

DETAILS

Historic Preservation West Virginia



A publication from the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office

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Introduction

After a brief hiatus, we are relaunching *Details*, the newsletter from the State Historic Preservation Office. In this issue we will be reflecting back on the many successes that the SHPO and our partners have experienced over the past three years.

See on page 3 Revitalizing WV's Traditional Trades Workforce: The Preservation Alliance of West Virginia (PAWV) discusses the shortage of workers specializing in the traditional trades that the state is currently facing. In an effort to address this important issue, they have organized the WV Preservation Trades Task Force. In the article, PAWV outlines their goals for the task force to revitalize traditional trades within the state.

See on page 6 "Historic Highlights": We review the activities of SHPO programs from summer of 2022 to the summer of 2023.

See on page 7 "The Future is Bright": From 2020-2021, three organizations were awarded funds from the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Program: the State Historic Preservation Office, Wheeling Heritage, and the Preservation Alliance of WV (PAWV). With funds from this program, Wheeling Heritage established a subgrant program and have awarded \$375,000 to local projects. PAWV used their award to expand their Saving Historical Places Grant, which aims to help historically-significant buildings address issues of deferred maintenance.

See on page 9 "Additions to the Register" : Between 2021 and 2022 a total of eighteen historic resources were added to the National Register. Explore their special history and contributions to their community's landscape. ❀

-Claire Tryon
Editor



Jim Justice

Governor

Randall Reid-Smith

Curator / State Historic Preservation Officer

Susan M. Pierce

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Editor

Claire Tryon

Layout & Design

Steven A. Holsclaw

THE CULTURE CENTER

1900 Kanawha Blvd. East
Charleston, WV 25305



Phone: 304-558-0220

TDD: 304-558-3562

FAX: 304-558-2779

www.wvculture.org

EEO/AA Employer

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FRONT COVER

Cover: Fidler's Mill, Rock Cave, WV. Photo courtesy of Steve Brightwell, WVDACH.

SHPO Updating Statewide Historic Preservation Plan

It's time for an update! We're in the process of revising the statewide comprehensive historic preservation plan and we want to hear about your successes, goals, challenges and other thoughts and ideas for the future. Your voice will help us determine the state's preservation goals and objectives for 2025-2030. A questionnaire is available online, please scan the QR code and assist us in our mission to preserve the Mountain State. For more information about the update to the state historic preservation plan, please reach out to our Planning & Education Coordinator, Claire Tryon, at claire.e.tryon@wv.gov or calling (304) 558-0220.



Moorefield HLC participates in statewide survey.

REVITALIZING West Virginia's Traditional Trades Workforce

Written By Danielle Parker & Sara
Volkman, Preservation Alliance of
West Virginia



*Replacing Craft Shop Roof, Arthurdale, WV.
Photo courtesy of Arthurdale Heritage Inc..*

As the statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to historic preservation in our Mountain State, the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia (PAWV) has been working for four decades to promote the saving of West Virginia's unique cultural resources. In recent years, PAWV has identified a new, serious threat currently complicating historic preservation projects here in West Virginia: a shortage of practitioners well-versed in traditional trades. Together with community stakeholders, PAWV has turned its attention to address this challenge, as well as developing opportunities to build a traditional trades workforce in our Mountain State.

The shortage of traditional trades workers is not unique to West Virginia. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Preservation Partners Network, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation have identified the challenges and opportunities to build a broader preservation trades workforce across our nation. Recommendations and best practices were also highlighted such as integrating

traditional trades into existing Department of Labor apprenticeship programs and including traditional trades training in the implementation of the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). PAWV is proud to have helped facilitate one such training in West Virginia at the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve. Together with Park staff and AmeriCorps Members, PAWV reached out to the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) to request their instruction for a workshop focused on the dwindling art of historic masonry. Seeing the value of such work, the HPTC was able to utilize the Great American Outdoors Act Legacy Restoration Funds to not only conduct an intensive masonry workshop but also to address deferred maintenance issues at New River Gorge. Over a one-week period at the end of next year, the HPTC as well as staff from the National Park Service's Western Center for Historic Preservation and faculty from the University of Pennsylvania Weitzman School of Design trained a dozen park employees and AmeriCorps members in the practice of documenting, analyzing, and treating historic masonry. The bulk of the work focused on the restoration of historic hearths



HPTC workshop at NRG. Photo credit, Neil Hakel.

at the Grandview Overlook that were originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and are still regularly used by visitors to the park. In total, workshop attendees as well as Park and HPTC employees operating outside of the workshop restored 30 hearths to good working order for the public to use and enjoy for years to come.

Building on this success, the West Virginia Preservation Trades Task Force is working to compile a list of suggestions on how to develop opportunities for those interested in pursuing a preservation trades career.

The suggestions include

- Exploring existing trades programs around the nation, and reaching out to see what draws students to these programs.
- Connecting with existing vocational high schools and colleges to share information about historic preservation trades careers and theory.
- Developing a marketing campaign for the art of historic preservation trades

and how preservation can be connected to environmentalism to promote interest in preservation trades careers.

- Researching and developing an incentive program to encourage existing historic preservation construction companies in West Virginia to take on apprentices or students.
- Creating and offering historic preservation skills training workshops to current and new construction professionals.
- Promoting existing historic preservation financial incentives such as the state historic taxcredit to encourage the demand for professionals in our Mountain State.

Over the coming year the West Virginia Preservation Trades Task Force will continue working on some of these action items and will be meeting monthly to discuss ongoing projects. If you are interested in joining the West Virginia Preservation Trades Task Force or for more information, contact PAWV executive director, Danielle Parker at dlapresta@pawv.org. ☼



NPS Staff and AmeriCorps working on hearth. Photo credit, Sara Volkmann.

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS: A SHPO UP-DATE

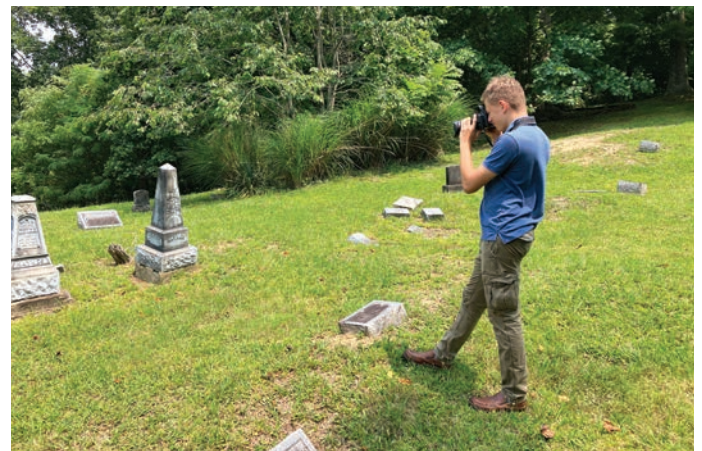
Throughout 2022 and into 2023, we have been working toward empowering the people of West Virginia to recognize and protect the historic resources within their communities, and we've been successful!

Listed below are some of our office's accomplishments from July of 2022 to June 2023:

- Added 12 listings to the National Register, such as the Eleanor Historic District and Virginia Apartments in Wheeling.
- Held a two day virtual training discussing topics like identification and documentation, using map viewer, and public engagement.
- 802 new historic preservation inventory forms were processed.
- The 2021 Multi-County Survey of Clay, Lewis, Upshur, and Webster counties was completed in 2022.
- Consulted on the development of the Sewell Road Trail in Babcock State Park.

- Funded 16 Survey and Planning projects administering a total of \$167,064 & funded 20 Development projects administering a total of \$537,360.50. By administering these funds we were able to assist projects in 21 counties across the state.

This could not have been accomplished without the dedication and hard work of West Virginians across the state. We look forward to finding ways for our collective preservation efforts to continue to grow and thrive in the upcoming year. ☼



Summer Intern documenting Westlake Cemetery, Anstead, WV. Photo courtesy of the WV State Historic Preservation Office.



Staff members visit the Wagner Theater in Morgantown in April of 2023, Photo courtesy of the WV State Historic Preservation Office.



Staff members at Hotel Thelma, Bluefield, WV. Photo courtesy of the WV State Historic Preservation Office.

Preserving West Virginia and the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Program



Waterfront Hall, Wheeling, WV. Photo courtesy of Wheeling Heritage.

The Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Program is distributed through the National Park Service with the aim of fostering economic development in rural communities. Within the past few years, West Virginia has been fortunate enough to be awarded three of these grants. During FY 2020 the WV SHPO received a Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant for \$350,000. This money was used to help property owners of National Register of Historic Places listed places address rehabilitation issues for their properties. fourteen grants were awarded throughout the state (awardees listed in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue of *Details*). Then in 2021 the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia and Wheeling Heritage were selected to receive Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants; there were only 11 Bruhn grant recipients that year.

The National Park Service awarded a \$550,000 Bruhn grant to the Preservation Alliance of West

Virginia (PAWV). The Preservation Alliance of West Virginia is a statewide nonprofit dedicated to historic preservation. PAWV used the Bruhn grant to expand its Saving Historical Places Grant. The Saving Historical Places Grant is intended to help alleviate some of the pressures of deferred maintenance and target historically-significant buildings that are on the verge of being lost either from collapse or demolition by neglect. PAWV selected six projects to receive funding: the Arthurdale School Buildings, Cold Metal Building, New River Grocery Building, the Logan House, Wheby's Grocery Store, and WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind Dairy Barn. As of September 2023, completed projects include the Arthurdale Schools Buildings, WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind Dairy Barn, and the Cold Metal Building.

The other West Virginian recipient was Wheeling Heritage. Since 1994, Wheeling Heritage has been a catalyst for the revitalization by protecting Wheeling's sense of place and character. Wheeling

Heritage was awarded a \$750,000 Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant - one of the largest grants in the organization's history - to do just that. This grant has provided significant financial support to historic preservation projects across the city through a new subgrant program. The program awarded between \$15,000 and \$75,000 to rehabilitation projects across the city. The first round of grants were awarded to the 1400 Block of Market Street, Berry Supply Building, SMART Center, and the Hughes House. Around \$375,000 of the total funds were distributed to these four projects.



Romney Dairy Barn Before, Hampshire County, WV. Photo courtesy of PAWV.

The Preservation Alliance of West Virginia and Wheeling Heritage both received Paul Bruhn grants FY2023. PAWV received a \$750,000 for the Fund for Historic Schools and will focus on phase 1 and phase 2 rehabilitation of historic schools in West Virginia, while Wheeling Heritage will use their award to support their historic revitalization subgrant program. ❀



Romney Dairy Barn After, Hampshire County, WV. Photo courtesy of PAWV.



1400 Block Market Street, Wheeling, WV. Photo courtesy of Wheeling Heritage.

Recent National Register Listings



St. Albans Railroad Industry Historic District, (St. Albans) Kanawha County.

In 2021 and 2022 a total of eighteen historic resources and districts were added to the National Register of Historic Places. From St. Albans to Terra Alta, these listings add to our understanding of our state's rich history. These churches, schools, farms, and gathering places all define our communities and who we are as West Virginians.

St. Albans Railroad Industry Historic District (St. Albans)

The St. Albans Railroad District has been a center of transportation and industry since about 1906. With the C&O Railroad running through the area, many businesses and warehouses opened near the depot once it was constructed in 1906. Many railroad employees lived in houses along Fourth Street, which are also in the historic district. As rail traffic declined, St. Albans Depot closed in 1960.



Kanawha County Schools for Colored Deaf and Blind, Kanawha County.
Photo courtesy of the National Register of Historic Places.

West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind (Institute)

In 1870 the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind was established in Romney. However the school served only white children, forcing deaf and/or blind African American children to be sent to schools out of state. It wasn't until 1919 that the West Virginia legislature authorized the construction of the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind. It was opened in 1926 and had 28 students. The schools operated until segregation ended in 1955, and students were transferred to Romney. The buildings were then used by the West Virginia Board of Education as a rehabilitation center for the blind and severely disabled to prepare individuals for employment. In 2007 the West Virginia Rehabilitation Center ceased operations and the Division of Rehabilitation Services used the site until 2011. West Virginia State University acquired the property in 2013.



Davis-Graham Historic District, Elkins, WV. Photo courtesy of the National Register of Historic Places.

Graham-Davis Historic District (Elkins)

By 1889 Elkins had been established along the West Virginia Pittsburgh Central Railroad. Thirty-six acres next to the new town was owned by Frank Graham and J.W.W Davis, who hired surveyors to lay out roughly uniform lots and streets. By the 1890s many homes were built in this area as it became a part of Elkins. Various popular housing styles between the 1890's and 1930's are represented in the district: Italian Villa, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, American Foursquare and Craftsman style homes.



West Virginia State University Faculty Houses, Kanawha County, WV. Photo courtesy of the National Register of Historic Places.

West Virginia State University Faculty House Historic District (Institute)

In the early 20th century the West Virginia Colored Institute, which became West Virginia State College in 1929, experienced a significant increase in enrollment as the institution increased its programs, offered degrees and was accredited by the North Central Association. To attract qualified professors, the College proposed the faculty houses in 1933. Master architect John C. Norman designed the houses and oversaw their completion in 1935. The college was aided in funding these houses by the Public Works Administration, one of many New Deal programs during the Great Depression.



Taylor's Meadow (Shepherdstown) Jefferson, WV. Photo courtesy of the National Register of Historic Places.

decreased to 4 and by 1850 no enslaved people remained on the property. Taylor's Meadow consists of 50 acres from the granted 329 acres with walls and foundations of the buildings still remaining.



Spring Grove, Charles Town, WV. Photo courtesy of the National Register of Historic Places.

Spring Grove (Charles Town)

John Sinclair bought 451 acres in what would become Jefferson County in 1790 and began farming the property that would be named Spring Grove. The farm passed through several of John's descendants until in 1853 when roughly half of the land was sold to Thomas Isbell. A lawyer and politician, Isbell greatly increased the value of the property by building the current house in 1858. Beginning when John was farming and running through the end of the Civil War, slave labor was an important part to keeping the farm profitable. In 1814, John Sinclair's will listed 59 slaves on the property. Through 1860 the number of enslaved persons dropped to 19 persons. After the Civil War, between 3 and 8 free African Americans were listed as part of the Isbell household until 1910. It is not certain if these persons were former slaves on the property.

Taylor's Meadow (Shepherdstown)

An early settler to Jefferson County was Samuel Taylor who was granted 329 acres of land by Governor William Gooch in the early 1730s. Taylor's tract was situated near two principal roads which led to markets in Philadelphia and Winchester. The family primarily used the land for farming. The earliest evidence of enslaved people at Taylor's Meadow are the 1772 rent rolls for Berkeley County which show John Taylor owned two enslaved people. This number increased to 11 enslaved people in 1810, but



Dunbar Community Center, Weirton, WV. Photo courtesy of the National Register of Historic Places.

Dunbar Recreation Center (Weirton)

Between 1944 and the 1970s the Dunbar Recreation Center was a central gathering place and cultural hub for African Americans in the Weirton area. Dr. Anthony J. Major, principal of Dunbar High School, worked with Weirton Steel's Weirton Improvement Company to build the recreation center. In addition to serving as the home for the African American Dunbar High School basketball teams, following desegregation in 1955, Weirton High School competed at the recreation center for a number of years. Since the 1980's, falling population in the area has led to the decline of programs offered at the recreation center, however it remains a location for community-pride celebrations.

Dry Pond School (Lindside)

In 1907 there were 130 schools in Monroe County. Most of these were one-room schools and taught first through eighth grades. High schools were still an exception, rather than a rule. As the 20th century progressed, schools throughout the county, as well as the state, began to consolidate. Dry Pond School was built as a two-room school in 1923, consolidating five one-room schools in the area. A smaller one-room Dry Pond School was listed near the current building in the West Virginia Educational Directory and was one of the schools that was consolidated. As transportation became better throughout the county and as population eventually declined, school consolidations continued until in 1961, only 22 schools remained and Dry Pond School was closed.



Hilltop Cemetery, Summers County, WV. Photo courtesy of the National Register of Historic Places.

Hilltop Cemetery (Hinton)

Hilltop Cemetery's earliest recorded death is dated 1875, roughly two years after the town of Hinton was founded. In 1890 the cemetery was surveyed into a regular grid of 258 numbered plots. The first recorded sale of one of these numbered plots occurred in 1892 and was the first time the name Hilltop Cemetery was used. There are a number of memorials, obelisks, walls and other funerary objects throughout the cemetery that give the cemetery its unique feel and importance.



First Congregational Church of Ceredo, Wayne County, WV. Photo courtesy of the National Register of Historic Places.

First Congregational Church of Ceredo (Ceredo)

The First Congregational Church of Ceredo was officially established in 1874, meeting in a local hall. By 1883 efforts began to raise money for a permanent church. In late 1885 land was purchased for the building and Samuel Floyd Hoard was commissioned to design the building and he created a simplified, local interpretation of the Queen Anne style with a hipped roof with multiple cross gables and a corner bell tower. In June of 1886 the church was completed and dedicated. An annex was added to the east side of the church in 1925, designed by an 83 year old Samuel Hoard a few months before his death.

Five Corners Historic District (Charleston)

The Five Corners Historic District is representative of the community planning and commercial development of the West Side of Charleston during the early to mid twentieth century. The historic district encompasses Virginia Street West, Central Avenue, 6th Street, Elm Street, and Delaware Avenue. A principal commercial district formed where two residential areas merged in the West Side. The district that formed was a walkable area of shops, restaurants, and services all of which met the needs of the nearby residents. In the mid-1960s, the district experienced decline due to the development of the interstate highway system which inhibited new construction and demolished pre-existing structures. The Five Corners Historic District includes over 50 residential, commercial, and mixed-use buildings with most coming from the early to mid-twentieth century.



Five Corners Historic District , Charleston, WV. Photo courtesy of the WV State Historic Preservation Office.



Dairy Barn, West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind Romney, WV. Photo courtesy of the WV State Historic Preservation Office.

Dairy Barn (Romney)

WV School for the Deaf and Blind constructed in 1930 the dairy barn was an essential part of the subsistence farming operation at the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind. The barn was used both for education and production until 1951. It is also an example of the Wisconsin Dairy Barn style with its intersecting gambrel roofs topping the U-shaped barn, consisting of connected eastern and western wings. The first floor is divided into livestock pens and feed manger accessed by multiple alleys. The barn is also equipped with early twentieth century agricultural tools such as automatic watering bowls, tilting feed mangers, and an overhead conveying track.



Terra Alta First United Methodist Church

In the early twentieth century, Fulton, a master architect, was developing his trademark church design.

Built between 1900-1904, Terra Alta First United Methodist features many of Fulton's characteristic elements, including a three-arch arcade on the front façade, an interior stained-glass dome, a sanctuary planned on the diagonal axis, and a hipped roof with prominent cross gables. A three-story educational building added to the rear of the church is one of the few alterations made to the structure.

Terra Alta UMC, Terra Alta, WV. Photo courtesy of WV State Historic Preservation Office.

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store (Coketon)

Constructed in 1900 by the Davis Coal and Coke Company, the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store is located in the company town of Coketon, approximately half a mile southwest of Thomas. The first store operated by Davis Coal and Coke. In addition to serving as the company store, the building was also the post office for the town. The Buxton and Landstreet Company Store was closed in 1950. It is one of the last remaining structures associated with the Davis Coal and Coke Company. ☼



Buxton and Landstreet Company Store, Tucker County, WV. Photo courtesy of the National Register of Historic Places.



THE CULTURE CENTER

1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

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Charleston, W.Va. 25301

WEST VIRGINIA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Susan Pierce

*Director/Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer*
Susan.M.Pierce@wv.gov
Ext. 158

Meredith Dreistadt

*Tax Credit & Certified Local
Government Coordinator*
Meredith.C.Dreistadt@wv.gov
Ext. 138

Jessica Eichlin

*Historian/
National Register and
Architectural Survey*
Jessica.A.Eichlin@wv.gov
Ext. 121

Stephen Gifford

*Structural Historian/
Section 106 Review*
Stephen.L.Gifford@wv.gov
Ext. 726

Carolyn Kender

Archaeologist/Cemetery Survey
Carolyn.M.Kender@wv.gov
Ext. 719

Lora Lamarre-DeMott

*Senior Archaeologist/State
Archaeological Permits*
Lora.A.Lamarre@wv.gov
Ext. 711

Yvette Montanez

Review and Compliance Assistant
Yvette.Montanez@wv.gov
Ext. 722

Christina Moore

*Grants Coordinator
Development and Survey
& Planning Grants*
Christina.J.Moore@wv.gov
Ext. 720

Benjamin Riggle

*Senior Structural Historian/
Section 106 Review*
Benjamin.M.Riggle@wv.gov
Ext. 157

Cody Straley

*National Register & Architectural
Survey Coordinator*
Cody.Straley@wv.gov
Ext. 712

Claire Tryon

Planning and Education Coordinator
Claire.E.Tryon@wv.gov
Ext. 126

Susan Wood

IT Coordinator - Computer/GIS
Susan.k.wood@wv.gov
Ext. 140