

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Shaw House; Shaw, Harry, House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 425 Morgantown Avenue☐ not for publicationcity, town Fairmont☐ vicinitystate West Virginia code 54county Marioncode 049zip code 26554

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☒ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<u>0</u> objects
	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date 7/28/88

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - - single dwelling
secondary structures

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

residence
garage, well, etc.

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals
Tudor Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation cement, brick
walls hollow tile, brick
stucco
roof red shingle clay tile
other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Shaw House projects a bold silhouette at the center of a 2-acre lawn on a hillock above Morgantown Avenue in Fairmont, Marion County, West Virginia. The Tudor-style, 2½-story house and ancillary structures represent an important early 20th-century ensemble that survives, in an excellent state of preservation, from an era when one concept of suburban housing development was based upon the desire of a wealthy clientele to have professionally designed surroundings, amenities, and comforts suitable to both country and city living. While late 20th-century neighborhoods have grown up around the Shaw House, the complex retains its period ambience and architectural integrity.

1. Shaw House - Picturesque details, favored by architects of the period employing the Tudor style, are all present in the house. Principal among these are the steeply pitched main roof, prominent cross gables, combinations of brick and stucco wall cladding punctuated with simulated half-timbering, and tall chimney stacks rising out of expansive, red shingle-tiled roof planes.

The upper story throughout is clad in gray stucco. Detailing is confined for the most part to contrasting brickwork around window openings. False half-timbering is also used, but sparingly, usually in concert with windows or dormers. Contrasting textures, nevertheless enliven the facade with red brick veneer over hollow tile at the first story, and stucco above

Combinations of double-hung and casement windows are found at all elevations. Windows of major rooms are generally of the 6 over 1 variety, typical of period revival houses of the early 20th century, while those in dormers and bay windows are casements of wood with multiple square panes. Most distinctive of all windows is the great landing window, centered in the front elevation at the second floor, which embodies the unique Tudor-style combination of tall windows - in this instance within a group of three - beneath small transoms. Multiple leaded glass square panes are here arranged with stained glass rondels featuring coats-of-arms

Beneath a sloping tile roof, the doorway opens into a spacious entrance hall. To the left, a natural wood-finished open stairway rises in several flights to the second floor. Both the formal living room and dining room are entered from the entrance foyer through double French doors. The doors, with their multiple glass panes, may be opened to provide access to all parts of the first floor, a characteristic flow of space found in early 20th century period houses. The living room is the most formal chamber of the Shaw House. Here all wall, ceiling, and floor surfaces are finished in materials of fine craftsmanship. Sometimes called

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Shaw House; Shaw, Harry, House

the "long gallery," it is so-named because its principal decoration, an ornamental plaster ceiling, is Elizabethian-style strapwork copied by the architects from Haddon Hall in Derbyshire, England. Walls of the living room are paneled in birch which retains their original luster. Contributing.

2. Garage - Designed with a steeply pitched hipped roof, the 1-story red brick garage is a building that complements its larger companion. Like the house, the roof is covered with red shingle clay tiles. The building's entrance facade is divided between two sets of double wood doors, the lower panels of which feature wood flush diagonal boards; the upper panels are each fitted with 4 glass panes. Contributing.

3. Well House - A well house stands in a grove of small trees to the edge of the driveway, beyond the entrance. Also professionally designed, the tiny structure shelters a stone circular base beneath a gable roof covered with red clay tiles. The trusses of the roofing system are large timbers, mortised and tenoned. Contributing.

4. Entrance Pavilion - Red shingle tiles are again employed in roofing. The gabled open structure stands above the sidewalk on random ashlar piers, supported by massive timber work that is mortised and tenoned. The trusses are similar to those in the well house. Flanking the rustic pavilion is a random ashlar retaining wall that runs the full length of the property along Morgantown Avenue. The wall is an important part of the total property design. Both the wall and pavilion are located at the front of the property. Visitors pass beneath the pavilion from the street and proceed up a flight of stone steps at which point a tile-covered sidewalk crosses the lawn to the front entrance. Contributing.

Shaw House stands close to the center of an expansive lawn and is reached by a red tile-paved sidewalk and curving, asphalt driveway. Plantings and trees are arranged, particularly as setting, about the pavilion and well house which were themselves designed as integral parts of the landscape plan. The planting plan includes: Lombardy poplar, hemlock, cypress, magnolia, pin oak, birch, cedar, juniper, azalea, etc.

At the rear of the house the driveway connects the garage with the main driveway which passes through a gate containing large ornate wooden double doors.

8. Statement of Significance

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

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Law

Architecture

Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1919 - 1936

Significant Dates

c. 1919

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Harry Shaw

Architect/Builder

Jones and Nuzum, architect

Alex MacElwee, landscape gardner

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

The Shaw House is significant for its association with Harry Shaw (1872 - 1952), a noted attorney and jurist of the early 20th century in north-central West Virginia. The house, ancillary structures, and grounds are equally significant as well-preserved examples of early 20th century suburban architecture and landscape design.

Harry Shaw studied at Duquesne College (University) Pittsburgh, at Fairmont Normal School (Fairmont State College), and at West Virginia University, where in 1895 he earned an LL.B. He also earned an A.B. from WVU in 1898. The law firm of Shaw and Shaw was established in 1922, with the addition of Victor Shaw who remained in practice with his father for the rest of his life.

From 1909 to 1928 Harry Shaw was president of the Union Independent School District, Marion County. In 1905, Governor W.M.O. Dawson appointed Shaw a director of the board of the West Virginia Penitentiary. Prior to that service Shaw was clerk of the House of Delegate of West Virginia (1901 - 1907). As a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1912, Shaw sat on the Credentials Committee which decided the famous contest between Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft. On January 30, 1928, Governor Gore appointed Shaw judge of the Circuit Court, a position to which Shaw was thereafter elected, serving until 1936.

About 1919, Attorney Shaw, successful in his career, commsed the Fairmont architectural firm of Jones and Nuzum, then practicing at 306 Jefferson Street, to design a fine suburban house above Morgantown Avenue in East Fairmont. Will Palmer Nuzum and Red Jones were prominēn among north-central West Virginia architects. They were joined in their efforts by Mr. Alex MacElwee, landscape gardner (architect), who prepared a planting plan for the house's grounds. (The architectural plans, specifications, and landscape plans survive in the hands of the owner, Mrs. Victor [Thelma] Shaw, who has resided in the house since 1928.)

The house designed by Jones and Nuzum was suitable to comforts and ambience expected by a wealthy client who desired a suburban residence away from the bustle and pollution of downtown, but possessing the refinements of an urban town house. Such houses then rising in America were often designed with large garages to accommodate automobiles and were within short distances of city streets or street car lines that provided easy access to the inner city. Importantly, such houses were designed in traditional, conservative, period revival

☒ See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Shaw House; Shaw, Harry, House

styles and were set within expansive, landscaped grounds where dependencies or outbuildings might provide complementary touches. The entrance pavilion and well house are examples of this design practice. The Shaw House complex survives as an excellent and well-preserved example of this early 20th century building tradition in north-central West Virginia.

Shaw House is a significant example of Tudor Revival or "Stockbroker" architecture, a style embodying steeply pitched roofs, dormers, high chimneys, and combinations of wall materials such as brick, stucco, and false half-timbering. An unusually fine Elizabethian-style landing window, incorporating leaded comes and stained glass rondels, dominates the center front elevation bay adjacent to the front door. The interior features a birch paneled living room beneath a Tudor-style ceiling, patterned after the strapwork of the Long Gallery at Haddon Hall in Derbyshire, England. The ceiling is one of the finest of its type known in West Virginia.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Comstock, Jim. The West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia. Richwood, W.Va. 1976, Vol. 20, p. 4307.

Nicolson, Nigel. Great Houses of Britain. Boston, Mass.: David R. Godine, 1978, pp. 22-23.

Ridenhour, Laura. "Fairmont's Shaw Home: Fulfillment of a Dream." Times - West Virginian, Fairmont, W.Va., March 8, 1981.

West Virginia and West Virginia Biography, Chicago and New York: The American Historical Society, Vol. 2, 1923, pp. 22-23.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.43 acres

UTM References

A 17 574560 4370300
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is inclusive of lot No. 2, Map No. 03-05, City of Fairmont Assessor's Map, January 31, 1958. (See red line marked per boundary on attached sketch map.)

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property extends to the edge of the landscaped lawns, inclusive of a curved driveway, which reflects the concentration of buildings and structures which convey a strong sense of historical relationship due to location, design, and setting.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian

organization W.V. Dept. of Culture and History date May 24, 1988

street & number Cultural Center telephone 304 348-0240

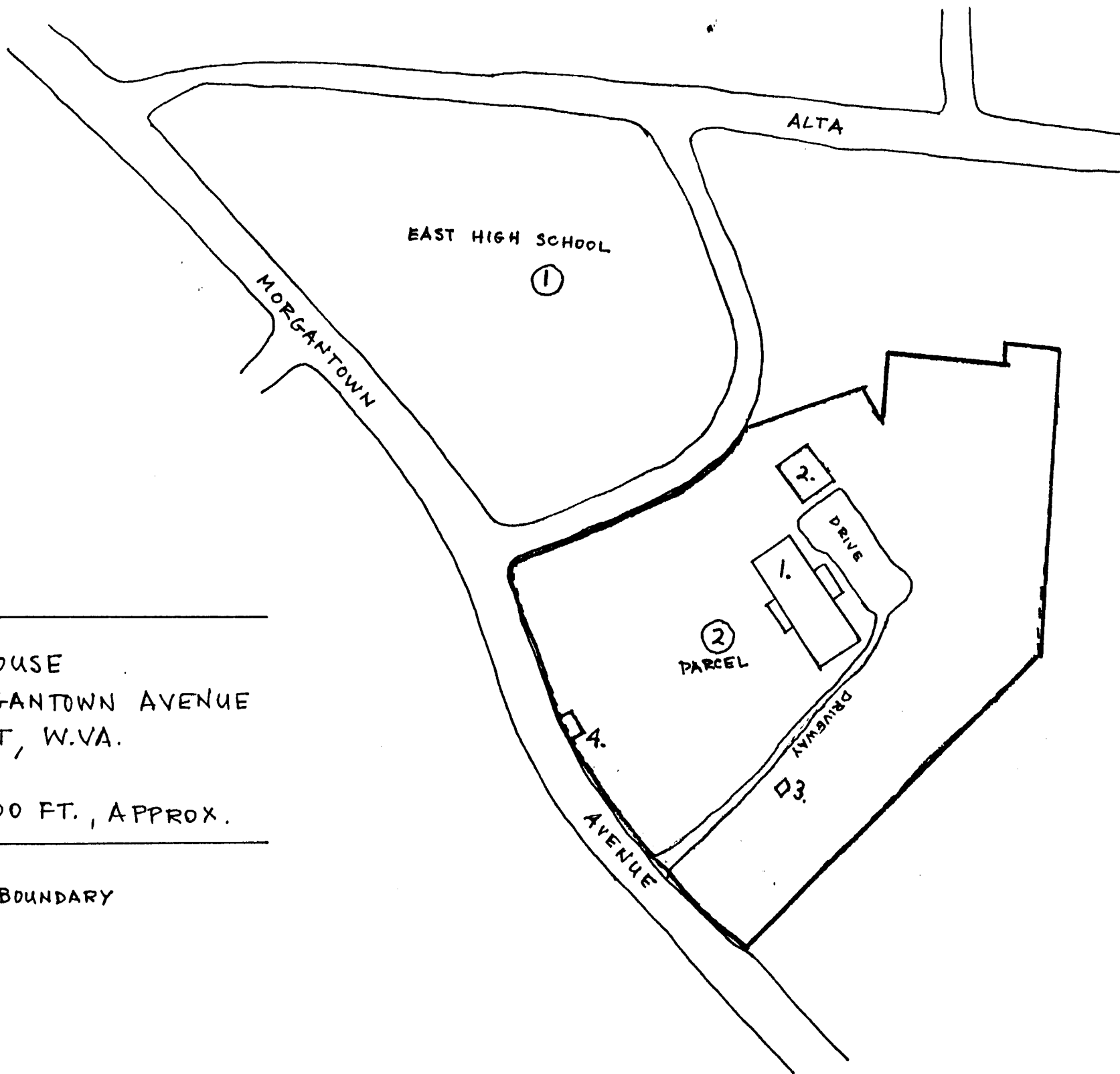
city or town Charleston state W.Va. zip code 25305



SHAW HOUSE
425 MORGANTOWN AVENUE
FAIRMONT, W.VA.

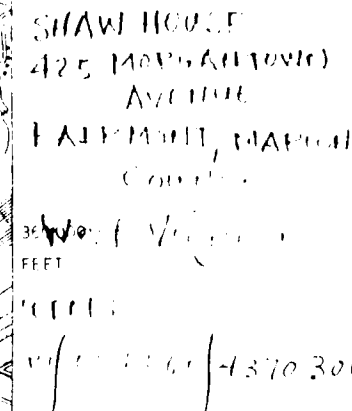
1 IN. = 100 FT., APPROX.

— = BOUNDARY



4963 II SE
(RIVESVILLE)

80°07'30"



MEADOWDALE 32 MI

4369

