

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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 Stalnaker Hall

2. Location

street & number Maiden Lane _____ not for publication

city, town Morgantown _____ vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Monongalia code 061

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☒ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture ☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☐ private	☐ unoccupied	☒ commercial ☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational ☐ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment ☐ religious
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government ☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial ☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military ☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name West Virginia Board of Regents

street & number P. O. Box 3366

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 ☒ no

date May 1983 _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records History Department, West Virginia University

city, town Morgantown _____ state WV

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
☒ Excellent	☐ Deteriorated	☒ unaltered	☐ original	
☒ Good	☐ Ruins	☒ altered	☐ moved	date
☐ Fair	☐ Unexposed			N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Stalnaker Hall, the first building at West Virginia University to be designed as a dormitory, was completed in 1918 with additions constructed in 1935. It symbolizes through its design the university's evolution from a local institution with private housing provided for its students to one of national scope with the accompanying necessity for university-owned housing for its students. It follows the trend toward Neo-Classical Revival designs in buildings at WVU and in buildings in general during this period. The use of a triangular pediment supported by columns and the elevated center portico evidence a Greek influence in the design.

The exterior fabric is American bond brick. There are sixteen windows on the facade of each story of the original section. There are thirteen windows on each story of each of the wings. The windows have 6/1 lights and are arched on the first story in the original section. This building has three stories in the original section and two stories in the wings. The sections of the building that connect the original section and annexes are built in a stepped or terraced effect. A high basement lies beneath the building.

A concrete cornice edges the flat roof. The second and third stories are separated by a concrete belt course. Keystones top the windows. Brick corbelling forms pilasters that flank the center section. The portico pediment is marked by bracketed eaves, decorative concrete work, and a round window. On the architrave, the building's original name, Woman's Hall, is etched. Four Corinthian order columns support the pediment. Double windows mark the second story of the outer portions of the center section. The main door and its flanking windows are accentuated by swan's neck arches.

The interior of the building consists of plaster walls and tiled concrete floors. Interior hallways run lengthwise through each floor of the building with dormitory rooms lining the halls. Enclosed stairways rise at the ends and centers of the building sections. The lobby and lounge areas on the floors of the center section (see floor plans) are the major public spaces in the building, although little has been altered anywhere in the building. There is a cafeteria in the basement.

3. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
Prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric		community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic		conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture		economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	☒ architecture	☒	education	military	social
1700-1799	art		engineering	music	humanitarian
1800-1899	commerce		exploration settlement	philosophy	theater
1900-	communications		industry	politics government	transportation
			invention		other (specify)

Specific dates 1918 Builder Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Stalnaker Hall, originally known as Woman's Hall, holds a prominent place along with Elizabeth Moore Hall in understanding the history of women at West Virginia University; its history is also an important part of West Virginia University's story of expansion and the resulting need for increased dormitory space.

The first Women's Hall at West Virginia University was established in 1902 when an increasing enrollment of women at the university and a shortage in housing in the community, due to an influx of industrial workers, created a need for a women's dormitory. This dormitory was improvised from a house belonging to Dr. P. B. Reynolds on the present Campus Drive. This house only held fourteen students and a new residence hall was soon needed. The state legislature resisted funding a new dormitory. Therefore, the university leased Episcopal Hall at the intersection of Spruce and Willey Streets in 1907. This building housed forty-two students.

Stalnaker Hall, which became the first dormitory built especially for women students at West Virginia University, was completed in 1918. The building acquired its name from Elizabeth M. Stalnaker, professor of philosophy and psychology during the early twentieth-century. This new building accommodated 253 students. Following World War I, the building filled to capacity, and nearby Boughner House was used as an annex until 1932.

Federal funds became available in 1932 to build additions onto the northern and southern ends of the building. These were completed in 1939. The building served as a woman's dormitory until 1984, when the center section was closed because of fire code violations, structural failure, and a declining demand for residence hall space. The additions, which form an integral part of the total building and are almost fifty years old themselves, are still occupied as dorm space. Future plans for the building are unclear, but WVU hopes to renovate the building to continue to use it for housing.

Stalnaker Hall is a massive structure that overlooks part of the campus and the downtown Morgantown campus. The triangular pediment supported by columns and the elevated center portico certainly gives evidence of the Greek influence in design. The building is a good example of institutional Neo-Classical design.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Morgantown North, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 17 589340 4387620
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

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 ☒ 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

Ann M. Ginsberg
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 10/28/85

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

WVU Neo-Classical Revival

Item number

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Stainaker Hall

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

Amber, Charles Henry. A History of Education in West Virginia from Early Colonial Times to 1949. Huntington, WV: Standard Printing & Publishing Co., Inc., 1951.

Doherty, William T. and Summers, Festus P. West Virginia University: Symbol of Unity in a Sectionalized State. Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University Press, 1982.

Core, Earl L. The Monongalia Story: A Bicentennial History. Vol. 3. Discord. Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Co., 1979.

Core, Earl L. The Monongalia Story: A Bicentennial History. Vol. 4. Industrialization. Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Co., 1982.

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Continuation sheet WVU Neo-Classical Revival Item number 10

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Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

Stalnaker Hall

From point of beginning on northeast side of property along College Avenue travel east 60 feet, 6 inches to point thence following line southeast 140 feet to point, thence 130 feet southwest along driveway to point, thence southeast 468 feet to point along North High Street, thence 164 feet southwest to point at corner of North High Street and Maiden Lane, thence following Maiden Lane 564 feet to point, thence 166 feet northwest to corner of Maiden Lane and College Avenue, thence follow line northeast 120 feet to Point of Beginning. (See attached maps)

