

DETAILS

Historic Preservation in West Virginia



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FRONT COVER

St. Albans Railroad Depot. In 2018, the St. Albans Railroad Depot received a development grant to finish its restoration. For grant awardees from the past year, see page 15. From WVSHPO Files, 2018.



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Introduction

May was Historic Preservation Month. Proposed through a Congressional Resolution for a Preservation Week and signed by President Richard Nixon in 1973, the week grew into Preservation Month in 2005. Preservation Month seeks to highlight historical places, encourage heritage tourism, and demonstrate historic preservation's social and economic benefits.

Historic preservation can be accomplished in different ways, and a few of these ways are shown in this issue of Details. For example, on page 2, the National Register nomination of the Charmco Building in Charleston (Kanawha) is shown. Being listed on the National Register allows property owners access to grants and tax credits that are powerful tools in preserving structures and sites.

Comprehensive historic preservation surveys of areas are important in discovering and documenting what is in an area. Through the information gained in a survey, valuable historic resources can be discovered that had not been known. Page 4 shows the comprehensive survey efforts for the past couple of years.

Tax credits are another vital tool for historic preservation. Each year the National Park Service and Rutgers University publish a report that outlines the economic impact that tax credits have had in the previous year. The press release from the National Park Service, which is slightly

modified to reflect West Virginia, about the study released last fall can be found on page 5.

Stories on pages 6 and 8 show preservation efforts that take place through documenting a site and working to preserve a site.

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia (PAWV) does important historic preservation work by bringing to light preservation issues across the state and advocating for historic preservation at the state legislature. PAWV also works with various sites and communities throughout the state through their Preserve West Virginia AmeriCorps program. Two members of this program were interviewed to show their experiences with the program, which can be seen on page 12.

Finally, on page 15, the various grants that have been awarded in 2020 and 2021 are listed. These grants help owners research their property, create plans for their sites, and provide funds to assist with preservation efforts on structures and sites.

While Preservation Month is only in May, preservation work is essential throughout the year. Doing this work the other eleven months leaves us with May to celebrate the achievements and successes of historic preservation. ❀

Charmco Building Enters National Register of Historic Places

Written By Emily Vance

Coordinator of National Register and Architectural Survey



One of the latest additions to the National Register of Historic Places, the Charmco Building, a former mill, and warehouse, has been a notable element of the Charleston skyline since 1914. Located at 606 Morris Street within the Warehouse District of the East End, the five-story, commercial-style brick warehouse commands impressive views of the neighborhood, including the adjacent Appalachian Power Park. The building exhibits some Romanesque influence, notably the corbeled façade panels and projections at the parapets, and terra cotta caps adorn the parapet walls. Large grain elevators at the southeast corner are constructed of cast-in-place concrete on which a faint ghost sign can be seen. It reads, "Cream of the fields; Charmco; FLOUR; FEEDS" and offers a glimpse into the building's important industrial past.

The Charleston Milling Company had its beginnings in 1860 when a grain plant with the capacity of approximately 25 barrels per day was constructed at Kanawha Street and Clendenin. At that time, Charleston was beginning its industrial expansion and exerting its significance in the state. The 1860 mill remained in operation until 1903 when it consolidated with the Wholesale Produce Company, and a new mill was erected on Morris Street. The name of this union was the Charleston Milling and Produce Company. The 1903 plant increased production to 500 barrels per day but was destroyed by fire in 1913. In the notice of the fire, a January 1914 article in American Miller notes that the mill had been the largest in the state. Charleston Milling and Produce quickly responded to the disaster.

In its reconstruction after the fire in 1914, the Charleston Milling and Produce Company relied on noted experts in the field of mill design and equipment to construct the most efficient and up-to-date plant possible. These are the Nordyke and Marmon Company for equipment and layout and the Burrell Engineering and Construction Company for design and construction of the building. These nationally significant firms provided a building that was promoted as a model in its field. When put in operation, the mill produced 800 barrels of flour, 600 barrels of cornmeal, and 600 barrels of yellow cornmeal a day, the largest milling operation in the state. It was also around this time that the mill shifted from horse-

drawn wagons to motor trucks for deliveries.

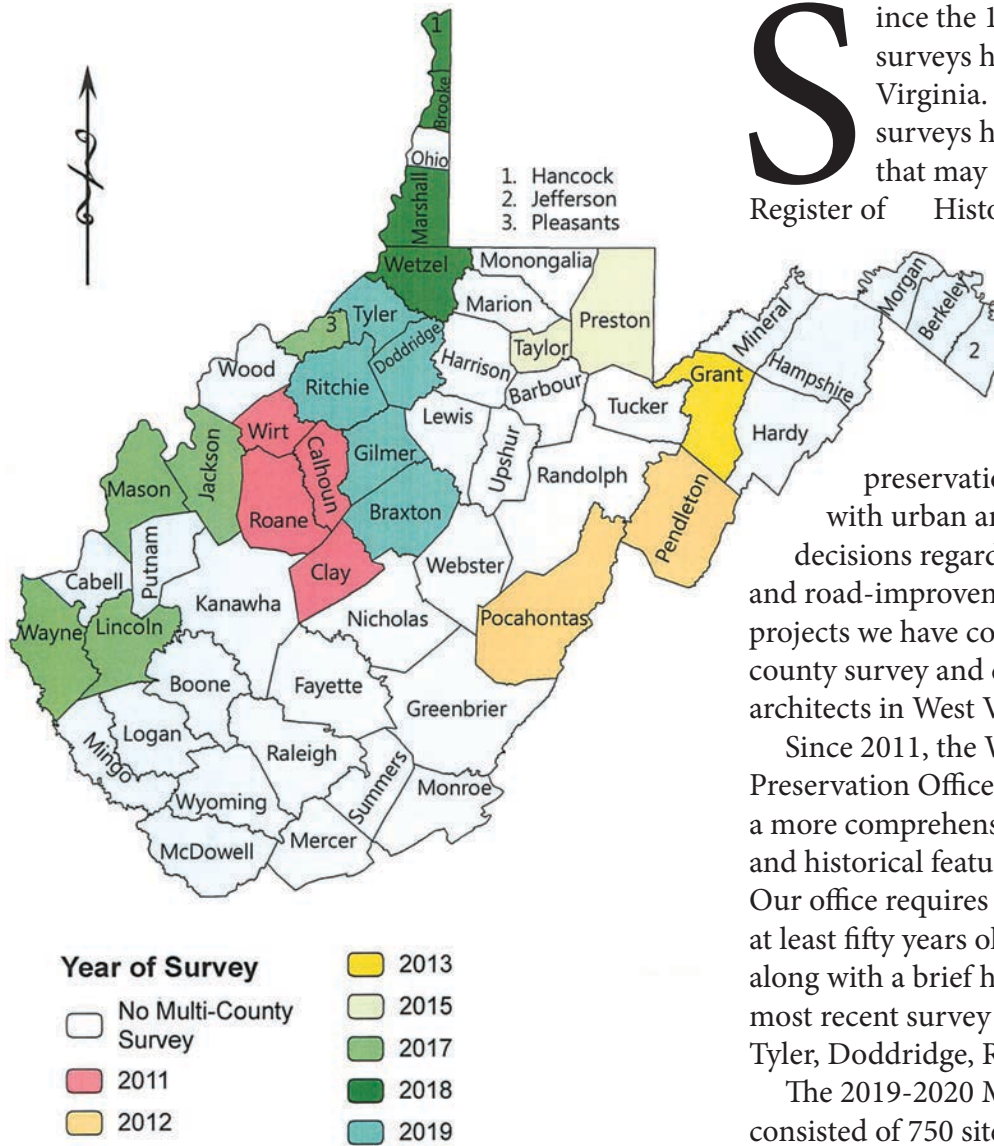
Charmco continued to be represented in local supermarket and grocery store advertisements in Charleston through the 1940s, though there are more and more mentions of national brands advertised alongside Charleston's local brand. The company ceased milling operations in 1951 and continued with its feed and wholesale grocery lines until 1956; an article from the Charleston Daily Mail on the company closing cited changes in flour production and competition on a national level as factors in the decision. The building has been used as a warehouse since then and is currently vacant.

Now surrounded by parking lots, the area was once a criss-cross of rail spur lines that led directly up to the mill as the building itself and its site and setting were designed to incorporate transportation elements into the structure's function. Some of these rail lines are still extant and in use one and a half blocks to the north of the building. Around 1970 a one-story concrete block building was added on the southside and a two-story concrete block infill building was built on the east side where rail lines were removed.

The building retains its feeling of the historical sense of time. Standing in front of or to the side of the building still conveys the massive structure that housed a significant milling and warehouse operation. The building still inspires awe at its presence. And, though the setting around the building has changed, it still retains its association with the development of this section of Charleston and stands as a testament to the industrial heritage of the city. ❀

Photos provided courtesy of National Register of Historic Places





Since the 1970s, architectural and history surveys have been conducted in West Virginia. These architectural and history surveys help identify significant properties that may qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and allows cultural

resource professionals to make informed decisions about the protection of West Virginia's historic built environment. They also help government agencies, professional preservation consultants, and the public with urban and economic development, make decisions regarding land-use plans, tourism, and road-improvement projects. Some of the recent projects we have completed include a multiple county survey and context studies for three master architects in West Virginia.

Since 2011, the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office has sponsored surveys to give a more comprehensive look at the architectural and historical features that our state has to offer. Our office requires that the sites surveyed be at least fifty years old and retain their integrity along with a brief history of the counties. Our most recent survey consisted of the counties Tyler, Doddridge, Ritchie, Gilmer, and Braxton.

The 2019-2020 Multi-County Survey consisted of 750 sites spread throughout the five counties. The survey results have provided us with several architectural resources that could potentially be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It also identified a couple of areas that, with additional research, could possibly be considered historic districts.

The context studies detailed the history and the works of the architects Edward Bates Franzheim, Charles W. Bates, and Frederick F. Faris. Bates and Franzheim were born in Wheeling, and Faris was an Ohio native who spent most of his life in Wheeling. These architects can boast that they have either designed contributing resources to historic districts or individually listed resources that are on the National Register of Historic Places. One of the listed individual resources is Cathedral Parish School in Wheeling, WV. ☼

Comprehensive Survey Efforts 2021

Written by Michael Burdette

Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives: FY2019

From a National Park Service Press Release

According to the Rutgers University's Center for Urban Policy Research, the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program contributed more than \$12.1 billion in output in terms of goods and services to the U.S. economy and added \$6.2 billion in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Fiscal Year 2019. The program is administered by the National Park Service and the Internal Revenue Service in partnership with State Historic Preservation Offices.

"For more than 42 years, the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program has enabled the preservation and rehabilitation of more than 45,000 historic properties, while generating more than \$188.2 billion in GDP nationally," said Margaret Everson, Counselor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the National Park Service Director. "This is an incredible example of a federal/state partnership that continues to drive investments in historic preservation and revitalize communities across the country."

The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program, commonly known as the Historic Tax Credit, provides a 20 percent federal tax credit to property owners who undertake a substantial rehabilitation of a historic building in a commercial or other income-producing use, while maintaining its historic character.

The National Park Service certifies that a building is historic, and therefore eligible for the program, and that the rehabilitation preserves the building's historic character; the Internal Revenue Service is responsible for administering the other aspects of the tax credit under the Internal Revenue Code. The tax incentives program has helped to revive abandoned or underutilized schools, warehouses, factories, churches, retail stores, apartments, hotels, houses, agricultural buildings, offices, and

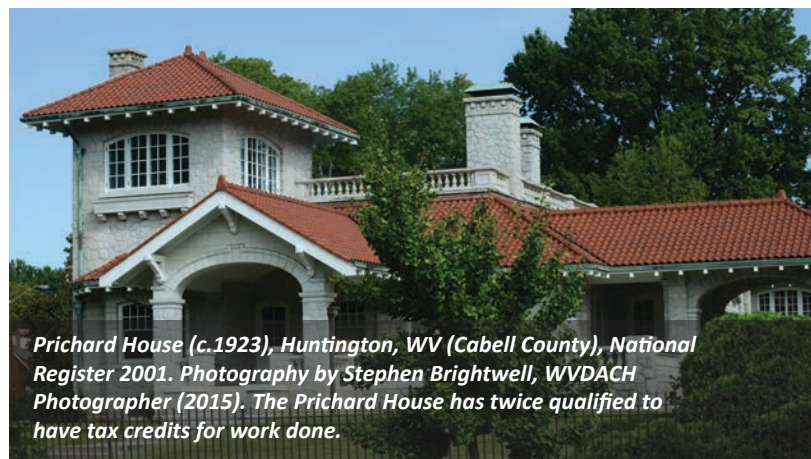
other buildings across the country, and in turn, has helped support the redevelopment of entire downtowns and neighborhoods. It also supports community revitalization, job creation, affordable housing, small businesses, farms, and Main Street development, among other economic benefits.

According to this year's report, almost half of the certified rehabilitation projects were located in low- and moderate-income areas, and three-quarters of all projects were in economically distressed areas. Nearly half of all projects were less than \$1 million in rehabilitation costs, and 17 percent were less than \$250,000. A quarter of all certified rehabilitation projects were located in communities with a population of fewer than 50,000 people and 16 percent in communities with a population of fewer than 25,000 people.

For Fiscal Year 2019, program-related investments created approximately 109,000 jobs, including 39,000 in construction and 25,000 in manufacturing, generating \$1.7 billion and \$1.1 billion in revenue, respectively. In West Virginia, program-related investments generated \$25,991,187 in construction and manufacturing revenue. As a result of both direct and multiplier effects, and due to the interconnectedness of the national economy, sectors not immediately associated with historic rehabilitation, such as agriculture, mining, transportation, and public utilities, benefited as well.

State Historic Preservation Offices are the first point of contact for information and guidance for property owners interested in the program. The National Park Service works closely with them in the administration of the program.

Contact the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office at 304-558-0240. ☼



Prichard House (c.1923), Huntington, WV (Cabell County), National Register 2001. Photography by Stephen Brightwell, WVDACH Photographer (2015). The Prichard House has twice qualified to have tax credits for work done.



Cunningham Farmstead:

Preservation Through Documentation

Written By John Adamik
Education and Planning Coordinator,
WV State Historic Preservation Office

Less than a mile southeast of the Burnsville Lake Wildlife Management Area lies the Cunningham Farmstead. Most people have never heard of it. The farmstead stands vacant at the eastern end of Little Knawl Road, although the term "road" is rather grand for what amounts to a dirt path.

Cunningham Farmstead was found and documented during the Section 106 process for the Mountain Valley Pipeline project. During this process, the project area is surveyed and examined for potential historical or archaeological sites that would be directly or indirectly impacted by the project. In this case, once the SHPO determined that the farmstead would be impacted, an agreement was made to research and document the site by producing a detailed report on the farmstead. In September 2019, the report was submitted to SHPO.

Sam and Thursia Cunningham bought the original 160 acres of the farm in 1910. Over the years, it would increase to 314 acres. The family built the house, barn, and root cellar in the 1910s. A silo was added to the barn sometime between the mid-1910s and 1920 but no longer remains. In the 1920s, the coal/woodshed, corncrib, and feed house were built. The last building contributing to the farmstead's history is a storage shed built in the 1940s. Over the years, several privies have been built, with the final one erected in 1995.

Livestock, dairy production, wool, and timber for railroad ties, guard rail posts, and other building needs were the primary ways the Cunninghams made money. Over the years, Sam and Thursia would have four children: Freda, Maxine, Ruth, and French. While never prosperous, it appears, from a battery-operated radio to the farm machinery



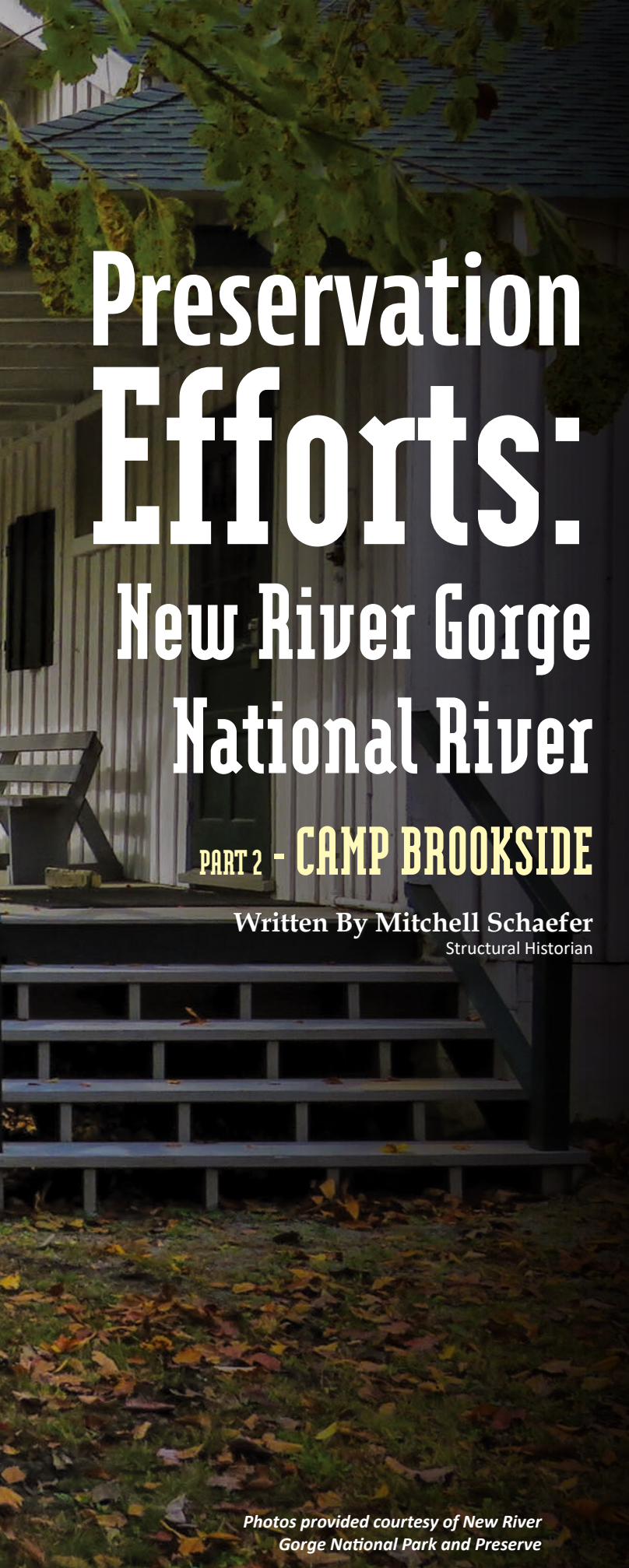
mentioned in family records, that the family provided for their needs. In 1939, Sam died, and his wife and son, French, ran the farm until 1955, when Thursia died. At this point, French decided that he would be able to make a better living working for a steel mill in Youngstown, Ohio, than trying to keep the farm by himself. French would return to the farm on a regular basis for vacations. The farm was never electrified, and natural gas only came in the 1960s. Other family members would use the house during hunting seasons throughout the years. In 1988 French Cunningham died and left the farm to his sister Maxine Losch and his niece Shirley Nelson.

Despite what many would regard as a regular, non-exceptional history, the Cunningham farmstead is historically significant as the physical remains of a way of life that has all but passed. These buildings serve as examples of the types of architecture used in farms in the early and mid-20th century. Often the study of West Virginia architecture is directed to the finest and best-preserved examples of grand architecture. Buildings that serve a family's needs, use local materials with local preferences, and with various agricultural possibilities show uses and styles that were relevant to a broader section of West Virginia society. Taken together, these homes and buildings offer a complete picture of architectural types present across time and place. ❀

Source material and photos: *Cunningham Farmstead: Past and Present*. Hannah L. Dye, Tetra Tech Inc., Pittsburgh PA, 2019.







Preservation Efforts: New River Gorge National River

PART 2 - CAMP BROOKSIDE

Written By Mitchell Schaefer
Structural Historian

*Photos provided courtesy of New River
Gorge National Park and Preserve*

Historic preservation has long been part of the mission of the National Park Service. With the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Park Service became the keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. Many National Parks are or include parts that are listed on the National Register. In order for individual parks to comply with requirements to maintain and use sites under its jurisdiction that are listed in the National Register, employees like David Fuerst and Julena Campbell, New River Gorge National River's Cultural Resource Specialist and Chief Of Interpretation, respectively, have to make strategic decisions about what cultural resources to preserve and how to do so. Two significant sites at New River Gorge, Nuttallburg and Camp Brookside, illustrate the Park Service's efforts to preserve historical sites in West Virginia. In the last issue of Details, we highlighted Nuttallburg, a historic mining site located in Fayette County. In this issue, we'll discuss Camp Brookside, a remarkable example of a corporate-owned-and-operated recreational summer campground.

Camp Brookside, Summers County

Camp Brookside, a thirty-acre summer campground located along the New River approximately three miles north of Hinton, West Virginia, is a prime example of the National Historic Preservation Act in action. Sections 106 and 110 of the Act respectively compel federal agencies to consider the effects that any project may have on historic resources and to use historic properties to the furthest extent possible. Since the National Park Service is a federal agency, it is subject to these requirements. As a result, the NPS has initiated countless Section 106 reviews over the years with State Historic Preservation Offices and other parties across the nation. After the Park Service acquired Camp Brookside in 1993 from the Elkem Metals Company, it has engaged in Section 106 consultations with the state to ensure the camp retained integrity as a historic campground and that it could be used on a seasonal basis.

Camp Brookside is inherently connected to West Virginia's chemical-industrial history because the Union Carbide Company constructed it for its employees and their children. Today, the Mountain State's abundance of natural resources such as salt, coal, oil, natural gas, and other mineral deposits is well known. At the turn of the twentieth century, commercial chemical production began to flourish under large enterprises like Union Carbide. In 1923, the company leased land in South Charleston to begin the production of ethylene-based chemicals. Within a few short years, it incorporated the Electro Metallurgical Company, which was then based in Alloy, West Virginia, and broadened its base to produce additional products, some of which were used in atomic weapons research during the Cold War. By the time the company established Camp Brookside in 1947, Union Carbide was closely associated with the state's capital city and remained so for several decades to come.

Through the early half of the twentieth century, American companies like Union Carbide experimented with a new economic philosophy often referred to as welfare capitalism. This theoretical framework opposed post-World War II trends in Europe and focused on the idea that corporations, instead of government, should shoulder the responsibility for improving the stability and security of modern society. Following an era of rapid industrialization, poor working conditions, embittered union strikes, and robber barons, some companies initiated programs like corporate-

sponsored healthcare and other benefits that today's workers often take for granted. Following World War II, Union Carbide and Electro Metallurgical established at least seven summer camps to improve relations between management and the companies' blue-collar workers. Electro Metallurgical leaders like J.C. Douglas, superintendent of special alloys, John W. Mowrey, the company's first full-time recreational director, Don E. Stingel, industrial relations department, and J.E. Woodfin, Jr., the engineer in charge of construction, oversaw the establishment of Camp Brookside. The company's president, W.J. Priestly, "enthusiastically supported the project." Construction began in earnest in April 1947 to prepare for the approaching summer. The Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad even constructed a train station in Brooks, anticipating the young attendees could travel to the camp by rail.

In July 1947, the same year Union Carbide acquired an additional chemical plant in Institute, Camp Brookside opened as an idyllic get-away nestled in the diverse forests along the New River. The Independence Day grand opening picnic welcomed over two thousand employees and their families, followed by a two-week session for young boys. By the 1950s, the annual picnics became so popular among employees and their families that nearly four thousand people attended on a regular basis. Features at the camp included a swimming pool, which for a time was an L-shaped floating platform in the New River, a rifle range, an administration building, several cabins, shower facilities, and



athletic fields. Camp attendees could participate in numerous summer-time activities like archery and physical education with nurses and other supervision nearby. David Fuerst, the NPS cultural resource specialist at New River, pointed out that “the bonds that people created there are very strong.” Today, a website, carbidecamps.net, facilitates the relationships that many attendees fostered as campers at Brookside and other similar Union Carbide camps.

Union Carbide and Electro Metallurgical used the camp until 1981 when Elkem Metals purchased the Alloy plant and Camp Brookside along with it. In 1993, the National Park Service purchased the property from Elkem Metals, thus incorporating it into the New River Gorge National River. After owning the camp for nearly twenty years, NPS officials at New River realized that the camp would require significant rehabilitation to maintain it for safe camper and visitor use. In 2012, the Park Service initiated a Section 106 review in consultation with the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office to rehabilitate the property. Under the 106 review process, a federal agency must determine if any resources involved in the project are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Park officials found that, because Camp Brookside was directly associated with West Virginia’s industrial history and the development of welfare capitalism in the mid-twentieth century, it was, in fact, eligible to be listed in the National Register. It also merited the honor because it was a well-preserved example of a corporate-owned-and-operated recreational summer campground. Thirty-two existing historic resources, including the cabins, administrative building, the rifle range and pavilion, and the swimming pool, all qualify the campground as a historic district.

Between 2012 and 2015, NPS officials worked in conjunction with historians and archaeologists at the State Historic Preservation Office to ensure that the camp would retain its integrity as a historic property and be prepared for regular use. The mess hall and administration building were rehabilitated with new insulation, windows, window screens, doors, and many other improvements. Utility and sewage lines were also installed, and several sleeping cabins and the wash house were repaired for camper use. In the spring of 2016, the camp re-opened in hopes of developing it into an educational center. Given the current limit on funding for the venture,

the Park Service has placed the district on the federal leasing program so that citizens can rent the property for a variety of uses, such as camping trips, weddings, and business retreats. Today, campers can use the same buildings and structures that Union Carbide and Electro Metallurgical employees and their children used during the mid-twentieth century in almost the same condition.

Nuttallburg and Camp Brookside are two excellent examples of the National Historic Preservation Act working to encourage historic preservation in the United States. Since the National Park Service operates as the primary steward over countless cultural resources, including historical and archaeological sites, it is often difficult for its employees like David Fuerst and Julena Campbell to save all of them. Preservation is not a one-time thing, as Ms. Campbell explains. It is an ongoing commitment and process. When Park Service employees make the decision to preserve a site like Nuttallburg, they are also committing to preserve it for many years to come.

As stated in its mission, the very purpose of the Park Service is to preserve and conserve these resources not only for present visitors but for future generations as well. As New River Gorge National River looks to the future and thinks about additional preservation efforts, Ms. Campbell notes that they have “to make quick, strategic, educated decisions about what we can preserve...and, unfortunately, making the very difficult decision of what we can’t. You can’t save it all.” Unfortunately, some sites may not receive the same necessary attention to preserve them.

The park has emphasized Nuttallburg and Camp Brookside specifically because they are integral to understanding twentieth-century American history. As this debate about what to maintain continues, it is comforting to know that dedicated, passionate people like Fuerst and Campbell are spearheading such efforts in New River Gorge National River. ❀



Celebrating 40 Years: Preservation Alliance of West Virginia

Written By Sara Volkmann

Preservation Initiative Manager, Preservation Alliance of West Virginia

In 2021, the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia will celebrate 40 years of supporting and promoting historic preservation within the Mountain State. Such a milestone is naturally accompanied by a certain amount of reflection and nostalgia. In this remembering, one theme that re-emerges time and time again is how crucial partnerships have been for the success of PAWV. From the local house museums to universities, the organizational relationships fostered over these last 40 years have truly enabled PAWV to carry out its mission of historic preservation education, outreach, and advocacy within West Virginia.

One of the primary ways Preservation Alliance has furthered its partnerships in recent years is through the organization's Preserve WV AmeriCorps Program. Started in 2013, Preserve WV has placed 155 AmeriCorps Members at 58 history-oriented sites throughout West Virginia. In their service, members help main streets thrive, help communities capture their local history, and preserve beloved West Virginia landmarks. The program brings members to sites to implement techniques and theories related to historic preservation, capacity building, and cultural heritage tourism site development to revitalize local communities and improve the economy. Not only do AmeriCorps directly benefit West Virginia's communities, Preserve WV also provides members who are interested in pursuing careers in history and historic preservation a chance to gain mentorship and tangible work experience

in a field that is notoriously difficult to break into.

Two Preserve WV AmeriCorps Members discuss their experiences serving in the Mountain State, their favorite historical site in West Virginia, and the importance of preservation.

Emma Wiley: Wheeling Heritage

Where did you grow up?

EW: Falls Church, Virginia.

When did your interest in history begin?

EW: Too early for me to remember!

What drew you to serve with Preserve WV?

EW: Preserve WV offered unique and rare entry-level positions for me to experience how history and preservation work in real, local communities.

What are your primary responsibilities in your service?

EW: I research and create historical content for Weelunk, Wheeling Heritage's online magazine.

Do you have a major project or event you've been involved in at your site? What is it, and what is your site hoping to accomplish through the project/event?

EW: Wheeling Heritage is creating a "Live Here" section of Weelunk that encourages people to move and invest in Wheeling and provides them the tools and information to do so. Wheeling Heritage is hoping that by creating a toolkit and points of reference, outsiders will find it easier to move to the Wheeling area and feel welcomed into joining the community.

Favorite project you've worked on thus far?

EW: One of my favorite projects so far was researching an article about the Wheeling Tabernacle that was built in only four days to host the famous evangelist Billy Sunday. The historical photos are amazing, and I loved writing the article in a way that current Wheelingites could feel the massive excitement and energy of having such a monumental event in Wheeling in the early 20th century.

Proudest moment/greatest accomplishment during your service?

EW: I have been very proud of my efforts to engage the community in historical resources and knowledge, even during a pandemic where we cannot get together in person.

What are your future career goals? How do you think your Preserve WV AmeriCorps service will help you with your future career goals?

EW: My Preserve WV AmeriCorps service has already allowed me to experiment and creatively define the directions I want my career to go (or not go) so that I can be more specific in my search for grad schools, training, and future job opportunities. I would like to continue working in public history that specifically centers and assists local communities.

Favorite historical site in West Virginia?

EW: It is less of a site, but I find the National Road (Route 40) really fascinating in the way that it ties communities together and really established Wheeling as an important center in Western Virginia. You can almost tangibly feel the history as you drive down the road.

Why do you feel that historic preservation is important?

EW: Our memory, community, and sense of being is intimately tied to place. By preserving these historic places, we have the opportunity to innovatively build upon the (metaphorical and literal) foundations and the history that those before us have established.

Kelsey Romer: Northern WV Brownfield Assistance Center, WVU BAD Buildings***Where did you grow up?***

Kelsey Romer: Front Royal, VA

When did your interest in history begin?

KR: Probably when I was a really young kid and my mother dragged me to auctions and antique

stores with her every weekend! I think that helped me appreciate historical objects from a young age and realize that each of those pieces of "old junk" had a story to tell. So thanks, Mom!

What drew you to serving with Preserve WV?

KR: I finished my previous AmeriCorps term with the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area's Hands-On Preservation Team last year, and was looking for another preservation-related service opportunity near Elkins. I had already worked with PAWV a bit through AFNHA and knew they did amazing work throughout the state, so I went straight to them and found a site that was a great fit!

What are your primary responsibilities in your service?

KR: My service is entirely remote due to the pandemic, so most of my tasks are focused on public outreach that can be done online. I have helped coordinate several virtual conferences on brownfields redevelopment and downtown revitalization, write four monthly newsletters, handle our social media accounts and website updates, and take minutes for all of the various committee/board meetings that NBAC participates in.

Do you have a major project or event you've been involved in at your site? What is it, and what is your site hoping to accomplish through the project/event?

KR: I've been spearheading a monthly webinar series for the BAD Buildings Program since January in place of their canceled annual summit. The series covers all topics related to the rehabilitation and redevelopment of brownfield, abandoned, and dilapidated (BAD) properties, and really tries to break these things down to a beginner level for the general public. There is a real problem with abandoned old buildings in West Virginia, and finding a way to reuse them is so important culturally, environmentally, and economically. Unfortunately, it's also extremely complicated and confusing, even if you're a professional in the field. So hopefully this series will be a helpful resource for the average person who cares about their community and wants to keep its historic resources around for future generations.

Favorite project you've worked on thus far?

KR: NBAC works closely with a nonprofit developer called Woodlands Development Group based in Elkins, where I live. Woodlands is currently

working on rehabilitating the Tygart Hotel, a beautiful historic hotel in downtown Elkins that has fallen into disrepair over the years. I got to assist them with some documentation of the building's current conditions and prepared some materials that they'll use when applying for historic tax credits to fund the restoration. It was such a fun opportunity to get firsthand experience in the field, and knowing that I'm helping to protect landmarks like this in my own community is a great feeling.

Proudest moment/greatest accomplishment during your service?

KR: My proudest moment was after NBAC co-hosted the Virginia Brownfields Conference when my supervisor let me know that several people from the event had reached out to tell her how great a job I was doing. That's probably not very humble of me, but knowing that not just your colleagues but even people that you aren't directly working with can see the effort you put in, getting that recognition on multiple levels – it really does make you feel appreciated and means a lot.

What are your future career goals? How do you think your Preserve WV AmeriCorps service will help you with your future career goals?

KR: I think in the future, I'd like to get back to doing more hands-on preservation work, specifically restoring historic stained glass windows. But I also really enjoy researching and documenting historic buildings and would love to do that sort of work with SHPO, NPS, or other local organizations, as well. Either way, my time with PAWV and NBAC has given me so much insight into what goes on behind the scenes to make these preservation projects actually happen. Having the chance to learn how to write grants, to see the planning process in action, and to absorb all the complicated financial lingo of site redevelopment will all be invaluable knowledge that I can apply to any work I do in this field. I have also been introduced to so many contacts at different agencies across the state and developed a phenomenal professional network, for which I am very grateful!

Favorite historical site in West Virginia?

KR: I can't pick just one! It's a tie between the Mothman Museum in Point Pleasant and Prabhupada's Palace of Gold in Moundsville. I'm a HUGE X-Files fan and love all things supernatural,

so obviously, anything Mothman-related is at the top of my list. But the Palace of Gold is just breathtaking and such an unexpected thing to find in WV! It does have a bit of a troubled past, but the architecture and grounds are stunning. The fact that it was all constructed by laypeople without any training is just another reminder that beautiful architecture is not limited to the elites – anyone can build amazing things when they set their mind to it.

Why do you feel that historic preservation is important?

KR: Former AIA President Carl Elefante said, "The greenest building is the one that is already built." The built environment is a tangible representation of history, and preserving it is obviously an incredibly important part of understanding who we all are and where we came from. But thinking more practically, adaptive reuse is one of the best tools we have to combat climate change! There is so much sunk cost in an existing building in terms of energy and material consumption. Each time we demolish a historic structure and replace it instead of rehabilitating it, that consumption footprint goes up dramatically. By salvaging and reusing as many existing structures as we possibly can, we help stop the cycle of unsustainable consumption and preserve our greenspace as well as our history. You also always hear people say that they don't build things like they used to, and in this case, it's true! Historical materials are often much more durable than the mass-produced, lower quality versions made today, and pairing those better materials with some modern technological upgrades will make a historic building just as energy efficient as most new ones (if not more so). Historically, preservationists have often butted heads with environmentalists over regulations and priorities, but I think a lot of people in my generation agree now that we absolutely must work together moving forward. After all, to put it bluntly - what's the point in preserving any historic sites if we just continue to destroy the planet and nobody's left to enjoy them anyway?

Do you think your site could benefit from the addition of an AmeriCorps Member? Are you interested in serving with Preserve WV? Contact Sara Volkmann at svolkmann@pawv.org for more information. ☼

2020-2021

Grants

Awarded



West Virginia Department of
**ARTS, CULTURE
AND HISTORY**

The West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office announces the following grants that the Archives and History Commission awarded in 2020 and 2021.

The Survey and Planning grants (S/P) are funded through the annual Historic Preservation Fund of the National Park Service for use primarily by Certified Local Governments to conduct historic preservation activities.

The Development Grants (D) are funded by the West Virginia Legislature for the

preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of historic resources, which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants (HR) are funded by the National Park Service to support the rehabilitation of historic properties at the National, State, and local level of significance in order to rehabilitate, protect, and foster economic development in thirteen rural communities.

For more information about the grant programs, please contact Christy Moore at 304-558-0240, ext. 720.

BERKELEY

Laura Virginia Faircloth received \$5,000 to assist with the repair of beams, flooring, and foundation structural work on the Rausch Barn. (D)

BRAXTON

Philippi Municipal Building Commission received \$40,000 to assist with roof repairs on The Grand Theatre. (D)

BROOKE

Bethany College received \$31,750 to assist with masonry repair on the Old Main (National

Historic Landmark). (D)

FAYETTE

Town of Fayetteville received \$32,960 to assist with the roof replacement at the Fayetteville Town Hall. (D)

Fayette County Commission received \$40,000 to assist with the rear roof replacement at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building. (HR)

GILMER

Glenville State College Foundation received \$9,240 to assist with the replacement of

the main roof and porch roof of the Arbuckle House. (HR)

HARRISON

75 Development LLC received \$40,000 to assist with the gutters, penthouse, and roof repairs at the Goff Building. (D)

JEFFERSON

Shawn Hutchinson received \$3,805 to assist with the masonry and chimney repair at the Armory House #24. (D)

Claymont Society for Continuing Education received \$22,650 to assist with roof repair at

the Claymont Court Mansion. (D)
City of Charles Town received \$20,645 to assist with the roof replacement at the First Free School. (HR)

Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Historic Town Foundation received \$40,000 to assist with metal roof and gutter replacement at the First Zion Baptist Church. (HR)

KANAWHA

Town of Marmet received \$17,000 to assist with roof and windows repair at Ebenezer Chapel. (D)

Kanawha Lodge #25 received \$40,000 to assist with structural repair and window repair at the Odd Fellows Building. (D)

Crawford Holdings LLC received \$40,000 to assist with the window repair/replacement at the Staats Building. (D)

City of Charleston/Charleston Historic Landmarks Commission received \$5,250 for Interpretive Signage: Ruffner Park & Luna Park Historic District. (S/P)

MERCER

Melvin and Gail Dixon received \$10,000 to assist with the masonry repair at Gem Jewelers. (HR)

MINGO

David Hatfield received \$40,000 to assist with roof replacement at the G.W. Hatfield building. (HR)

MONROE

Monroe County Historical Society received \$23,420 to assist with repair of the front columns at the Old Baptist Church. (HR)

Summers County Historic Landmarks Commission received \$14,000 to assist with archaeological investigations of Cook's Fort, located in Monroe County. (S/P)

MORGAN

Morgan Arts Council, Inc. received \$36,000 to assist with repairs to the concrete columns, beams, and slabs, and \$4,000 to assist with exterior masonry at the Ice House. (D)

OHIO

Fort Henry, LLC received \$40,000 to assist with masonry repair at the Fort Henry Building. (D)

Friends of Wheeling, Inc. received \$20,938 to assist with masonry repair at the Robert Hazlett House. (D)

Jake Robinson received \$6,000 to assist with the Cooey Bentz Annex Predevelopment study. (S/P)

City of Wheeling received \$18,200 to assist with the Oglebay Mansion Master Plan for Protection & Preservation. (S/P)

Wheeling Landmarks Commission received \$28,000 to assist with the Scottish Rite Cathedral Historic Structure Report. (S/P)

PENDLETON

Future Generations University Corporation received \$35,870 to assist with the roof repair at the Anderson House. (HR)

PUTNAM

Town of Eleanor received \$18,000 to assist with the Town of Eleanor Historic District. (S/P)

PRESTON

Arthurdale Heritage, Inc. received \$13,218 to assist with the replacement of the structural beams and posts and the cedar shakes. (HR)

RALEIGH

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia received \$3,000 to assist with the New Salem Baptist Church National Register Nomination. (S/P)

RANDOLPH

Randolph County Historical Society received \$5,999 to assist with roof replacement and masonry repair at the Blackman-Bosworth Store. (D)

Karl Mulac received \$16,074 to assist with the roof replacement at the Edward Hart House. (D)

Historic Beverly Preservation Inc. received \$10,515 to assist with the water removal, structural repairs, and chimney repairs at the Goff House. (D)

Historic Beverly Preservation received \$13,800 to assist with the masonry and window repairs at the 1841 Jail. (HR)

SUMMERS

City of Hinton received \$40,000 to assist with support beams replacement at the Hinton Hardwoods Building. (HR)

TUCKER

Alpine Heritage Preservation, Inc. received \$23,807 to assist with masonry repair at the Cottrill Opera House. (HR)

Vandalia Heritage Foundation received \$6,000 to assist with the Buxton & Landstreet Company Store National Register Nomination. (S/P)

WAYNE

Housing Authority of Wayne County received \$40,000 to assist with the roof replacement at the Old Fort Gay High School. (HR)

Mountain State Legacy



- 1: Talcott, Summers County**
- 2: Bramwell, Mercer County**
- 3: Flat Top, Mercer County**
- 4: Whelling, Ohio County**
- 5: Welch, McDowell County**
- 6: Sisterville, Tyler County**

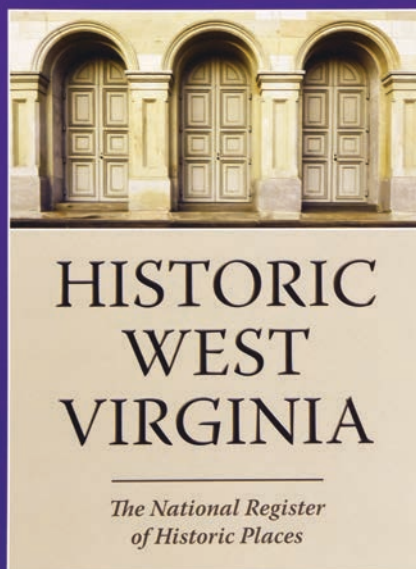
Check out these great shots captured by the WVDACH/ SHPO staff! We'd love to see your photos of preservation projects in the Mountain State. If you have a preservation project, activity, or event that you would like to share with our readers, please send 2-3 high-resolution photographs, along with a brief description, to John Adamik at john.d.adamik@wv.gov for consideration.



THE CULTURE CENTER

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Free Copies Available

West Virginia is rich with stories about our past. We can connect to our history through the buildings, farms, landscapes, sites, and other resources. Updated in Spring 2018, Historic West Virginia provides brief descriptions of each National Register historic resource found in West Virginia. This 287-page book includes 17 special topic essays associated with areas of significance and resource types such as Civil War in West Virginia, New Deal Resources, Ethnic Heritage, Bridges, Railroads, and African American Resources. The book also explains the National Register nomination process and the Criteria for Evaluation. Funding was provided by the WV Legislature. Due to its generosity, the book is provided at no cost to the public. If you would like to request a copy, please contact John Adamik at john.d.adamik@wv.gov and provide your mailing address.

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