

1969

# Industrial Resources: Morgan County - West Liberty

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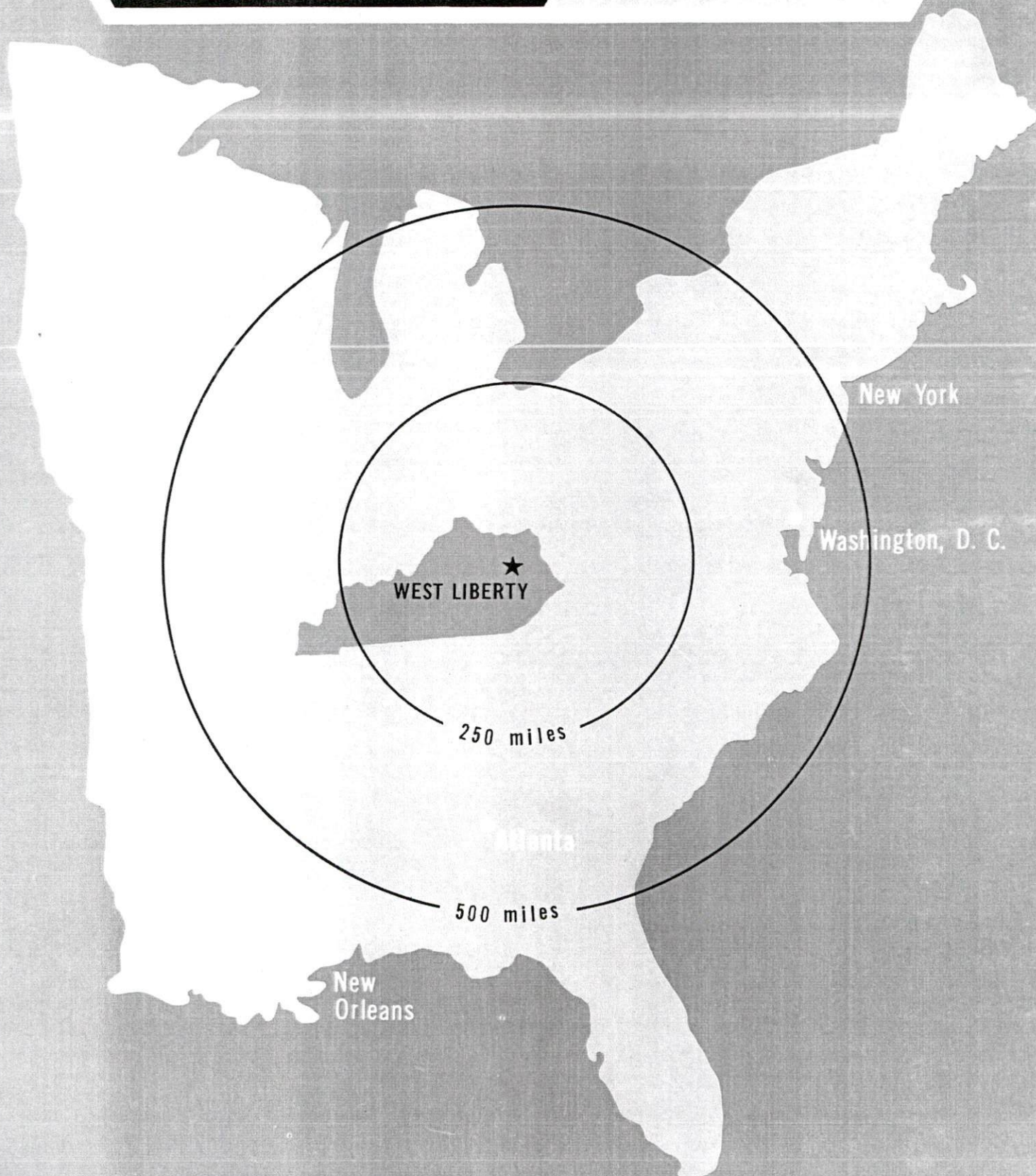
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# **INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES**

**WEST LIBERTY  
KENTUCKY**



WEST LIBERTY INDUSTRIAL SITES

1969



## WEST LIBERTY INDUSTRIAL SITES

For additional information concerning the following sites, contact Mr. Joe Haney or Mr. Winfred Howard, West Liberty, Kentucky, or the Kentucky Department of Commerce, Frankfort, Kentucky.

SITE #1: ACREAGE AND TOPOGRAPHY: 10 acres, level  
LOCATION: One-half mile east of city limits  
HIGHWAYS: Site borders U. S. 460; dirt access road through site  
RAILROADS: Not rail served  
ELECTRICITY: Kentucky Power Company  
GAS: Elam Utility Company; 2-inch main approximately 500 feet from site  
WATER: West Liberty Water Works; 2-inch line through site. 10-inch water main approximately 1,500 feet from site  
SEWERAGE: West Liberty Water Works; 8-inch main 400 feet from site  
OWNERSHIP: Private

SITE #2: ACREAGE AND TOPOGRAPHY: 7 acres, rolling  
LOCATION: One-half mile southeast of business district; located at northeastern end of airport runway  
HIGHWAYS: U. S. 460 approximately one-fourth mile from site via paved access road.  
RAILROADS: Not rail served  
ELECTRICITY: Kentucky Power Company  
GAS: Elam Utility Company; 2-inch main approximately 200 feet from site  
WATER: West Liberty Water Works; 10-inch line on site  
SEWERAGE: West Liberty Water Works; 8-inch main through site  
OWNERSHIP: Private

SITE #3: ACREAGE AND TOPOGRAPHY: 30 acres, rolling  
LOCATION: 1 mile south of business district; located at western end of airport runway  
HIGHWAYS: U. S. 460 approximately three-fourth mile from site; access road to site - partly paved, partly unimproved dirt  
RAILROADS: Not rail served  
ELECTRICITY: Kentucky Power Company  
GAS: Elam Utility Company; 2-inch main approximately 2,000 feet from site  
WATER: West Liberty Water Works; 10-inch line approximately 500 feet from site  
SEWERAGE: Package plant necessary  
OWNERSHIP: Private

SITE #4: ACREAGE: 10 acres, of which 5.5 acres are under development  
LOCATION: Southwest of city, approximately one-half mile from city limits  
HIGHWAYS: Site borders U. S. 460  
RAILROADS: Not rail served  
ELECTRICITY: Kentucky Power Company  
GAS: Elam Utility Company; 2-inch main approximately 3,000 feet from site  
WATER: West Liberty Water Works; 2-inch line within one-half mile of site  
SEWERAGE: West Liberty Water Works; 8-inch sewer main within one-half mile of site  
OWNERSHIP: Private



LEGEND:

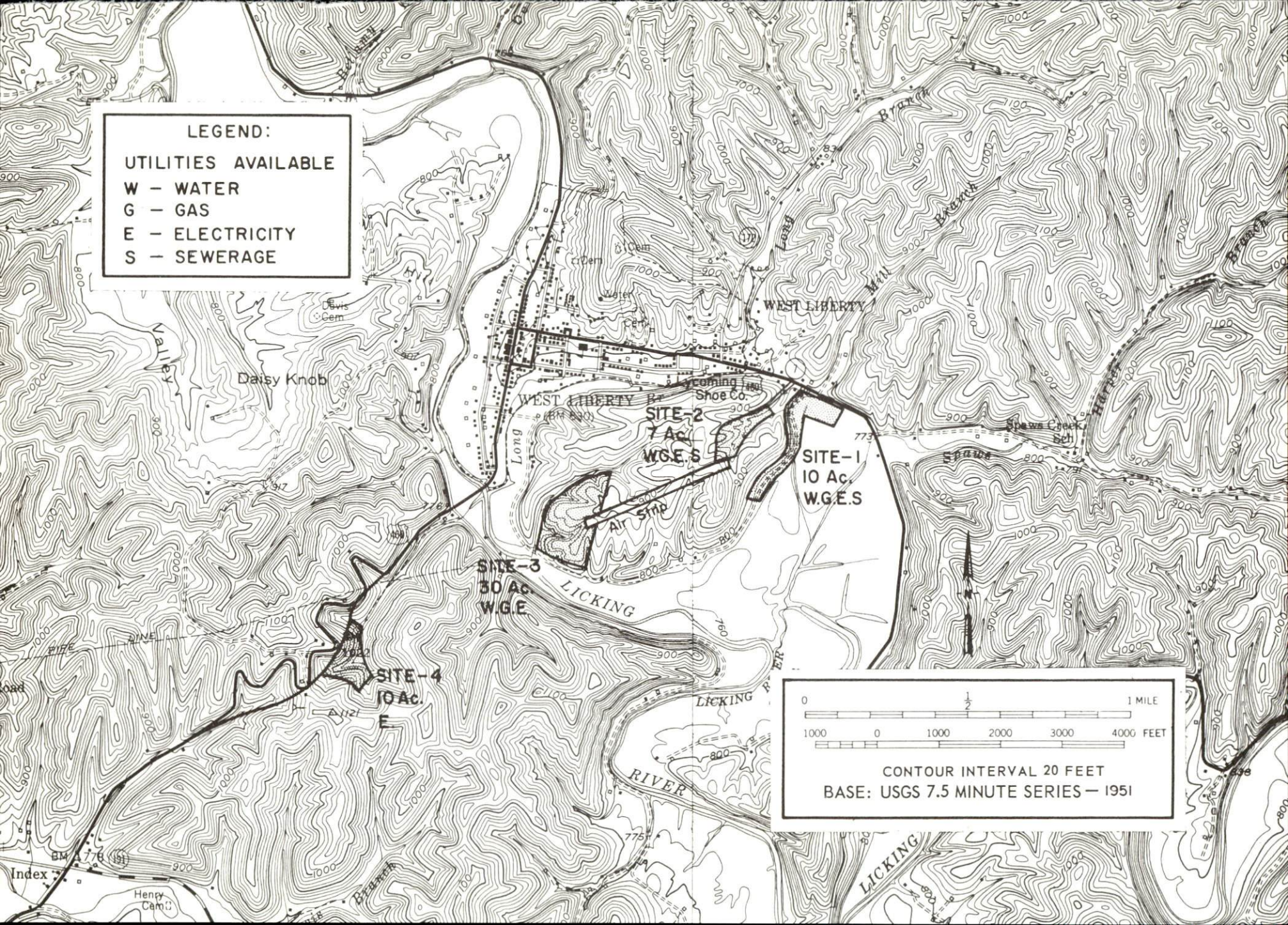
UTILITIES AVAILABLE

W - WATER

G - GAS

E - ELECTRICITY

S - SEWERAGE



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
BASE: USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES - 1951



INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES  
WEST LIBERTY, KENTUCKY

PREPARED BY  
THE KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
IN COOPERATION WITH  
THE CITY OF WEST LIBERTY

1969

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## WEST LIBERTY, KENTUCKY, A PROFILE

### Location

West Liberty, county seat of rural Morgan County, is located in the foothills of Eastern Kentucky. Ashland is located 68 miles to the north, and Lexington is 94 miles west.

### The Economy

Manufacturing employment, which has increased by 162 jobs since September, 1960, has strengthened the economic base of Morgan County. Total employment averaged 3,032 in 1968, with the major components being agriculture (1,057), manufacturing (285), trade and services (229), and government (348).

West Liberty is centered in an eight-county area which averaged 18,130 jobs in 1968. Major segments of area employment are agriculture (4,148), manufacturing (1,659), trade and services (2,687), and government (4,638). Since 1959, manufacturing employment in the area has increased by 62 percent.

Access to major transportation routes, along with favorable local leadership, community attitudes, and a large labor supply, indicates continuing economic growth in West Liberty as well as the entire area.

### Labor Supply

There is a current labor supply of 5,750 men and 5,500 women within reasonable commuting distance of West Liberty. By 1975, this supply will be augmented by 4,870 boys and 4,630 girls who will become 18 years of age.

### Industrial Sites

There are several sites in the immediate vicinity of West Liberty available for industrial use.

### Recreation

West Liberty provides a wide variety of recreational activities. Facilities include a city park, swimming pool, bowling alley, tennis courts, and sports field.

Jenny Wiley State Park, located in nearby Prestonsburg, provides a variety of recreation including fishing, horseback riding, and golf. Natural Bridge State Park, with its scenic beauty, is located at nearby Slade, Kentucky.

Morehead State University provides the area with various college sports and cultural events. Area high school sports are also extremely popular.



## THE LABOR MARKET

### Population

Since the turn of the century, the population of West Liberty has shown steady increases during each decade. In 1960, the population of West Liberty was 1,165, a 25.1 percent gain over 1950.

Morgan County, however, has experienced a declining population since 1950, a trend consistent among many rural Kentucky counties.

TABLE 1

POPULATION TREND - WEST LIBERTY AND  
MORGAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY <sup>1/</sup>

Year	West Liberty		Morgan County	
	Population	% Change	Population	% Change
1900	205		12,792	
1950	931	354.1	13,624	6.5
1960	1,165	25.1	11,056	-18.8
1969 (Est.) <sup>2/</sup>	NA		10,500	- 5.0

### General Employment Characteristics

During 1968 total employment in Morgan County averaged 3,032. Major segments of employment were agriculture (1,057), manufacturing (285), government (348), and trades and services (229). The rate of unemployment was 4.6 percent.

### Manufacturing Characteristics

Since September, 1960, 162 new jobs in manufacturing have been added in Morgan County. The production of leather products is the leading industrial activity in the county.

TABLE 2

WEST LIBERTY MANUFACTURING FIRMS  
WITH PRODUCTS AND EMPLOYMENT <sup>3/</sup>

Firm	Product	Employment		
		T	M	F
Courier Publishing Co.	Newspaper, letterpress printing, photo lathe plate making	9	5	4
Frederick & May Lumber & Supply Co.	Rough lumber	111	110	1
Lycoming Shoe Co.	Children's shoes	200	180	20
Wells Ready Mix Concrete	Ready mixed concrete	3	3	0

The West Liberty labor market area consists of Morgan, Elliott, Johnson, Lawrence, Magoffin, Menifee, Rowan, and Wolfe Counties. There have been twelve announcements of new manufacturing plants, employing over 1,400 and with a total investment well in excess of \$6,015,000, in the eight-county labor market area during the past nine years. In addition, there have been eleven expansions of existing facilities with an increased employment of more than 460 and an added investment in excess of \$1,196,000. Of these, West Liberty accounted for one new plant with \$300,000 in capital investment and eventual employment of 300.

TABLE 3

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT,  
WEST LIBERTY LABOR MARKET AREA, SEPTEMBER 1968 <sup>4/</sup>

Industry	Employment
TOTAL	1,659
Clothing, textile and leather	743
Lumber and furniture	469
Stone, clay and glass	136
Food and kindred products	103
Other	208

Labor Organizations

The Boot and Shoe Workers Union at Lycoming Shoe Company is the only labor union representing workers in manufacturing in West Liberty.



## Wage Levels

During 1968, all Morgan County industries covered by unemployment insurance averaged a weekly wage of \$79.18. The weekly average in manufacturing was \$65.90. Kentucky averages were \$112.16 for all industries, and \$123.97 in manufacturing. All counties in the West Liberty labor market area, with the exception of Lawrence County, were below the Kentucky average weekly wage for all industries, and all counties in the area were below the Kentucky average for manufacturing. This leads to a tentative conclusion that workers can be recruited for production jobs in Morgan County at or near the minimum wage.

The following wages are examples of the labor costs for certain skills in the West Liberty area: 5/

<u>Production Employees</u>	<u>Wages Per Hour</u>	
	<u>Starting</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Assembler	\$1.60	\$1.85
Drill Press Operator	1.60	
Grinder, Machine	1.60	
Lathe Operator	1.60	
Production Laborer	1.60	
Punch Press Operator	1.60	
Sprayer or Painter	1.60	
<u>Service Employees</u>		
Carpenter	\$2.00	\$3.00
Electrician	2.00	3.00
Truck Driver	1.75	2.85
Welder, Acetylene, Carbon, and Arc	3.00	
<u>Office Employees</u>		
Bookkeeper or Accounting Clerk	\$1.80	\$2.50

## Labor Supply

The current estimated available labor supply of the West Liberty labor market area is 5,750 men and 5,500 women. The labor supply includes the unemployed, underemployed, and persons who would enter the work force if jobs became available. During the next five years 4,870 boys and 4,630 girls in the area will become 18 years of age, augmenting this labor supply.

The highway network makes commuting feasible if suitable job opportunities become available. Workers would be likely to commute to the West Liberty area from all counties in the labor market area due to the large labor supply and the lack of job opportunities within the counties.

TABLE 4

CURRENT AND FUTURE LABOR SUPPLY - WEST LIBERTY  
LABOR MARKET AREA

County	Current Labor Supply <u>6/</u> 1969			Future Labor Supply by 1975 (Becoming 18 Years of Age) <u>7/</u>		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Labor Market Area	11,253	5,752	5,501	9,503	4,873	4,630
Morgan	1,389	631	758	1,288	680	608
Elliott	1,009	563	446	775	388	387
Johnson	2,494	1,190	1,304	2,154	1,108	1,046
Lawrence	1,663	758	905	1,300	668	632
Magoffin	1,568	769	799	1,491	757	734
Menifee	644	426	218	430	222	208
Rowan	1,223	695	528	1,261	633	628
Wolfe	1,263	720	543	804	417	387

Income

The total personal income in Morgan County in 1968 was estimated at \$14,574,000. Per capita income was \$1,388 for a gain of \$617 during the previous nine years. 8/

During 1963 there were 113 retail establishments located in Morgan County. 9/



## EDUCATION

The educational system in the West Liberty area has the facilities to produce an effective labor force for future industrial growth.

### Elementary and High Schools

The Morgan County School System is comprised of six elementary and two secondary schools. Morgan County High School has a standard rating; Ezel High is rated provisional. The 1968-69 total enrollment was 2,665 and 112 teachers were employed. Special personnel includes two guidance counselors, seven remedial reading teachers, one music teacher, six physical education teachers, and one school nurse. The 1968-69 school budget was \$1,057,372.37.

A multi-purpose kitchen-dining room and remedial reading room, costing \$102,000, is now under construction at the Wrigley Elementary School.

Construction of a \$60,000 lunch room is planned at the Crockett Elementary School.

TABLE 5

SCHOOLS, ENROLLMENT, NUMBER OF TEACHERS, STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO IN WEST LIBERTY AND MORGAN COUNTY, 1968-69 <sup>10/</sup>

School	Grades	Enrollment	No. of Teachers	Student-Teacher Ratio
Morgan County High	9-12	580	26	22-1
Ezel High	9-12	150	10	15-1
West Liberty Elementary	1- 8	480	18	27-1
Morgan County Elementary	1- 8	450	14	32-1
Crockett Elementary	1- 8	305	12	25-1
Ezel Elementary	1- 8	300	11	27-1
Cannel City Elementary	1- 8	200	10	20-1
Wrigley Elementary	1- 8	200	11	18-1

### Vocational Schools

West Liberty is served by the Mayo Area Vocational-Technical School, Paintsville, approximately 40 miles from West Liberty. Courses offered include: accounting, junior management, data processing, general

clerical, secretarial-steno, practical nursing, electronics (communication and industrial), tool and die design, auto body repair, auto mechanics, carpentry, cosmetology, diesel mechanics, drafting, electricity, machine shop, mine machinery mechanics, printing, radio and television repair, and welding.

Additional short courses, for the upgrading of employed workers, are offered on a continuous basis.

### Colleges and Universities

Morehead State University, situated on a 455-acre campus, is located in Morehead, 35 miles from West Liberty and midway between Lexington and Ashland. It is the most accessible public institution of higher learning for the Big Sandy and Licking Valley residents.

Although it is most noted for its teacher training program, facilities and offerings in other fields have been developed so that the institution now serves as a general regional university. Since 1966, several master degree programs, a Ph. D. in education, and a number of terminal two-year programs have been developed in an effort to meet the total needs of the region.

Other institutions of higher learning in the West Liberty area include:

<u>College or University</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Distance</u>
Ashland Community College	Ashland, Kentucky	68 miles
University of Kentucky	Lexington, Kentucky	94 miles
Transylvania College	Lexington, Kentucky	94 miles
Lees Junior College	Jackson, Kentucky	59 miles
Prestonsburg Community College	Prestonsburg, Kentucky	44 miles



## TRANSPORTATION

### Rail

The nearest rail facilities serving West Liberty are those of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Company at Royalton, 29 miles from West Liberty. The Chesapeake & Ohio also provides rail services in Morehead, 35 miles away.

TABLE 6

RAILWAY TRANSIT TIME FROM MOREHEAD, KENTUCKY, TO: 11/

City	No. of Days		City	No. of Days	
	CL			CL	
Atlanta, Ga.	2		Los Angeles, Calif.	4	
Birmingham, Ala.	2		Louisville, Ky.	1	
Chicago, Ill.	1		Nashville, Tenn.	2	
Cincinnati, Ohio	1		New Orleans, La.	3	
Cleveland, Ohio	2		New York, N. Y.	3	
Detroit, Mich.	2		Pittsburgh, Pa.	2	
Knoxville, Tenn.	3		St. Louis, Mo.	2	

### Highways

West Liberty is served by Kentucky Routes 7 and 172, and U. S. Highway 460. Located within 25 miles of West Liberty is the Mountain Parkway, a new four-lane highway which connects with the interstate highway system. This highway network provides West Liberty excellent access to major north-south and east-west routes.

Truck Service: West Liberty is served by the following truck lines:

#### Company

Bell Lines, Inc.  
Point Express, Inc.

#### Home Office

Charleston, West Virginia  
Charleston, West Virginia

TABLE 7

HIGHWAY MILES AND TRUCK TRANSIT TIME FROM  
WEST LIBERTY, KENTUCKY, TO SELECTED MARKET CENTERS

City	Highway Miles	Delivery Time (Days)		City	Highway Miles	Delivery Time <u>12</u> /	
		LTL	TL			LTL	TL
Atlanta, Ga.	611	3	2	Los Angeles, Calif.	2,329		
Birmingham, Ala.	632	3	2	Louisville, Ky.	162	3	2
Chicago, Ill.	449	3	2	Nashville, Tenn.	302	3	2
Cincinnati, Ohio	396	3	2	New Orleans, La.	967	4	3
Cleveland, Ohio	156	2	1	New York, N. Y.	807	3	2
Detroit, Mich.	411	3	2	Pittsburgh, Pa.	445	3	2
Knoxville, Tenn.	423	3	2	St. Louis, Mo.	496	3	2

Air

The West Liberty-Morgan County Airport, located only 2 miles south-east of West Liberty, has a paved 2,400- by 60-foot runway.

Other Transportation Services

West Liberty is served by the Southern Greyhound Bus Lines. Two buses arrive from Lexington and two buses depart to Lexington each day. Two buses also depart daily to Paintsville.

## POWER AND FUEL

### Electricity

The Kentucky Power Company serves 611 customers within the city limits of West Liberty. The Kentucky Power Company is an integrated part of the American Electric Power Company's interconnected system which has a generating capacity of over 9 million kilowatts. This capacity will be increased to over 13 million kilowatts by 1971. Rates are available from the Kentucky Power Company in Ashland, or the Kentucky Department of Commerce in Frankfort.

The Licking Valley RECC, whose source of power is the East Kentucky RECC, supplies electrical power to 2,840 customers in Morgan County. The East Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation is a generation and transmission cooperative which transmits low-cost wholesale power to its 18 member rural electrics. Rates may be obtained from the East Kentucky RECC, Winchester, Kentucky, or the Kentucky Department of Commerce.

### Natural Gas

The Elam Utilities Company, whose source of supply is the Kentucky Gas Transmission Company, supplies 485 customers in West Liberty with natural gas. The 12-inch transmission line, from which gas is tapped, has a maintained pressure of 55 psi and is located less than 800 feet from the city limits.

Distribution lines of 2, 3, 4, and 6 inches have a pressure range of from .5 to 10 psi. The average BTU content is 1170 per cubic foot and specific gravity is .68.

#### Monthly Rates:

First	2,000 cu. ft. or less per month	\$3.10
Next	10,000 cu. ft.	.96 per M cu. ft.
Next	10,000 cu. ft.	.91 per M cu. ft.
Next	18,000 cu. ft.	.86 per M cu. ft.
All in excess of	40,000 cu. ft.	.81 per M cu. ft.

### Coal

The freight delivery cost of industrial-domestic coals to Morehead, Kentucky, from the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field is \$2.43 per net ton. 13/



## Fuel Oil

Kentucky has three fuel oil refineries located in Catlettsburg, Louisville, and Somerset. Kentucky's fuel supply is supplemented by border state operations.

Delivery prices of the various grades may be obtained from the Kentucky Department of Commerce, Frankfort, Kentucky.

## WATER AND SEWERAGE

### Water

The West Liberty Municipal Water Works supplies treated water to 540 customers. The plant's treatment capacity is 250,000 gpd. The average daily use is 140,000 gallons and the maximum daily use has been 180,000 gallons. Water is stored in a 75,000-gallon elevated tank. The Licking River is the source of raw water.

Water rates for the West Liberty Municipal Water Works are:

First	2,000 gallons	\$3.60 (Minimum)
Next	3,000 gallons	1.35 per M gallons
Next	5,000 gallons	1.10 per M gallons
Next	5,000 gallons	.90 per M gallons
Next	10,000 gallons	.70 per M gallons
Next	25,000 gallons	.60 per M gallons
All over	50,000 gallons	.50 per M gallons

### Sewerage

The West Liberty Municipal Water Works provides both primary and secondary treatment of sewage. The system has a daily capacity of 1,000,000 gallons. The average daily flow is approximately 600,000 gallons. The system maintains separate sanitary and storm sewers. The sewerage rate is 50 percent of the water bill.

## AGRICULTURE - NATURAL RESOURCES - CLIMATE

### Agriculture

The approximate total land area of Morgan County is 236,160 acres, with 69 percent of the area devoted to farm land. In 1964, there were 1,376 farms in the county, with the average farm size 119 acres.

Farm income in the county is chiefly from the production of burley tobacco, supplemented by cattle, hogs, and dairying. The 1964 value of sales of all farm products totaled \$3,096,165, averaging \$2,250 per farm. Crop sales totaled \$2,461,089; livestock and livestock products totaled \$634,966.

In 1967, agricultural production in Morgan County included 3.5 million pounds of burley tobacco and 189,000 bushels of corn. Livestock on farms on January 1, 1968, included 8,000 cattle and calves, and 2,400 hogs and pigs. Milk cows on farms during 1966 averaged 2,500 head, with milk production for the year totaling 11.6 million pounds.

### Mineral Resources

The principal mineral resources of Morgan County consist of cannel and bituminous coal, limestone, petroleum and natural gas, and fire clay. Common clays and rock asphalt are also present.

Coal has been produced in Morgan County since 1901. Total cumulative production through 1966 amounts to 4,527,445 tons. The county has been particularly noted for its large production of cannel coal. A recent publication by the U. S. Geological Survey estimates the total original reserves of Morgan County to be 486.19 million tons.

Limestone of Mississippian Age outcrops in the northwestern portion of the county along the lower drainage of the Licking River. These formations outcrop in a general belt bordering the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field, and in many places along this belt contain high-calcium zones (95 percent or more  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ).

Considerable amounts of petroleum have been produced in Morgan County. Significant quantities of natural gas have also been produced. Recent production is reported from three small fields in the northern portion of the county.



Discontinuous and irregular lenses of refractory clay are found in Pennsylvanian sediments in certain areas.

### Water Resources

The largest supply of surface water is from the Licking River; the water supply of the town of West Liberty comes from this source. Other sources may be obtained by local impoundments of small streams.

Depending on the particular locality, the yield rate of ground water is from very small to over 100 gallons per minute and is the source of industrial and household supplies of water.

### Forests

There are 170,200 acres of commercial forest land in Morgan County, covering 72.1 percent of the total land area. The most abundant species are red oaks, white oaks, yellow poplar, hickories, yellow pines, beech, and soft maple.

Within a 50-mile radius of West Liberty, there are 3.3 million acres of commercial forest land. In 1962, 133 million board feet of timber were harvested from this area.

Forests of the entire area are provided organized fire protection by the State Department of Natural Resources.

### Climate

West Liberty has a pleasant year-round temperature. Extremes of heat or cold rarely occur.

Winter is short and mild, with snowfall heaviest during the months of December, January, and February.

Average yearly precipitation is 38.91 inches. Rainfall occurs more often in the months of June and July than in other months.

The normal monthly maximum temperature ranges from 41.6° F. to 85.7° F., while the monthly minimum temperature ranges from 25.2° F. to 64.8° F. The annual average temperature ranges from 33.4° F. to 75.3° F.

During the year there is an average of 153 cloudy days, 103 partly cloudy days, and 109 clear days. The average year has 12 days of fog.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Structure

West Liberty, a fifth-class city, is governed by a mayor elected for a four-year term and six councilmen elected at large for two-year terms.

Morgan County is governed by a fiscal court composed of a county judge elected for a four-year term and five magistrates elected by districts for four-year terms.

### Finance

The 1968 income for the City of West Liberty totaled \$121,633. Expenditures for the same period totaled \$114,734. Total bonded indebtedness is \$410,000.

Morgan County's 1968-69 estimated budget was \$84,232. Bonded indebtedness outstanding of the county as of December 31, 1968, was \$33,500.

### Taxes

Property taxes are the major source of income for West Liberty and Morgan County. Property must be assessed at 100 percent of value under provisions of the Kentucky Constitution. Net assessed value of property in these jurisdictions was as follows:

<u>Classes of Property</u>	<u>West Liberty (1968)</u>	<u>Morgan County (1968)</u>
Real Estate	\$6,063,585	\$25,069,804
Tangibles	17,130	4,380,301
Public Service	655,320	3,563,662

Property tax rates for West Liberty and Morgan County are shown in Table 8.

TABLE 8

PROPERTY TAX RATES PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUE FOR  
WEST LIBERTY AND MORGAN COUNTY, 1968 <sup>14/</sup>

Taxing Unit	West Liberty	Morgan County
State	\$ .015	\$ .015
County	.213	.213
School	.366	.366
City	<u>.200</u>	<u>          </u>
Total	\$ .794	\$ .594

The City of West Liberty requires a business license, with the minimum fee being \$10.

West Liberty is empowered by state law to allow a five-year exemption from municipal taxation for new industry.

#### Planning and Zoning

The West Liberty-Morgan County Planning Commission, formed in 1968, is presently working on a comprehensive plan and housing element.

#### Safety

Fire: West Liberty has a Class-7 American Insurance Association fire rating. The West Liberty Volunteer Fire Department is staffed by one full-time fire chief and twenty-two volunteer firemen. Motorized equipment includes a 1961 International 500-gpm pumper and tank truck and a 1941 Dodge 500-gpm pumper. Other special equipment includes foam and various types of fire extinguishers and breathing apparatus.

Police: The West Liberty Police Department is staffed by a chief and three patrolmen. Motorized equipment consists of one radio-equipped patrol car.

The Morgan County Sheriff's office is staffed by a sheriff, who utilizes a radio-equipped patrol car.

#### Sanitation

Garbage is collected by a private contractor twice a week in the residential areas and daily in the business district. The rate in residential areas is \$2.50 per month; the business rate is \$10 per month. All garbage is disposed of in sanitary land fills.



## HEALTH

### Hospitals

St. Claire Medical Center in Morehead, 35 miles from West Liberty, is the nearest hospital serving the residents of West Liberty. This hospital, with 41 beds and 12 bassinets, has an active staff of 9 doctors and 15 nurses. The hospital has a laboratory, emergency room, X-ray, and surgery facilities.

A 50-bed hospital has been recently approved for construction at West Liberty. The facility will have approximately 20 general hospital beds and 30 extended care beds. The total project cost is estimated at \$1,500,000.

### Public Health

The Morgan County Health Department is located in West Liberty. The county health program includes: disease prevention, immunization, vital statistics and public health classes. The program is staffed by one administrator and sanitarian, one nurse, and one clerk, all of whom work full-time. The 1968 budget was \$21,060.

## OTHER LOCAL FACILITIES

### Housing

Rental housing is limited in West Liberty. The construction cost of a three-bedroom brick house averages \$10,000 to \$12,000, depending on location and grade of materials used in construction.

### Communication

Telephone: The Mountain Rural Telephone Company serves 2,488 telephone customers in the West Liberty area with a modern dial system.

Postal: West Liberty has a second-class post office. Mail is received twice and dispatched once daily. There is one mail delivery daily to the business district. The post office serves three rural routes.

Newspapers: The Licking Valley Courier, a weekly newspaper, serves the West Liberty area with a circulation of 3,500. Other newspapers are received daily from Louisville, Lexington, and Ashland, Kentucky; and Huntington, West Virginia.

Radio: West Liberty has excellent radio reception from stations in Morehead, Lexington, and Mt. Sterling.

Television: Television reception is from Huntington and Charleston, West Virginia, and Lexington, Kentucky. All three major networks are represented.

### Libraries

The John F. Kennedy Memorial Library, located in West Liberty, has approximately 15,000 volumes. The 1967-68 total circulation was 21,424. The library also circulates magazines, records, film strips, tapes, and athletic equipment.

Services provided by the library include a story hour, adult education, and meeting space for civic groups. Hours of operation are 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

The Morgan County bookmobile provides services four days a week. Total circulation for 1967-68 was 34,714.

## Churches

There are five churches located in West Liberty representing the following denominations: Baptist, Catholic, Christian, Church of God, and Methodist.

## Financial Institutions

<u>Bank</u>	<u>Statement as of June 29, 1968</u>	
	<u>Assets</u>	<u>Deposits</u>
West Liberty Commercial Bank	\$9,330,498.98	\$8,575,472.66

## Clubs and Organizations

Business and Civic: Jaycees, Medical Society, Dental Society, Ministerial Association, Red Cross

Fraternal: American Legion, Masonic Lodge

Women's: Woman's Club, Eastern Star, Garden Club

Youth: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, FFA, FHA, 4-H, Beta Club

## Recreation

Local: Recreation facilities in West Liberty include a city park with a swimming pool, picnic facilities, tennis courts, and playground; a new eight-lane bowling alley, a drive-in movie, and a lighted baseball field that accommodates Little League and county-wide softball.

Construction will soon begin on the new Pleasant Valley Country Club. Facilities will include a nine-hole golf course, clubhouse, swimming pool, tennis courts, picnic area, basketball court, archery, and a playground.

Area: Jenny Wiley State Park, Prestonsburg, is located 44 miles from West Liberty. Facilities for swimming, fishing, golfing, camping, and horseback riding are available. There are also excellent lodging and dining facilities.

Natural Bridge State Park is located 40 miles from West Liberty. This park has facilities for hiking, swimming, and picnicking.

College sports can be viewed at Morehead State University in Morehead, 35 miles from West Liberty.



Recent Community Improvements

Public: Remodeled courthouse and county jail - new John F. Kennedy Memorial Library - new airport - new playground with tennis court, swimming pool, and picnic facilities - resurfaced streets.

Business and Industrial: New commercial bank building.

## HISTORY

Morgan County, the seventy-third Kentucky county, founded in 1822, was named for General Daniel Morgan, an officer in the American Revolution. The land is beautified with wooded knolls and meandering streams. Its numerous rolling pasture lands support various kinds of livestock.

West Liberty, the county seat since 1836, is located in the approximate geographic center of the county. The origin of the name "West Liberty" is unknown. The earliest available records mentioning the town give authorization for the building of a jail in West Liberty.

As early as 1787, surveying parties traversed the area in the interest of Virginia's Revolutionary War soldiers. The names of John and James Hamilton were found carved on a tree with the date of 1793 carved under them.

The initials of Daniel Boone were found on several trees in the county, carved there during his early explorations of Kentucky.

West Liberty suffered greatly during the Civil War. The town reportedly had 29 buildings including the county courthouse destroyed by fire.

Although the people were religious, there was not even a church in West Liberty in 1881; the people held their services in the courthouse. A school building was not constructed until 1884.

Names worthy of remembrance are:

John M. Elliott - served two terms in the United States Congress and two in the Congress of the Southern Confederacy.

James Monroe Brown - served as school teacher, secretary of state, county assessor and county clerk.

Dr. Samuel Brown - graduated from the Edinburgh, Scotland, Medical School.

Historically, agriculture has been the economic base of Morgan County and West Liberty, the major products being tobacco, corn, hay, and some timber for the market. However, in recent years great advances have been made in tourism and industry.

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