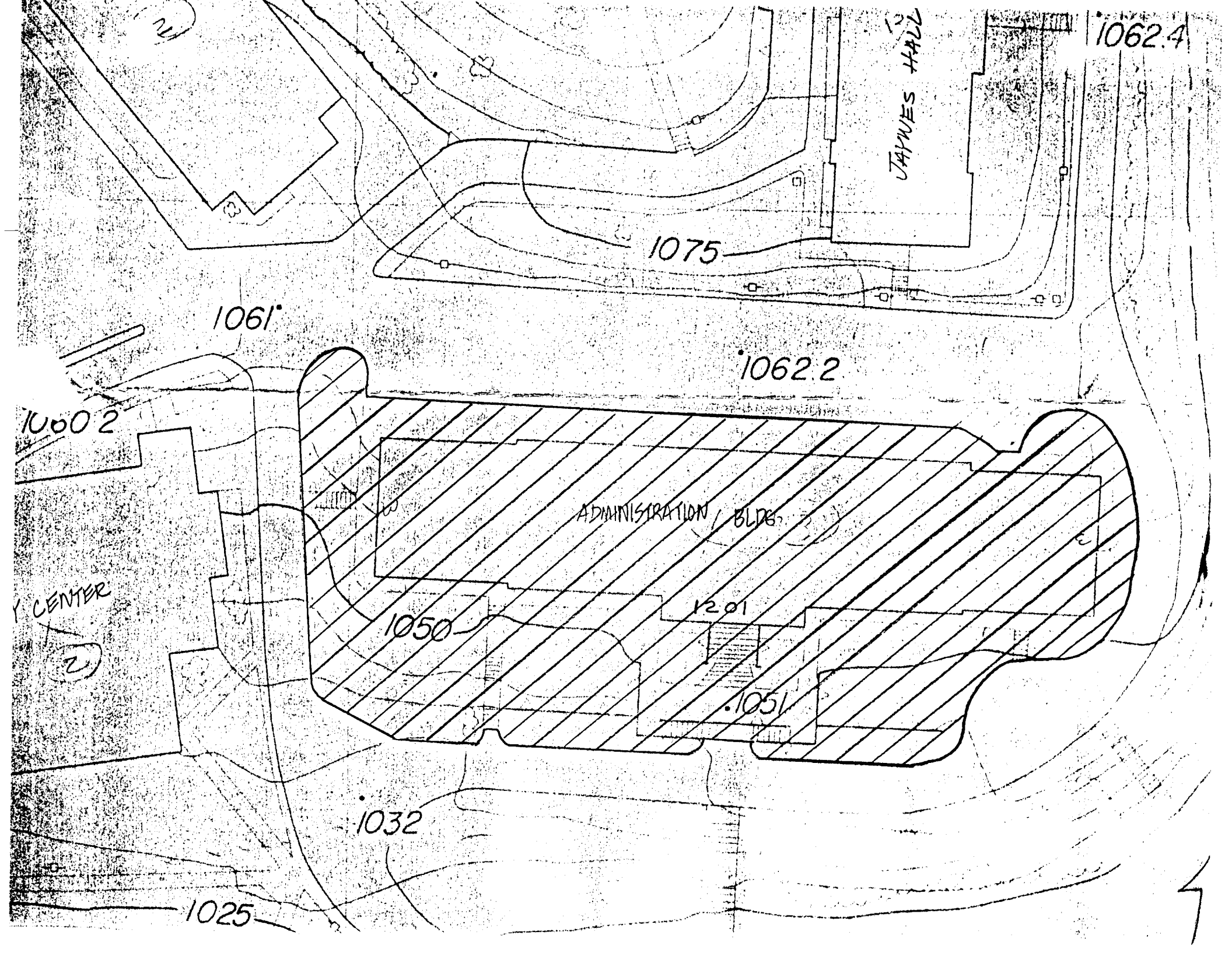
Fairmont Normal School Administrative Building
Marion County, WV

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is bounded by the encircling road of Campus Drive and its associated parking area, and is approximately 365' E-W by 155' N-S. The property is shaded on the attached utility map.

Boundary Justification:

The property described above and shown on the attached map is the hillside, with its formal stairways, and building footprint historically associated with the Fairmont Normal School Administrative building.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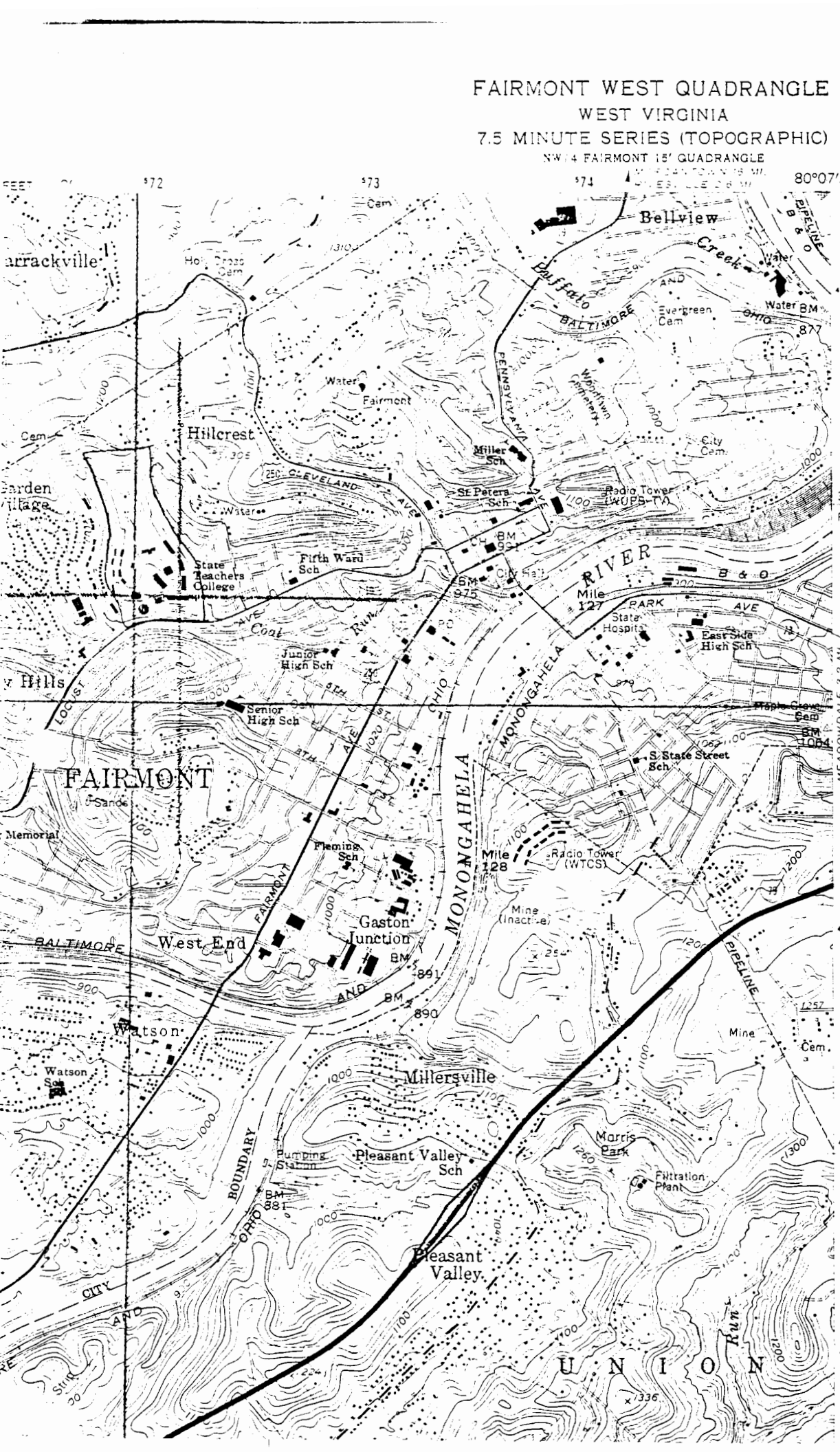

FAIRMONT NORMAL SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATION BLDG.
MARION COUNTY, WV
UTM:
ZONE. 17
EASTING: 572210
NORTHING: 4370500

Seasons
Greetings