

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1, MARCH 2011

# DETAILS



A Newsletter from the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office  
West Virginia Division of Culture and History



*Hawks Nest State Park Overlook circa 1950. Photo from West Virginia State Archives*



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# A Message from the Commissioner

Historic preservation plays a key role in helping communities with sustainable revitalization and renewal projects. Our staff at the West Virginia Historic Preservation Office sees examples daily of how preservation projects bring vitality to towns and cities.

In Clendenin, state development grants are helping to restore the Roxy Theater. Historic preservation tax credits are being used in the \$5.5 million renovation of the former Clendenin high school and middle school into apartments for seniors, a health center, community recreation facility and day-care center.

In Elkins, four restoration projects are underway. Darden House renovations will allow it to become a meeting place and site for historic records. The Kump House restoration will preserve the home of Herman Guy Kump, a West Virginia governor. First Ward School will be renovated for adaptive reuse and Riverside School, once an all-black school, will become a mentoring facility for youth and a museum and archives.

These projects, and others like them, help communities maintain their identities and preserve historic structures. They connect history to the future and add vitality to the community by repurposing older buildings for contemporary services and businesses. They are partnerships that involve community and business leaders and state and federal agencies. They foster a sense of community

pride that was present when these sites first played important roles in the towns.

Community spirit, sustainability and vitality are at the heart of historic preservation. We encourage you to talk with the State Historic Preservation Office if you think there is a place in your town that is a good candidate for a new life.—*Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith*

## News and Notes

### *Let the Celebration Begin*

The State Historic Preservation Office's annual calendar for 2011, *The Civil War in West Virginia*, was released in December 2010. The theme was selected to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War and West Virginia statehood. Each year SHPO produces a calendar to feature West Virginia resources that are listed or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to the 2011 calendar, SHPO will be creating and distributing educational tools to promote the preservation of West Virginia resources associated with the Civil War.

The WV Division of Culture and History is planning many special programs and developing several publications to commemorate the important events and resources associated with the Civil War and West Virginia's statehood. Check out [www.wvculture.org](http://www.wvculture.org) to discover the Mountain State's vast history and to see a list of scheduled events planned to celebrate this exciting occasion.

—*Sara Prior*

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# WVSHPO Welcomes New Staff

**Aubrey Von Lindern** was an intern with WVSHPO before returning to University of Vermont to finish her degree. In January 2010 she was hired as a full time historian to work on Section 106 Review projects. She attended Virginia Wesleyan College in Virginia Beach where she obtained her B.A. in History. Aubrey went on to Post Graduate Studies in Social Studies and Education at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She obtained a Certificate in Real Estate Law at Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont, and a M.S. in Historic Preservation at the University of Vermont.

**Bethany Canfield** joined the WVSHPO in May 2009 as a historian. She works with the National Register and Architectural Survey program. Bethany received her B.A. in History

with a concentration in Public History from Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA. She earned her M.A. in Applied History from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. During college Bethany completed five internships, which were mainly at Civil War battle sites. Before joining us, she was a Seasonal Interpretation Ranger in Fredericksburg, Virginia, telling the stories of the American Civil War.

**Jennifer Brennan** grew up in New York and North Carolina. She graduated from the College of Charleston in 1998 with a B.A. in History. This is where she fell in love with historic architecture. After working for a year as a tour guide with the Historic Charleston Foundation, she decided to pursue a degree in historic preservation. Jennifer received a B.A. in Historic Preservation and Urban

Studies from the College of Charleston in 2002. In 2005, she obtained her M.A. in History with a concentration in Historic Preservation and Museum Studies from University of North Carolina. Jennifer moved from Washington D.C. to join us as the Assistant Director for WVSHPO.

**Kristin Scarr**, Review and Compliance and archaeologist, received her B.S. in Anthropology/Archaeology and minored in Geology at Mercyhurst College. Kristin also holds a M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Arkansas. Her graduate thesis involved trace element analysis of the Arkansas Novaculite rock outcrops. She has many years of experience in the cultural resource management field and stone artifact analysis. Kristin has been involved in archaeological investigations in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Arkansas.

**Sara Prior**, education and planning coordinator, is a native West Virginian who enjoys studying social history. She obtained a B.A. in History from Concord University. Sara started working as an Interpretive Park Ranger for the New River Gorge National River during her senior year at Concord. While working at the park, she learned valuable interpretation techniques. Sara was employed at the park for three years before joining WVSHPO. She is taking online courses through West Virginia University. In her free time, Sara enjoys outdoor adventures with her husband and two dogs. □



*Seated L-R: Kristin Scarr, Sara Prior  
Standing L-R: Jennifer Brennan,  
Bethany Canfield, and Aubrey Von  
Lindern*

## Fairmont YMCA

On August 27, 2010 the Fairmont Community Development Partnership hosted a “Come Back” event, which included tours of the historic YMCA located in downtown Fairmont. The event gave the preservation community, as well as Fairmont residents, the opportunity to tour a historically significant property that closed in 2008 when the Moose Lodge moved out of the building.

The Fairmont YMCA was completed in 1908. The building was designed by architects Baldwin and Pennington, who also designed the Maryland State Capitol in Annapolis. The building was constructed in the Southside neighborhood of Fairmont, which at the turn of the twentieth century consisted of houses, churches and the Fairmont Normal School. However, by the 1920s the neighborhood was an active part of the City of Fairmont.

Numerous businesses that catered to the expanding trade industry were located along Fairmont Avenue. The YMCA had originally been constructed in the downtown district of town, but moved to the new local headquarters when a large building movement throughout the YMCA organization called for a redesign of the facilities.

The property remained in the hands of the YMCA until the Moose Lodge No. 9 purchased it in December of 1940. Even though the Moose Lodge modified the building; much of the basic floor plan was retained. Interesting features of the building include a four-lane bowling alley and pool in the basement level, an indoor running track on the second floor and a large, dramatic



Photo by Sandra Scaffidi


stairway in the center of the building. To cut energy costs, the stairwell was enclosed with plywood, carpet and aluminum awning. The original design of the stair is still visible and can easily be restored to its original grandeur. In July 2009, the Fairmont Community Development Partnership purchased the property with plans to redevelop the building.

The “Comeback Event” in August opened the doors to the building in an attempt to gain public feedback for the potential reuse of the building. Guests were offered tours of the building, including the dormitories located on the third and fourth floors where water damage was visible, the result of a roof that had been patched over the years. A matching grant from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History provided funds to replace the aging roof, protecting the interior of the building from further damage.

Approximately 140 visitors toured the building and participated in a discussion session afterwards on potential redevelopment of the site. Suggestions include a hotel, restaurant, shops, an apartment or condominium complex, or a potential mix of several of those uses.

The Fairmont YMCA is a significant building located on a key corner in Fairmont’s Downtown Historic District. The redevelopment of the building will spur further growth in the surrounding neighborhood and attract new life to one of the main arteries into the downtown area. By opening the doors to the building and involving the community in the discussion of the redevelopment process, the Fairmont Community Development Partnership has gained an invaluable group of advocates for the building.

—Jennifer Brennan

The following historic resources and districts were listed in the National Register of Historic Places April 2009 through August 2010. A complete list of historic properties in West Virginia is available on our website at [www.wvculture.org/shpo](http://www.wvculture.org/shpo).—*Erin Riebe* 

## Argabrite House

*Alderson, Greenbrier County*

The Argabrite House was designed by the architectural firm of Jacob H. Daverman & Sons and constructed c.1908. Executed in the Queen Anne Cottage style, the house is one and one-half-story, with cross-gable and turreted porch roof. Daverman & Sons operated a mail order business, selling house plans across the nation, allowing the average family to have access to architectural designs formerly exclusive to the wealthy. The plans for the Argabrite House were advertised as “Modern Colonial No. 18.” The house is the only extant example of the style designed by the firm. *Listed 4/16/09*

## William E. Wells House

*Newell, Hancock County*

The Wells House was constructed in 1907 by William Edwin Wells. Wells is

significant to the industrial history of the Northern Panhandle for his association with the prosperity of the Homer Laughlin China Company. The house remained in the Wells family until 2007 when it was willed to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. *Listed 4/23/09*

## Freeman Estate

*Huntington, Cabell County*

Charles H. Freeman was a leading pioneer in the oil and gas development in Southern West Virginia in the early twentieth century. He moved his family to Huntington from Detroit to manage several endeavors including the Big Creek Development Company, Yawkey & Freeman Coal Company, Pond Fork Coal Company, Yawkey & Freeman Drilling Company, and the Boone Drilling Company. Construction on the house at the Freeman Estate was completed in 1914. *Listed 4/23/09*

## Town of Bath Historic District

*Roughly Washington and Fairfax Streets and adjacent blocks, Berkeley Springs, Morgan County*

The area later known as the Town of Bath gained considerable fame (and a small village) long before the creation of the county as many came to “take the waters” of the warm mineral springs. When Virginia became a state in 1776, hundreds of petitioners requested the legislature to establish a town. Bath served as the commercial hub of the rural county for many years. Today it is one of only two incorporated communities in the county. The historic district includes nearly 155 acres and 347 resources. *Listed 4/23/09*

## Thomas Vanmetre House

*Martinsburg vicinity, Berkeley County*

The Thomas Vanmetre House was built c.1838 by its namesake, a member of the prominent Berkeley County pioneer family. It is a rural I-house with a facade finished in unpainted Flemish bond brick. Among its architectural features are a Classical Revival-style pediment portico, a reversed staircase, a locally distinctive hexagonal banister on the main stair and a detached summer kitchen. Two distinctive features of the house which are unprecedented in Berkeley County are the rear to front oriented staircase and the hexagonal walnut banister. *Listed 12/30/09*

*Freeman Estate, Cabell County*





## South Charles Town Historic District

*S. George, S. Mildred, S. Samuel,  
and S. Church Sts., Charles Town,  
Jefferson County*

Charles Town was founded as Charlestown, VA in 1786. The town grew steadily until the Civil War. Although the town boundaries were expanded in 1872, there was very little subsequent growth. During a small economic boom in the 1880s the town grew in a southeasterly direction. A number of new houses were constructed between this time and the early decades of the twentieth century, blending with houses dating back to the 1840s. This architecture reflects the growing prosperity and economic diversity of the town. It is the third historic district for Charles Town.  
*Listed 9/16/09*

## Barnett Hospital and Nursing School

*Huntington, Cabell County*

Dr. Clinton Constantine “C.C.” Barnett opened Barnett Hospital in his home in 1912. After an addition to the building, Dr. Barnett and his wife Clara

opened a nursing school in the hospital. Dr. Barnett, as well as his hospital and nursing school, made a significant positive impact on the medical education of African Americans in West Virginia and beyond. He personally founded, owned, and administered his hospital unlike most black hospitals of the day that were government or charity sponsored facilities that hired African Americans. The Barnett Hospital and Nursing School not only provided medical doctor internships and nursing education to local and West Virginia medical professionals, but also to professionals from across the country who were denied such education elsewhere. Dr. Barnett also served as the first African American to manage a state hospital facility. In 1919

he was appointed Superintendent of Lakin State Hospital. *Listed 12/30/09*

## Fort Van Meter

*Romney vicinity, Hampshire County*

Fort Van Meter is a stone private fort constructed c.1754 during the French and Indian war to provide a safe place for the nearby residents. It was also used during Pontiac’s War. This type of fort is uncommon in its stone construction instead of log. Although not large and not a garrisoned fort, Fort Van Meter is significant to the area’s history; it provided safety from

***Above: South Charles Town Historic District, Jefferson County***

***Below: Fort Van Meter, Hampshire County***



raids and was a key element in the frontier defense system in the eighteenth century. *Listed 12/30/09*

## A.W. Gribble Farm

*Pisgah vicinity, Preston County*

The A. W. Gribble House was built in 1842 by Archibald Gribble. It is a significant example of a local stone German Colonial Pennsylvania farmhouse, with the double door layout on the front and back elevations. The technique of using large cut sandstone is similar to that used by the iron furnace industry in the surrounding area of rural Preston County. This property has the majority of its original materials, woodwork and flooring intact. *Listed 12/30/09*

## Camp Caesar

*Cowen vicinity, Webster County*

Camp Caesar was constructed in 1922 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Camp Caesar became one of the most highly-developed county-level 4-H camps in the state. The campus was used not only for the county



4-H camp, but also used for the state-wide youth Conservation Camp, various church camps, theatrical performances,

family reunions, the county fair and other events. Camp Caesar is a classic and intact example of the WPA's work in constructing community facilities. Camp Caesar's collection of various building styles, wooded landscape and carefully planned setting create a peaceful atmosphere that also lends itself to fun, an essential element of any summer camp. *Listed 12/30/09*



## Riverside School

*Elkins, Randolph County*

The Riverside School was constructed between c.1902-c.1905. It served as the only public school for the education of African Americans in Elkins and the surrounding area between 1905 and 1954. The school is reflec-

*Above: Camp Caesar, Webster County*

*Left: Gribble Farm, Preston County*

tive of the segregated society that developed after the Civil War and persisted in education through the early part of the 1950s. The school began as a single-story, two-room school for elementary grades. The desire of the African American community for even greater educational opportunities became a reality in 1928 when Riverside became a four-year high school and a second story, consisting of three classrooms, was built. African Americans then had opportunities for a primary and secondary education in their own community. *Listed 12/30/09*

## Downtown Buckhannon Historic District

*Portions of E. and W. Main, N. and S. Florida, Locust, N. and S. Kanawha and Spring Sts.,  
Buckhannon, Upshur County*

The Downtown Buckhannon Historic

District consists of the downtown commercial area of the Upshur County seat, which has served as a regional center of commerce. Buckhannon has always been the largest municipality in the county and remains the county's only incorporated city. Downtown Buckhannon, lined with commercial buildings and business blocks from the late decades of the nineteenth century and the first of the twentieth, has served the retail and business needs of the region for decades. *Listed 12/31/09*

## Wyco Church

*Wyco, Wyoming County*

The Wyoming Coal Company flourished in the early 1900s with the operation of the Jack Pot mine working the Pocahontas No. 4 seam. In addition to the Wyco Church, constructed c.1917, the Wyco Coal Camp included a company store, boarding house, sandwich shop, a movie theater, an African American church, and

approximately 150-200 houses. Today, a small number of those resources remain. *Listed 3/31/10*

## Beverly Boundary Increase

*Charles Town vicinity, Jefferson County*

The Beverly boundary increase includes approximately 425 acres which have been associated with Beverly since the mid-eighteenth century. Beverly was established in 1750 on over 800 acres by Richard Stephenson. The property passed from the Stephenson to the Whiting families and then to John Burns. Burns maintained the large farm much like the previous owners, raising wheat and other grains along with livestock. Burns also maintained the same woodlots. Beverly continues to represent the historic use of the land as a livestock and grain farm, maintaining essentially the same agricultural use and boundaries over most of its 260-year history. *Listed 4/12/10*





## First Ward School

*Elkins, Randolph County*

First Ward School's construction in 1907 heralded a dramatic period of educational improvements in Elkins leading to the erection of three additional school buildings; culminating with the completion of the Elkins High School Building in 1926 on an adjacent lot. The Classical Revival style of architecture, prominent at the time, contributes toward the understanding of modern school design in Randolph County at the turn of the century. First Ward School and its level of preservation still remains the community's sole touchstone to a time when architect and builder married style and function to create art. *Listed 12/30/09*

**Opposite: Downtown Buckhannon Historic District, Upshur County**

**Above: First Ward School, Randolph County**

**Below: Henry Orndoff House, Berkeley County**



## Henry Orndoff House

*Martinsburg vicinity, Berkeley County*

The earliest section of the Orndoff-Cross House was built along Pack Horse Road c.1796 after Henry Orndoff's acquisition of a 322-acre tract that same year. It was likely that Orndoff's growing family outgrew the

original log house and that the early additions were built accordingly. The second story of the kitchen wing, accessed by the rear stairs, likely served as servants' quarters. Orndoff died in 1833 leaving the property to his son who retained the family farm. Upon his death, he left the property to his nephews and several slaves. *Listed 7/28/10*





## Herman August Meyer House

*Davis, Tucker County*

The Herman A. Meyer House was built c.1891 by the Davis Coal and Coke Company in Tucker County. Originally constructed for the superintendent of the company, the house was acquired by Herman Meyer in 1898. Meyer was born in Wellsburg, Pennsylvania and moved to Davis to serve as the clerk for the Davis Coal and Coke Company. After his time as clerk, Meyer became a community leader and businessman. His home was used as the town lending library for a period of years, and he served on the Board of Education, as the town's first elected teacher or principal. Meyer lived in this house until his death in 1919. *Listed 7/15/10*

## Fort Marrow

*Huttonsville vicinity, Randolph County*

Fort Marrow is part of a Civil War fortification complex (Camp Elkwater) located in Randolph County. The site includes a redoubt and encampment area for men who manned the fort. The encampment area is represented by ten depressions identified by archaeological survey. Fort Marrow was a key Union defen-

sive position in the *Operations in Western Virginia Campaign*, specifically in the defeat of General Lee's army at the Battle of Cheat Mountain. The results of this campaign forced the Confederacy to abandon Western Virginia and to surrender control of the B&O Railroad and Kanawha River to the Union. *Listed 7/30/10*

## Tucker County Bank

*Parsons, Tucker County*

The Tucker County Bank Building was the center of Parsons' business enterprises from the town's earliest days to 1985 when a flood nearly

destroyed the town. The building's history illustrates the development of a mountain community during the rail and lumber boom of the early twentieth century. As local fortunes increased, so too did the building's occupancy and services. The building housed various tenants including the Tucker County Bank, a drug store, clothing store, a Masonic lodge, the Board of Education, an insurance office, a lawyer's office and a bus depot. *Listed 8/29/10*

**Above: Fort Marrow remains, Randolph County**

**Below: Tucker County Bank, Tucker County**





## West Virginia's Historic Roads

### *Links to Places, Links to the Past*

When we think of historic roads we think of routes like Route 66, the Merritt Parkway or the National Road. These roads have been given national recognition regarding their importance to our history as a nation and the challenges in their preservation. Fall 2010, I attended the *Preserving the Historic Roads Conference* in Washington D.C. and when I returned to the Mountain State, I began to reflect on our own historic roads, their importance to the growth of our state, their influence in the growth of the nation and the importance of their preservation.

West Virginia's historic turnpikes were essential to the growth of what was then Virginia and to the growth of the nation. The expansion of early roads like the James River and Kanawha Turnpike spurred development and allowed easier movement of goods and services. During the Civil War many battles and skirmishes were fought to control the various roads that were links to other transportation corridors, railroads or canals. After the war, the new state became dependent on railroads. Roads became secondary


as more railroad lines were constructed and offered faster and more convenient means of transporting both people and products.

Starting in the late nineteenth century, West Virginia roads were included in the national effort, the Good Roads Movement, to improve roads. As the automobile became more popular, the goals of the movement expanded to making roads more accessible for a new mode of transportation. During the Depression, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) put men to work paving, grading and building new roads. The crews also constructed bridges, roadside markers, mile markers and buildings. From the 1940s to the present, West Virginia began expanding its roads, paving, widening and eventually building interstates that would change the way we travel and transform many of our historic roads from primary to secondary routes. Many historic roads still exist today and as this brief history illustrates, they not only link us to places, they link us to our past; therefore, it is crucial that the discussion of their preservation be moved to the forefront.

West Virginia has numerous historic roads, the James River and Kanawha Turnpike/Midland Trail, the Staunton to Parkersburg Turnpike and the Weston to Gauley Bridge Turnpike, to name just a few. So many travel these roads yet take little notice of their history. For example, the James River and Kanawha Turnpike, widely known as Midland Trail Scenic Byway, or Route 60, was a major east-west route beginning long before West Virginia became a state. In West Virginia the road begins in White Sulphur Springs, traverses mountains, rolling hills and valleys into Kenova, WV, before crossing the Ohio River into Kentucky.

Today, traveling along West Virginia's old roads is a visual roadmap to the state's history. We can look at roads as linear districts with contributing resources and character defining features located along the way. These features may include the alignment of the road itself, stone fences marking the right of way, culverts, mile markers, trees and bridges. Also important to a road's historic context and its evolution are the buildings left standing that help to establish a road's earliest history and to document the development of a road modified for the automobile age. Such buildings

may include taverns, toll houses, inns and more modern resources such as hotels, gas stations and restaurants. Resources from each of these categories can be found along the James River and Kanawha Turnpike and along most of our historic roads. Today many of the state's historic roads and their associated resources are in peril of being lost forever to new development, bypasses or, in some cases, fear that older roads and their resources are hazardous to the driving public. Where does this leave us and where does it leave these resources that are so integral to our state's history?


West Virginia's historic roads are continually threatened, whether by changes to the road's alignment, demolition of important structures or new development along historic corridors. Preservation is imperative if we want to retain these important cultural resources. One key to preservation is continued maintenance of these roads and their associated resources. If a resource is deemed hazardous to drivers, the first step should be to find a compromise before the decision is made to demolish or institute an irreversible change. Also important to preservation of roads and road related resources is education. All the players involved in making decisions regarding these resources should be educated in their history, preservation and responsible maintenance. Lastly, preservation will depend upon you, the public, to speak up in defense of these resources that are so important to our state. Your voices are the strongest tools when it comes to preservation. Whether you are behind the wheel, on foot, or on two wheels, try not to spend too much time thinking about getting place to place, rather, take the time to notice what exists in between. For more information, contact the SHPO.—*Aubrey Von Lindern* 

## Mysterious Stone Mounds, Rock Walls, Piles and Cairns

West Virginia, like many states, is home to a curious phenomenon that continues to baffle archaeologists and amateurs alike. They are referred to by many names; rock or stone mounds, walls, piles or cairns. These landscape features can be found all over West Virginia and throughout the continental United States. Stone mounds and other rock features have been documented in various scientific and popular publications. In 2008 a large-scale project, in cooperation with the WVSHPO, was conducted to identify and map stone piles and walls at the Stonewall Jackson Resort State Park. In November 2009 an article appeared in the Charleston Gazette describing a group of rock piles discovered on a farm in Cabell County.

The majority of the scientific literature describes stone mounds in other states, such as Georgia, Alabama, Ohio, and Vermont. Much of the information regarding stone mounds and rock piles in West Virginia is produced either by archaeological consulting firms engaged in regulatory compliance or by amateur archaeologists. Despite the wealth of information available, very little is known

about the origins of these features or what purpose they may have served. At present, approximately 115 of these features have been recorded in the WV State archaeological site database maintained by the SHPO. Several of these have been described in archaeological reports submitted to the SHPO. However, many more are out there waiting to be identified. Despite their abundance and visibility on the landscape, no in-depth archaeological investigations or research projects have dealt with this subject in West Virginia.

Pending the availability of funds, the SHPO hopes to oversee an archaeological assessment of the stone mound/wall phenomenon in West Virginia. The project will involve background research, survey and limited below ground investigation. It is our hope that this endeavor will inspire others to conduct future surveys and research in this topic. If you have any information regarding the locations of potential stone features or are interested in more information about West Virginia's stone/rock features please contact Kristin Scarr, SHPO staff. —*Kristin Scarr* 



## Hawks Nest State Park

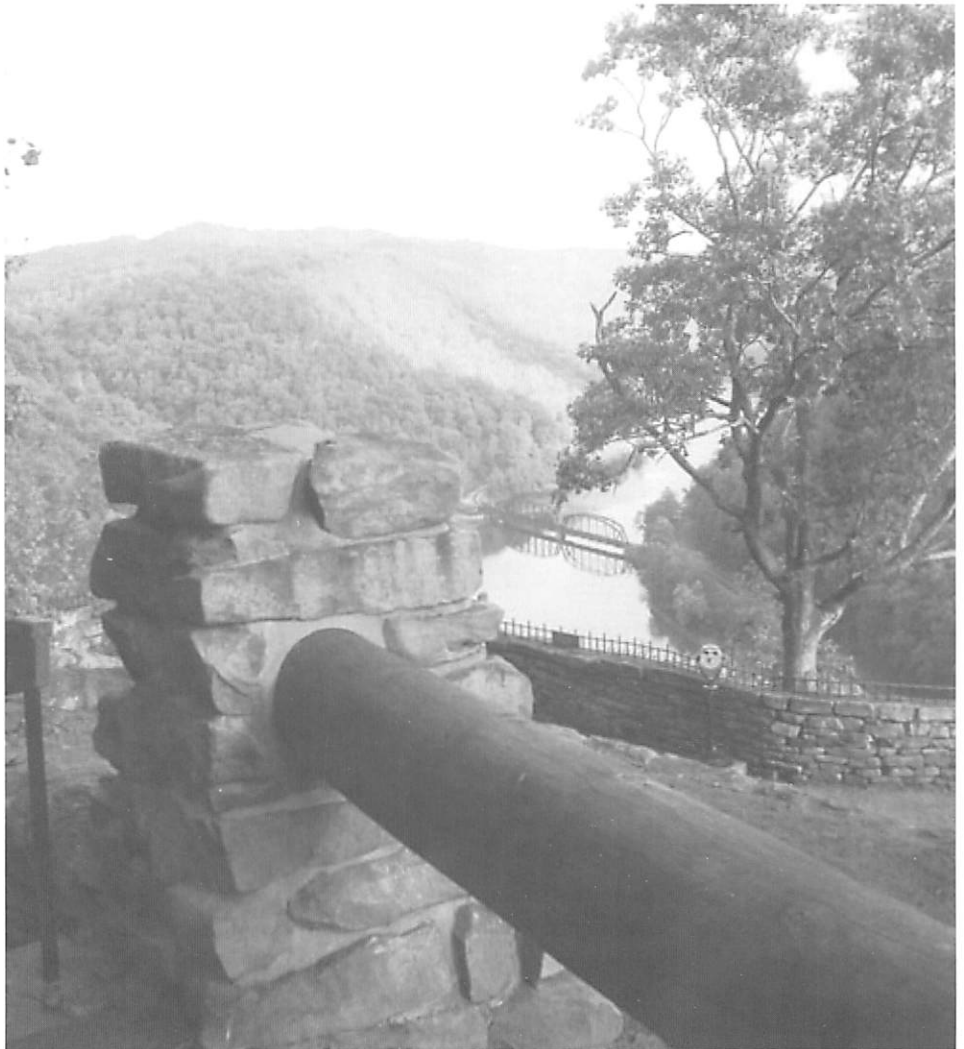
As a child, my family would hop into the truck and cruise the roads of West Virginia on Sunday afternoons. Each trip was an adventure and only my dad knew where the road would lead. Hawks Nest State Park was always one of my favorite places to visit. The park encompasses over 250 acres and features an aerial tram. The tram is a favorite among visitors and the park is known for its many overlooks of the New River Gorge. My favorite place to view the gorge at Hawks Nest is from the Lower Overlook.

To visit the Lower Overlook, located 1 mile past the main lodge, you walk down a paved sidewalk or a short hiking trail. At the beginning of the sidewalk, you can read about the Hawks Nest Tunnel Disaster that occurred during the Great Depression Era. The Hawks Nest Tunnel was part of a project to supply hydroelectric power to the Electro Metallurgical Company, a subsidiary of the Union Carbide Corporation. During this project a large number of workers lost their lives from exposure to vast quantities of silica dust.

The sidewalk to the vista is surrounded by trees and outlined by

*Above: Hawks Nest Lower Overlook, Fayette County*

*Opposite: Mount Carbon Walls, Fayette County. Taken in 1960, this photo shows Dr. John Rutherford in a trench through Wall No. 3, dug by Dr. James Kellar in 1958 to study the age and function of the wall. Photo from the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey—Archaeology Section Collection, Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex—Research Facility, WVDCH*



stone pillars that are connected by hand-cut logs. Each pillar and all of the stone walls were built by hand by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers. As a child, I would imagine the workers sorting through their arsenal of rocks to find the “perfect” stone to stack.

At the end of the walkway a panoramic view of the New River Gorge awaits and on many occasions I have witnessed a train crossing the railroad bridge below. The steps, stone walls and even the water fountain were constructed out of cut sandstone rock. The combination of

the quality workmanship and the natural landscape makes this overlook a sight to see.

Before leaving the park, we’d visit my favorite building at Hawks Nest. I have always called the building “the castle”, but to everyone else this building is the restroom facility. The tower-shaped, sandstone building is located on the opposite side of Route 60 from the Lower Overlook parking lot. This building was constructed by the CCC workers too.

I enjoyed inspecting the work of CCC Camps Lee (1935-1942) and Beaver (1937-38). One structure, a



*Above: The tower-shaped stone restroom was constructed by the CCC.*

*Below: Wedding day at Hawks Nest Park. Photo by Amanda Miller Photography*

large pavilion, was constructed of hewn logs and large stone. It also has pointed roofs and a huge fireplace that greets you when you enter the pavilion. Across from the restrooms you can find another stone building that serves as one of the park's gift shops. This building was constructed from solid stone and rustic timber. When visiting this area, it is easy to see the incredible craftsmanship of the CCC crews. All three structures complement each other and the stonework is amazing.

As years passed, our "Sunday drives" ceased and I forgot about this special place. It wasn't until 2009 that I revisited Hawks Nest State Park. The memories were coming back and I knew that I'd be making some very important memories here again. On October 10, 2009, I made one of my happiest memories here. Bluegrass music filled the air bringing to life the stone and wooden structures built in the 1930s. Taking one last cruise with my dad, I married my best friend, Ben, at Hawks Nest State Park.

— Sara Prior 



## GRANTS AWARDED

### FY2011 State Development Grants

The WV Legislature provides annual funding assistance for the preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of historic resources listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This matching grant program is competitive and based upon selection criteria included in our annual work program.

The Archives and History Commission reviewed and awarded the following State Development Grants at their May 29, 2010 meeting:

**Wyco Community Church.** Roof replacement and exterior repair, \$38,631. Rural Appalachian Improvement League, Inc., Wyoming County.

**Riverside School.** Exterior repair, \$48,282. Mountain Partners in Community Development, Inc., Randolph County.

**Brown-Shugart House.** Roof replacement and exterior repair, \$57,911. Kevin & Charity Long, Jefferson County.

**Morton Mansion.** Roof replacement and porch repair, \$49,673. Catherine Morton-McSwain, Webster County.

**First Ward School.** Roof repair, \$64,000. Citizens for Historical Opportunity, Preservation & Education in Randolph County (C-HOPE), Randolph County.

**Hancock County Museum.** Roof replacement, \$5,000. Hancock County Board of Commissioners, Hancock County.

**Kump House.** Masonry repair, \$41,035. City of Elkins/Kump House Endowment Trust, Randolph County.

**Boydville Mansion.** Roof repair/replacement, \$12,000. Berkeley County

Farmland Protection Board, Berkeley County.

**North House Museum.** Exterior repair, \$60,694. Greenbrier Historical Society, Greenbrier County.

**Hotel McCreery.** Window repair, \$100,000. Mountain Plex Properties, LLC, Summers County.

**Pearl S. Buck Birthplace.** Window and door repair, \$5,640. Pearl S. Buck Birthplace Foundation, Pocahontas County.

**412 W. King Street.** Chimney repair, \$1,675. Joe Santoro, Berkeley County.

**827 Benoni Avenue.** Window repair, \$60,000. Alex Hail and Rebecca Key, Marion County.


**Camp Caesar Council Circle.** Stabilization and roof repair, \$20,000. 4-H Clubs of Webster County, Webster County.

**Fort Hill Farm Barn.** Roof replacement, \$51,200. C. Lynne Hannah and Samuel Hannah, Mineral County.

**Roxy Theater.** Electrical repair, \$14,167. 25045-A New Clendenin, Inc., Kanawha County.

**A.W. Cox Building.** Roof replacement, \$32,900. Flair Development, LLC, Mercer County.

**Lewis County Health Department.** Roof replacement and chimney repair, \$18,410. Lewis County Commission, Lewis County.

For more information about grant opportunities, please contact the SHPO.—*Pam Brooks* 



### PRESERVATION CALENDAR

**March 31, 2011**

Development Grant  
Application Deadline  
[www.wvculture.org/shpo](http://www.wvculture.org/shpo)

**April 8, 2011**

"HP Road Show"

Weston, WV  
[sara.a.prior@wv.gov](mailto:sara.a.prior@wv.gov)

**May 16, 2011**

HLC Workshop  
Marlinton, WV  
[sara.a.prior@wv.gov](mailto:sara.a.prior@wv.gov)

**May 22-25, 2011**

Main Streets Conference  
Des Moines, IA  
[www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org)

**May 23, 2011**

Submission Deadline  
WV Historic Preservation Month  
contest  
[www.wvculture.org/shpo](http://www.wvculture.org/shpo)

**June 14-19, 2011**

Gravestone Studies  
34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
Colby College, Waterville, MA  
[www.gravestonestudies.org](http://www.gravestonestudies.org)

**October 31, 2011**

Survey and Planning  
Application Deadline  
[www.wvculture.org/shpo](http://www.wvculture.org/shpo)

## DETAILS

State Historic Preservation Office  
The Culture Center  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston WV 25305-0300

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
P.O. Box 2868  
Charleston, WV  
25301

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## Know Your Past!

### May is National Preservation Month

To help promote historic preservation across the state,  
WVSHPO is sponsoring a contest  
to include five age groups:  
**Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-9, 9-12, and adults**  
**Entry Deadline: May 23, 2011**

Participants are asked to write an article, produce a short film  
(3 minutes or less) or create a piece of art incorporating  
this year's theme "See OLD in a NEW Way," while reflecting  
on how West Virginia has developed from the state's birth  
in 1863 to how you see West Virginia today. The work should  
be inspired by a West Virginia resource listed in the  
National Register for Historic Places at  
<http://www.wvculture.org/shpo/nr/index.html>.  
Guidelines and entry form are available on the agency's website  
<http://www.wvculture.org/shpo>. Please review before entering the  
contest. We encourage teachers to promote this activity in the class-  
rooms. Contact Sara Prior at 304-558-0240, ext.122.