

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

1. Name of Property President's House, Bluefield State College

historic name: President's House
other name/site number: Hatter Hall

2. Location

street & number: Rock Street not for publication: N/A
city/town: Bluefield vicinity: N/A
state: WV county: Mercer code: 055 zip code: 24701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally.

Susan M. Pierce 10/7/99
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 Date

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4. National Park Service Certification

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): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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	
_____ 2 _____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____ 2 _____	_____ 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

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions

Domestic: Single Dwelling
Domestic: Secondary Structure, Garage

Current Functions

Vacant
Domestic: Secondary Structure, Garage

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY
REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials

Foundation	<u>Concrete Block</u>
Walls	<u>Brick</u>
Roof	<u>Asbestos Shingles</u>
Other	<u>Wood/Vinyl Siding</u>

Narrative Description

(See continuation on sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

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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.

 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.

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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

Social History

Period of Significance

1930-1966

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Garry & Sheffey, Architects

McMullen & Dye, Contractors

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See 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:

_____ State Historic Preservation Office

_____ Other State agency

_____ Federal agency

_____ Local government

_____ University

_____ Other

Name of Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

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

17 479080 4124400

Zone Easting Northing

Bluefield Quad Map

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Katherine Jourdan,
with Doris Payne, Alumni Association

Organization: WV SHPO

DATE: August 1999

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd East

Telephone: 304/558-0220

City or Town:

Charleston

State: WV

Zip: 25305-0300

=====

Property Owner

=====

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

Name: Bluefield State College

Street & Number: 219 Rock Street

City or Town: Bluefield

State: WV

Zip: 24701

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Just inside the stone gates of Bluefield State College is the President's home sited on a hill reached by a long single flight of steps. The brick Colonial Revival home was built in 1930. The home is on a level with the Administration Building and a brick walk led from the front entry and study door to the east door of the Administration Building. This walk is now under a shallow carpet of grass. The home is currently fenced with a wire chain link fence for the sides and rear.

President's Residence 1930 Contributing Building

The 2 ½ story home is 3 bays with one bay side wings. In the center is a projecting entry with the door being surrounded by vinyl siding. This siding covers the original wood molding which had flanking pilasters. The pediment over the door was removed. On the sides of the projecting entry are small casement windows. The front facade is symmetrical with metal casement windows with fixed lights on top row, on the first floor. The second floor also had metal casements, although only the fixed top row is now intact. Above the second floor windows is a stone keystone design. There is a center round arched dormer for the attic level which has been covered with vinyl. The roof is hipped with asbestos shingles. A vertical row of bricks surrounds the house at the watertable height.

The side wings step back from the front facade with elevation having a paired casement window on the right wing, and a door on the left wing to the study. Each side elevation is the same with a single metal casement window on the side of the projecting entry, and paired casement windows on the front room, and the gable ended wing. The gable end has vinyl siding over wood. An arched dormer on the attic level over the wing has been covered with vinyl siding. There is a dormer on each side of the house. All the window openings have white shutters which were originally wood, but are now plastic replacements. The window sills are concrete.

The rear of the house has a stairway leading down to the basement level. Sheltering the basement entry is a rear mud room with side brick storage room that has a single casement window. The hipped roofed mud room has been covered with vinyl siding but from the interior the original wire screen and frame enclosure is still visible. This original feature would have offered an enclosed screened airing porch. To the right on the facade is a shed roofed deck on the second floor for a rear exit door, with metal stairs and metal supports. The rear door is original and there is a slight hipped roofed area for this projecting entry. Casement windows are on the first floor, and those on the second floor have a fixed top row of lights. On the attic level is a hipped dormer area with a row of three paired casement openings. There is a center chimney for the fireplace in the front room and a small chimney for the furnace.

The interior is well designed with many special amenities for storage, and use. The entry has a closet and low bench before opening into the large front room with fireplace. A sun porch is off the front room with several casement windows. Off the front room is a dining room with the kitchen centered in the rear. A rear door leads onto the back porch and to the storage room. A hall opens off the front room with an open staircase to the second floor. A door under the steps leads to the basement and there is a small bath in the rear. Next to the stairs is a door to a small

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room believed to be the president's study. A door leads outside and the brick walk led to the Administration Building.

On the second floor are four bedrooms and two baths. Steps lead to the attic space which has two good size rooms and a bath with an original tub under the eaves. Built-in bookcases are near the steps and in each room, the original hard wood floors are uncovered on this floor. The rear dormer windows give the only natural light into the space since the front and side dormers have been covered. The basement level has three good size rooms which serve utility functions and/or as a furnace room.

The trim work in the house - baseboards, door molding and window molding are original, as are the doors and glass knobs. The bath on the first floor has the early hexagonal tile floor and early toilet tank. The rear bath on the second floor has early white and yellow tile in a log cabin pattern.

Garage 1930 Contributing Building

The stone gate for Bluefield State College is the exterior wall for one side of the garage used by the college president. A one-story building with a single bay, the building is rectangular although it is set at an angle on the street. The front corner is a large post capped with limestone. The stones over the garage bay have a keystone effect, and the roof appears flat. The garage door appears to be a later replacement. On the exterior wall is a limestone plaque inscribed with "BLUEFIELD/ STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE." A low stone wall extends from the garage across the property line.

Summary:

The house still retains many of the original interior and exterior features. The Colonial Revival style home was well used by the various president families. Some of the exterior changes and application of vinyl siding over exposed wood features were made to lessen the upkeep by the college. The removal of the vinyl siding is seen as reversible.

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The President's Home is being nominated under Criteria A for Social History connected with the development of Bluefield State (Teachers) College. The period of significance is from the residence's construction in 1930, until the last president vacated the home in 1966.

Bluefield State College was established in 1895 for black students as a facility for higher education. The school began modestly with 40 pupils under the supervision of Hamilton Hatter, Bluefield's first president, although he had the title of principal. Hatter was an energetic leader who built the foundation of the college during his tenure of 30 years. He oversaw the construction of Mahood Hall, the administration building, as well as Lewis Hall and West Hall dormitories. Eventually the President's home would be given the title of Hatter Hall.

During the early years of the school the President was housed in an apartment contained within Payne Hall, the women's dormitory, which was a cost saving measure but not a preferred alternative to living. The construction of a President's Home permitted the president to have a separate residence on campus. It also lent a certain prestige to the college campus.

The Bluefield firm of Garry and Sheffey were hired to design the presidents home with the contractor being the firm of McMullen & Dye. The home is Colonial Revival in style with brick construction and wood trim in the dormers and gable ends. The interior is well planned with a central living room opening off the foyer. A study on the side of the home has a separate entrance and a brick walk (now covered by grass) is still extant leading to the Administration Building.

While the primary use of the home was as a residence for the president and his family, it was also used for school functions such as Freshman receptions, and formal occasions for special visitors, and graduations. Students were welcome to talk to the president in his study after hours.

The home was vacated in 1966 by then President Wendell Hardaway, the school's first white president. The 1960s had sparked racial unrest on campus with the black students resenting the presence of a white president. After a bombing that destroyed Payne Hall, the threat of future violence caused the president and his family to move off campus. The house has remained vacant since that time.

Recent interest in the late 1990s by the Alumni Association has led to agreement that the Alumni Association will use the building for alumni receptions and meetings, but that the property will also be available for other groups and Greek organizations. The college will continue to maintain the property. Plans also call for a exhibits to be in the building including a "Wall of Fame" and school artifacts.

Summary: The President's Home marked the growth of the college and its efforts of higher education for blacks in southern West Virginia. The home was constructed on a high hill next to the administration building giving it a presence on campus. The home's name on campus of Hatter Hall was associated with the first president who served the school for over 30 years.

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Bibliography

Bluefield City Directories 1930 to 1945.

McGehee, C. Stuart and Frank Wilson. BLUEFIELD STATE COLLEGE: A CENTENNIAL HISTORY (1895-1995).

Rankin, John R. THE EARLY HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF BLUEFIELD, WV.
Radford, VA: Commonwealth Press, Inc.

Sims, R. P. "Bluefield Institute," paper, no date.

BUREAU OF NEGRO WELFARE AND STATISTICS, Biennial Reports 1920s to 1930s, Coal
Archives, Bluefield.

INTERVIEWS

Interview with Frank Wilson, co-author of the Centennial History of Bluefield College, by Jim
Nelson, August 1999.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The property boundary begins at the bottom of the steps along Rock Street and proceeds NE along the north edge of the street to the side street and including the garage; thence running NW along the side street and up the hill, parallel with the chain fence to the corner fence post; thence following the chain fence and running SW along the rear of the property (parallel with the street behind the home); thence turning south and running with the chain fence SE and when the fence ends extending down the hill to Rock Street; thence turning east and running NE with the edge of the street to the steps and the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the president's home and garage, and the rear yard now enclosed with the chain link fence. This is the portion of the college campus historically associated with the president's home.

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Photo

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Name of Property: President's Home
Address Bluefield State College
Town Bluefield, WV
County Mercer County

Photographer: Jim Nelson

Date: March 1999

Negatives: WV SHPO, Charleston, WV

Photo 1 of 12: Streetscape of the front of the property, house and garage
Camera facing NE along Rock Street

Photo 2 of 12: Front or south facade of the residence
Camera facing NW

Photo 3 of 12: East facade of residence
Camera facing NW

Photo 4 of 12: Rear or north facade and west facade of residence
Camera facing SE

Photo 5 of 12: West facade of residence
Camera facing NE

Photo 6 of 12: Interior - living room with center fireplace
Camera facing E

Photo 7 of 12: Interior - sunporch
Camera facing SW

Photo 8 of 12: Interior - stairs to third floor
Camera facing N

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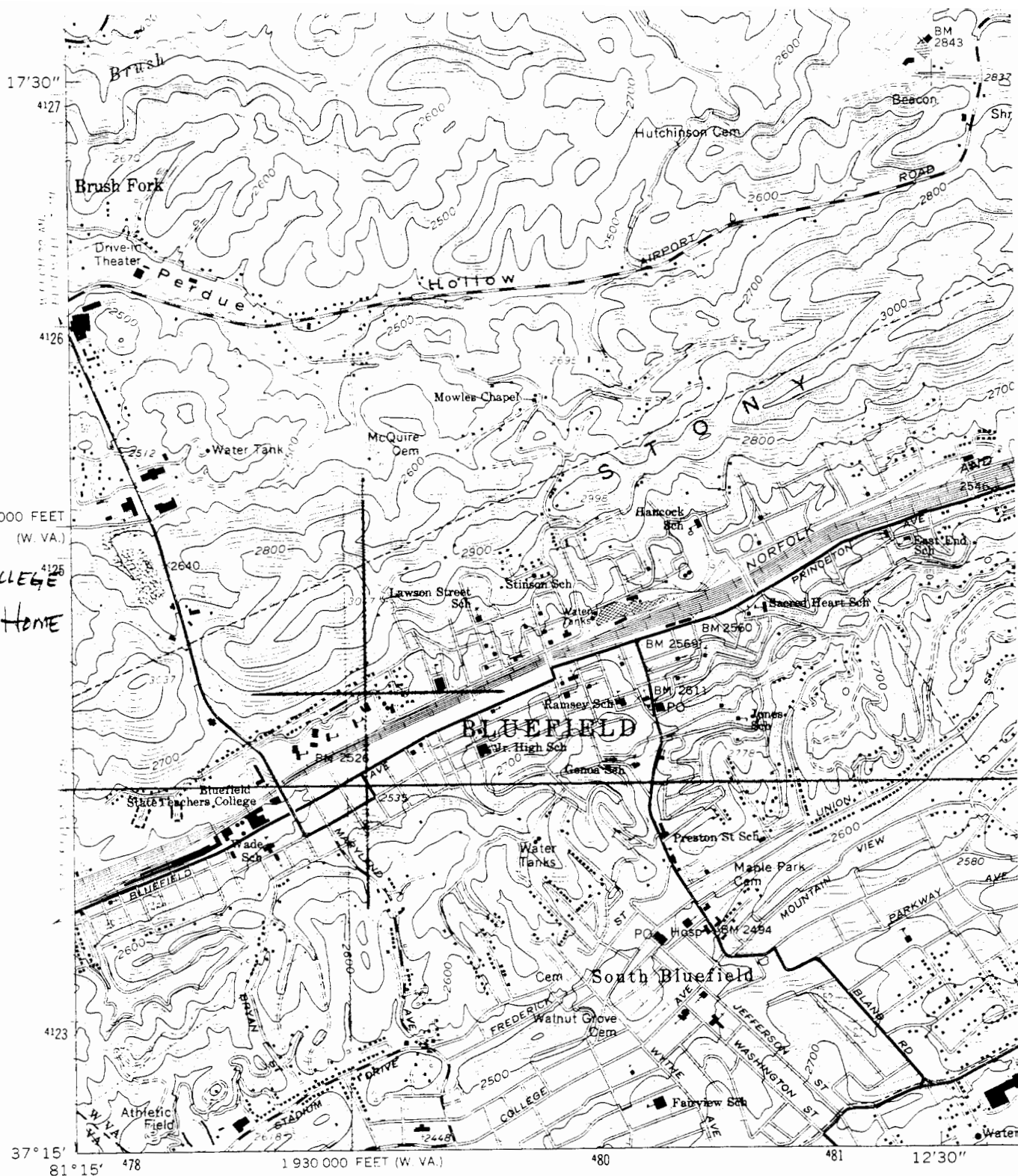
Photo 9 of 12: Interior - third floor room
 Camera facing E

Photo 10 of 12: Interior - third floor bath
 Camera facing S

Photo 11 of 12: Side wall of garage doubling as gate
 Camera facing NW

Photo 12 of 12: Front of garage, west elevation
 Camera facing NE

BLUEFIELD COLLEGE
PRESIDENT'S HOME
17 479080
4124400
BLUEFIELD
QUAD



(COVE CREEK)
4755 III INE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

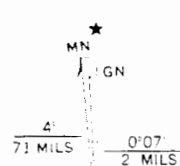
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1955. Field checked 1962

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on West Virginia coordinate system,
south zone, and Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

