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 Statler Hall

2. Location

street & number Maiden Lane

city, town Morgantown

state West Virginia code 54 county Monongalia code 061

3. Classification

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
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<td>x. occupied</td>
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<tr>
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<td>commercial</td>
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<tr>
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<td>yes: restricted</td>
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4. Owner of Property

name West Virginia Board of Regents

street & number P. O. Box 3366

city, town Charleston

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 (HPU) has this property been determined eligible? yes x no
date May 1983

depository for survey records History Department, West Virginia University

city, town Morgantown

state WV
### 7. Description

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<tr>
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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.
### Statement of Significance

**Stainaker 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.

Stainaker 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. Stainaker, 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 intergral 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.

Stainaker 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.

### Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

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**Built in** 1918, **Builder** Unknown
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: 1/4 acre
Quadrangle name: Morgantown North, WV
Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

UTM References

Zone Easting Northing
A 17 53 934 17 62 0

Zone Easting Northing
B

C

E

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

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

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<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 University
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]
date: 10/28/85

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

WVU Neo-Classical Revival
Stainaker Hall

Item number 9

Page 2

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


Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

Stainsaker 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 364 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)