FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Judge Cox Residence

and/or common Ball & Dinsmore Law Offices

2. Location

street & number 206 Spruce Street ___ not for publication

city, town Morgantown ___ vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state West Virginia code 54 county Monongalia code 061

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name John P. Ball & Robert W. Dinsmore

street & number 206 Spruce Street

city, town Morgantown ___ vicinity of state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Monongalia County Courthouse

street & number High & Walnut Streets

city, town Morgantown state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title WV Historic Properties Inventory has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date September 1983 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Unit, Department of Culture and History, Cultural Center, Capitol Complex

city, town Charleston state West Virginia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	X unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This 2½-story Queen Anne Revival home, designed by Morgantown architect Elmer Jacobs, was built about 1898 at the corner of Spruce and Pleasant Streets in downtown Morgantown. It has undergone only minor alterations and is being restored by the current owners. The house is built in running bond brick, with a foundation of cut stone, a stone water table and stone sills and lintels. The main roof is a hip and cross gable with a gable roof over the rear wing of the house. The ridge of the hip roof is crested with iron finials. The prominent features are the 3-story tower, the ornate wood porches, stained glass windows and elaborate interior woodwork in oak and curly maple.

There are five chimneys in the house with ornate brickwork common to Morgantown at the turn of the century. The brick arches over the arched windows and at the two-story side portico are made from molded bricks which project forward from the surrounding surface.

The Spruce Street west facade is the main facade and features the 3-story octagonal tower capped with an iron finial. The original woodwork is intact although the roofing is now asphalt shingle. An old photograph indicated the original roofing to be slate. The hip dormer is faced with cut wood shingles. A palladian window, with square side sash and 1/1 double-hung lights with arched top sash, is centered in this dormer. An arched pattern of contrasting cut and color shingles surrounds the center window, while an angular bond of shingles goes across the bottom of the dormer. The windows on the second floor are 1/1 double-hung with stone sills and lintels. The wall surface containing the entrance doors on the first floor and one double-hung window on the second floor is recessed between the tower and the remaining part of the facade. The resulting overhang is supported by a wooden doric column. This provides access to the porch roof. The main window on the first floor is a large fixed light with arched stained glass light above. The tower windows on the first floor are 1/1 double-hung. An aluminum and glass vestibule has been added but will be removed during the restoration. The wooden porch covers the entire width of the facade. The woodwork is rotted and deteriorated in many places; however, enough remains that the detailing can be duplicated. The wooden doric columns rest on stone piers with wood lattice infill between. The steps are concrete but will be replaced with wood during the restoration. A wooden balustrade connects the columns, and an old photograph indicates the second floor porch has a wooden balustrade with square balusters above the first floor columns. This balustrade will be rebuilt.

The Pleasant Street south facade is capped with a hip dormer with window and shingle details identical to the Spruce Street facade. The main stair is articulated on this facade with a pair of small casement windows lighting the bath under the first landing, a large

rectangular light at the first landing and an arched stained glass light at the second landing. The rectangular light, originally stained glass, has been located and is being repaired. The main room on the first floor has a large rectangular fixed light between two tall narrow 1/1 double-hung windows. This entire assembly is capped with an arched stained glass light. The second floor has two 1/1 double-hung windows. A wooden porch fills in the space between the rear wall of the main part of the house and the 2½-story projecting section. The detailing is similar to the front porch but has square columns, and an old photograph reveals a second floor balustrade used to exist. The porch will be repaired and the second floor balustrade rebuilt.

The main features of the north facade are the gable dormer with sidewalls, the brick chimney, the 2-story brick portico and the projecting rectangular bay. The gable of the dormer is of cut shingles with an elliptical lunette in the center. There is an elliptical pattern of shingles around the lunette. The front wall of the dormer contains three fixed sash windows with arched transom lights. Half-round wood pilasters frame the windows. The second floor has 1/1 double-hung windows. A wood balustrade spans between the brick piers of the portico. A large air conditioning condensing unit is currently on the porch roof but will be eliminated. The projecting bay has tall fixed sash windows with rectangular stained glass transom lights, stone sills and lintels. The roof of the porch is supported by square wooden columns, and two bays are filled in with full height diagonal lattice. The remaining windows of the first floor are 1/1 double-hung.

The rear east facade of the projecting wing of the house has a simple gable roof. The gable is of cut shingles with an arched top 1/1 double-hung window. An arch of contrasting color and cut shingles surrounds the arched top. The second floor 1/1 double-hung window has a stone sill, but the head is tight to the underside of the frieze board. The first floor has a pair of 1/1 double-hung windows with a continuous stone lintel and sill.

The interior has had some alteration on the first floor, but the second floor and attic remain nearly intact. The previous owners were careful to keep the original doors, trim, mantels, etc. that were removed during alteration. Each of the rooms in the main part of the house on the first and second floors has a tile fireplace with ornately carved wooden mantel. A beautiful oak staircase leads up from the entry hall and has stained glass at the landings. The room adjacent to the entry hall has an

existing pair of pocket doors plus a set of pocket doors that were removed. Both pairs are oak on one side and curly maple on the other side. The previous owner had subdivided the room with the projecting bay into two examining rooms. These partitions will be removed, the window casing stripped and refinished and the mantel reinstalled. This will become the conference room for the current owners. The room in the rear projecting wing of the house was used for treatment. The casework and paneling will be removed, but the suspended ceiling and lighting will remain for the new secretarial area. The upstairs rooms retain their high ceilings. The wallpaper is being stripped and the plaster repaired. The room above the conference room is being subdivided into two small offices. The existing bathroom is being modified to make room for for a library in the rear wing of the house. A powder room and furnace room are being added to the third floor for future expansion.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1898 **Builder/Architect** Elmer F. Jacobs, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cox house is significant architecturally as an example of Morgantown architect Elmer F. Jacobs' work, as one of the best examples of Queen Anne Revival architecture in the city and as one of the key buildings in downtown Morgantown, which has remained relatively unchanged over the years. It also has historical significance since it was the home of Judge Frank Cox, a prominent lawyer who served as prosecuting attorney and Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia. He was also a major civic leader and prominent property owner. Elmer Jacobs came to Morgantown in 1893 from Pittsburgh and quickly established himself as the city's leading architect at a time of rapid expansion in the city's growth, retaining this position until his death in 1945. He specialized in residential work, building in both Queen Anne Revival and Neo-Classical Revival styles, but also built the post office building (in National Register), Seneca Glass Works, the additions to West Virginia University's Woodburn Hall, and several downtown commercial buildings.

Frank Cox was born the only child to Henry L. Cox and Elizabeth Matilda (Boydston) Cox on his father's farm on June 18, 1862 in Grant district, Monongalia County. He attended the area schools during his youth and received his formal training at West Virginia University, graduating in June 1883 with his degree in law. He set up his law practice in Morgantown. His first office was located in Court House Square. He practiced alone until 1888 when he formed a partnership with George C. Baker. That same year Cox was elected prosecuting attorney on the Republican ticket to finish out the remainder of W.W. Houston's term of office; Houston had unexpectedly resigned due to health problems. At the time he was elected to finish out Houston's term, he was also elected for the following full term of four years. Upon being elected P.A., Cox appointed Baker as his deputy assistant. Cox was then succeeded by his partner George C. Baker, who then appointed Cox as his deputy. In 1904, Cox was elected Judge of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. In 1907, he was chosen President of the Court. Later that year, he resigned from office and returned to Morgantown to resume his private law practice, re-establishing the firm of Cox and Baker, a general law firm specializing in oil, corporation, and chancery litigation.

Frank Cox also held other prominent positions. He served as judge advocate general with the rank of brigadier under Gov. Atkinson. He was a member and Vice President of the Board of Trade of Morgantown in the 1900's. He was interested in the city's growth and development since he was a large owner of area real estate. He was a member of the World's Fair Commission for West Virginia in 1904. He was a member and trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church. During WW I, he was active and influential both publicly and personally. He served as

the chairman of the 2nd Liberty Loan drive in Monongalia County. Judge Cox also served for a number of years as a member of the school board. He was a member of such clubs as the Masons, Odd Fellows and Modern Woodman of America.

Frank Cox died testate on September 18, 1940 in Monongalia County, West Virginia. According to his will, as recorded in Will Book No. 16 Page 161, he left "all the rest and residue of his property, real and personal and mixed, to his son, Stanley R. Cox, and to his daughter, Margaret Cox Cowell, equally, share and share alike, that is, to each an undivided one half(½) thereof."

Stanley R. Cox, Sr. died intestate on Dec. 6, 1949. The ownership of the house then went to his heirs, his widow, Esther J. Cox, his daughter, Elizabeth J. Cox Owens, and his two sons, Stanley R. Cox, Jr. and Frank G. Cox (See Estate Bk. No. 70 Page 495)

Margaret Cox Cowell conveyed her one-half interest in the Cox house to Frank G. Cox, Elizabeth Cox Moran(now Owens) and Stanley R. Cox, Jr. by deed dated November 10, 1960 and is recorded in Deed Book 591 Page 187.

Stanley R. Cox Jr. died intestate on July 11, 1965 and his interest then, following a civil, suit went equally to Frank G. Cox and Elizabeth Cox Moran(now Owens) on May 18, 1967 as recorded in Deed Book 666 Page 1.

Frank G. Cox died intestate on August 24, 1981 and by the terms of his will, his interest went to his long time physician, Dr. Margaret Stemple Zeck. This transaction is recorded in Will Book 52 Page 342. Esther J. Cox, Stanley R. Cox Sr.'s widow, died on Sept. 7, 1981. The Cox estate was sold jointly by Margaret Stemple Zeck and R. Alex Zeck, her ,husband(Deed Book 881 Page 533) and Elizabeth Cox Owens and her husband John J. Owens (Deed Book 881 Page 539) to the present owners John P. Ball and Robert Dinsmore.

The Cox house was continuously owned by the Cox family, but they rented it out periodically over the last 40 years. In 1941, it was rented out to West Virginia University and served as the WVU faculty club. From 1954-1955, it was rented out to Velma Gene Dalton who ran the Morgantown Beauty School there. In 1960, it became the Mancinelli Funeral home. Later it was rented out to Dr. Margaret Stemple Zeck who had her offices there. Now the Cox house is being remodeled to house offices for Ball and Dinsmore, Attorneys-at-Law.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Morgantown City Directories; Monongalia County Deed Books and Will Book; Callahan, James Morton. History of the Making of Morgantown, West Virginia. Morgantown; WVU Studies in History, 1926; Callahan, James Morton, History of West Virginia Old & New; Vol. II; Chicago: The American Historical Society, Inc 1923. Atkinson, George W. Bench & Bar of West Virginia. Charleston: Virginia Law Book Co., 1919.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Morgantown North, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	589640	4381360	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification All that certain lot or parcel of real estate situate on the North side of Pleasant Street and on the East Side of Spruce Street 60 feet, and extending back therefrom, with a uniform width, along Pleasant Street to the road leading from the mill, known as Roger's or Mackey's

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Moore & Steven Lee

organization (Moore) Hist. Dept / (Lee) Taj & Lee Architects date 13 September 1983

street & number (Moore) WVU / (Lee) 3114 Street telephone (Moore) 304-293-2421; (Lee) 412-681-0789

city or town (Moore) Morgantown / (Lee) Pittsburgh state (Moore) W. Va. 26056 / (Lee) PA 15219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Commissioner, Department of Culture and History date December 7, 1983

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

Wiley, Samuel T. History of Monongalia Co. WV, 1883.

Biographical & Portrait Cyclopedia of Monongalia, Marion, and Taylor Counties of West Virginia. 1895. Philadelphia, PA: Ruth, West & Co. Publishers, 1895.

"Last Rites for Judge Cox to be Held Saturday." Morgantown Post, September 19, 1940.

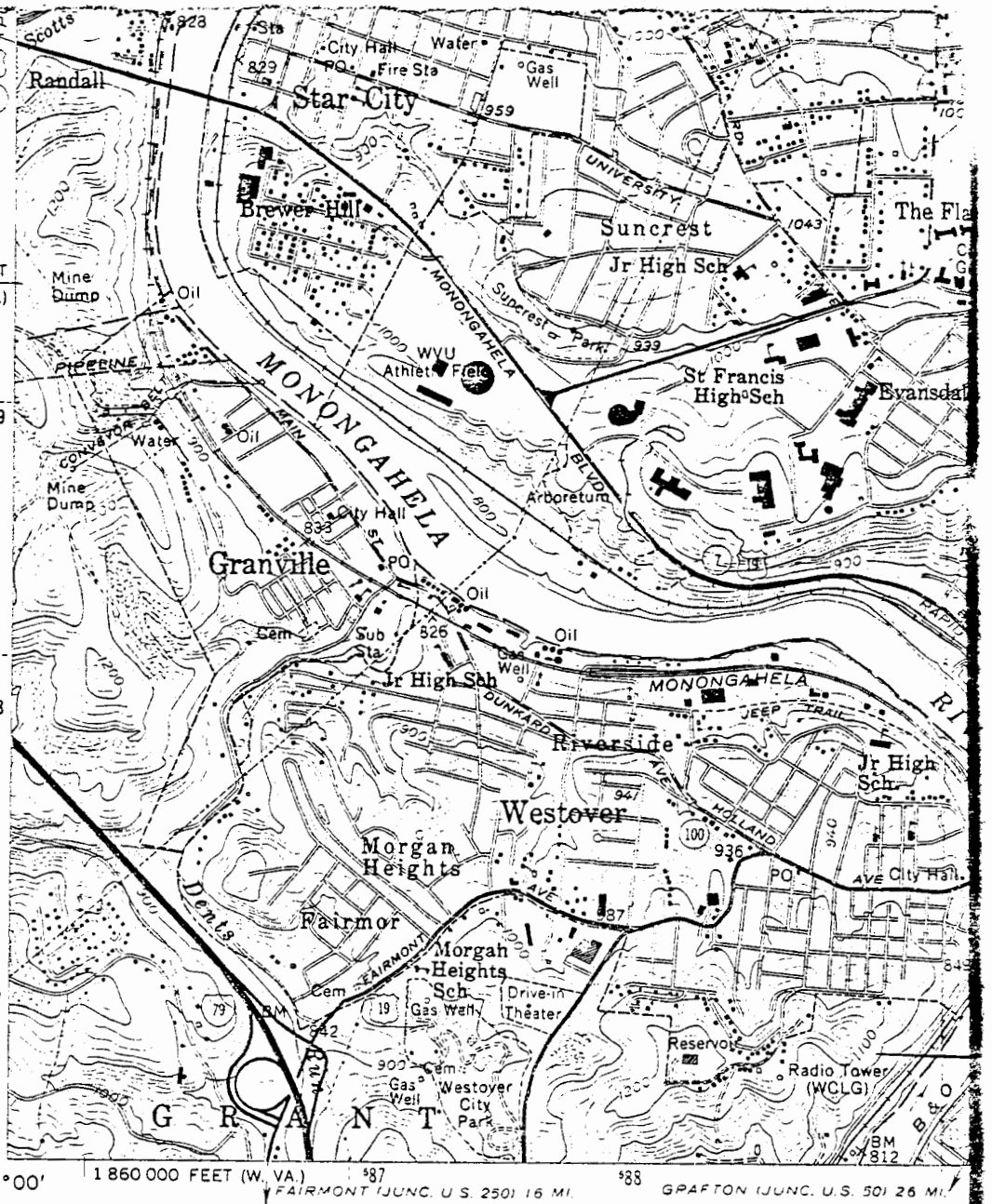
Kunkle, Justin M. Prosperity and Education Edition of The New Dominion Morgantown, West Virginia. Wheeling: Wheeling News, February 1903.

Mill, into Morgantown, and more particularly bounded as follows:

BEGINNING at the southern end of the stone wall on said road, and running from thence in a line parallel with Pleasant Street to Spruce Street at the Southwest corner of the old Lazier stable, thence with Spruce Street 60 feet, and thence with a line perpendicular to Spruce Street to the said road, and thence along said road 60 feet to the beginning; the real estate conveyed in this parcel composed in part of a strip of ground 10 feet wide purchased by William Lazier in his lifetime from the town of Morgantown, off of said Pleasant Street adjacent to Lot No. 55, as laid down on the general plat of said lot of land herein conveyed 60 feet in which as aforesaid. (Monongalia County Deed Book 881 Page 539.)

Judge Cox Residence
206 Spruce Street,
Morgantown,
Monongalia County,
West Virginia

Morgantown North, W. Va.-Pa.
U.S.G.S. Quadrangle
U.T.M. Coordinates
17/589640/4386360



(RIVESVILLE) 4963 II SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

Topography from aerial photographs by Kelsh plotter
Aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1957

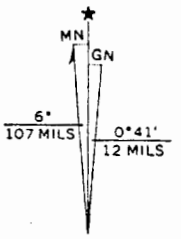
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on West Virginia coordinate system, north zone, and Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue

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

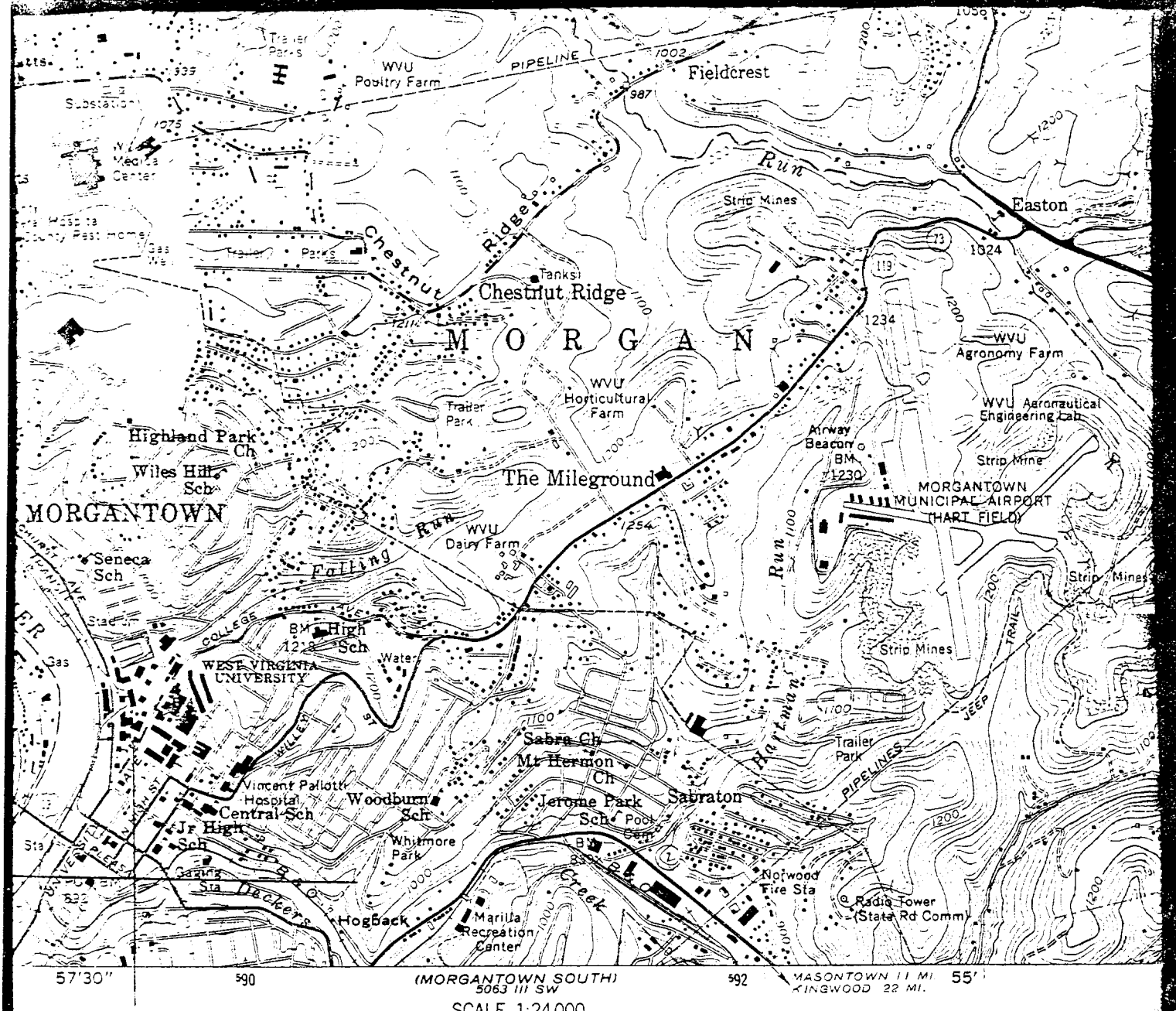
Contours in strip mine areas from 1955 photography

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1976 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



SCALE 1:24 000

1 ½ 0 1 MILE

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 .5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

QUADRANGLE LOC

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple co
taken 1976. This informatio

KELLER'S PHOTOPRINT
808 KANAWHA BLVD