



# Morgan County Observatory

Telescope Project History  
Spring 2018

Telescope donated to County Schools 1994

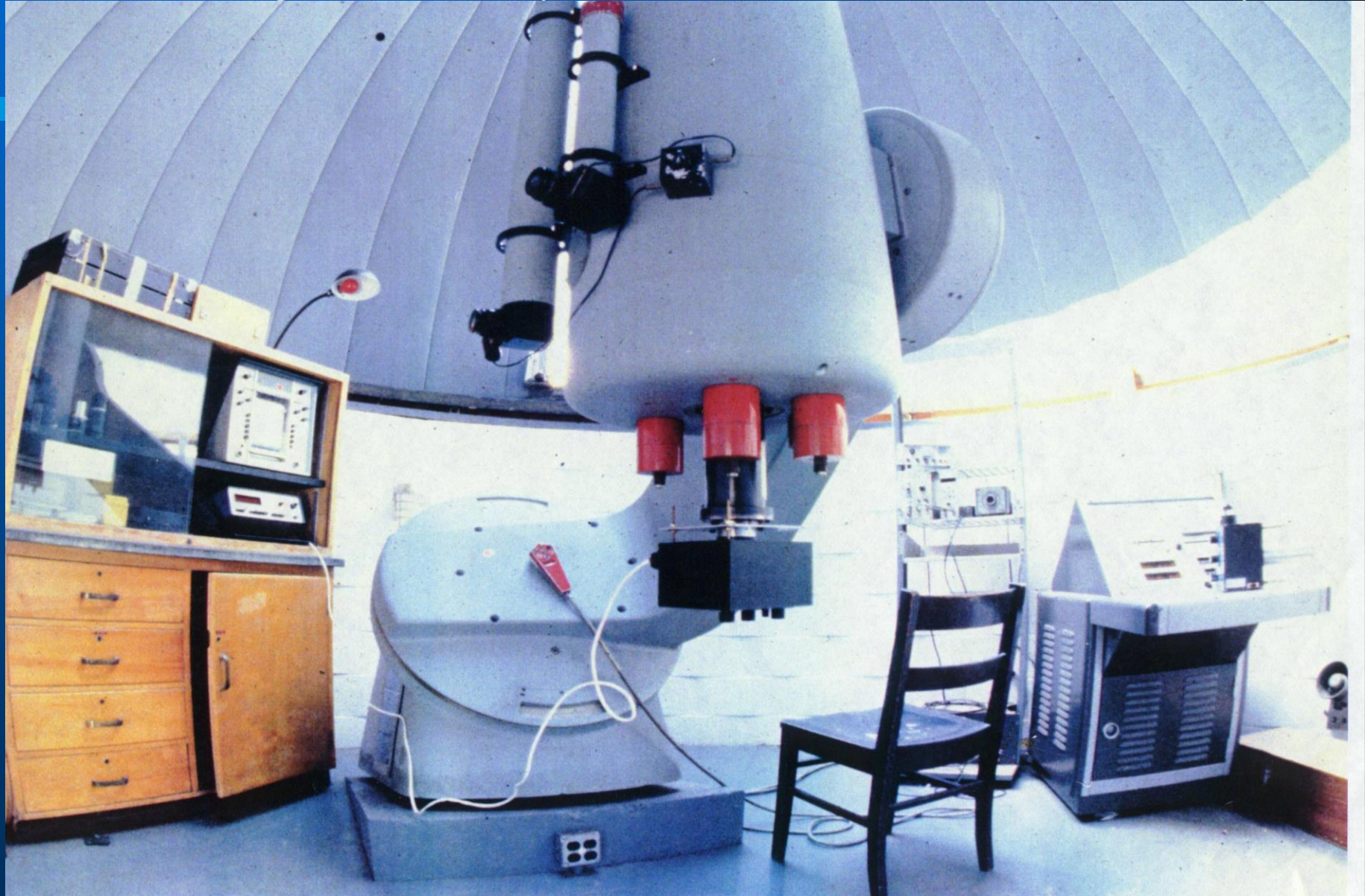


Created in 1999 by community members interested in Astronomy

**Our Mission:** To build and offer for public use an observatory to house the county's donated telescope. To make this telescope an instrument for fostering interest in Science and Astronomy in the region



16" Cassegrain Telescope built by Ferson Optics in 1967, decommissioned by US Naval Academy in 1993. One of three built, this one at Colgate University was identical to US Naval Academy's





Dr Jerry Jones, Superintendent Morgan Co Schools 1994, ensured that the telescope was sent to Morgan County after learning of its availability from Engineer Tom Collins



# Site located at Greenwood Elementary School Grounds





# Telescope delivered to CoLab Scientific- Engineer Tom Collin's shop





6 months later, Engineer Tom Collins with repaired telescope



# Funding obtained from many sources

- **\$60,000 Gov. Underwood, Del. Trump**
- **\$35,000 Community donations to MCOF**
- **\$20,000 Morgan County Commission**
- **\$10,000 Nat'l Science Found.-Computers**
- **\$10,000 WV Dept Education-training**
- **\$8,100 United Way Morgan County**
- **\$5,000 WV Dept Education-building**
- **\$5,854 MC Board of Ed - Heat Pump**
- **\$5,000 State Farm Foundation grant**
- **\$2,500 Town of Bath, and many others!**



# Groundbreaking Ceremony August 2, 2001





# Telescope Engineer, Construction Manager & Architect consult on plans





Form for isostatic pier for telescope , eventually contained 33,000 lbs concrete and has its own separate foundation from rest of building



# Students get a lesson on concrete as observatory grows





# Warming room floor half poured



# Viewing room rises, entrance door braced in place





Top row of viewing room wall reached



Framing work completed, Dome installed December 8, 2001

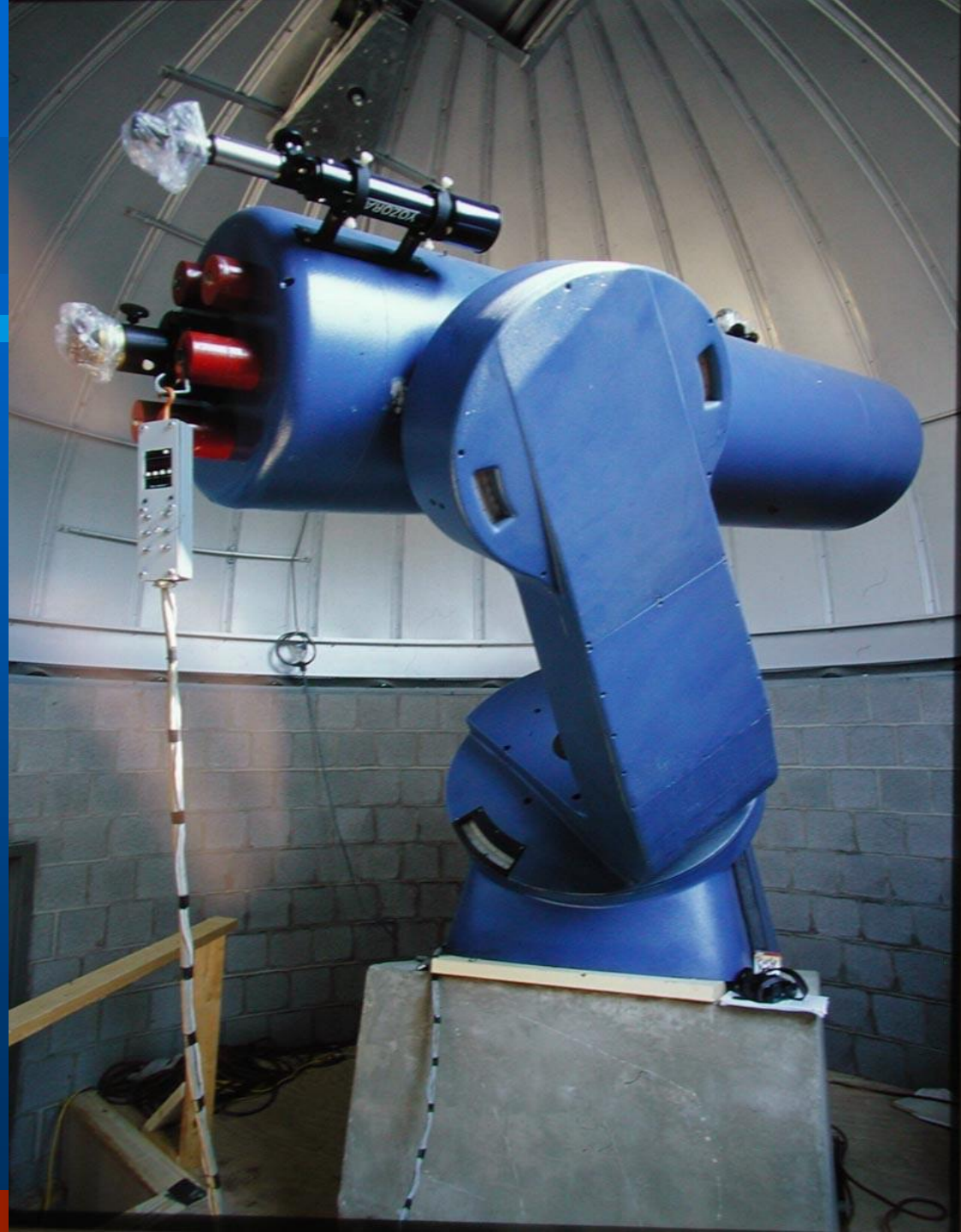




# Exterior work on Morgan County Observatory complete



Telescope as it  
looked in 2002  
inside  
observatory





# Interior view of observatory Fall 2002



# Mt View Builder's driver loads dirt from Pine Valley School for Observatory landscaping

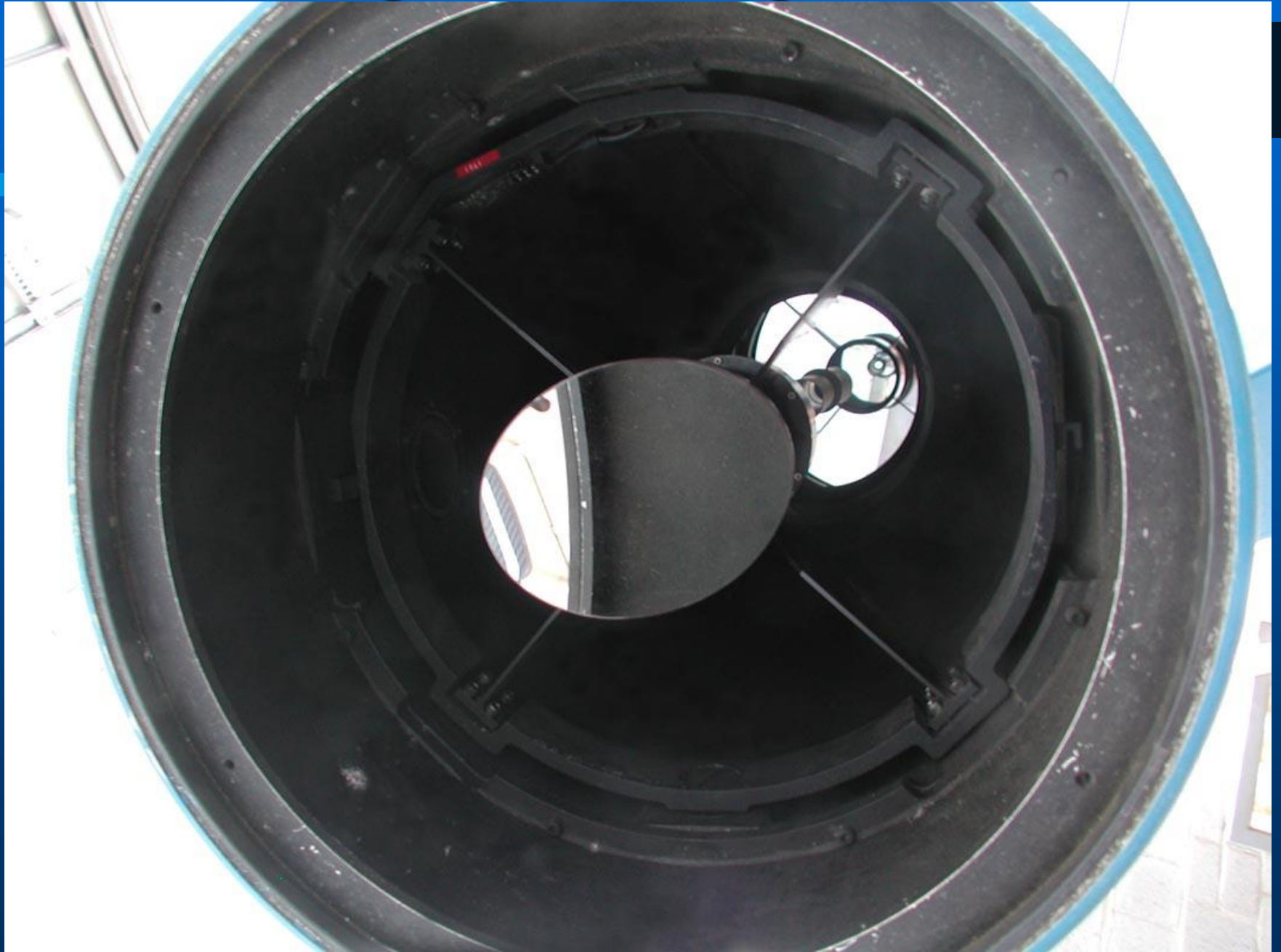




# United Way Day of Caring Sept 10th 2002 MCOF Landscaping Project

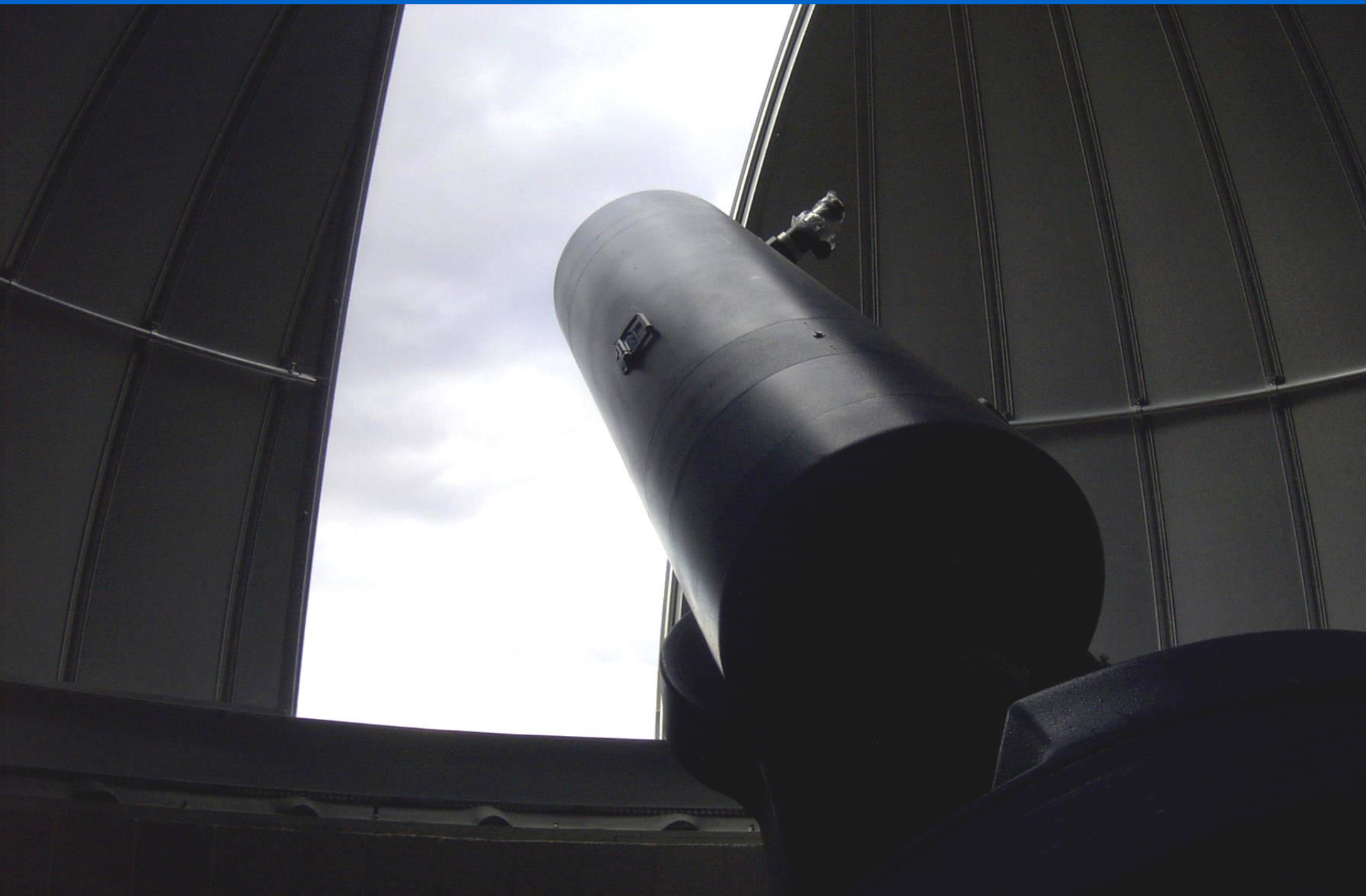


# Looking into Telescope Mirrors





# Telescope looking out through dome slit



# Morgan County Observatory - Berkeley Springs, WV

