NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Downtown Morgantown Historic District, Monongalia County, WV

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number High, Spruce, Chestnut, Foundry, Kirk, Pleasant, Walnut, Fayette, Forest, Willey, Wall, and Bank Streets ☐ not for publication

city or town ~~Morgantown,~~ ☐ vicinity

tate West Virginia code WV county Monongalia code 061 zip code 26505

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William G. Farmer 3.5.96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the 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:)

Downtown Morgantown
Name of Property

Monongalia, WV
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [x] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [ ] building(s)
- [x] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
122	29	buildings
2	1	sites
		structures
		objects
124	30	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

10

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce, trade, religion
social, government, residential

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce, trade, religion
social, government,
residential

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic
Revival, Italianate, Romanesque,
Classic Revival, Skyscraper

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone, brick, concrete
walls stone, brick, frame, shingle
stucco, terra cotta, ceramic tile
roof tar, asphalt, slate, metal
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

(See continuation sheet)

Downtown Morgantown
Name of Property

Monongalia, West Virginia
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [x] **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [x] **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] **B** removed from its original location.
- [ ] **C** a birthplace or grave.
- [x] **D** a cemetery.
- [ ] **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] **F** a commemorative property.
- [ ] **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

agriculture, architecture, commerce, education, entertainment, ethnic heritage exploration and settlement politics and government

Period of Significance

1795-1945

Significant Dates

1760, 1774, 1784, 1785, 1794, 1777, 1804, 1814, 1831, 1863, 1866, 1890, 1934

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

(See continuation sheet)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Several, including Elmer Jacobs

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibilography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [x] 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
- [x] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [x] University
- [ ] Other

Name of repository:

Name of Property: Downtown Morgantown

County and State: Monongalia, West Virginia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. ~~67~~ 75

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1			
2			
3			
4			

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Morgantown Historic Landmarks Commission
Barbara E. Rasmussen, Ph.D., Chair

organization The Morgantown Hist. Landmarks Comm. date December 10, 1995

street & number 224 Wilson Avenue telephone 304 292-7652

city or town Morgantown state WV zip code 26505

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items) 24 color slides

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 Division, 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.

Downtown Morgantown Historic District, Monongalia County, West Virginia

Section 7 (Narrative Description)

The twentieth century opened upon a Morgantown community already more than 140 years old, yet young in terms of the economic changes driven by America's Second Industrial Revolution. By the end of 1945, downtown Morgantown would become the commercial, social, financial, and cultural hub of an industrial county. Coal mining, oil refining, tin plating, glass making, armament, higher education, agriculture, and forestry were the primary economic enterprises in Monongalia County. Far, far smaller than it was in 1776, Monongalia County had nevertheless grown in population. Its citizens have prevailed in the face of such adversity and challenge as the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, The Whisky Rebellion, The War of 1812, the American Civil War, the Second Industrial Revolution, World War I, The Great Depression, and World War II. Downtown Morgantown lay at the heart of the county's many transformations.

Once a rip-snorting frontier outpost, then a sleepy agricultural village, the economic events that swept the nation's Second Industrial Revolution ultimately transformed Morgantown. Mining, oil refining, tin plating, glass making, ordnance making, higher education, agriculture, and forestry sustained Monongalia County's economy, but these enterprises managed their affairs within the offices, banks, and boardrooms along High Street.

Architectural remnants of earlier times establish Morgantown's great age and testify to the evolutionary nature of the community's growth and development. The Old Stone House on Fayette Street, our district's western boundary, is a reminder of Morgantown's colonial American beginnings. Its simple Federal architecture is dignified evidence that Morgantown is one of the oldest towns in America. The Neville House, constructed by a road builder in 1823, also typifies early Federal construction and flush gable chimneys. Joshua Neville's choice of Morgantown as a home suggests an early demand for his skills.

Chancery Row, a charming parade of law offices dating to the antebellum period, is tucked along Court Street, facing the 1891 Monongalia County Courthouse. The office of Senator Waitman T. Willey, on the row, was built in 1855. Until 1993, its original standing seam tin roof was still in service. The structure also features original fanlights and six over six windows.

Many gracious farmsteads anchored the southern end of the town, near the convergence of the Monongahela River and Decker's Creek. Surviving today is the original John Rogers family homestead on Foundry Street. It serves as a mortuary while retaining the characteristic Federal architecture of the 1840s.

Downtown Morgantown Historic District, Monongalia County, West Virginia

From the perspective of University Avenue, outside the district, a visitor can peer at the rear elevations of some historic buildings in the district. Italianate details on the old jail, the rear of Chancery Row, and the early twentieth century construction detail of the multi-storey adjacent Hall and Blackstone buildings show a sense of growth, time, and history as they beckon a visitor.

There are important homes along Spruce Street, the eastern boundary of our district. The Spruce Street United Methodist Church, designed by local architect Elmer Jacobs, teases us with touches of Gothic detail. The church's stained glass windows are unique in that they consist of American rolled opalescent glass, but feature the pointed Gothic arch and symbolism of thirteenth century cathedral windows. Towers adorn the red brick church and the rough stone Crow-Garlow-Lewin home, where there is a fine, beveled glass entrance and the usual colored glass stairway windows. Jacobs designed more than a dozen of the buildings that remain in downtown Morgantown -- each an individual architectural statement. Only three have been altered, even modestly, in the intervening years. At the southern end of Spruce Street, the South Park Bridge connects the downtown to South Park, a National Register Historic District.

The district is bounded on the north by Willey Street. The spires of two cut stone churches, the Wesley United Methodist Church and Trinity Episcopal Church spires acknowledge the great cathedrals of Normandy on a small town scale. Dedicated in 1942, Wesley Church was extensively altered in 1953, but its elegant spire remains. Constructed in 1951, Trinity will be a welcome addition to the district in a few short years. Twenty-eight stained glass windows illuminate the church, designed in the medieval style by artists from the Washington National Cathedral. These windows are crafted with glass blown in the antique style, in Milton, West Virginia.

The Masonic Hall, the Walters Home, Alpha Phi Chapter House, and the Rogers Home, grand and spacious houses of historical significance to the town, complete this northern boundary. The Rogers House at 293 Willey Street was built in 1852, and deeded to Thomas Rogers in 1868. Then, the home lay outside the city limits of Morgantown. In 1900, architect Jacobs renovated the interior of the building, adding heavy, dark woodwork and mantel pieces. The porch was added then, executed in a Greek Revival style, with dentils under the cornice. Jacobs joined a wooden addition to the back of the house. Two descendants of Thomas Rogers and their husbands occupied the home. The couples had no children. They entertained elegantly in the grand southern style. Perhaps its greatest claim is that they entertained the Spanish Marquis de San Roman within its walls. Married to a local woman, Isabella Robb, the Marquis and his wife stayed there while visiting Morgantown

sometime after their 1857 marriage. The structure currently houses the West Virginia University campus ministry center.

The Walters House, a national register property, at 221 Willey Street, was designed about 1900 by Elmer Jacobs. This home was constructed when "downtown" was the most fashionable address. Mary Walters commissioned the project that has a hipped roof tower. It boasted curved glass in the tower, stained glass windows on the stairways, and brick and stone trim. The second storey multi-light glass is a later addition. The home has served as a rooming house and home to the University Christian Council. It now houses legal offices. In the late 1960s, when the building housed the Christian Council, they gave it the name Bennett House in honor of Vietnam War conscientious objector Thomas W. Bennett. Serving as a medic in the war, Bennett lost his life while attempting to save that of another. Congress awarded him the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously for his deeds.[1] This rare recognition of a local son further dignifies the history of the Walters home. Immediately north of Spruce Street, the historic Downtown Campus of West Virginia University lends a nineteenth century charm to the community.

We include the following buildings in the historic district. Street numbers have changed over time, and may not coincide exactly with all records of the area. Those structures that contribute to the district's historic character are denoted by a "C." Structures that do not contribute are denoted as "NC."

Chestnut Street

1. 190 Chestnut Street. The Chestnut Street Cafe. This small former storefront of early twentieth century ambiance has been sensitively adapted into a coffeehouse. An old-fashioned screen door that adds a charming touch moderates a modern street-level facade. Constructed between 1921-27. C.

2. 227 Chestnut Street. Knights of Columbus Building. Constructed before 1930, this multi-storey brick building is home to much of the labor history of the Monongahela Valley. The exterior features decorative brickwork and symmetrical doorways flanking the storefront. C.

3. Corner of Chestnut and Walnut streets. Personal Rapid Transit System Walnut Street Station. This public transportation system is the prototype of the Washington, D. C. subway system. Designed in great part by Professor Samy G. Elias of West Virginia University's School of Engineering, it was dedicated in

Downtown Morgantown Historic District, Monongalia County, West Virginia

1972 by Patricia Nixon, the daughter of President Richard M. Nixon. The WVU PRT is probably the best-known thing about Morgantown, having received broad national press during its construction. At a mere 25 years of age, it is not contributing to the district. NC

4. 313 Chestnut Street. Old Stone House. This 1795 stone structure is the oldest surviving structure in the downtown historic district. Listed separately on the National Register of Historic Places, it now serves as a home to a local women's charity group, housing a gift shop. Earlier, it was the meeting place of religious congregations. C.

5. 318 Chestnut Street. Wilson, Frame, and Metheny Law Offices. The old Federal architecture is evident at the roof line and windows. This modest 19th century structure has been altered but its architectural style remains. C.

6. 336 Chestnut Street. Solomon and Solomon. This modern brick structure houses law offices. Although it compliments the low roof line of adjacent historic property, it is too modern for historic designation. NC.

7. 340 First Federal Savings and Loan drive-in facility. Modern construction. NC.

8. 341-5 Chestnut Street. Curtis Electrical and State Electronics. Originally the Davis Brothers' garage. This white brick facility is an excellent example of 1920s commercial construction. Completely unaltered, and in excellent condition, a wrought metal arcade similar to that which originally graced the Metropolitan Theater, adorns the building. An "International Harvester" logo and sign over the garage door lend authenticity to Morgantown's claim to an agricultural heritage. A plaque on the building extolls the special patented system of interior rampways developed by the "Ramp Building Corp., d'Humy Motoramp Co. A patented system of building design involving a combination of ramps with staggered floors." U.S. Pat.# 1298183.Truly, a treasure of historic architecture. C.

9. 446 Chestnut Street. Three businesses have reused this unadorned

square brick commercial building. Originally apartments, it is of pre-1930 vintage. C.

10. 467-71 Chestnut Street. Chestnut Square office complex is of modern construction. Formerly the site of the Sanitary Milk Co. NC.

Foundry Street

11. 156 Foundry Street, Dering's Funeral Home occupies the original John Rogers homestead that anchored the southern end of Morgantown. Tasteful additions and modest alterations over the last one hundred years do not seriously detract from the basic Federal style of the late 1840s. C

12. 198 Abshire's Books. Pre-1920. This three-storey building has two flanking entrances and a centered storefront window. The present business's sign conceals glass transom detailing. Originally Clyde Brand's plumbing supply house. Brand constructed the building. C.

Court Street and Chancery Row

13. 155 Court Street. Constructed in 1881, this building houses the Monongalia County Sheriff's Department. It features three storeys and Italianate details at the roof line and window openings. C.

14. 160 Court Street. The Blackstone Building and the Chancery Row Printing House. Of early twentieth century masonry and brick construction, this multi-storey building houses shops and legal offices. C.

15. 162 Court Street. The Cox and Baker Building, c. 1915. The records of this building are contradictory. Of stone and masonry construction, this structure has an asphalt roof. Its original stone first floor veneer has been replaced. C.

16. 164 Court Street. The Hall Building, constructed in 1901, housed the Morgantown Post in 1921. Of similar vintage as the Blackstone Building, this multi-storey building houses offices and stores. Construction is in the Federal style, of brick and masonry. Historically, this building always housed lawyers.

Downtown Morgantown Historic District, Monongalia County, West Virginia

Part of the rear of the building was removed in 1927. C.

17. 172. Court Street. Protzman Offices. The law office of Waitman T. Willey, a father of West Virginia and one of its first two U.S. Senators, this building was constructed in 1853 or 1854. It features a tin and asphalt roof. Construction is of stone and masonry. C.

Fayette Street

18. 119 Fayette Street. Formerly Bell Echart's Rooming House. This home reveals the typical residential construction that was common in Morgantown in the early 1900s. These revival homes -- with modest Queen Anne Revival detailing have become known as "Princess Anne" homes. C.

19. 124 Fayette Street, in 1930 the George Hunter home, Princess Anne residential construction. C.

20. 130 Fayette Street, in 1930 Ida Dent's Home, Princess Anne residential construction. C.

21. 134 Fayette Street. In 1930 the Mary Taylor Home, Princess Anne Residential construction. C.

22. 148 Fayette Street, Hugh Austin Home. Now J.S. Walker Real Estate, it has been completely restored. It was once the parsonage for the Regular Baptist Church built across the street on the site now occupied by the C and P Telephone building. C.

23. 145 Fayette Street. C and P Telephone of West Virginia. This three-storey building of light brick features art deco architectural touches on the exterior. Construction began in 1938 and was completed the following year. The phone company constructed this building to facilitate Morgantown's switch to dial telephones. C.

24. 160 Fayette Street. The WCTU Building, constructed in 1924, is closely associated with the history of women in West Virginia, especially those

associated with the temperance movement. Listed independently on the National Register of Historic Places, this building now houses a bank and offices. It originally contained a gymnasium and an auditorium. C

25. 174 Fayette Street. Jordan Pappas Building. Constructed c. 1920, modest multi-storey commercial building of light brick C.

26. 176 Fayette Street. Keith Pappas Building. This three-storey brick building was moved from High Street to its present location to accommodate construction of the Union Utilities Building on High Street in 1909. C.

27. 177 Fayette Street. Larry's Barber Shop. This building boasts a charming, well-maintained facade that does not seriously obscure the age of the building or its simple architectural detail. The building's cornice reveals its 1920s. vintage. C.

28. 179-81 Fayette Street. This old wooden structure was first the site of McCay's Flower Shop, but it lives in the memory of Morgantowners as the site of George Blue's Shoe Repair Service. A full pane glass storefront and generous wooden base panels on the building are completely unaltered, making this building and important contributor to Morgantown's historic character. Stained glass transoms are an unexpected touch. George Blue was one of the town's most beloved African American businessmen. C.

29. 211 Fayette Street, corner of High Street. The Titus Building, two storeys. c. 1920. It survived the terrible fire that swept through the 300 block of Morgantown in 1927. Once the site of the Bartimocci family's High Street Market, this building now houses a sub shop. C.

30. 213 Fayette Street. Modest brick construction, c. 1920. This was an early location of the Morgantown Water Company. C.

31. 219 Fayette Street. Modest brick storefront, constructed in the vernacular style. This was once the location of one of Morgantown's Chinese laundries. That business was lost in the 1927 fire. By 1930, it housed a dress

shop that catered to West Virginia University students. Construction estimated between 1925-1930. C.

High Street

32. 44 High Street. (Lot 100 on the old Sanborn Insurance Company maps.) This old homestead has seen substantial changes over the years, most notably removal of a front porch. Its side elevations reveal bay windows, Federal and Italianate touches to the brickwork, and a careful maintenance of the roof line. Nineteenth century brick construction. C.

33. 48 High Street. More sensitive facade improvements have moderated serious alterations to the front of this building in recent years. From the rear, (visible from Spruce Street) the old Federal architecture reveals the age and dignity of the building. C.

34. 75 High Street. U.S. Post Office. Modern construction, NC.

35. 76 High Street. This Queen Anne Revival·is an excellent example of adaptive reuse of historic property. The Flame Restaurant, operated by the descendants of Greek immigrants to Morgantown is a local landmark in its own right. C.

36. 88 High Street. City Office supply. Modern construction, c. 1961 NC.

37. 106 High Street. The Cox Building. Three storey brick construction features unusual side windows constructed at 90 degree angles to capture sunlight for interior spaces. The building was constructed in 1923. A retail business is on street level; the integrity of the building is intact. Red brick construction is characteristic 1920s commercial architecture. C.

38. 126 High Street. In 1930, this was the O'Brien home, according to the Polk Directory. Modern facade treatments hide the original construction of this two-storey building, but the early roof line is intact. Alterations seem reversible and in keeping with the proportion of the building. C.

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39. 107 High Street. The Monongalia Arts Center. Formerly the Morgantown Post Office. Constructed in 1912-1915 at a cost of $150,000, the smooth stone building is of Neoclassical style with Doric, engaged columns and pilasters which support a simple entablature and parapets. An excellent example of adaptive reuse, the building is separately listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The husband and sons of Mabel DeVries Tanner, a promoter of arts in the community, purchased it in the 1970s. To continue her work, they gave the original portion of the structure to the community for an Arts Center. They maintain their offices in the rear. C.

40. 127 High Street. The Hotel Morgan. Completed in 1925, and named for Zackquill Morgan at the behest of the Monongalia Historical Society, the hotel is a more modern embodiment of an earlier tradition of hostelry in Morgantown. The present hotel, with its oak paneled, crystal chandeliered lounge area at street level, once featured a breathtaking ballroom on the top floor. It is midway between the locations of several former hotels in Morgantown. (The old Madera Hotel stood on the Corner of Chestnut and Walnut streets; Franklin House and the National Tavern had stood on High Street since the late 1700s. After several renovations over the years, the Tavern became the Peabody Hotel.)

The new hotel was a project of a consortium of several local businessmen. Its opening gala, Oct. 16, 1925, was met with great enthusiasm by Morgantown's residents who flocked to see the new facility's many amenities. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt spent the night of Dec. 15, 1934, at the Hotel Morgan. She was en route to Arthurdale in Preston County, where she was overseeing construction of a planned community for relocated coal miners. Her project provided homes and a plot of land to those Monongalia County miners who were selected for her community. C.

41. 140 High Street. Richard's. This clothing store features a modern era facade. NC.

42. 147 High Street. The Warner Theater. Construction on the Warner was completed in 1931, and a grand opening staged on June 12. This depression era building features an Art Deco exterior and interior. The facade is geometric, with stepped brick corbeling. C.

Downtown Morgantown Historic District, Monongalia County, West Virginia

43. Huntington Bank Drive-In facility. NC.

44. 158 High Street. The McGrew Home. This old homestead features architectural details reminiscent of mid nineteenth century residential construction. Built in 1897 of frame construction, the historical character of the building is readily evident from the rear. It has been adapted to commercial use. In failing condition, this building is at risk. C.

45. 170 High Street. Semler's News. This enterprise is in the much-altered but still historic Neville House. Constructed initially in 1823, James P. Donley made additions in 1885. The building is an example of Federal architecture with Italianate detailing in the roof supports, which are readily visible from the street. Some traces of eighteenth century construction can be divined from the building's exterior. The building features a standing-seam metal roof, bracketed eaves, and flush-gable chimneys. Joshua Neville, a road builder, constructed the house. In the 1930s, this building was known as the Keystone Stores Corporation, and several businesses were located within. C.
Endangered by disrepair. C.

46. 201 High Street. The Donley Building. This contributing structure now serves as the annex to the non-contributing Huntington Bank of the same address. The red brick three-storey building features Romanesque Revival touches to the exterior brick work. Elmer Jacobs designed the building that originally featured an arched, central entrance with a stained glass fanlight. It was constructed in 1895, intended as a post office. Over the years it has housed a restaurant and a bank. Jacobs maintained his own office on the second floor of this building. C

47. 202-212 High Street Brock, Reed, and Wade Building. This large corner structure boasts an assertive post Victorian eclectic facade with Italianate, Romanesque, and Queen Anne elements. Constructed in 1892-95, a cast-iron tower with a cone-shaped roof was added in 1904. The tower was heavily damaged in a storm. Visitors note the third storey arcade and arched stone entrances. Rough stone voussoirs were used in the construction of the arches. Architect W.R. Sheets also used undressed columns to lend stature to this

imposing commercial building. The building housed two historic businesses for many years: McVickers Pharmacy, 1892-1980s, and Baker Hardware, a community landmark from 1894 until its recent closure also. Current street level tenants include a Chinese restaurant, an interior design shop, and a jewelry hobby center. C

48. 214 High Street. The Morgantown Phone Center Store. Pre-1920 construction. Insurance maps note this was the site of a meat market in the 1920s. A three-storey light brick building of unassuming architectural stature, it features a charming original glass storefront. It is accented by marble base panels and etched fanlights over the picture windows that flank each side of the recessed entry. Recently restored to original condition. A gem. C.

49. 235 High Street. The Monongahela Building. Originally the Monongahela Valley Bank Building, this eight-storey fireproof building is the largest building in the district. Completed in 1921[2], it stands at the corner of High Street and Chancery Row. It offers more than 200 offices on its upper floors and space for the bank on the ground floor. An elevator was an exciting addition to the building, though it was not Morgantown's first. C.

50. 232-244 High Street. The Batlas Building. Dark brickwork and careful detailing lend a dignified air to this 1923 construction. Window arches are embellished with acanthus motifs. The G. C. Murphy Co. opened for business here in 1937. Before that, it was an A and P Grocery Store. C.

51. 258 High Street. Monongalia County Senior Center and Magistrate Court Building. Originally the Woolworth Co. building. Whimsical adornment to the street-level facade of this building does not alter its contribution to the downtown historic district. Its distinctive roof line, corner quoins, and multi columned window decor draw the eye upward to the enduring detail of this friendly but aristocratic architecture. Constructed c. 1920. C.

52. 243 High Street. The Monongalia County Courthouse, a National Register Property. Constructed in 1891, this facility is the fourth courthouse to stand on the courthouse square. Architect James Bailey of Pittsburgh designed

the building in the Romanesque Revival style. It features an elaborate asymmetrical plan with three towers, one of which is five storeys high. The broken roof line gives the structure an unmistakable European air. It replaced a structure built in 1848 crowned with a wooden statue of Patrick Henry, governor of Virginia who signed the documents creating Monongalia County. Now frail, the statue is housed inside the building. Some of the oldest land records in America are housed here. The courthouse square is the anchor of downtown Morgantown, having served that purpose since the original trustees laid out the town. Gone from the square, and nearly from memory, are the colonial American civic staples of whipping post, stocks, and scaffold. Frequently used, the whipping post stood on the court square, "about eighty feet from Middle Alley."[3] They built gallows less frequently, but in 1797 Charles Donaldson was hanged on the square for the murder of his son, and in 1798 Millie, a slave of David Robe, was hanged for attempting to poison her master. This evidence of slave rebellion is an important addition to the record of early resistance to the institution of slavery in America. C.

53. 256 High Street. The Chadwick Building. Constructed in 1913, this yellow vernacular commercial building contains offices. C.

54. 258 High Street. McCrory Building, commercial brick, constructed in 1930.C.

56. 268 High Street. The Odd Fellows Building. Historic now in its own right, construction of this lodge in 1894 displaced a famous old tavern, built by Henry Dering to replace his log tavern that burned in 1794. A tavern was operated in this building until 1856, after which it became home to several stores. A bistro presently occupies the ground floor of the building, which would no doubt be pleasing to the site's ancestral owners. The present structure, altered by the addition of a fourth storey above a row of arched windows, is a sturdy contribution to the turn of the century architecture that defines the downtown district. In 1920, the Morgantown Telephone Exchange was here. C

57. 265 High Street. The Citizens Building, 1902. Interior room sizes reflect the age of this prominent downtown commercial structure adjacent to the

Downtown Morgantown Historic District, Monongalia County, West Virginia

Courthouse Square. C

58. 295 High Street. The Brown Building. Constructed at a cost of about $10,250, this building was built in 1912.[4] Separately listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this Elmer Jacobs structure is a gem of historic preservation. C.

59. 301 High Street. Now identified as the Berman Building, this antebellum construction (C. 1852) houses a civil war prison in the cellar. Once it was home to a bank and a clothing store. A fish-scale shingled turret on the corner and third floor transom glazing, now brick-filled, distinguishes it. Sandblasting has diminished the exterior quality of the building, which nevertheless lends an air of history to the street scape. The turret on this building and the one on the Brock Reed and Wade Building, diagonally on the opposing northeast corner of High and Pleasant streets anchors the very heart of the downtown. C.

60. 310 High Street, modern construction, NC.

61. 312 High Street. Morris Building. Featuring arched windows on the third floor, this Romanesque Revival stone building was constructed in 1896 for Dr. George Morris. The name Morris still appears at the parapet line. It features Elmer Jacobs' signature arcade on the third floor repeated in blind arches on the cornice design. The parapet has been altered, but, according to Dr. Morris's will, his name remains visible on the building. C.

62. 316 High Street. Three-storey red brick commercial construction with marble panels to accent the front. Pre-1930 construction. Currently houses an art gallery. C

63. 321 High Street, modern construction, NC.

64. 322 High Street, extensive modern stucco, yet the unmistakeable Federal roof line survives. C.

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65. 327-31 High Street. (Sanborn, 321-337) The Baker Building. Home to two restaurants on the ground level, the upper stories of this building are apartments. In the 1930s, this building was home to the Olympic Pool Room. The center upstairs entrance retains the original ceramic tile flooring. Constructed before 1921. C.

66. 334 High Street, Kresge Building. Cement finial adornments on the top of the building lend dignity to this pre-depression era building with an otherwise simple light brick facing. Constructed in 1922. C.

67. 335 High Street. Formerly the Morgan Theater, this structure was completed in 1937. Stores originally flanked the theater entrance. Now home to the Cosmopolitan Lunch. An added facade obscures original construction, which seems intact. C.

68. 341 High Street. The Farmer's and Merchant's Bank Building. (Second National Bank) 1894, an Elmer Jacobs design features cut stone in the Romanesque Revival architectural style. The structure has an arched window arcade on the top floor, echoing the ground level twin arches anchored by a medallion centered between them. C.

69. 343 High Street. The Laurita Building. Formerly O.J. Morrison's Department Store. Extensively modernized. NC.

70. 344 High Street. The National Bank of West Virginia. Formerly the Woolworth Building. Simple two-storey commercial construction of light brick c. 1925. The Tree of Life Synagogue held services here in the 1920s and 1930s. C. WesBanco

71. 364 High Street. The Garlow Building. This pre-depression building was reconstructed in C. 1930, after the fire of 1927 destroyed the original one, constructed in 1901. Two stories high, it remains largely unchanged. C.

72. 357 High Street. DeVincent's Music Store. Although the facade has been permanently altered, this older building retains its Federal roof line architecture. This building also accommodates the Metropolitan Shoe Service. C.

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73. 371 High Street. The Metropolitan Theater Building. Undergoing restoration, the 1924 building is a diminutive replica of New York's Metropolitan Opera Theater. It first opened for business July 24, 1924. It closed its doors in 1987, after serving as a vaudeville hall, a movie theater, excess class space for West Virginia University, and recital hall for local dance schools. It is separately listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Two store fronts flanking the theater are part of the building. C.

74. 374 High Street. Reiner and Core. Modern facade. NC.

75. 372 High Street. Vacant. NC.

76. 381 High Street. The Delmar Building, multi-storey commercial building of brown brick. The storefront on street level has not been altered. Display windows above waist level flank its central doorway. Constructed in the early twentieth century. C.

77. 387 High Street. The Assured Energy Building, or the Union Utilities Building. Constructed in 1909, this building was Morgantown's first skyscraper, being constructed with steel girders recycled from a building on Smithfield Street in Pittsburgh. Brought into Morgantown on a steamboat or barge, the building was Morgantown's first to house an elevator. The detailing at the roof line features gargoyles and acanthus representations. C.

78. 401 High Street, Brown Apartment Building. Constructed before 1921, this combination storefront and apartment building has housed a bookstore, a grocery store, a jewelry store, and now, Coombs' Florist. C.

79. 413 High Street, Comuntzis Apartments. This building features an open air passage way on each of three storeys. Wrought iron bannisters originally spanned these areas. The facade of brick is strictly balanced on either side of the entrance with three windows each. At the top of the building, concrete representations suggest stylized capitals and draw the eye upward. C.

80. 414 High Street, The J.M.G. Brown Building, constructed in 1912,

and renovated in 1931, features Art Deco touches along its roof line. Executed in pink brick with subtle ceramic tile diamonds, the building lends a quiet elegance to High Street. Designed by Pittsburgh architect E.B. Lee. Apartments are on the second floor. C

81. 419 High Street. Two-storey construction with brick corbeling in a 1930s mode. Formerly Chenoweth's Dry Goods. Modern renovations obscure this building's historic character. NC.

82. 420 High St. Standish Apartments and the Finn Building. The site of prominent Jewish merchant Samson Finn's ladies' dress shop. Largely unaltered. C.

83. 432 High Street. First Baptist Church, NC.

84. 439 High Street. The Mountaineer Sport Shop and Massullo's Cleaners. NC.

85. 449 High Street. The Dairy Queen. NC.

86. 442 High Street. Vernacular commercial construction, probably 1930s, of yellow Brick. Three storeys. C.

87. 450 High Street. James Davis House. C. 1850. This rambling frame structure is an excellent example of the residential architecture of the mid 19th century. Now occupied by the Morgantown Market, the building is a well-loved landmark in the city. Older citizens remember it as the Sanitary Confectionary. C.

88. 458 High Street. Concealed behind a modern shingled facade exists the 1927 era Hotel Berkshire. Only the roof line is visible from the rear. NC.

89. 466-98 High Street. One Valley Bank. Two buildings separated by a parking lot and drive-in facility that continues through to the corner of Spruce and Willey. NC.

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90. 487 High Street. I.C. White apartments. Built in 1911, these apartments are among the first in Morgantown. The metal bracketed cornices are original. The building has fan-shaped leaded glass over the entrance and iron trim around the balconies. Each floor contains four apartments centered around ventilation shafts that allow sunlight to the interior of the building. This is reminiscent of the "dumbbell" residential construction of industrial communities in New England, but White's apartments were far more spacious and genteel. They featured wide oaken wood trim, pocket doors, and large rooms, that could be combined by the device of folding doors. Occupying the street level store fronts have been an electrical supply store, a shoe repair service, a paint and wallpaper seller, and a cleaner and dyer. White was the father of structural geology, gaining a national reputation for his skills. Born in 1848 in rural Monongalia County, White's life was marked by public service, teaching, and research. C.

91. The Sports Fan. SW corner of High and Willey Streets. NC.

Kirk Street

92. 163 Kirk Street. Morgantown Printing and Binding. C. 1920, this building was constructed to house printing presses, and still engages in bookbinding, typesetting, and publications of all types. The simple painted brick structure, constructed in the early 1920s, is three storeys high and once housed a local newspaper, *The New Dominion*. C.

Pleasant Street.

93. 117-121 Pleasant Street. (The Brick Row) Projecting west of the district proper, this row of homes turned businesses is an example of a turn of the century architecture. Evident from the roof lines are the touches of the post-Victorian flavor of industrial Morgantown. These homes were converted to businesses in the 1920s, and have seen many facade renovations over the years. C.

94. 150(164, Sanborn) Pleasant Street. Stillwell's bookshop. Formerly Joseph Casing's Restaurant. Federal architectural detail. C.

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95. 148 Pleasant Street. See below. C

96. 160 Pleasant Street. These two buildings once held Dominick Pilegge's Tailor Shop, Star Wallpaper Company, and Slaven's Jewelers. They are now home to a Thrift Shop and Morgantown Health Right. These small commercial buildings bear the cornice detailing common to early twentieth century construction. C.

97. 220-224 Pleasant Street. Old Greer Building. The brick building features turn of the century storefront windows for two businesses, one on either side of a central access to apartments on the upper floors. Distinctive shingled bays assert architectural singularity to this block of Pleasant Street. The building once housed a music store. C.

98. 225 Pleasant Street. One of downtown's architectural treasures. Untouched since its construction in the early 1850s, this wooden storefront construction is a window into commercial life in the decade before the Civil War. A skylight in the roof was used by the Photo Crafters Studio that occupied the building for many years. Emerson's grocery occupied one of the storefronts. Changing addresses confuse the historical record, but Emerson's Fish Market was on this block as well, (233 Pleasant) perhaps in the other storefront of this building. Like the Davis homestead on High Street, this charming frame storefront is a rare treasure for Morgantown's historical identity. C.

99. 233 Pleasant Street. Frame with brick facade. Old wooden flooring attests to this building's great age, perhaps pre-1900. This also may have been the site of Emerson's fish market. C.

100. 231 Pleasant Street. Frame with brick facade Thomas Cleaners, constructed pre-1921, perhaps nineteenth century. C.

101. 244 Pleasant Street. The Dr. and Mrs. James A. Cox house. C. 1896. This home also has housed offices from its construction. An early 1940s renovation removed the porch and moved the main entrance. Constructed of red brick with fishscale trim, the home is now the home of a real estate agency. It

lends much dignity to this block of Pleasant Street. C.

This block of Pleasant Street is one of Morgantown's most charming. Three historic structures have been demolished in recent years, but those that remain comprise a microcosm of Morgantown's evolving history: the 1823 Neville House, the antebellum Emerson structure, the 1890s Greer Building, the 1895 Brock Reed and Wade Building, and the 1896 Cox Home. Pleasant Street continues across the South Park Bridge, joining the downtown with Historic South Park.

Spruce Street

102. 153 Spruce Street. Hastings Funeral Home, NC.

103. 198 Spruce Street, formerly the home of West Virginia University professor, W.T. Willey, this Federal style home was constructed between 1880-90. It now serves as a law office. C.

104. 206 Spruce Street. The Cox Home. Now serving as law offices, the 1898 Queen Anne Revival is fully restored and listed separately on the National Register of Historic Places. Designed by Elmer Jacobs, it adds much historic flavor to the downtown district. C.

105. 224 Spruce Street. Moose Lodge, modern construction that replaces the original building on the same site. In 1902, a home as grand as the Cox home stood here. NC.

106. 235 Spruce Street, Morgantown Florist Company building. This 1920s era commercial construction holds two store fronts, and residential apartments in two floors above. Greek immigrant John Batlas in 1919 founded the florist company. He was a florist and confectioner. C.

107. 237 Spruce Street. Joyce's. NC.

108. 275 Spruce Street. Vernacular brick commercial construction. This building and the one at 271 have housed cleaners, pressers, tailors and shoe repair. Construction estimated pre-1930. C.

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109. 268 Spruce Street. Modern brick storefront. NC.

109a. 274 Spruce Street. Modern construction. NC

110. 341 Spruce Street. Constructed before 1920, this sporting goods store has seen renovations over the years, but remains an example of early twentieth century vernacular commercial architecture. Early in its history, this building variously housed a restaurant, a roller skating rink, a garage, and a grocery store. Note the brick detail at the roof line and above the windows. C

111. 351 Spruce Street. The Crow- Garlow-Lewin Home. Constructed in 1906, this Queen Anne Revival (Elmer Jacobs) home is embellished with a stone arch over a second floor window. A beveled glass entrance and opalescent stained glass windows are featured also. Clustered Ionic columns support a sweeping porch roof that curves around the right side of the home. C.

112. 373 Spruce Street. City library, NC.

113. 386 Spruce Street. Spruce Street United Methodist Church. Designed and constructed in 1908 to replace an earlier building that fire destroyed, this Elmer Jacobs design features square towers that tease us with Gothic touches. They rise majestically above the church's roof line. Resting on a foundation of stone, this red brick structure asserts itself with two large Gothic, arched stained glass windows. C.

114. 389 Spruce Street. Morgantown City Hall. Constructed in 1924 upon the same lot its predecessor occupied, this elegant example of public architecture features a grand central arched entrance flanked by two bays, once home to fire engines, now occupied by city offices. The smooth stone facade features scrolled detail work. Corinthian column motifs, acanthus motifs, and a shield in the center of the entrance archway. The building contains three storeys, but it appears to have only two storeys from the outside. C.

115. 403 Spruce Street. Charles Martin residence, now medical offices Brick and frame siding underneath aluminum. Constructed before 1920. Many

alterations. C.

116. 419 Spruce Street. The Kathleen Snyder home. This residential frame structure was built in 1920. It served first as a home, later as the office of Dr. French Miller, then as the first home for the Morgantown Health Right clinic. Presently, homes occupy the structure. C.

117. 427 Spruce Street. Hope Donley home. This home was constructed in 1910, and is distinguished by a multi-paned, glassed-in front porch. Weatherboard construction under aluminum siding. C.

118. 432-36 Spruce Street. Delardas Apartments and, in the 1930s, Cut Rate Cleaning and Pressing, and Yung Lee Laundry. Constructed in 1920 by Greek immigrants, this red brick structure contributes additional material evidence of the role of immigrants to the history of Morgantown. C.

119. 445 Spruce Street. This brick Four-Square home, constructed in 1910, has been home to prominent citizens, businesses, fraternities, and college students. C.

120. 447 Spruce Street. Greek Orthodox Church. Important location for Morgantown's identity as a culturally diverse community. Formerly the First Christian Church, this pre-1920 construction has seen many changes over the years, but the roof line remains. C.

121. 456 Spruce Street. First Presbyterian Church and Memorial Wall. According to Thurston's directory, there is an old, old cemetery on this site as well, deeded to the congregation by a Dr. Brock. Callahan notes as well that lot 122 on Spruce Street was the Presbyterian burial ground. The church was constructed in 1954. The interior courtyard displays headstones moved from a federal era cemetery in Morgantown. The wall commemorates 56 early Morgantown leaders and revolutionary soldiers. Names appearing on the wall include some original lot owners in Morgantown. Col. William McCleery, who served under George Washington during the American Revolution deeded this land to the church. Names on the wall include Hugh McNeely, N.S. Evans,

Henry Dering, Fred D. Dering, Captain William Jarrett, and his son. The headstone of McCleery is here, although the name is spelled McCleary (as often appears in the historical record, as well.) The inscription cites him as a "frontier statesman." The church is not yet contributing, because of its age, but the site is significant to Morgantown's history. C.

122. 494 Spruce Street. Veterans of Foreign Wars. This is the site of the old Monongalia Academy. NC.

Forest Avenue

123. 228 Forest Avenue. The Gapen House. Once located on Spruce Street, this antebellum frame construction is now found behind the equally old High Street Market. Apartments, C.

124. 236 Forest Avenue. Equally old, as the one at 228 Forest Avenue, this frame dwelling is another peek into the Morgantown of the mid-nineteenth century. C

Walnut Street

125. 111 Walnut Street. Garo Art Gallery. This vernacular construction in 1908 has been home to many famous student night spots. Run by Italian immigrants for many years as "The Washington Cafe," Garo is now an art gallery. Its first incarnation was as a furniture store. C.

126. 116 Walnut Street. County offices. Formerly Messenger Brothers Cleaners. NC.

127. 140 Walnut Street. Bus station. NC.

128. 141 Walnut Street. Law offices, NC.

129. 153 Walnut Street. Law offices. Brick Federal architecture is evident at the roof line of this building that retains most of its architectural integrity. C.

130. 161(163 by Sanborn) Walnut Street. Modest early storefront

architecture is a comfortable addition to Walnut Street. Constructed before 1921, it served as a furniture store, a barber shop, and a paint store. Presently it is a law office. C.

131. 163 Walnut Street. This parking lot is the site of the buried remains of the Thompson Pottery works. Pottery enthusiasts and the Morgantown Historic Landmarks commission were unsuccessful in their attempts to excavate the site after a 1990 fire destroyed the century old Capellanti building which stood on the site. Evidence of the Thompson kiln resides in the northwest corner of the lot, approximately 8-10 feet below grade. The manufacture of pottery on this site, one of several in Monongalia County, was first begun by Jacob Foulk before 1785.[5] John Thompson bought him out in few years. Destroyed by fire in 1827 or 1830 (the sources vary), Thompson rebuilt the pottery and converted it to steam. He operated the works until 1853, when his son took over the business. Stoneware was still being manufactured on the site at the time of Wiley's history of the county, in 1883. Pottery from this place is of very high quality. The Smithsonian Institution owns many pieces as excellent examples of early American craftsmanship. C.

132. 165 (173-75, Sanborn) Walnut Street. The Dering Building, 1896. Designed by Elmer Jacobs for the Dering harness business, the structure features a stone facade with a pediment and finials. It has also served as a furniture store and mortuary. Arcade windows on the third floor are assertive. Above the midline, there is a wrought iron balcony. Recent anachronistic changes to the street level entrance make it one of a few Jacobs buildings to have been altered by succeeding owners. Listed separately on the National Register of Historic Places. C.

133. 181 Walnut Street, modern facade; this structure in 1930 housed a barber and a tailor. NC.

134. 185 (or 3) Walnut Street. The site of the Bonnie Bonnet Shop in early twentieth century Morgantown. This older commercial building is frame construction and once also housed a jewelry store. Built before 1921, this small structure has survived a fire. In the 1930s it was also a fruit and grocery store.

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C.

135. 201 Walnut Street. NE Corner of High Street.The Rand Building. Extensive alterations to the exterior on the High Street exposure. NC.

136. 216-26 Walnut. J.G. McCrory Building, circa 1937. Yellow brick and stylized brick corbeling emphasize seven upper storey windows that together form an Art Deco arch. This distinctive building is one of downtown's most remarkable historical resources of the Depression era. On this site also stood the old Liberty Theater and the shoe shine service of Greek immigrant Speeros Apostolides. C.

137. 228 Walnut Street. The Barbe and Davis Building, vernacular brick commercial construction, c 1925. It housed a bakery and an electrical supply house. The dark metal cornice distinguishes this structure. C.

138. 238 Walnut Street. Pappandreas Building, constructed early in the twentieth century, this multi-storey light brick building was home to a restaurant in the 1920s. C.

139. 248 Walnut Street. Commercial front added to an older home whose roof line is evident. It now houses several small businesses. C.

140. 270 Walnut Street. The Price house. Constructed in 1902, this imposing stone residence is exactly like the Garlow home on Spruce Street, only the details in finish are different. It has served as a fraternity house, restaurant, and office building. Designed by Elmer Jacobs, in the Queen Anne Revival style, the house features brick and rough stone adornments, and some of the finest stained-glass windows in the area. C.

141. 276 Walnut Street. The Shisler home. Another Elmer Jacobs construction, this brick home was build in 1902 and is among the last homes constructed in the downtown area. Palladian windows and dormers with pediments define its Colonial Revival style. Cut crystal transom and sidelights are fine examples of the genre. C.

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142. 219 Walnut Street, Loving's Furniture building. This fireproof construction is noted on the 1927 Sanborn Insurance Company maps. Known as the Price building when it was constructed in 1925, it became the location of the Loving Furniture Company in 1933. In the early 1980s, the building became home to Catholic Community Services. Modest alterations at street level. C.

143. 231 Walnut Street, legal offices, extensive stucco refurbishing to the exterior. Probably late nineteenth century frame construction. NC.

144. 235 Walnut Street. Book store. Example of pre-1900 commercial construction. A restaurant was formerly housed here. C.

145. 243-45 Walnut Street. Maiolo Building, Central Apartments, constructed 1922. This dark brick construction features three storefronts at street level and apartments above. C.

Wall Street (Maiden Alley)

146. 215 Wall Street. Early construction features three stories above street level, each with a wooden balcony. The store was a sign shop and apartments by 1920. C.

147. 219 Wall Street. Crescent Printing Building. Brick, multi-storey building has been a fixture in downtown Morgantown for decades. Once a job print shop, it is now a framing shop. The original modest commercial brick construction is intact. C.

148. 220-222 Wall Street. Side entrance to the High Street Kresge's Store.[6] C.

Willey Street

149. Corner of Willey and High streets. Wesley United Methodist Church. Constructed of stone in 1942, this church contributes a "cathedral" touch to the downtown. An elegant spire survives a 1953 renovation to the structure. C.

150. Corner of Willey and High streets. The Masonic Lodge. Constructed

before 1920, this dark brick structure features white marble veneer plates on its multi-storey facade. C.

151. 221 Willey Street. The Walters Home. Built, circa 1900, this National Register property designed in the Queen Anne Revival style by Elmer Jacobs features red brick construction, towers, and stained glass stairwell windows. Multi-pane glazing is a later addition. C.

152. 247 Willey Street. Trinity Episcopal Church. Gothic architecture executed in cut stone enhances the "cathedral" feel of the street. Bright red doors and antique stained glass windows punctuate the singular character of the building. Six years shy of 50 years old, this 1951 building nevertheless boasts 28 stained glass windows created of antique-style glass made in world-famous Milton, West Virginia. Significant for Morgantown is the fact that the windows were designed by the same artists who created the windows for the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. For these reasons, we believe that Trinity is a contributing structure, though it is less than the required 50 years of age. C.

153. 261 Willey Street. Alpha Phi Chapter House. Simple Federal construction lends a quiet dignity to Willey Street. The home is characteristic of early farm house construction in Monongalia County. Similar in ambience to the John Rogers house on Foundry Street. C.

154. NW corner of Willey and Price streets. Thomas Rogers House. This home was constructed in 1852 and extensively remodeled in 1900 by Elmer Jacobs. It features dark woodwork in the interior and a Greek Revival front porch adorned with dentil molding on the face. Brick and frame construction. C.

Section 8. Statement of Significance

Morgantown, West Virginia, as the head of navigation for the Ohio River system, assumed its role in American history in the midst of the French and Indian War, but loss marked this beginning. Thomas Decker and his fellow settlers along the creek that bears his name were victims of a 1758 attack by Delaware and Mingo Indians, who were

perhaps encouraged in the deed by their French allies. The Monongahela River Valley was a battlefield where, since 1754, two world powers clashed. A state of war existed between Britain and France as they pursued their claims to New World Empire. The indigenous Shawnee allied themselves with the French and fought to eject the British and their colonial Virginian colleagues.

Undeterred by this war and Shawnee Indian resistance, colonial exploration and settlement continued. The natural advantage of the terrain soon encouraged frontiersmen to try again to settle on the small high peninsula formed by the convergence of Decker's Creek and the Monongahela River.[23] The battles fought in this river valley taught many famous Virginians the skills they used, thirteen years later, to wage war anew. By 1769 many frontiersmen were in residence. This outpost in the wilderness was a strategic necessity during the French and Indian War. Peace brought some modest trade. Familiar with the terrain, experienced rebels conferred and fought in Morgan's Town during the American Revolution, helping to secure the revolutionary frontier for General Washington, who had fought in the Monongahela Valley in 1754 and knew the importance of the Monongahela River.

Morgantown lies west of the Valley and Ridge Province of the Appalachian Mountains, beside the Monongahela River upon a vast, slowly elevating plain that stretches westward to the Mississippi River Valley. Geologic changes formed this tiny peninsula in the wake of much activity that drove mountains upward from ocean bottoms, causing glaciers to recede, and flooding to follow. The north-flowing Monongahela River is a peculiar geologic attribute that has defined the area's history; generally, rivers in this hemisphere do not flow north. A few others in West Virginia do also, which fact is a simultaneous blessing and curse. Though these rivers lead north to larger cities, they are fickle. Flooding and droughts are equally difficult problems to those who depend on the river for transportation.

Before its identity with the European quest for empire in the American continent, this spot, and others in the Monongahela River Valley, were critical hunting areas for Indians. Several tribes were engaged in commerce with French traders and each other. The Iroquois league and the Shawnee dominated the Monongahela region.[24] Their legacy is an eternal one: the lyrical place names that characterize the region. From those times until the present the tiny peninsula along the Monongahela River has grown in stature and changed in focus, but it has always been important.

Morgantown's downtown business district is historically important under three of The National Park Service's criteria for historical significance: architecture, persons of

national significance, and broad themes in our history. The National Register of Historic Places already lists ten structures within the district: The Old Stone House, The Old Post Office, The Brown Building, The Monongalia County Courthouse, The Walters House, The Cox House, The Metropolitan Theater, The Rogers Home on Willey Street, the WCTU Building, and the Dering Building. Others are potentially eligible, as well.

Within the boundaries of the proposed district, 124 of 154 structures or sites contribute to the historic character of the downtown. We have drawn the district boundaries along the original grid laid out by the town founder, Zackquill Morgan, excepting University Avenue, which has sustained too many alterations. Thus, Chestnut Street, Spruce Street, Foundry Street and Willey Street bound our district. It encompasses most of the original fifty acres of Morgantown.

The district is associated with people and events that have made a measurable contribution to the broad patterns of American history and the West Virginia statehood movement. Key actors in the American past and West Virginia's formation illumine Morgantown's past. The downtown contains examples of the major basic themes in American architecture. The blend of early residential construction and commercial construction within the commercial center of the town gives the town an unusual character and evidences its great age. Morgantown has been incorporated for more than two hundred years. Settlement commenced in 1758.

Dominated by the work of a single architect, downtown Morgantown nevertheless boasts multiple architectural styles. Elmer Jacobs' high-style approach to commercial and residential architecture reflects all of the trends prevalent during his lifetime--the opulent, full-blown extravagance of the American Gilded Age. The crude log cabins that were constructed in the first years of settlement (C. 1760-1772) have disappeared from the downtown district, although a few remain elsewhere in the community.

This proposed historic district contains the remains of the original Thompson Pottery, among the first in America, and a signal enterprise in the history of American ceramic arts. An old Methodist graveyard, documented as early as the 1868 city directory, existed along Front Street (now University Avenue), until it was moved, but perhaps not completely, at the beginning of the 20th century, when West Virginia University acquired the site. Lots 122, 101, and thirty-two were also designated as cemeteries by town fathers. The historical record does not show that they moved these resting places before commercial construction began in the early nineteenth century.[25]

Morgantown is associated with the development of American interior waterways, which phenomenon is a key component of the nation's commercial and economic growth.

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Because of its location, Morgantown achieved importance in colonial America as the head of navigation for the Ohio River system and therefore a western point of water navigation. Designation of Morgantown as an historic resource will additionally call attention to the submerged remains of the original Morgantown wharf -- a 200-foot expanse of stone supported timbers. This wharf, at the end of Walnut Street, just outside the proposed district boundaries, holds extremely important insights to the commerce of the interior of Colonial America, Early Federal America, Young America, and Industrial America. [26] Morgantown held its importance in interior water commerce until sometime after Ohio statehood in 1803 took national population growth to more western regions that tapped the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

Morgantown is associated with many individuals who made major contributions to the broad patterns of American history. Zackquill Morgan, an important actor in the American Revolution was the town's founder. He first settled in the area in 1772, although others had been there first. Among them was Thomas Decker, in the midst of the French and Indian War, Samuel Owens in 1769, and Daniel Veach in 1770. Decker and his colleagues were slain. Owens and Veach later sold their holdings to Col. John Evans.[27] A tract of land between the creek and the river was conveyed to Morgan, who laid out "Morgan's Town." In 1785, Virginia chartered the town. Morgan won the land in a lottery conducted by the Virginia Land Office. He is among the earliest prominent Americans associated with downtown Morgantown, but he is hardly the only one. Many significant persons have ties to Morgantown. Most assuredly Benjamin Franklin never visited Morgantown, but he was an architect of the ill-fated Vandalia Colony that probably would have included Morgantown as one of its very few towns. In this era Morgantown was an important western settlement.

William McCleery, an early land lawyer, and Samuel Haymond, a prominent colonial surveyor, were important to the process of surveying and registering Revolutionary War land patents and pensioner claims in western Virginia in this era. McCleery served as a colonel under George Washington during the Revolutionary War, and Haymond was an associate of Washington, who mentions his fellow surveyor and a visit to the region in his diary.[28] The surveyor and the lawyer served various clients from many distant places, because Monongalia County at the time included most of what is now the northern half of West Virginia. Some eleven new counties have been born from some or all of the territory that was the original Monongalia County of 1776. Those land records, among the oldest in American history, were filed in the Monongalia County Courthouse.

Downtown Morgantown Historic District, Monongalia County, West Virginia

Albert Gallatin, President Thomas Jefferson's Secretary of the Treasury and philosophical rival of Alexander Hamilton, filed his naturalization papers in Monongalia County. Gallatin also registered his claim there for land in the greater Monongahela area.[29] Thomas Wetzel, George Croghan, and Michael Cresap, frontiersmen, diplomats, speculators and "Indian fighters," frequented Morgantown also, usually to share news of their adventures, accomplishments, and forays, and to display scalps and other bounty taken in their exploits.[30] Morgantown was a frequent stop for early itinerant ministers who brought religion to the frontiers of America. Francis Asbury, American disciple of Methodism's founder John Wesley, preached in Morgantown July 10, 1785, and on June 17, 1786.[31] Millie, a slave of David Robe, was hanged on the courthouse square for attempting to poison her master. This early episode of rebellion is important evidence of resistance to the institution of slavery.

In the nineteenth century, Waitman T. Willey, a prominent leader in West Virginia's statehood movement, practiced law in Morgantown. He was one of the first two United States Senators from the new state. After the Civil War, U.S. Senator Stephen B. Elkins, the namesake of the Randolph County seat, was the principal investor in the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank. He and his father-in-law, Henry Gassaway Davis, guided most of the timbering and coal mining industry in northern West Virginia. Professor I.C. White, a Morgantown resident, is internationally known as the father of structural geology, which science greatly advanced mineral exploration and development. Later, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt stayed in Morgantown when she was visiting one of her pet projects, the Arthurdale settlement in Preston County, during the Great Depression.

The important relationship of the Monongahela River to the community's history is significant. The westward push of Colonial Americans, and later of Revolutionary Americans, prompted the young nation's early presidents to look westward, even beyond the Monongahela, to the Mississippi River Valley. The quest for empire influenced the presidencies of George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. Therefore developments in Morgantown and other interior communities were important national concerns.

Washington was confronted with the Whisky Rebellion in the Monongahela Region. Monongahela Rye Whisky was an important local commodity in this era and for many years later. Pennsylvania and Virginia farmers resisted the will of the President's administration when an excise tax was placed on their production.

John Adams struggled against the influx of European immigrants who moved to western regions, tilting the political balance as they became U.S. citizens. Gallatin's

naturalization record suggests that Morgantown was an important seat of law and government in the eighteenth century. Jefferson and Madison devoted their presidential efforts to securing the Republic's interior reaches and repelling opportunistic incursions from French and British soldiers. Madison's extended family owned lands in the west; one of his cousins served with General Andrew Lewis in the Battle of Point Pleasant. Jefferson's father, Peter Jefferson, surveyed much of western Virginia and mapped it in 1751.

Thus we see that the tiny settlement of Morgantown along the Monongahela River was an important meeting site for many early Americans who were involved in settlement, exploration, land acquisition, revolution, and Indian affairs.[32]

Thomas Decker's settlement was present before 1758, when all perished in an Indian attack. Samuel Owens settled in Morgantown in 1769, followed by Daniel Veach in 1770. Colonel John Evans settled shortly after Zackquill Morgan in 1772. Charles Martin, William Haymond, John Pierpont, Thomas Pindall, David Scott, Richard Harrison, Jonathan Cobun, William Stewart, John Statler and Michael Kern, whose names adorn locations and roads throughout Monongalia County, were area settlers who relied on Morgantown in the years before the Declaration of Independence.

In 1773, according to a memoir written in 1843 by the son of Haymond, Morgantown was a stockaded fort. Haymond's father brought eight slaves with him to Morgantown when he moved from the east. Also in that year, Bald Eagle, a friendly Indian and frequent visitor at Kern's Fort (a National Register property) near Morgantown, was slain along the Monongahela and his body set adrift by his murderers. This unprovoked attack was one of several that led to the confrontation between Virginia and the Indians, known as Dunmore's War. Governor Lord Dunmore, expansionist to the core, favored war with the Indians and confrontation with Pennsylvania over borders that were, in this era, poorly defined. His efforts did much to confuse issues and heighten the tension within the Monongahela region just before the American Revolution.

During the Revolution, town founder Morgan, by means still unresolved as fair or foul, defeated a 1777 Tory plot to secure the lower Monongahela region for British interests. Colonel Morgan was indicted for the death of Tory sympathizer John Higginson, and ordered to Williamsburg to stand trial for the murder. According to John Gibson, who reported the incident to General Hand, the region's commanding officer, Higginson drowned while crossing a flat at the mouth of Cheat River. The Tory, bound at the hands and feet with irons, either fell out of the boat or was thrown out by Morgan. Although the authorities ordered the colonel to stand trial over the incident, his men

refused to serve the Revolutionary cause without their trusted leader Zackquill Morgan. Nothing came of his indictment. Historian Thomas P. Abernethy contends that Morgan's indictment was retribution for a treason charge the colonel leveled against George Morgan, Simon Girty, John Campbell, Alexander McKee and several others. These frontiersmen were also arrested and their behavior was the subject of a congressional investigation, which found insufficient evidence to convict. [33]

In 1784, the year after the Peace of Paris established British recognition of American sovereignty, George Washington visited the area to investigate a possible route for his proposed canal between the Monongahela and Potomac rivers.

The next year, the state of Virginia formally chartered Morgantown, which then set to the task of establishing itself as a farming community. Foodstuffs and liquor dominated local production, and some farmers exported modest agricultural surpluses to Pittsburgh and points beyond. Incorporators were Morgan, Samuel Hanway, John Evans, Michael Kern, and James Daugherty. The new village continued to attract settlers, although the journey was difficult. Overland travel brought some new residents to the valley. Teachers started schools by 1780. In 1784, Thomas Laidley established in Morgan's Town the first store in Monongalia County, which then encompassed nearly half the present state of West Virginia.

One British immigrant, William Scripps, was "victimized" by the land speculators, and found himself in possession of lands along the Monongahela River. When he arrived in Morgantown, his cortege consisted of three wagons, one six-horse team and two four-horse teams. "My mother rode Chevalier," Scripps wrote. The animal was "a favorite horse that had carried General Washington through the War of the Revolution, but being superannuated the General's overseer sold him to my father as suited to my mother. . . The settlers on our road had been Revolutionary soldiers and generally recognized and sympathized with the poor animal."[34]

Scripps' family suffered terribly from Virginia's land laws after arriving in Morgantown in early December 1792. After several attempts to find suitable land, the family ended up on a farm somewhere in Monongalia County, struggling to stay alive and pay taxes.

Locally produced Monongahela Rye whisky associated Morgantown with western Pennsylvanians who resisted Alexander Hamilton's federal excise tax on whisky in 1794. Copper stills, after 1790, were a common import into Morgantown, where farmers/distillers "worked up the corn and rye crops" into whisky. They saw the excise tax as an indignity against a modest farmer's crop of grain, and they met it with much resistance.

"Why," the rebels demanded, "should there be a tax on drinking corn, but not on eating it?"[35] Remoteness of the locale made it economically essential to export corn and rye as whisky rather than as bulky grain. As grain, corn was too expensive to transport. On the other hand, four gallons of whisky on a horse's back was the equivalent of sixteen bushels of grain.[36] The whisky was packed eastward to Winchester where farmers traded it for salt and iron. Farmers also shipped it down the Ohio to New Orleans, where it was highly desired. Throughout the young nation, "Old Monongahela Rye Whisky" had become an article of exchange that helped many a Morgantown distiller cope with the abysmal conditions of transportation, the scarcity of hard metal currency, and the absence of banking services.

At least once opponents of the tax invaded the federal revenue office in Morgantown. President Washington's friend, the Revolutionary War colonel William McCleery, tasted the rebellion first hand. The land lawyer, tax attorney, and collector of federal revenue reported that he fled rebel forays into Morgantown dressed as a slave, to avoid "a coat of tar and feathers,"[37] For the western Virginians, open rebellion gave way to quiet, determined resistance. Moonshine and mountain lawlessness are folk myths that have their roots in the independence those mountain dwellers asserted in the face of an unjust tax. The folk song, *Copper Kettle,* says it best: "My daddy he made whisky, my grand daddy, he did, too. We ain't paid no whisky tax since 1792 . . ."

As the eighteenth century came to a close, President John Adams had failed in his plan to curb criticism of his government and to control the political process. His Alien Laws did not limit immigration of new settlers in America. Likewise, his high-handed and repressive Sedition Law did not successfully stifle criticism of the Federalist regime. Immigration and naturalization continued apace, threatening to fill voter rolls in western regions with land-hungry immigrants. Settlement along the western frontiers of America increased. These new Americans saw more to trust in the Republicanism of Thomas Jefferson than the Federalism of John Adams. Land claims in the Monongahela region were recorded in the few frontier courthouses, including Morgantown, in record numbers.[38]

Adams had forestalled a war with France, and he stifled the excesses of Alexander Hamilton, but it cost him reelection. His arch-Federalist views offered little in the way of political and economic comfort to those found far away from the eastern cities. Thomas Jefferson ascended to the presidency with a vision of a "yeoman democracy" in which every man owned his own land. His sympathies for the settlers of western Virginia are a matter of record.

President Jefferson, acknowledging the significance of the western frontier and the

interior waterways of America, in 1803 accommodated the acquisition of the Louisiana territory. He believed it was essential to the new nation's survival. Jefferson knew that whoever held the port of New Orleans controlled the economic destiny, and therefore the political loyalty, of the residents of America's interior. The farmers, potters, distillers, boat makers, salt makers, coopers, and colliers of Virginia's interior were no exception. From within the Monongahela River Valley came much of the lumber, barrels, foodstuffs, liquor, and pottery exported to Europe during the great wars for Empire.[39] These exports, sometimes shipped from Morgantown on flatboats, keelboats, and pirogues, forestalled the starvation of many Europeans during this difficult time.[40]

The loyalty of those who lived in the west and in the Louisiana Territory was an uncertain thing in these years. The Aaron Burr-Harman Blennerhassett conspiracy during Jefferson's term is compelling evidence of the potentially frail nature of the western region's loyalty. In political disgrace and criminal flight, Vice President Burr came west after killing Hamilton in a duel in 1804. He and Blennerhassett, and their allies, failed in a conspiracy to wrest the interior from U.S. control and seize Mexico. They hoped to form a new country in which Burr would have greater political power. His treachery reached to Morgantown. Burr's agent in treason, Erich Bollman, M.D., visited at great length in Morgantown, where Benjamin Reeder and William McCleery entertained him. Significantly for our story, Burr's scheme relied upon his belief that America's vast interior was politically unstable, and loyalties could be turned. Burr also relied upon the Ohio River navigation system to reach his western destination. This escapade, a major event in American history, further emphasizes the political importance of small western settlements like Morgantown. Burr's outrageous behavior established the American definition of treason while ruining the life of the hapless Blennerhassett. Burr's treasonous caprice spurred federal resolve to secure the loyalty of the interior regions of the continent.

No sooner had Burr failed in his mischief, than European belligerents looked again to the New World for gain. American shipping became the target of French and British raiding parties. When negotiations failed, Jefferson resorted to embargoes on trade with the belligerents. Defending American neutrality in the European war consumed Jefferson, whose efforts were not successful.

It fell to President James Madison, architect of the Republic, to defend Jefferson's vision and the western port of New Orleans in the War of 1812. After years of trying to keep America neutral in a European fracas, Madison was forced to arms. American embargoes against trade with belligerents were failing. British forces and western Indians threatened the interior. Thus, the war reflected a concern for what was happening along

the western frontiers of America, and on the high seas. By this time, Morgantown was no longer a true frontier town -- Ohio had been a state for eleven years. In 1814, a contingent of Morgantown men answered the governor's call for assistance in defending Washington City from British depredations. Led by William N. Jarrett, the force soon turned back, no longer needed because the British had already burned Washington. Ships full of Red Coats were en route to New Orleans by sea. Americans, whose political loyalty was now firmly decided, met them. Under the guidance of General Andrew Jackson, patriotic American soldiers sent the British packing. The battle of New Orleans was a rout that firmly settled the issue of American control of the Mississippi River Valley, the Port of New Orleans, and the loyalty of those who lived there.

During the years of the Embargo, nascent western industry and commerce had received a welcome increase in business. These enterprises labored to fill the void caused by the interruption of European trade. For Morgantown, this meant continued business at the pottery, and on the wharf, where they were shipping iron production and nails from the Cheat River Valley furnaces as fast as production allowed.[41] After the war, attempts to protect their young enterprises with stiff tariffs helped to separate western Virginians from the economic ideologies of their eastern Virginia brethren.

Banking services were sorely needed in Morgantown for businesses to advance. Matthew Gay and several associates, in 1814 were able to go around Virginia's difficult banking laws and bring a financial institution to the town. "The Monongalia Farmer's Company of Virginia" was chartered by the state and served the community's banking needs until 1840, when it dissolved its charter. A second bank established itself in Morgantown in 1834. The Merchants and Mechanics Bank was a branch of the Wheeling bank of the same name.

After the War of 1812, the need for improvements to the Monongahela River channel was beginning to assert itself. Morgantown's leaders knew that river commerce depended upon the weather. Spring floods and summer droughts were equally hard on the business of transporting industrial and agricultural products. The community was a sturdy one, but these transportation difficulties slowed growth. The population of Morgantown did not reach 1,000 until well into the 19th century. Nevertheless, the community leaders saw a need for education in the valley.

Morgantown's identity with higher education began in 1810, with construction of a one story brick schoolhouse. The building stood on the southeast corner of Spruce and Boundary (Willey) Streets, on a lot donated by Michael Kern. Before long, from this development, Core writes, "would ensue an academy that would be Morgantown's very own."[42] In 1814, this building was made available to the newly chartered Monongalia

Academy. Led by Matthew Gay, the lawyer and banker, and several other prominent town fathers, the school served the educational needs of western Virginians for over half a century. Enrollment peaked at 176 students, representing fourteen different states.

Education for women was provided beginning in 1831, with the establishment of the Female Seminary on Lot 113, (the corner of Chestnut and Fayette Streets). Actual classes began in 1833, when construction on the building was completed. Two female institutions were developed in this era, with locations and ownership overlapping. The original seminary ultimately became Morgantown Female Collegiate Institute. In 1858, a new addition was built, and in 1868, older portions of the seminary were sold to Mrs. Elizabeth I. Moore, widow of Woodburn Female Seminary's superintendent. The Monongalia Academy ultimately purchased the seminary buildings, which stood on the present West Virginia University Campus, and gave them to the state. All the buildings burned on January 25, 1873.

Beginning in 1850, the trustees of the Academy began agitating for state support to turn their institution into a college, but they were unsuccessful. Success finally arrived in 1867, when the state received its Land Grant funding to establish an agricultural college. The Academy's board offered the state all the resources and funds of the Academy if the new college would be located in Morgantown. The offer was worth $50,000.

The legislature was torn between siting the new college in Morgantown or Moundsville, but Moundsville's preference for the new state penitentiary and Morgantown's generous offer settled the issue: Morgantown would have a college. The Academy building on Spruce Street was then sold back to citizens in Morgantown to house a new graded school. West Virginia University, then, was born within the downtown historic district of Morgantown, and at the behest of citizens of the town. By 1883, the University occupied twenty acres beside the northern boundary of the downtown historic district, on land originally belonging to Squire Benjamin Reeder, who is buried there. Reeder's home was one of the Seminary buildings that burned in 1873.

The years of transition between agricultural community and college town saw a gradual decline in the industrial production of the Monongahela River Valley. In future years, both industry and education would ultimately claim the first loyalty of the community. Neither fine rye whisky nor exquisitely thrown pottery was responsible for Morgantown's mature identity. By 1847, the Cheat iron works were failing as the western ore fields opened. The pottery did not expand. The boisterous frontier town gradually became calmer -- if only somewhat. Travelers and adventurers were less frequent, academy students more visible. The B and O Railroad had supplanted the old National Road as the best land transportation available to those traveling west. The

tourists of these decades bypassed picturesque Morgantown for places served by trains or that carriages could reach more comfortably.

The Civil War intruded upon the town's quiet decline. The war brought stress to Morgantown as it did everywhere. Rising western Virginian frustration with the eastern slave power prompted westerners to lead Virginia into the Union -- at least a part of Virginia. From 1861-63, western leaders such as Francis Pierpont, John Carlile, and Morgantown's Waitman T. Willey, and others asserted the merits of statehood for the west. Nurtured by northern industrial economic ties and perspectives, many western Virginians were loyal to the Union. The Union's need to control the B and O Railroad at Harpers' Ferry encouraged the President. A mildly reluctant Abraham Lincoln on January 31, 1862, signed the statehood legislation, to become effective on June 20, 1863. This turn of affairs did not spare Morgantown from a sorrowful investment in the Civil War.

Morgantown's location well behind Union lines could not protect the town from the daring and terror of the Jones-Imboden raiders. On April 27, 1863, riders from Kingwood warned Morgantown that there were 5,000 Confederates encamped to the east of town. Prominent citizens fled town lest they become prisoners who could be used against the town. Senator Willey was one of those who fled, as were the leaders of a local bank.

Capturing Senator Willey was indeed the objective of the Jones-Imboden raiders. When they arrived in Morgantown, they could not find him. Some sixty of the raiders charged down the two main streets of town. Fearful citizens fled while rebels searched every street and barn. They managed to commandeer thirty or forty horses for the Confederate effort, but could not find Willey. The raiders briefly occupied the town, placing guards on every saloon and drug store to insure the courteous conduct of Confederate soldiers. It was all useless. The soldiers had long awaited a taste of Monongahela Rye. They found a way around the sentries. One soldier, young Bushrod Washington, avowed to a local lass that the Monongahela Rye Whisky was superior to any he had enjoyed in the South. The swain was the son of Lewis Washington who had testified against John Brown in 1859 in Harpers Ferry. Some local accounts aver the lass was the daughter of Waitman T. Willey, who fed and entertained the invaders to buy her father time to escape, and to spare their home, Chancery Hill, from destruction. The occupiers left Morgantown for Fairmont the next day. Mercifully they did not burn the bridge over the Monongahela.

Rumors of raiders, and fears of their return, dominated Morgantown for the duration of the war. None returned until August 1864, when a small band of rebels freed prisoners from the county jail and defaced some public records. Despite these pressures

and fears, Morgantown remained Unionist during the war. One Confederate raider branded the town a "stinking Yankee hole." For sure, in the cellar of the Berman Building within the historic district, a cell housed Confederate prisoners of war. But the daring Jones-Imboden Raid of April, 1863, left no doubt that Confederate guns could reach Unionist Morgantown.

With Lee's surrender in 1865, Morgantown's attention again turned to economic growth. The first development was the installation of telegraph service in 1866 in the courthouse. Before the war, Morgantown was struggling to become more than a collection of saloons and churches and rough muddy streets. After the war, that transition came with lightning speed. Morgantown grew into a legal and financial hub that supported the restlessness of coal mining, glass making, timbering, railroad building, and the other industrial enterprises that comprised the Second Industrial Revolution in America.

Buried deep within the mountains, the wasting vegetation of the swamps of earlier eons had become high quality coal. Vast mineral seams wakened eastern investors to the marketability of their long-held speculative investments. Near Morgantown, the Pittsburgh seam alone was nine feet thick in places. There were others seams, too. Bakersfield, Upper and Lower Freeport, and the Upper and Lower Kittaning are but a few of the named mineral veins that underpin the Monongahela Valley. In time, industrial workers would fill the surrounding villages and hillsides with culture, music, language and perspectives of Europe and the Middle East.

Tragically for the indigenous farmers of the region, it took more than a moldboard plow to recover the riches that lay beneath their fields. Mineral wealth accrued to those who could afford the machinery to find it. Slowly at first, the mountains of Appalachia began to produce "black gold." Gathering momentum with every blow of the pick, the juggernaut of coal mining redefined the Monongahela River Valley, and with it, our small town on the peninsula where Decker's Creek joins the Monongahela River.

Nearly all of the Appalachian towns along navigable waterways grew quickly. For Morgantown, and other West Virginia towns, long quiescent absentee investment from faraway cities generated an industrial climate and economic boom that had eluded the best efforts of local leaders for nearly a century. Proximity to Pittsburgh, established banks, and West Virginia University thrust Morgantown to the forefront of valley towns in this era. An air of rough sophistication surrounded the town.

Coal mining had resumed at a much faster pace than before the war. After Reconstruction, thousands upon thousands of foreign nationals came to the Appalachian mountains. One hundred years after dreams of land beckoned Europeans to the Monongahela Valley, coal echoed the call. Whether desperate or ambitious, Europeans

were now coming for wages. These workers came to every location within the industrial fields of West Virginia to cut timber and mine coal.

The many immigrants gave Morgantown a new identity. Multiple languages and social ways changed life in the region. Unable to supply the work force needs of the industrial revolution locally, greater Morgantown was soon home to thousands of new residents from seemingly every corner of the world. From northern Europe, eastern Europe, Russia, Poland, Austria, China, Greece, France, Italy, Belgium, Croatia, Syria, and Lebanon, these immigrants joined with many thousands of newly freed slaves to drive an economic phenomenon of "boom and bust" that has become synonymous with West Virginia. Morgantown's location in the heart of the bituminous coal fields and its proximity to the north-flowing Monongahela River gave the downtown district an increasingly complex role in economic development. A maturing West Virginia University, to the north of the district, helped to anchor the downtown's financial and commercial identity.

The cultural differences that accompanied immigration brought to Morgantown a history of difficult social relationships. Ultimately though, these various perspectives coalesced into a distinctively international outlook for such a small city. The insights of all its new citizens contributed to Morgantown's old-world insularity, often expressed as assertive ethnic loyalties. A broad tolerance for difference and changing social ways, however, supplanted old European resentments and Appalachian suspicions. Insularity was a bankrupt tool for enhancing life in the new world. Immigrants and their sons became prominent merchants, businessmen and investors. Their perspectives added to the community's architectural flavor and political tone. Suffused with cultural diversity, Morgantown watched as its resurgent skyline drew upon architectural classics. Italianate, European revival, modern vernacular. Early Federal, Queen Anne Revival, and to a careful eye -- Gothic architectural expressions stand side by side, evidencing the town's unique material culture. The town's leading architect, Elmer Jacobs, worked in all these media, though he was not an immigrant.

Morgantown's High Street became the site of a working theater -- a miniature replica of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. This structure was the project of Greek immigrants. Jewish immigrants established small mercantile businesses that became synonymous with the height of fashion and good taste. Samson Finn's shop on High Street remains a prestigious lady's shop. It was established in 1915, bearing the name Finn's until acquired and renamed by another owner in the late 1980s. An African-American shoe service, Italian restaurants and grocery stores, French and Swiss customers, Eastern European workers, and multitudinous new religions and cultures churned within downtown

Morgantown.

These businesses, and many others, broadened the original mission of Morgantown as a "support" area for neighboring enterprises. West Virginia University historically relied upon downtown Morgantown heavily for its commercial requirements in this era. Banks in Morgantown supported the mining business and other endeavors. Early in the town's history, they had circumvented Virginia's difficult banking laws to allow for the establishment of banking in Morgantown by the dawn of the nineteenth century, a difficult accomplishment of which early Morgantown leaders were justly proud. There have been as many as eight banks on High Street; five survive.

Morgantown owed its improved accessibility and growth to the cyclic pulse of coal mining. Improvements to the river channel and the arrival of railroads brought new people to Morgantown while they also hauled the coal away. Nine feet of slack water on the Monongahela River by 1890 tied Morgantown to Pittsburgh. Always characterized by hotels, eateries, and ordinaries, the downtown began to be host to ever more lawyers, surveyors, banks, coal executives, timber barons, college professors, and college students.[43]

Section 8: Significant Persons

1758-1800:
Zackquill Morgan; William McCleery; Samuel Haymond; Albert Gallatin; Francis Asbury; Millie, a slave resister who was hanged; George Croghan; Michael Cresap; Simon Girty; Bald Eagle, a friendly Indian slain by whites; Governor Lord Dunmore; Tory John Higginson; George Morgan; John Campbell, and Alexander McKee.

1800-1860:
Aaron Burr, Waitman T. Willey, William N. Jarrett, Matthew Gay

1860-1900:
The Jones-Imboden Raiders, Waitman T. Willey

1900-1945:
Stephen B. Elkins, I.C. White, Eleanor Roosevelt

Section 10. Verbal Boundary description

We have drawn the boundaries of the Downtown Morgantown Historic District to encompass most of the original grid laid out by Zackquill Morgan, the town founder in 1785, excepting University Avenue (Front Street). Our district is bounded by Chestnut Street, Spruce Street, Foundry Street and Willey Street. Morgantown's sixty-one acres encompass most of the original fifty acres conveyed to Morgan. A finger thrusts west of Chestnut Street along Walnut Street to capture the structure at the Northeast corner of Walnut Street and University Avenue. A second finger reaches west along Pleasant Street to capture the "brick row."

Section 10. Boundary Justification

These boundaries reflect the central core of downtown Morgantown that retains the historic character of the community. It contains commercial, legal, residential, and religious structures, all contained on the tiny peninsula formed by the convergence of Decker's Creek and The Monongahela River. The physical character of the district has evolved gradually over the two centuries of Morgantown's history, but the critical functions of the town's core have not, nor has the essential character of the community. We still have grand homes interspersed with commercial buildings, even as the turn of the century brought multi-storey structures and skyscraper construction to the district. High Street is the central core of the business district, flanked by Spruce and Chestnut streets. To the north, Willey Street separates downtown from West Virginia University -- historic in its own right, while Foundry Street on the south is but one street away from Decker's Creek. The South Park Bridge between two contributing structures on Spruce Street, carries traffic east along Pleasant Street into Historic South Park, a National Register Historic District. At the western end, Pleasant Street carries traffic to the Westover Bridge spanning the Monongahela River -- a profoundly historic American interior waterway.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE: 75 acres approximately

UTM REFERENCES

1. 17/589960/4387300

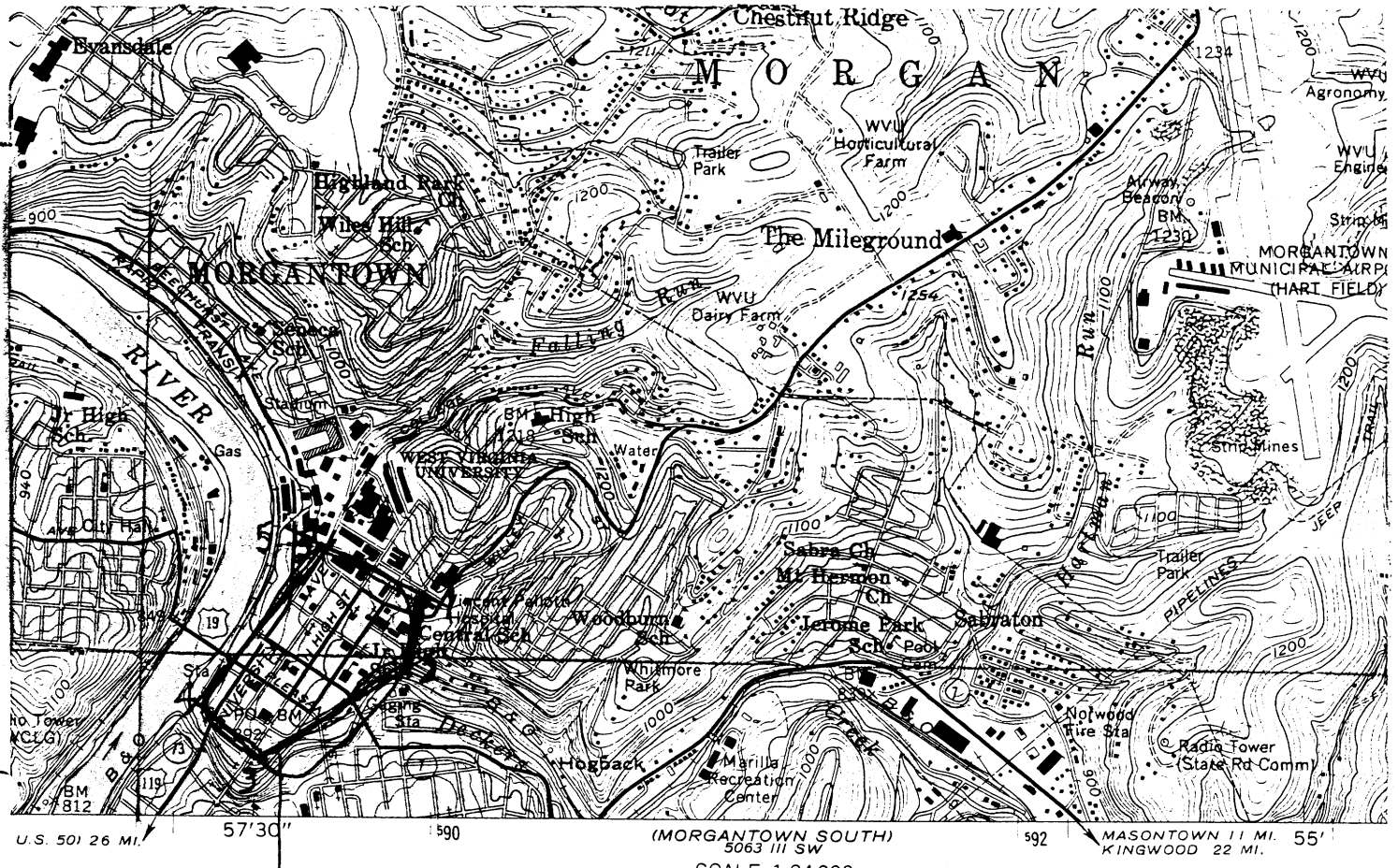
2. 17/589950/4386980

3. 17/589420/4386660

4. 17/589200/4386860

5. 17/589630/4387370

WILLEY ST.
FOREST ST
FAYETTE ST.
WALNUT ST.
CHESTNUT ST.
HIGH STREET
SPRUCE STREET
PLEASANT ST.
KIRK ST.
FOUNDRY ST.
VACANT LOT



SCALE 1:24000

1 ½ 0 1 MILE

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 .5 0 1 KILOMETER

MN GN 0°41' 12 MILS

1976 MAGNETIC NORTH AT CENTER OF SHEET

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

Downtown Morgantown Historic District.

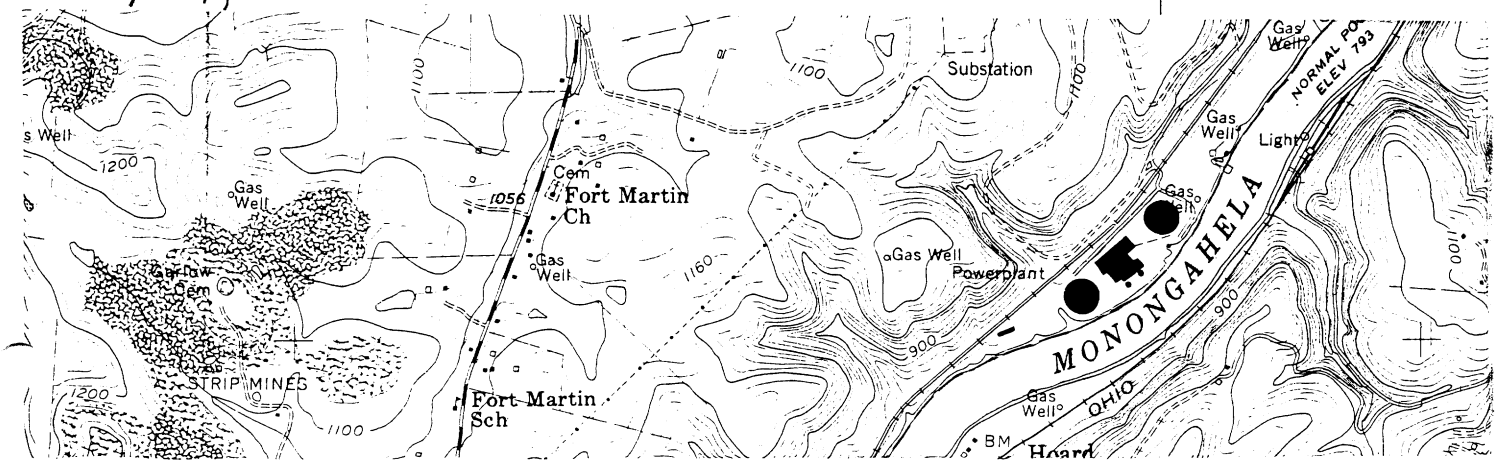
ACREAGE = 75 ACRES APPROX.

UTM:

1. 17/589960/4387300
2. 17/589950 4386980
3. 17/589420 4386660
4. 17/589255/4386860
5. 17/589630/4387370

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 s
taken 1976



CITIZENS
CITIZENS
ONE WAY
ONE WAY

MORGANTOWN
MUNICIPAL
BUILDING

MIN 50 FINE

METROPOLITAN
METROPOLITAN
ROBERT A YAGLE