United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic West Virginia University Neo-Classical Revival Buildings, Thematic Grouping

and or common Oglebay Hall

2. Location

street & number University Avenue ___ not for publication
city, town Morgantown ___ vicinity of
state West Virginia code 54 county Monongalia code 661

3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>X public</td>
<td>X occupied</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>___ in process</td>
<td>X yes: restricted</td>
<td>government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>___ being considered</td>
<td>X yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>industrial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>___ no</td>
<td>___ military</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Owner of Property

name West Virginia Board of Regents

street & number P. O. Box 3358

city, town Charleston ___ vicinity of state WV 25333

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Monongalia County Courthouse

street & number High Street at Courthouse Square

city, town Morgantown state WV

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Properties Inventory (HPI) has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes x no
date May 1983 ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local
depository for survey records History Department, West Virginia University

city, town Morgantown state WV
Oglebay Hall was completed in 1918 and presents an imposing sight in the center of West Virginia University's downtown campus as an example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture, combining brick and concrete to give the building a look of solidity.

Large air vents top the almost flat hip roof. An unadorned concrete roofline tops the third story. Four massive Roman Doric columns support the front pediment with a false, concrete railing at the third story and the building name engraved in the entablature. A concrete cornice separates the second and third story windows. Concrete architraves top the double brick pilasters at the corners of the building. There is a concrete water table over the high basement, and high concrete stairs with brick railings lead to the front of the building. A unique feature of the building is the book-like designs in the concrete between the first and second story windows. Windows have 6/1 lights and are framed by concrete.

The building's interior features plaster walls, wood doors and frames, and tiled concrete floors. There are enclosed stairways at each end of the building, and interior hallways run lengthwise down the center of the rows of classrooms and offices.

Oglebay Hall's Neo-Classical Revival style is based to a large extent on Roman architectural designs. The pediment and columns follow Roman designs. Massive pilasters at regular intervals on the facade and the symmetrical arrangement of the building follow the Neo-Classical Revival style. The common bond brick exterior and 6/1 light windows vary from usual Neo-Classical Revival features of smooth stone finishes and single-light windows.
### Significance

**Period**
- Prehistoric

**Areas of Significance** — Check and justify below
- Archaeology-prehistoric
- Architecture-prehistoric
- Community planning
- Conservation
- Agriculture
- Economics
- Education
- Engineering
- Exploration settlement
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape architecture
- Religion
- Law
- Literature
- Military
- Philosophy
- Politics and government
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social
- Theater
- Humanitarian
- Transportation
- Other (specify)

**Specific dates**
1918

**Builder Architect**
Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Oglebay Hall, originally West Virginia University's agricultural building, represents the university's heritage as a land-grant institution established for the study of agricultural sciences; it stands at the center of the downtown campus and is one of the most imposing buildings on the university campus. Its plaza has become a center for ceremonies as well as a memorial to the USS West Virginia which sank during the Pearl Harbor attack.

The building was completed in 1918 and named for Board of Regents member E. W. Oglebay in order to induce a donation from Oglebay on behalf of the university. That ploy failed.

E. W. Oglebay was an influential West Virginia Republican who maintained his political base in Cleveland, Ohio, and allied himself with railroad magnate Sen. Stephen B. Elkins. He had a great interest in agriculture and owned a large farm near Wheeling which was eventually bestowed to the City of Wheeling for use as a park, while his mansion is now administered by Oglebay Institute as a museum. Oglebay was an alumnus and trustee Bethany College near Wheeling. Thus, he preferred to bestow gifts upon his alma mater. He donated a farm to the college and built Oglebay Hall of Agriculture on the Bethany campus. However, West Virginia University attempted to use its advantage as the state's leading agriculture research center to play upon Oglebay's interests in agriculture and generosity. As part of its effort to win his favor, WVU conferred an honorary doctorate on him in 1919.

The College of Agriculture vacated Oglebay Hall in 1961 and moved to a new building on the Evansdale campus. Since 1962, Oglebay has been used for offices and classrooms and currently houses the psychology department. The mast and ship's bell from the USS West Virginia stand in front of the building and make that plaza a West Virginia memorial to its war dead.

Oglebay Hall sits imposingly at the center of the downtown West Virginia University campus visibly from just about every vista. The Neo-Classical Revival style is evident in the four Roman Doric columns that support the front pediment and the balustrade at the top. Its mass and setting make it the focal point of campus.
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: 15 acres
Quadrangle name: Morgantown North, WV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UTM References</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>Zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easting</td>
<td>5,8,9,7,2,0</td>
<td>Northing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Randall Gooden and Mortar Board senior honorary (Elizabeth Moore Hall)
organization: WVU Public History Option
date: July 19, 1985

street & number: Dept. of History, West Virginia Univ.
telephone: 304-293-2421

city or town: Morgantown
state: WV

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

- national
- x 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: [Signature]
title: State Historic Preservation Office
date: 10/24/85

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
date: [Date]

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration
Boundary descriptions and floor plans from files of WVU Facilities Planning and Management Office


Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

Oglebay Hall

From point of beginning follow College Avenue 438 feet southwest to juncture of College Avenue and University Avenue, thence following University Avenue 288 feet to point, thence 54 feet southeast to Point, thence following driveway 215 feet northeast to point, thence 129 feet southeast to Point of Beginning. (See attached maps)