#### United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

RECEIVED AUG 1 6 1994

1. Name of Property				
historic name: West Virginia Children's other name/site number:	Home			
2. Location	<del></del>			
street & number: 230 Heavener Avenue city/town: Elkins state: WV code: county: Randolp	not for publication: NA vicinity: oh code: 083 zip code: 26241			
3. State/Federal Agency Certification				
As the designated authority under the Nation that thisx nomination request for standards for registering properties in the Nation professional requirements set forth in 36 C.	onal Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify redetermination of eligibility meets the documentation lational Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and FR Part 60. In my opinion, the propertyx meets does not be continuation sheetx Local Significance State Significance State Significance			
As the designated authority under the Nation that thisx nomination request for standards for registering properties in the Nation professional requirements set forth in 36 C.	r determination of eligibility meets the documentation lational Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and FR Part 60. In my opinion, the property $\frac{x}{\text{Significance}}$ does not be continuation sheet. $-\frac{x}{\text{Local Significance}}$			
As the designated authority under the Natio that thisx nomination request fo standards for registering properties in the N professional requirements set forth in 36 C meet Ac National Register Criteria So Signature of certifying official	r determination of eligibility meets the documentation [ational Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and FR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not be continuation sheet Local Significance State Significance State Significance			

Randolph County,	WV
County and State	

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: Category of I (Check as many as apply) (Check only one	<u> </u>	ber of Resources within Property clude previously listed resources in the count.)
private build public - local X distriX public - State site public - Federal struc object	ct	ibuting Noncontributing  2
Name of related multiple property listing	: Number of contribu listed in the Nationa	nting resources previously al Register: <u>0</u>
6. Function or Use		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from	
Domestic sub: institutional housing Agriculture sub: agricultural field	Domestic sub:	institutional housing

Holmboe & Lafferty, Architects, of Clarksburg, West Virginia

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

**Cultural Affiliation:** 

Architect/Builder

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**Boundary Justification** 

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

9. Major Bibliographical References		
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more con	tinuation sheets.)	
Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A  preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been re 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 #	quested.	
Primary Location of Additional Data:  X State historic preservation office  Other state agency Federal agency Local government University Other Specify Repository:	_	
10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of Property: 18.146		
UTM References:		
	_x_See continuation sheet.	
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)		

West	Virginia Children's	Home
Name	of Property	

Randolph County, WV County and State

11. Form Prepared By	
Name/Title: Phyllis Baxter, Historian Organization Street & Number HC 68 Box 215 City or Town Bowden	Date May, 10, 1994 Telephone (304) 636-2467 State WV ZIP 26254
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:  Continuation Sheets  Maps  A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating A Sketch map for historic districts and propertie  Photographs  Representative black and white photographs of Additional items  (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)	s having large acreage or numerous resources.
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)  name: State of West Virginia, Department of Health street & number: Building 3, Capitol Complex city or town: Charleston state: West Virginia	and Human Resources telephone: zip code: 25305

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 Divisions, 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.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

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Historic and current conditions of the property

The West Virginia Children's Home sits on a 17-acre tract of land which was purchased for this purpose in 1910. At that time it was outside the Elkins city limits, though it is now well within the Heavener addition to the town. Five additional lots across the street from the main property were purchased in the 1920's to build the farmer's house and garage.

The West Virginia Children's Home is a Colonial Revival Building of stretcher bond red brick. The original building built in 1909 was 86 feet long by 36 feet deep, with an ell in the rear measuring 48 feet by 30 feet. The ell was originally one-story, with an upper story added to it by 1918. The addition made in 1935 lengthened the ell to approximately 60 feet, and added an additional cross wing measuring 86 feet by 36 feet.

The front (south) facade is dominated by a large portico in the Corinthian Order. (See photos 1 and 3) The porch is built of brick piers supporting a concrete porch with four white wooden columns. The entablature was originally plain with a row of denticulation under the cornice. In 1929, the words "West Virginia Children's Home," in gold letters on black background, were added to the entablature. The background of this sign today is dark blue. The triangular pediment was originally dark shingles but was later painted white. It encloses a semi-circular lunette, and has unadorned moldings on the projecting cornice. The entryway has double doors, each with a full-length single-light window, topped by an elliptical arch of three rows of bricks with a rough-cut stone keystone, and an elliptical fanlight. A pair of 1/1 windows are on either side of the entry door, spaced to appear between the outer set of columns. The second story above the entry features a white wooden balcony supported on the outer edge by the two center columns and with a railing with turned balusters. The second story has a narrow single door with window and a fanlight, with narrow windows flanking the door spaced much closer than the larger windows on the first floor.

Flanking the portico on each side are three window bays, with a projecting fourth bay on each end. Raised brick quoins of four rows of brick each ornament each corner of the projecting bays. Above the lintels of each of the windows on the first floor is a brick pattern with vertical bricks in the center. Each window has a sill of header bricks painted white. An entablature for the building is formed by three rows of projecting bricks topped by header brick denticulation encircling the building just above the upper windows.

The basement projects very slightly with a concrete watertable. This is now colored red to match the bricks, but originally appeared as a light colored string course marking the basement about three feet above ground level. Basement windows under the outer and middle bays have two-light side-by-side windows topped by arched header bricks.

The roof is a relatively shallow hip roof, originally covered with slate, but now with light-colored asphalt shingles.

The the east facade of the front wing (photo 4) has three window bays, with the center one projecting with brick quoins. The main windows are 1/1 double-hung with the same brick pattern as over the windows on the front facade. The lower floor center window on this facade only is slightly smaller than the rest. The center window on the top floor has a brick arch over it with a stone keystone. The projecting bay is topped by a cross gable, with a small triangular vent for the gable window. Each bay also features the smaller basement window at ground level, topped by a shallow brick arch.

Behind the front wing (photo 5) the ell extends back with seven bays of windows, although on the top floor one set of windows is doubled, then a blank wall space. The much shorter original ell was only one story, and the second story was added in 1916. The length of the ell was about doubled in the 1935 addition. A slightly different brick marks the

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connection to the newer addition, and the brick patterning over the third and fourth lower windows is missing. (All of the rest of the lower double-hung windows, both old and newer sections, have this brick patterns.) The basement level has three windows, a basement door with a stairwell, and a coal door.

A two-level wooden porch encloses the corner where the ell connects to the front wing (photo 5). These were originally open porches with white railings, but were enclosed with windows to become play rooms by 1920. Concrete steps lead up to a door in the enclosed porch. The north face of the front wing has one bay of windows and an upper metal door with a metal fire escape leading down form it. The basement window below this has been bricked in.

The 1935 addition at the rear (photo 4) was intended to match the original building in proportion and design. The constuction of the addition is steel and concrete block faced by brick, rather than structural brick like the original portion of the building.

A plain door reached by concrete steps leads into the main floor of the north wing just past the corner of the ell (photo 4). The south-facing wall of this north wing has one window above the door, and three more bays of windows. The east facade of the north wing was built to match that of the south wing, except that the brick quoins, present at the corners of the building, are missing from the center projection. The lower course of windows on this end have been bricked in with an exhaust fan in the center space, to accommodate the 1970s remodeling of the kitchen.

The north facade (photo 6) has 13 bays along its length, without projections. The top floor has a wooden door with a ten-light window in the center, plus two metal doors, all reached by a large metal fire escape. The first floor has 12 windows. There is also a total of nine windows and a door into the basement. A new wooden wheelchair ramp leads towards the west and turns the corner.

The west facade (photo 7) of the rear wing follows the same pattern as the east facade, but has an entry door on the main floor of the center bay. This is a double door, each with a full-length 15-light window, and a rectangular transom window above them. Originally this door had steps leading directly up to it, but now it is reached by the ramp from the north and by stairs from the south of the wooden stoop. The windows in both the rear and front wings are the same as those in the east facade of the front wing.

In front of the brick portion of the ell is a full length enclosure painted white with large windows. When the addition was originally built, the section was a one-story concrete block sun porch, topped by an open balcony, but now the upper floor has been enclosed as well. The lower floor has a door at each end reached by concrete stairs, and three large tri-part windows. The upper floor has windows matching those below, and is covered with narrow lap siding, probably aluminum.

The south face of the north wing has two bays of windows and one basement window. The north face of the south, original, wing has one bay of windows, with signs in the brickwork that other windows had been bricked in when the addition was added. Further disturbances on this brick face indicate that this corner originally had a porch matching the one on the east side, presumably removed when the addition was added.

The west facade of the south wing matches the one on the east face, except that the lower left-hand window has been replaced by a larger three-part picture window.

The interior of the main wing of the Children's Home has an entryway leading to a small central hall with French doors and a staircase rising on the left (photo 8). Hallways down both ends of the wing lead to offices and private

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bedrooms. A large lounge area on the left (photo 9) has decorative moldings around the ceiling and a wood and marble fireplace. Beyond this is a small library with the large replacement window on the west side. All of the wall surfaces in this portion of the building appear to be lath and plaster, with plaster over brick on the exterior walls.

A central hall leads back through the ell, with offices on either side. The enclosed porch is a frequently used entrance, and the original brick, painted white, can be seen where this was once an exterior wall.

The interior of the addition originally included two new dormitories, matron's bedroom and bath, dining room, kitchen and pantry, two fireproof towers, a large gymnasium and play room, additional store rooms and bath rooms, and a large enclosed sun porch. The "sun porch" is now the single long room on the west side of the ell used as a lounge for the residents. The first floor of the north wing has a large dining room and kitchen, which were remodeled and modernized in the 1970s. When the addition was added, remodeling of the original building changed the old school room into a reception room, and the old kitchen and dining room into a library, reading rooms, and a play-room for the small children. A steel outside fire escape was also built.

Upstairs, there was originally a large dormitory room in the end of each main wing (photo 2). Three of these dormitories were partitioned in the 1970s into smaller bedrooms, and individual bedrooms also line the central hallway of the ell. The dormitory on the southeast corner (photo 10, compare with 2) is still open and appears much as it does in older photographs. A small central room behind the balcony is used as a lounge, as is the upper enclosed porch on the east, and the full-length room on the west.

The basement is also fully utilized, with exercise and shower facilities for both boys and girls, laundry room, and furnace room. It is here that the construction of the building is most evident, as the basement walls in the older portion are brick and, in the newer portion, block.

The building appears to be in sound condition and to be well-maintained. The Board of Control Reports detail maintenance and additions through the early years. Considerable interior work was done around 1920, including adding French doors to the lower hall, installing modern white globe lamps instead of chandeliers, and changing the heating system from gas to coal. In 1924 an entire new hot water heating system was installed. This heating system was in turn replaced during the 1934-35 construction by a new vapor vacuum heating system for the entire building. In the 1970s, the heating was converted back to natural gas. In 1930, the outside woodwork of the home, farmer's house, and outbuildings were painted. It was at this time that the shingles on the pediment were painted white, and the entablature painted black with the words "West Virginia Children's Home" added in gold.

The various additions and modifications since the addition was completed in 1935 seem to have been made with an eye to both function and economy. The areas that have been remodeled recently tend to be of the style and materials of the time period in which the work was done, and the historic fabric of the building has been modified when that was deemed necessary for the function, such as the added picture window in the library, or for economy, as the replacement of the slate roof with asphalt shingles in the 1970s. There has, however, been no wholesale makeover for the sake of "modernization," and the decor in many of the older sections of the building has been little changed.

Low bushes are growing along the front and sides of the south wing. The grounds on the south, west, and south-east of the building are well-kept extensive lawn with large hardwood trees. (photo 3) On the north-east and north sides of the building is paved parking with an asphalt driveway leading in on the east side of the property. Much of the rest of the 17-acre grounds are open sloping grassland with flat bottom land in the rear of the property. (Photo 13) Much of this land

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was operated as a farm from the beginning of the home until the 1960s. Neither the original barn nor the 1929 two-room school house is still standing. The contributing swimming pool (photo 11) on the west side is an historic structure, having been built as a part of the FERA project in 1935. Near the swimming pool stands another contributing structure, a brick storage cellar. This is the cave house which was built in 1930 for \$2000, and used to store vegetables and fruits in the bottom and to cure and smoke meats on the upper floor. The non-contributing buildings are a concrete block garage on the north side which was built in the 1970s, replacing a much older smaller garage, and a concrete block schoolhouse to the west of the home which was built in 1965. A new small open wooden pavilion is a non-contributing structure.

Across the road from the home is a contributing two-story residence (photo 12) built in 1920 for the farmer at the Children's Home and now used for workshops and as a guest house. This is a two-story wood frame four-square house with dormers facing north and east and a chimney on the west side. It has a full width covered front porch on the east. On the north side facing the Children's Home is a small two-columned portico with a projecting window bay beside it. The house, painted blue with white trim, is sided with board lap siding, which may be the original cypress siding.

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Statement of Significance

#### **SUMMARY**

The West Virginia Children's Home is significant on a statewide level under criterion A, contributing to the social history of the state of West Virginia. It served as the institution for the housing and placement of orphaned, neglected, and dependent children for the entire state from 1911 until 1977, except for a brief period when it was used instead to house mentally-retarded girls. It now serves as a residential treatment facility for disturbed teenagers. The history and development of this institution shows much about the perceived needs of dependent children, and how society responded to those needs.

The West Virginia Children's Home is significant for criterion C as one of the most imposing government buildings in the city of Elkins. Its restrained Colonial Revival style is distinctive in a city were so much of the architecture is of more elaborate Victorian styles, such as the Richardson Romanesque Court House, or the IOOF home built in the same time period. The major addition made in 1935 is compatible with the original building, and the entire structure retains good integrity, considering that the building has been adapted as necessary to modern use.

The period of significance of this property begins with its authorization in 1909, construction in 1910, and opening in 1911. Various additions were made to the building though the years, the most significant being the rear wing added in 1935. By 1935 the historic resources of the building and its surrounding grounds were complete.

The grounds surrounding the Children's Home are considered to contribute to the building since they have always been associated with the home and contribute to its integrity. The landscaping and grounds in front of the home make an important contribution to its appearance, and the farm operations on the land extending behind the home was, for most of its history, an integral part of the operation of the home. The farmer's house, cave house, and swimming pool are historic outbuildings and structure. The 1965 concrete block schoolhouse is a modern intrusion, but because of its location at a corner of the property does not detract unduly from the overall historic appearance. Additional intrusions are a concrete block garage, a small pavilion, and a couple of sheds.

#### **HISTORY**

The non-profit West Virginia Humane Society was established by law February 17, 1899, for the protection of children and the helpless aged and for the prevention of cruelty to animals. Orphaned children were cared for in several locations, including a small home in Elkins, West Virginia. On February 26, 1909, the legislature authorized the establishment of "The West Virginia Children's Home" under the direction of the West Virginia Humane Society for the care and placement of orphaned and neglected children. The home was to be owned by the state of West Virginia, with the management of the home under the board of directors of the West Virginia Humane Society.

On September 29, 1910, two tracts totaling 17.69 acres near the city of Elkins were purchased by the state from John E. Heavner for \$5,091.67. The property, just northwest of the existing city boundary, adjoined the Parkview addition, also known as the Heavner addition. Although the property transfer was not recorded until September 1910, the building appears on the November 1910 Sanborn map. Bids were solicited for building the home in June of 1910, with the plans available from Holmboe & Lafferty, Architects, of Clarksburg, West Virginia.

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The main building of the West Virginia Children's Home was built on this property, facing south about 150 feet back from Heavner Avenue. It was a two-story structure with a basement, built of red brick with artificial stone trimmings and a slat roof. It was 86 by 36 feet, with a one-story ell in the rear measuring 48 by 30 feet. The front featured a massive columned portico, with covered porches in the rear. The contract cost of this building was \$11,708; the architect was paid \$351.24; lighting, plumbing and other extras ran \$5,568; and the furnishings and equipment cost about \$3000.

The basement had boys' and girls' recreation rooms under the main building, with a laundry, storage, and boiler under the ell. The first floor had offices, reception room, school room, and isolation rooms for boys and girls, with the dining room and kitchen in the ell. The second story had a dormitory for boys in one end and one for girls in the other end, with rooms for attendants and operating rooms in between. The building was initially heated by natural gas, with both natural gas and electricity used for lighting. Water came from the city water supply, and sewer emptied into Leading Creek.

The Children's Home opened on May 9, 1911. The headquarters of the Humane society was transferred here from Wheeling, and the children moved here from smaller homes in Elkins, Wheeling and elsewhere. The home was meant to serve basically healthy white children who were orphaned or abandoned, neglected or cruelly treated, or from bad environments. Children would be kept at the home until a more permanent placement could be found for them. Most of the children stayed between three and six months, with very few staying longer than one year. From October 1, 1911 to October 1, 1912 the home served a total of 132 boys and 87 girls between the ages of 2 and 14, with 53 children being in residence at the end of that period.

The property sloped gently away from the building, down to a ten-acre flat bottom beside Leading Creek. Some distance in the rear of the main building was a two-story brick barn, used in the farming activities of the home. In the first year, about 1 1/2 acres were in garden, a large orchard was started, and 10 acres were farmed.

By 1916, the farm had five acres of pasture and six acres for corn and potatoes, three mild cows, and 189 chickens. The garden provided fresh vegetables for the children, and the orchard was growing and expected to produce by the next year. Much of the farm work was hired since most of the boys were too young to do the work.

Although the 1916 second-story addition to the ell provided more room, by 1918 the home was crowded past capacity. It was becoming more difficult to find suitable homes due to the high cost of living and the fact that so many heads of households were away from home serving in the army or navy. In 1917, the state placed control and direction of the home under the State Board of Control which ran the other state institutions. In 1919, the State Board of Children's Guardians was established to have custody and control of the dependent and neglected children of the state, and this agency, with headquarters in Charleston, took over the responsibilities of the Humane Society.

In 1921, lots 169, 170, and 171 of the Parkview Addition, across the street from the Children's Home, were purchased for \$800, and a two-story seven-room house was built for the farmer's residence. It had a large front porch and was finished on the outside with cypress with white trim. The 1922 report of the State Board of Control states that the children assisted with work on the grounds and that the farm raised all of the vegetables used at the home through the summer in addition to surplus canned for winter use. In 1926, two additional lots were purchased across the alley from the farmer's house, and three-stall cement block garage was built there.

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The 1930 report emphasizes the toll taken on families in poverty and the importance of trained social workers working with the children and their families. The population of the home had increased, with 70 children in residence at the end of the fiscal year. In 1929, a ready-cut two-room school house was erected behind the main building. This allowed the old school room in the main building to be converted into an additional boys' dormitory.

To alleviate the crowded conditions, in July 1934, Governor Herman Guy Kump gave \$16,500 from his executive emergency fund to build an addition to the original building. The federal government, through the Federal Emergency Relief Agency (FERA), constructed this new addition, which approximately doubled the size of the home, with an additional expenditure of \$52,000. It was built by prominent Elkins builder T. R. Whiteman, who also built Governor Kump's house and the Randolph County jail. The addition was completed September 26, 1935. The two-room school house was moved back 500 feet to give more play ground space and the school was placed under the supervision of the Randolph County School Board. The federal government also built a 30 by 60 foot concrete swimming pool.

As had long been the policy, no mentally or physically defective children were received at the home. Only a small portion of the children were orphaned, while most came from homes broken up by poverty and crime. The girls were taught to cook, sew, clean, do laundry work, and help care for the younger children. The older boys assisted on the farm, which by now included an additional non-adjoining 10 acres on Leading Creek and a 117-acre farm known as the Darby farm farther away. The stock in 1934 included 40 head of hogs, 15 dairy cows, one bull, three horses, seven beef yearlings, and 300 chickens. Six hundred bushels of potatoes and 27 varieties of other vegetables were raised for the use of the institution.

The public Welfare Law of 1936 transferred the duties of the Board of Children's Guardians to the State Department of Public Assistance, which established boarding homes throughout the state and Camp Fairchance in Boone County. By 1939, only a few children remained at Elkins, so a cooperative agreement was made converting the Children's Home into a branch of the West Virginia Training School so that the overload of mentally retarded girls from the Training School at St. Mary's could be transferred to the Children's Home. In 1943, this agreement was repealed by the legislature, so that the Children's Home returned to its original mission.

In 1956-57 the West Virginia Colored Children's Home in Huntington was closed, and the Elkins Children's Home was integrated.

In 1965, the old two-room school house was removed and was replace by a larger concrete block school on the west side of the property. As labor costs increased, it became uneconomical to continue the farm, and when farm operations ceased in the 1960s the original barn was torn down.

In 1977, the West Virginia Children's Home was given a new mission, to provide short-term evaluation and medium and long-term residential treatment for disturbed teenagers. The home now serves both boys and girls aged 11 to 18, with a structured yet individualized treatment program. The population includes teenagers who have been determined to need removal from their home environment, including those who have come to the attention of the courts for status offenses, but who do not need the additional restrictions and locked facilities of a state reform school. The home is now licensed for 35 students, but often has more that that. The school is operated by the county school system, and psychological services are contracted out to Appalachian Community Health. The home is well-kept, and the staff are obviously proud of their program and their facilities.

