

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: SHAW HALL, WEST LIBERTY STATE COLLEGE

other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number: BETHANY PIKE

not for publication: N/A

city/town: WEST LIBERTY

vicinity: N/A

state: WV county: OHIO

code: 069

zip code: 26074

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: PUBLIC

Category of Property: BUILDINGS

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this

☐ 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

☐ meets

☐ does not meet

the National Register Criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

William E. Turner  
Signature of Certifying Official

11/15/96  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property

☐ meets

☐ does not meet

the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☒ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

12-7-96  
Date of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

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Historic: EDUCATION Sub: COLLEGE

Current: EDUCATION Sub: COLLEGE

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

NEOCLASSICAL

=====

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation BRICK roof SLATE / RUBBER  
walls BRICK other -

=====

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: STATE.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance:

ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1919-1920

Significant Dates: 1919

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet. X

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

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- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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Acreage of Property: LESS THAN AN ACRE

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing

17      533900      4446000

Verbal Boundary Description: X See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: X See continuation sheet.

Name/Title: Dr. David Javersak, West Liberty State College  
and Katherine Jourdan, Northern Region, WV SHPO

Organization: West Liberty State College Date: 5 October 1995

Street & Number: Bethany Pike Telephone: (304) 336-8254

City or Town: West Liberty State: WV Zip: 26074

Name: WEST LIBERTY STATE COLLEGE

Street & Number: Bethany Pike Telephone: (304) 336-8254

City or Town: West Liberty State: WV Zip: 26074

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Constructed as the first building on the present West Liberty State College campus in 1919, Shaw Hall was first used as a female dormitory. The building continues to house students, and is also used for college offices. The building follows the popular Neoclassical design from the early part of the 20th century, which was often used for public or state buildings.

This three story red brick building was constructed as a female dormitor with the elongated rectangular plan having fifteen bays across the front and rear. The last three bays on each end project out from the facade. The building also has five bays on the short sides. Neoclassical in style, the front and end facades are dominated by two story porticos with Ionic columns having a stucco shaft.

The front portico has six columns, with the ends being paired, and a single engaged column against the facade. The columns support a wide dentiled entablature with limestone cornice. Topping the portico is a metal rail as a balustrade. The windows have been replaced with double-hung 8/1 lights in the original openings, with those openings on the first floor being longer. The third floor windows have limestone blocks at the corner with brick running perpendicular around the opening in a decorative pattern. A thin limestone stringcourse runs below the first and third floor row of windows and at the roof line. The main entrance has a round arch doorway with limestone keystone and end blocks. The double doors lead to a vestibule.

The two ends of the building have a two story portico with porches on each floor supported by Ionic columns and having a metal railing and balustrade. The columns were repaired in the late 1980s with additional bracing and a new stucco sheathing.

The south facade, or rear of the building, has the same projecting three bays at each end. There is a centered metal porch c. 1930s with an Art Deco flavor, and a flat roof. On this facade the lower level is visible with short 8/1 double-hung windows.

The interior of the building has had few alterations. The first floor has decorative wood moulding in the doorways near the front entrance and large public rooms such as the lounge. The original mail boxes are in the hall, as is a plaster depiction of ancient Rome. The ceilings do have a new tile surface which appears to be slightly dropped to hide a sprinkler system.

The original dining rooms have been furnished as lecture rooms, called the Blue Room and the Gold Room. These still retain the oak doors, window trim and baseboards, as well as two benches under the windows. The double doors into the center hall are now metal fire doors with a covered transom, and wood trim inset. A rear hall in the medical arts section has the original wood floors.

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There are two wide wooden staircases and landings with a wood spindle railing leading to the second and third floors. Metal fire doors lead from the stairs to the wide center hallways. Opening off the hall on each floor are approximately thirty numbered oak doorways with narrow glass transoms leading into the dormitory rooms. These rooms are approximately 9x14 feet, have two closets and a single window. On the south side of the building near the two ends are bath rooms. It requires a step up to reach these rooms, possibly to run the water pipes under the floor. Those baths which are original have black and cream ceramic floor tile, and grey terrazzo between the shower stalls. The baths are divided with one room for sinks, and a second room for stalls, showers, and bathtubs.

The lower level was for mechanical purposes and has the gas boiler (the original coal chute is on the rear of the building) for the hot water steam heat radiators. The original kitchen was also on the lower level and there are still three lockers with metal Jameson doors made in Hagerstown, Maryland. Inside the lockers there is cork under the plaster to help provide insulation. A dumb waiter was also on this level leading to the dining rooms. The south side of the building and center hall are now used for storage for Central Supply. The north side has an unfinished rock and dirt floor with access for storage. There are no front openings on the lower level. Steel girders are visible in the ceilings to show the structural support.

Shaw Hall retains its architectural integrity, depicting the typical college dormitory of the early 20th century. The first dormitory on the West Liberty College Campus, it set the style and stage for the following campus buildings.

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Located high on a hill in Ohio County is West Liberty State College, has been a seat of learning since 1837. Crowding forced the move from the original location of the college in West Liberty. The present site was selected on the edge of town with Shaw Hall being the first building constructed on the new campus. The period of significance is 1919-1920, when the building was constructed. The building is noted under Criterion C for Architecture.

John C. Shaw's presidency of the West Liberty State Normal School lasted from 1908 to 1919. He initiated the college's move from a four-acre site in town, to a location on the southern edge of the village. The former site now houses the West Liberty Elementary School.

The years, 1919-1943, were transitional years in the college's history: the evolution of a small teacher's preparatory school to a multi-faceted institution offering a strong liberal arts and sciences curriculum. As the first building on the new campus, Shaw Hall served as a women's dormitory, opening in 1920; it is the college's oldest structure. It remained the only dorm until Shotwell Hall opened in 1937, and was the only women's residence hall until 1956.

The construction of Shaw Hall was delayed by World War I, but was begun in 1919 and completed in 1920. The three story building faces the entrance to the college from Bethany Pike and created a stately appearance for the new campus. The Neoclassical style is set off by the two story stucco columns at the portico entrance and side porches. The interior retains much of the original oak woodwork used for doors, baseboard, and moulding.

Shaw Hall played an important role in the growth of the College, providing space for residential students and making possible continued growth of the modern campus. Within a few years of its opening, the state funded additional construction: a new library and classroom building, a classroom and laboratory structure, and a gymnasium. During these years, West Liberty was a normal school, or teacher preparatory institution. Growth in the 1920s, however, led to a change in 1931 when the college became West Liberty State Teachers College. Continued growth in the Depression years necessitated a place for resident male students. President Paul E. Elbin (1935-70) garnered New Deal monies for construction of Shotwell Hall. Shotwell opened in 1937 and remained the only male dorm until 1964. Six years after Shotwell opened its doors, West Liberty changed its name to West Liberty State College.

Today, Shaw Hall houses the West Virginia Corrections Academy and the offices of the West Virginia University Extension. The building is well maintained and retains its historic character and relationship to the campus setting.

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Reuter, Frank T., WEST LIBERTY STATE COLLEGE, THE FIRST 125 YEARS. 1963.

Schramm, R.W., "A Chronology of West Liberty State College", revised July 1991.

Dodrill, Gordon, Village Map of West Liberty with notations, c. 1933.

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The boundary for Shaw Hall, includes only the building and ten feet beyond the base of the foundation.

This is the property historically associated with the building.



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SHAW HALL, WEST LIBERTY STATE COLLEGE  
WEST LIBERTY, WEST VIRGINIA, OHIO COUNTY  
PHOTO INFORMATION

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ADDRESS: SHAW HALL  
WEST LIBERTY STATE COLLEGE  
State Route 88 - Bethany Pike  
Ohio County  
West Virginia

PHOTOGRAPHER: David Javersak

DATE OF PHOTOS: August 1995

NEGATIVE: David Javersak

PHOTO 1 OF 6: View of Shaw's West Facade  
Camera looking East

PHOTO 2 OF 6: View of Shaw's East Facade  
Camera looking Southwest

PHOTO 3 OF 6: View of Shaw's South Facade  
Camera looking North

PHOTO 4 OF 6: View of Shaw's North Facade  
Camera looking South

PHOTO 5 OF 6: View of Shaw's South Facade, Detail of Capital  
Camera looking North

PHOTO 6 OF 6: View of Shaw's Interior Frieze  
Camera looking down Main Hallway, First Floor

BOLTHANY QUAD

SHAW HALL (A)

17 533900 4446000

SIXTWELL HALL (B)

17 533820

4445760



