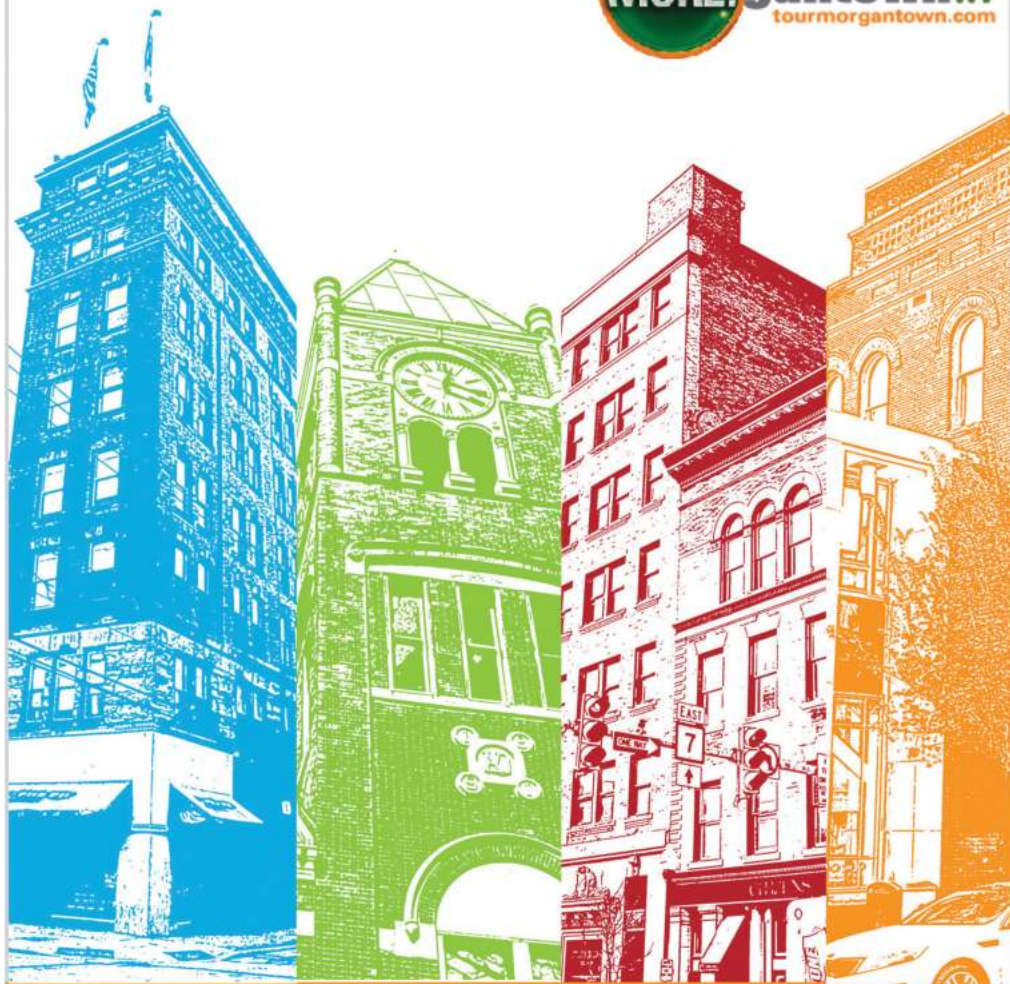


Historic DOWNTOWN **M** morgantown



AUDIO WALKING TOUR

Let's begin with a little Morgantown history...

Morgantown was once part of America's frontier. Thomas Decker is believed to have created the first settlement here in 1758, but it was not until 1772, when Colonel Zackquill Morgan settled in the area, that Morgantown became a permanent settlement. The settlement grew quickly, with Morgans-Town receiving a charter from the VA Assembly in 1785 in the location of present-day Morgantown.

In 1867, West Virginia University was established in Morgantown to fulfill the terms of the 1862 Morrill Land-Grant Colleges Act. However it was not until 1886, when the B & O Railroad reached Morgantown, that the city went through a period of growth. While Downtown Morgantown once housed predominantly residential structures, in the early 1900s many of these homes were converted into the retail and office locations that exist here today.

The Morgantown New Dominion claimed, "Almost all the architectural beauty of Morgantown is due to the skill and progressive ideas... of our resident architect." This architect was Elmer Jacobs, the designer of many of the buildings on this tour, and the individual who transitioned Morgantown's architecture from its modest past to its flourishing future.

The historic district of Downtown Morgantown follows the same general grid that was laid out by Zackquill Morgan and features 122 historically significant buildings, with eleven achieving individual listings on the National Register of Historic Places. Throughout Downtown Morgantown, visitors can view the building craftsmanship and downtown character that captures our town's evolution from the early 1800s to the present.

1. Donley Building

201 High Street



This Richardsonian Romanesque building was designed by Morgantown architect Elmer Jacobs in 1895 to house the Morgantown Post Office. This famous Morgantown architect's offices were located on the third floor of the Donley Building. The building acquired its name when Edward Donley and John L. Hatfield purchased it in 1950.

Note: This building houses the Greater Morgantown Convention & Visitor Center

2. Brick Row

119-137 Pleasant Street



In 1894, the B&O Railroad reached Morgantown, beginning a period of growth for the city. To meet the new housing demand, these boarding houses, known as "Brick Row" were built. Morgantown architect Elmer Jacobs and a variety of other Morgantown residents lived here. Storefronts were not added until 1921.

3. Israel Cohen Building

160 Pleasant Street



This building was used as a place of worship by the Methodist Episcopal Church beginning in 1849. In 1904, it was sold to I.G. Lazzelle, whose name is still dimly legible beneath the building's pediment. It has served as a business location and storefront since that time. Its name comes from Israel Cohen, who purchased the building in 1921.



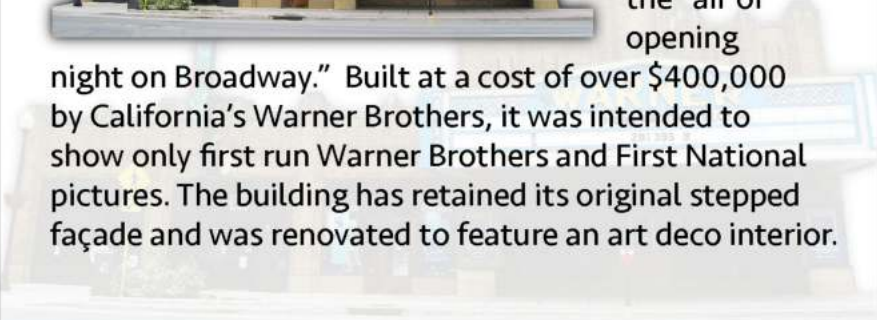
4. The Warner Theatre

147 High Street



On June 12, 1931, this Art Deco theater opened with the "air of opening

night on Broadway." Built at a cost of over \$400,000 by California's Warner Brothers, it was intended to show only first run Warner Brothers and First National pictures. The building has retained its original stepped façade and was renovated to feature an art deco interior.



5. The Hotel Morgan



127 High Street

Named in honor of Col. Zackquill Morgan, the Hotel Morgan opened in 1925 with more than 200 guests attending the gala. The hotel has hosted an array of people ranging from traveling salesmen to several famous personages, including Eleanor Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy.



6. Monongalia Arts Center



107 High Street

Completed in 1915, the Old Morgantown Post Office features a Neoclassical style. Designed by Oliver Wenderoth, then supervising architect for the United States Treasury, it is reminiscent of the imposing federal buildings in Washington, D.C. It has been the home of the Mon Arts Center since 1977 and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Note: The center is open to the public, free of charge.

7. John Rogers House



156 Foundry Street

John Rogers was a prominent early land developer and active community member in Morgantown. He built this Federal style house on his farm in

1840, which was a working farm until the early 1900s.



8. Lazier/McNeill House



44 High Street

The name of this building comes from its two previous owners—Henry B. Lazier and Ed McNeill. After serving in the Union army, Lazier

built this Italianate home in 1875, nine years after opening a combination book store and drug store on Courthouse Square.

9. William Aldrich Home

76 High Street



This vernacular Queen Anne style home was constructed in the mid-1890s and was originally owned by William Aldrich, an early Dean of West Virginia University's College of Engineering and Mechanical

Arts. This building has had few modifications to its exterior despite its conversion from a residence to a business location in the 1940s.



10. Cox Building

114 High Street



Built by West Virginia Supreme Court Judge Frank Cox in the 1920s, the building remains in the Cox family to this day. The letters "COX" are still inscribed in the middle of the parapet roofline.

11. Donley/Neville House

170 High Street



Road builder Joshua Neville constructed this Federal style home in the 1820s. It was later purchased and altered by James P. Donley in the mid-19th century. While the second floor is relatively unaltered, the first floor has been remodeled several times since 1885.



12. Donley Apartments/Old Greer Building

220 Pleasant Street



Built in 1907 by James P. Donley, the building was later purchased by Herbert Chester Greer. Greer was a West Virginia industrialist and owner of the West Virginia Newspaper Publishing Company who is considered the “father” of metropolitan Morgantown. The building originally had “DONLEY” written between its two bay projections, but this was modified to say “GREER” when it changed ownership.

13. Dr. James Cox Home

244 Pleasant Street



Dr. James A. Cox, a former mayor of Morgantown, built this house in the Princess Anne style—a simplified Queen Anne. The home was built in 1896 to serve as both his medical practice office and his personal residence.



14. Judge Frank Cox House

206 Spruce Street



Elmer Jacobs designed this Queen Anne style home for Frank Cox, a West Virginia University law school graduate, a practicing attorney and a West Virginia Supreme Court Judge. The house was restored in 1983.

15. Brock, Reed, Wade Buildings

204-212 High Street



This site is comprised of two Victorian eclectic style buildings, built three years apart by Luther S. Brock, James Madison Reed and S.S. Wade.

The older section has the larger windows. The buildings housed two businesses for almost a century: McVicker's Pharmacy from 1892 through the 1980s and Baker's Hardware from 1894 through the 1990s.



16. Reed-Wade Building

220 High Street



This three-story commercial brick building still features its original glass storefront design. The first floor has always been occupied by retail businesses, but the upper floors were designed as professional office space.

17. Batlas Brothers Building

232 High Street



John and Theodore Batlas constructed this building in 1923 to house their Boston Confectionary. It has also housed a GC Murphy store, complete with a bustling lunch counter.



18. Odd Fellows Building

268 High Street



The Monongalia Lodge, the largest Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) in West Virginia, completed this building in 1895.

IOOF is a global altruistic and benevolent fraternal

organization derived from the British Oddfellows service organizations of the 18th century. While the building has undergone many alterations, the second and third floor facades remain almost identical to their original Romanesque Revival forms.

19. Morris Building

312 High Street



Elmer Jacobs designed this Romanesque Revival building for Dr. George Morris, Morgantown's travelling dentist, between 1867 and 1874. Although the original parapet has been altered, the name "MORRIS" can still be seen on the building, complying with Dr. Morris' stipulation that his name be displayed on this building and any other erected on its site.



20. Wall Street

— Wall Street



Originally known as Maiden Alley, Wall Street serves as a connecting alley between Spruce and High Street. The alley features brick pavement and two of the most unique buildings in the downtown area, both of which are reminiscent of French Creole, or row houses found in New Orleans.

21. Garlow House



351 Spruce Street

In 1907, Elmer Jacobs designed this Queen Anne Revival home for Aaron J. Garlow, president of the Second National Bank. The completion date, 1907, is still displayed on a blind-arch window below the pediment on the second floor. The building is most likely modeled after the W.E. Price Home (Stop 49) and is currently owned by the Morgantown Public Library, which uses it as a genealogical and local history research center.



22. Morgantown Municipal Building



389 Spruce Street

While Morgantown's city charter was approved in 1838, it was not until 1924 that the city voted a bond issue of \$150,000 to construct a city building. At the time of its construction, the building also housed the fire department, which remains evident in the shape of the building's front windows.

Note: The center is open to the public, free of charge.

23. Methodist Church

386 Spruce Street



Elmer Jacobs designed this building in the Late Gothic Revival style in 1908. It was erected to accommodate the growing Methodist Protestant Church, which first formed in the Old Stone House in 1830.



24. Rogers/Laidley/Selby Home

293 Willey Street



Built in 1857, this Greek Revival style home is on the National Register of Historic Places. Elmer Jacobs renovated the home circa 1905, and the home was conveyed to West Virginia University in 1978.

25. Trinity Episcopal Church

247 Willey Street



The original Trinity Parish was organized at the Rogers/Laidley/Selby Home (Stop 24). However, in 1954, Philip Frohman, resident architect at the Washington National

Cathedral, designed this Early English Gothic style building to house its congregation.



26. Walters House

221 Willey Street



This Queen Anne Revival house was built for Mary S. Walters around 1900. It marked the expanding home market north of Willey Street, as well as a period when wealthy residents constructed homes in the downtown area.

27. Masonic Lodge



211 Willey Street

The Morganatown Union Lodge No. 4 of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons held the formal opening of its new temple in March 1916. While the building has been modified, many of its original features, including its prominent pilasters and balconies, remain.

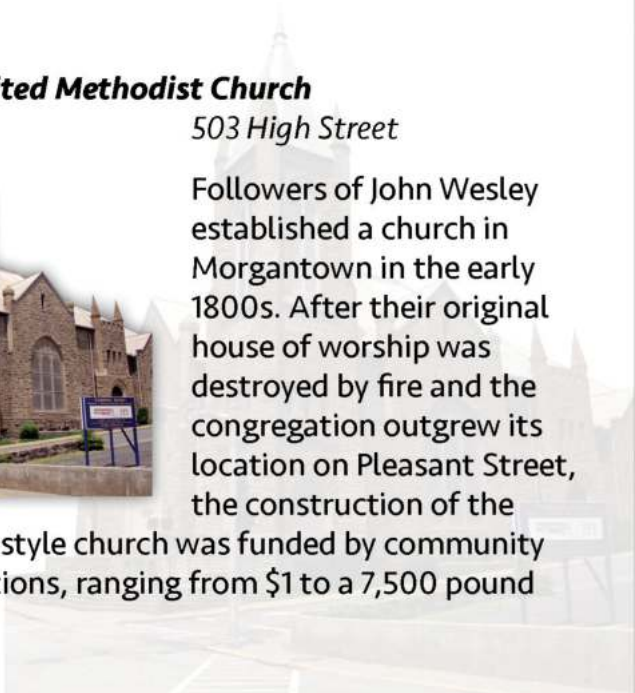


28. Wesley United Methodist Church



503 High Street

Followers of John Wesley established a church in Morgantown in the early 1800s. After their original house of worship was destroyed by fire and the congregation outgrew its location on Pleasant Street, the construction of the Gothic Revival style church was funded by community member donations, ranging from \$1 to a 7,500 pound chime of bells.



29. I.C. White Apartments

487 High Street



These Italianate buildings were among Morgantown's first modern apartment buildings, designed and built in 1911 by Israel Charles White. I.C. White was

a member of the first class to attend West Virginia University in 1867, where he later taught as a geology professor. He was the first to apply the anticlinal theory to locate oil wells and was a founding member of the Geological Society of America.



30. J.M.G. Brown Building

414 High Street



This building was completed in the Neoclassical style in 1913 by J.M.G. "Guy" Brown, the owner of the first automobile in Morgantown. The

building has historically, and to this day, housed shops on the street level.

31. Brown Apartments



401 High Street

The difference in the cornice along the top of these apartments indicates that they are comprised of two separate buildings. The two buildings were built almost five years apart and have had few alterations.



32. George Blue's Shop



179 Fayette Street

Built between 1906 and 1911, this building is most remembered as George Blue's shoe shine shop. George Blue was a prominent African American citizen of Morgantown who also had shops on High and Willey Street.

33. Women's Christian Temperance Union Building

160 Fayette Street



The Women's Christian Temperance Union Building was constructed in the Neoclassical style in 1922 and completed in 1923. Virtually unchanged since its construction, it has witnessed years of social change for women and children's rights in Morgantown.



34. St. Clair Home

148 Fayette Street



This Queen Anne style home was built for Maria St. Clair in 1896. The home has retained much of its original structure.

35. Union Utilities Company Building

387 High Street



Completed in 1909, this was Morgantown's first steel frame constructed building and its first skyscraper. The building, which also included Morgantown's first elevator, was moved from Pittsburgh in sections by steamboat and carried piece by piece up High Street.



36. Metropolitan Theatre

371 High Street



This Neoclassical style theatre was designed as a counterpart to New York's Metropolitan Opera House, complete with designer lighting fixtures imported from New York City.

37. Garlow Building



364 High Street

When a fire demolished the block of buildings on the east side of High Street between Fayette and Wall Street on April 14, 1927, Aaron J. Garlow announced that he would be the first to rebuild. In 1928, he constructed this building to replace the original four-story Garlow building that had existed at this site.



38. Second National Bank Building

341 High Street



This Romanesque Revival building, designed by Elmer Jacobs, was constructed in 1894 after the Morgantown Bank was authorized as the Second National Bank of Morgantown. The building was purchased by local radio station, WCLG, in the 1950s, and the station has operated in the building ever since.

39. Morgan Theatre



329-335 High Street

The present Morgan Theatre Building, originally the Arcade Theatre, was built in 1907. Probably the first theatre in Morgantown built exclusively for

moving pictures, the theatre later added a bowling alley, making it among the first total entertainment complexes in Morgantown.

40. Dering Building



175 Walnut Street

Elmer Jacobs designed this Romanesque Revival building in 1896 in a very similar style to the Morris Building for Fred Dering. While the building originally housed Dering's harness and farm implement store, the coming of the automobile inspired Dering to change occupations and open a funeral business. While the building

still reads "DERING" and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the business moved to the John Rogers House in 1965 where it still operates today.

41. Hayes Building



151 Walnut Street

Walnut Street was one of the busiest commercial streets in the city. To alleviate congestion, "cheap corners" were established. Beginning with Cheap Corner #1, which was located here at the Hayes Building, the goods would get cheaper as a buyer moved up Walnut Street toward Cheap Corner #3. The marker designating Cheap Corner #1 is still located on the southwest corner of this building between the first and second floors.



42. Old Stone House



313 Chestnut Street

Built circa 1785 in the Federal style, this home is a good example of what early Morgantown residences would have looked like. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is most likely the oldest surviving stone house in Monongalia County.

43. The Jailer's House

155 Chancery Row



This Italianate style building was constructed in 1881 in conjunction with a new stone jail. The jailer's house was connected to the court house by an enclosed walkway used for escorting prisoners to the courtroom, known as the "Bridge of Sighs."



44. Cox & Baker Building

162 Chancery Row



George Coleman Baker and Frank Cox built this Italianate style structure in the early 20th century. The building housed their law firm, Cox and Baker.

45. Hall Building



164 Chancery Row

John Hall built this Federal style building with Italianate touches in the early 20th century and subsequently sold it to Charles George

Baker to use as his law offices. Baker is known as the “father of scouting in Monongalia County,” served as Morgantown’s city attorney from 1925-1928, and was elected judge of Monongalia County in 1929 and again from 1945-1953.



46. Waitman T. Willey Offices



172 Chancery Row

This Federal style building has served as law offices since its construction in the 1850s. The first tenant was Waitman T. Willey,

who was one of West Virginia’s first U.S. Senators, a friend of Abraham Lincoln and one of Morgantown’s most celebrated citizens.

47. Monongalia County Courthouse

243 High Street



This Victorian Romanesque building was designed by James Bailey in 1891.

The building was constructed by

George W. L. Mayers of Marion County. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places and the wooden statue of Patrick Henry, which once adorned the original 1848 courthouse, is located inside this building.



48. Bank of Morgantown Building & Brown Building

265 & 295 High Street



The Bank of Morgantown opened in 1909 and constructed this seven-story fireproof building from 1920-21. In 1922, when the bank expanded, it also purchased the Romanesque Revival style Brown Building next door, which was designed by Elmer Jacobs to be the first

four-story building in town. The Brown Building is named after John James Brown, a signatory of the West Virginia Constitution, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in architecture and engineering.

49. W.E. Price Home



270 Walnut Street

This late Queen Anne Revival home was built by Elmer Jacobs circa 1902. It is considered the prototype of the Garlow House (Stop 21) and represents the last stage of single-family residential buildings in the downtown area.



50. Shisler Home



276 Walnut Street

Construction on this Colonial Revival style home began in 1901. Elmer Jacobs designed the home for Mrs. E. Shisler.



LEGEND

- # Tour Stop
- Alley
- Not Accessible
- Steep Gradient