

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: 8th Street Stone Retaining Walls

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

New Deal Stone Walls in Morgantown, Monongalia County, WV 1933 - 1943

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 305 and 321 Eighth StreetsCity or town: Morgantown State: West Virginia County: MonongaliaNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 3-14-25

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Arts, Culture and History

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☐
Public – Local ☒
Public – State ☐
Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☐
District ☐
Site ☐
Structure ☒
Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____ 3 _____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____ 3 _____	_____ 0 _____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE/street furniture/object

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE/street furniture/object

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: stone retaining wall

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE/sandstone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Eighth Street Stone Retaining Walls are three stone retaining walls located along the western side of Eighth Street between Grant Avenue and University Avenue in Morgantown, Monongalia County, West Virginia, and north of Morgantown's downtown (Photo 01 and 04). The walls were constructed between 1934 and 1937. The walls stand in a residential neighborhood, with private homes overlooking two of them (Photo 05, 06, and 08). Eighth Street rises steeply in elevation from the south to the north. The walls are constructed on a curb and set back approximately nine inches from the paved street. The terrain on the west side of the street rises from six to ten feet above the street grade, to a bench on which two remaining houses are located (Photo 07). It then rises steeply behind the houses to wooded areas. The walls retain the terrace on which the houses are constructed.

Across Eighth Street there is a modern concrete curb and sidewalk and the house lots on this side are relatively flat at the front, adjacent to the sidewalk. It then drops steeply to a wooded area. There are two residences across from the northern portion of the walls. There is also a residence at the southeast corner of the intersection of Grant Avenue and Eighth Street.

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Each wall runs approximately eighty feet in length. They are constructed of sandstone with rectangular raised joints and a top cap. There are three plaques indicating that the walls were constructed in 1934 by workers under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) (Photo 12, 13 and 14). The walls are made of rough-faced ashlar stone indicative of the construction style of New Deal Era stone retaining walls (Photo 10). The structures have a high degree of historic integrity, with some minor damage on one wall and a short collapsed missing portion of another. The bottom course of the wall has weeps formed by spacing adjacent stones wider than the head joint to allow water to drain from behind the wall. These are spaced irregularly within the walls.

Narrative Description

The following descriptions are from south to north, beginning with the wall at the northwest corner of Grant Avenue and Eighth Street. The addresses correspond to those delineated on lots in the Monongalia County Assessor's Office property tax maps.

Unidentified corner lot/305:

This wall is the southernmost of the three walls (Photo 02). It measures eighty-one (81) feet eight (8) inches in length and five (5) feet in height. There is a section approximately fifteen (15) feet long missing (Photo 03). The void returns into the property, indicating that there may have been stairs in that location to the house site, or there was another of the recessed garages in this location. The width of the break in the wall would accommodate both of those features. Historic maps show a house on this lot, which is no longer extant. The south section of this wall steps down in three segments, though its height remains constant due to the slope of the street. North of the void area the wall is continuous, and the top is parallel to the street slope. The remaining portion of the wall is in good condition, with minor cracks and spalling, and the collapsed section represents the only alteration.

This wall differs from the other two in that its coursing is less regular; headers within each course occur at intervals of three to five stretchers. In some courses this is almost a regular alternating pattern, while in others there is no pattern. The wall contains a plaque reading:

F E R A
1934

The letters and numbers are the same height. The center of the stone is recessed so that the edges form a frame, and the lettering is raised from the face of the stone, rather than inscribed into it. The plaque is within the first course beneath the cap (Photo 13). The second plaque to the north marks the end of this wall.

309 Eighth Street:

The wall at 309 Eighth Street is in the middle of the three walls (Photo 07). The runs for a total of seventy nine (79) feet eight (8) inches. This includes a break for steps that are four (4) feet wide (Photo 11). The stone of the wall returns to form the cheek walls of the steps. The steps are stone and concrete. The wall is five (5) feet tall, with a more regular header and stretcher pattern

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within each course. It has a top cap running the length of the wall with narrower stones. A plaque marks the south end, or beginning of the wall, and reads:

F E R A
1934

The letters are smaller, about one third the height of the numbers. The stone has no margins or tooling at the edges. The lettering is inscribed into the stone. The stone is smooth faced in juxtaposition to the rough faced ashlar stone of the wall. The condition is good, with minor cracks and spalling (Photo 12).

321 Eighth Street:

The wall at 321 Eighth Street is the northernmost of the three walls (Photo 09). The wall runs for a total of eighty (80) feet, with one break for steps that are four (4) feet wide and a second break for a (non-extant) recessed garage that is ten (10) feet wide. This arrangement of a recessed underground garage within the wall is a common trait of the New Deal Era stone walls in Morgantown. These steps are also wrapped by the stone of the wall. The wall includes a top cap, and stands five (5) feet tall. The coursing is similar to the other sections, with headers spaced at every one (1) to three (3) stretchers in each course. The residence at 321 Eighth Street and recessed underground garage were demolished sometime after 2021; the stairs remain extant.

A plaque is located near the northern end of the wall on the uphill side of the garage. It reads:

F.E.R.A.
1934

The plaque is in the second course from the top. The center is recessed from the edges, which form a frame around the inscription. The center is smooth and the letters are inscribed. They are all the same height (Photo 14).

There are a few vertical cracks in the wall and the roof of the garage has collapsed, though the walls are intact. There are no noteworthy alterations or additions to the structure, giving it a strong degree of historical integrity. The wall is in good condition, with only minor cracks and spalling.

Integrity

The Eighth Street Walls retain integrity consistent with the requirements set out in the New Deal Stone Walls, Morgantown, Monongalia County, WV, 1933-1943 Multiple Property Documentation.

LOCATION

The walls are in their original location.

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SETTING

The walls are associated with the landscape feature of a grade differential between the road and the house site.

DESIGN

The wall is associated with the masonry construction techniques and characteristics identified for New Deal Era resources. These include the coursing, size, configuration of the stones, as well as the texture composition, structural characteristics and appearance of the mortar joints.

MATERIALS

The walls are constructed of sandstone, a material identified in the MPD as characteristic for the property type.

WORKMANSHIP

Craftsmanship is evident in the masonry construction, as in the coursing, joint technique, and weep voids present in a wall. Also, the ashlar configuration of the stones, and their rectilinear shapes and well-defined lines are workmanship traits characteristic of the property types in the MPD.

FEELING

The feeling of the walls is an expression of the New Deal Era construction techniques. The stone construction is readily identifiable as a New Deal Era structure. It contains recognizable textures, coursing, patterns and construction techniques.

ASSOCIATION

The walls are associated with the New Deal Era and constructed with funds provided by these programs. The most obvious evidence of this historical association is the existence of the three plaques identifying the New Deal Era programs which funded the construction.

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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.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ 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.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Engineering

Period of Significance

1934-1937

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Federal Emergency Relief Administration

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Eighth Street Wall is significant at the local level under Criterion A – Social History for its association with the historic context of “New Deal Era Programs in Monongalia County 1933-1943”. It is also significant at the local level under Criterion C – Engineering for its association with the historic context “Stone Wall Design and Construction Techniques in Monongalia County Associated with the New Deal 1933-1943”. It is a “Retaining and other wall” identified property type in the Multiple Property Documentation. The walls all relate to the New Deal Era Programs through their construction funding by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, a New Deal agency and predecessor to the Works Progress Administration, in 1934. The Period of Significance is 1934-1937, the years the wall was constructed. They fit within the period of significance of the historic contexts of the MPD. They were constructed by New Deal Programs. They all exhibit construction techniques identified in the MPD as associated with New Deal Era Programs.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The walls contain plaques identifying the federal funding agency in each of the three phases of construction. These are located on the walls and provide a 1934 construction date. In addition, the walls are discussed in the Morgantown City Council minutes between 1933 and 1937. In reports by the city manager to the city council at their regular meetings, progress updates for each of the New Deal Era Programs construction projects within the city were presented. On June 13, 1933, the report included a notation that the Eight Street gutters were started. On July 7, 1934, the report states that the wall was underway. These reports continued in July and August of 1934, where the August 14, 1934, minutes state that one section of the wall was finished totaling two hundred and twenty feet. Wall construction on Eighth Street continues to be mentioned in city council minutes until May 25, 1937¹. West Virginia and Regional History Collection, West Virginia University, Morgantown)

The walls exhibit construction techniques identified as property type registration requirements in the MPD. These include the use of rough faced ashlar stones; the use of raised rectangular mortar joints; the use of coarse aggregate in the mortar; the use of weep holes in the wall; the alternating header and stretcher coursing often used in Morgantown in New Deal Era walls, including the irregular pattern of headers at every third to fifth stretcher in a wall; and the use of

¹ Morgantown City Clerk Council Journal Books - Books 18-21 and 22-25 (Microfilm 9/25/28 to 5/18/37 and 5/25/37 to 4/17/46),

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a stone cap. The walls also contain the physical characteristics of setting, environment and landscape design characteristics that classify eligibility. The walls retain a lawn area behind which is the front yard of subject property's residential structure. They also are directly on the road at the lot line. They also contain garages built into the wall, recessed into the residential front yards.

In addition, the Eighth Street Walls exhibit integrity as explained previously.

In summary the walls are a physical example of Depression-Era relief and workmanship. They are an example of federal relief program funding put to use in Morgantown, West Virginia. Additionally, they provide a representative example of the characteristics of stonework created during the era by federal works programs.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Fire Insurance Map, Morgantown, Monongalia County, West Virginia, April 1927, Sheet 30; April 1927-1948, Sheet 30; Sanborn Map Company, New York, 1927, 1948

Gioulis, Dot. "309 Eighth Street." West Virginia Historic Property Inventory Form. MG1882. February 28, 2016.

Gioulis, Dot. "321 Eighth Street." West Virginia Historic Property Inventory Form. MG1883. February 28, 2016.

Gioulis, Dot. "No Number Eighth Street." West Virginia Historic Property Inventory Form. MG-1884. February 28, 2016.

Monongalia County Assessor's Office, Monongalia Property Viewer, Property Tax Map, <https://ags.agdmaps.com/wv/mon/>, accessed 8/20/2021

Morgantown City Clerk Council Journal Books - Books 18-21 and 22-25 (Microfilm 9/25/28 to 5/18/37 and 5/25/37 to 4/17/46), West Virginia and Regional History Collection, West Virginia University, Morgantown

WV Real Estate Assessment Data, [WV Assessment \(mapwv.gov\)](http://mapwv.gov), access 8/20/2021.

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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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☒ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): MG-1982, MG-1983, MG-1984

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude:	Longitude:
2. Latitude:	Longitude:
3. Latitude:	Longitude:
4. Latitude:	Longitude:

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17N | Easting: 589046 | Northing: 4388730 |
| 2. Zone: 17N | Easting: 589074 | Northing: 4388799 |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Boundaries are delineated on map titled New Deal Stone Walls MPD, Eighth Street Wall, Site Plan, August 2021, Michael Gioulis, Historic Preservation Consultant.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries represent the full length of the wall along Eighth Street from the intersection of Eighth Street and Grant Avenue on the south to the south half of lot 309 at the north. The boundaries only include the ground that the walls and stairs themselves sit on.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jonathan Tracey and Ryan Bilger
organization: West Virginia University Department of History
street & number: 220 Woodburn Hall
city or town: Morgantown state: West Virginia zip code: 26506
e-mail: _____
telephone: 304-293-2421
date: April 12, 2021

name/title: Michael and Dorothy Gioulis
organization: Michael Gioulis Historic Preservation Consultant
street & number: 614 Main Street
city or town: Sutton state: West Virginia zip code: 26601
e-mail: mike@michaelgioulis.com
telephone: 304-765-5716
date: August 20, 2021

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Figure Log

Figure #01

New Deal Stone Walls MPD, Eighth Street Wall, Site Plan, August 2021, Michael Gioulis, Historic Preservation Consultant

Figure #02

New Deal Stone Walls MPD, Eighth Street Wall, Plan and Elevation, August 2021, Michael Gioulis, Historic Preservation Consultant

Figure #03

WV SHPO Topo map

Figure #04 Photo

Log Plan

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: 8th Street Stone Retaining Walls

City or Vicinity: Morgantown

County: Monongalia

State: West Virginia

Photographer: Michael Gioulis / Ethan Wimer

Date Photographed: April 15, 2021 / December 31, 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #01

South end of stone retaining wall, facing north

Photo #02

South end of stone retaining wall, facing west

Photo #03

South end of stone retaining wall missing section, facing west

Photo #04

Stone retaining wall at 309 8th Street, facing north

Photo #05

Stone retaining wall at 309 8th Street, facing west

Photo #06.

Stone retaining wall at 309 8th Street shows break for stairs, facing west

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Photo #07.

Stone retaining wall between 309 8th Street and 321 8th Street, facing west

Photo #08.

Stone retaining wall at 321 8th Street, north end, note garage, facing north; taken 2024

Photo #09.

North end of stone retaining wall shows recessed garage space and cartouche/plaque, facing south; taken 2024

Photo #10.

Detail of mortar joints and projection of stone cap, facing west

Photo #11.

Stone surrounds and steps leading to house above at 321 8th Street, facing west; taken 2024

Photo #12.

Stone carved cartouche/plaque near south end of 309 8th Street property line, facing west

Photo #13.

Stone bas relief cartouche/plaque at south end of stone retaining wall, facing west

Photo #14.

Stone carved cartouche/plaque in stone retaining wall at north end of wall, facing west

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

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Photo #1

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Photo #2

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Photo #3

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Photo #4

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Photo #5

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Photo #6

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Photo #7

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Photo #8

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Photo #9

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Photo #10

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Photo #11

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Name of Property

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Photo #12

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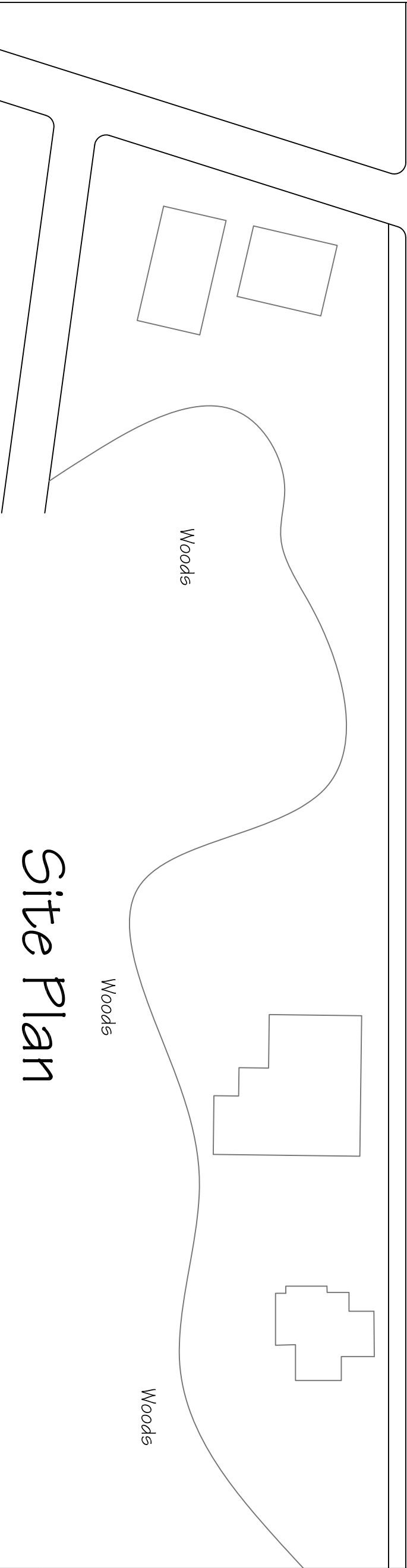
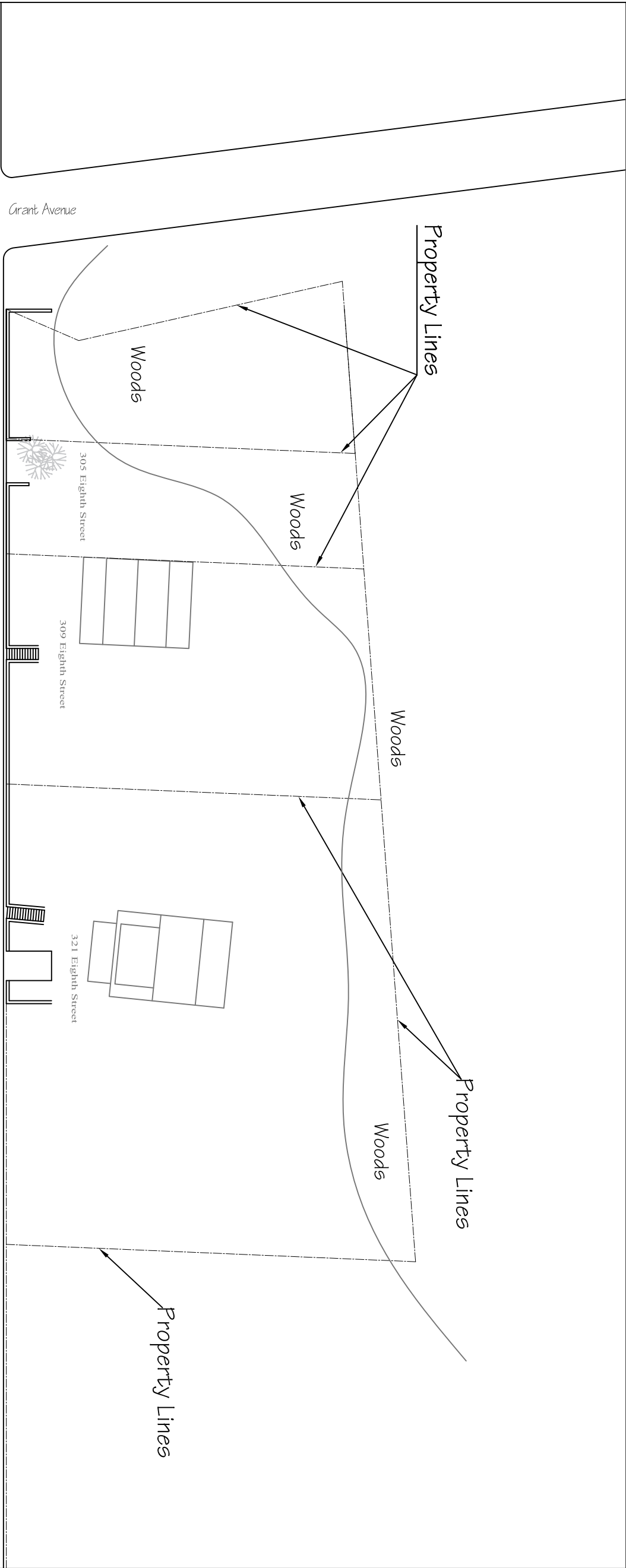
Photo #13

8th Street Stone Retaining Walls
Name of Property

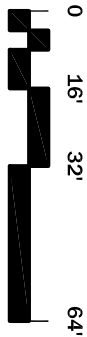
Monongalia, WV
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Photo #14



Site Plan

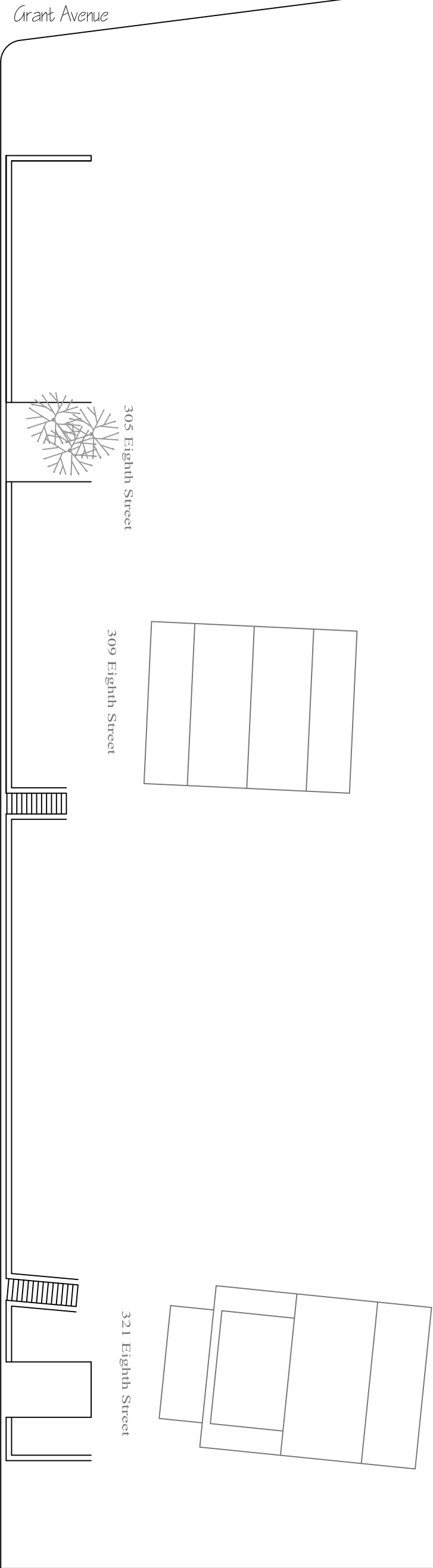


Eighth Street Wall

Source: West Virginia Property Viewer WEB site; Morgantown, WV Zoning Map GIS viewer, online; Monongalia County Assessors Office Property viewer on line; Google Earth Pro; field measurements and field recording on GPS video camera

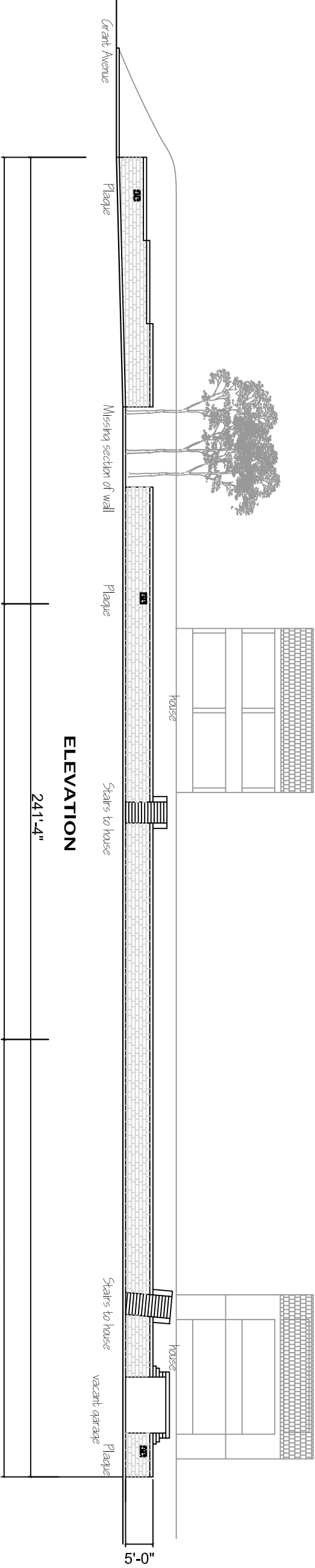
Date
August 2021

DWG.
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Eighth Street

PLAN



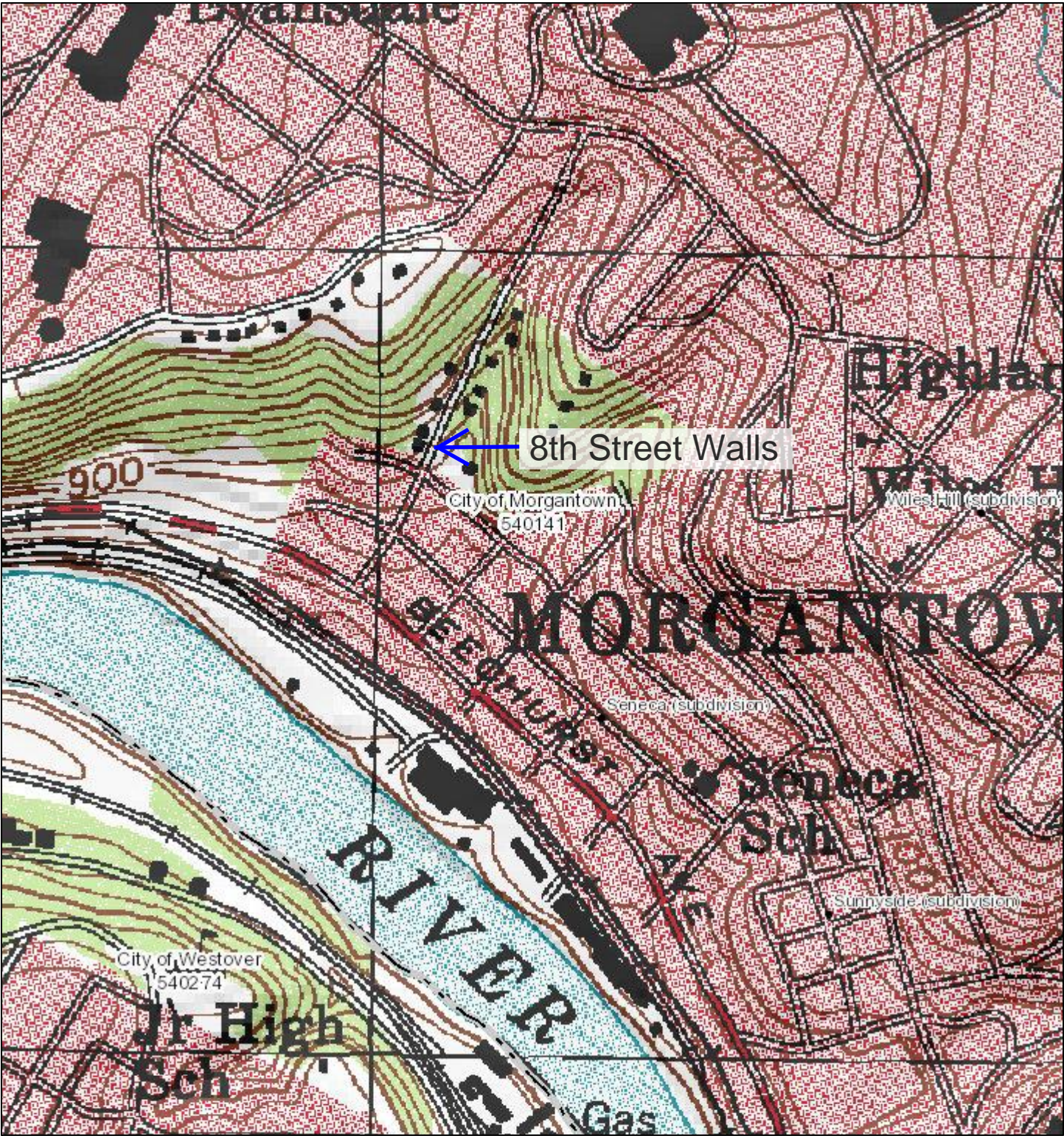
New Deal Stone Resources MPD
Morgantown, Monongalia County, WV

Drawn by M. Gioulis

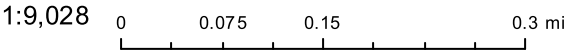
Source: West Virginia Property Viewer WEB site; Morgantown, WV Zoning Map GIS viewer, online; Google Earth Pro; field measurements and field recording on GPS video camera.

Eighth Street Wall

WV SHPO Map Topo



August 19, 2021



Notes:
8th Street Walls
UTM 17N: (589061E, 4388767N)

Date
August 2021

DWG.
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New Deal Stone Resources MPD
Morgantown, Monongalia County, WV

Drawn by M. Gioulis

Source: West Virginia Property Viewer WEB site; Morgantown, WV Zoning Map GIS viewer, online; Google Earth Pro; field measurements and field recording on GPS video camera

Photo Log

Eighth Street Wall

MICHAEL GIOLIS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTANT, INC.
614 Main Street
Sutton, WV 26601
(304)765-5716
mike@michaelgioulis.com