

ARTHURDALE SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Arthurdale, Preston County

Integral to the history of the nation's first New Deal homestead, the high school, cafeteria/administration building, and elementary school in Arthurdale are wooden structures that have sat vacant for the past ten years. Now owned by Arthurdale Heritage, Inc. (AHI), they were



constructed in 1936 under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal administration. In use for decades, these original homestead educational facilities were finally mothballed in 2003. Due to AHI's limited budget and staff, they are threatened with steady deterioration from disuse. The ultimate goal of AHI is the development of a clear strategy to rehabilitate and adaptively reuse the buildings to be self-sustaining over the long run. Several options are currently being explored including housing preschool programs, extending the New Deal Homestead Museum, or providing senior housing and programming. Grant funding is now actively being sought, and a committee is being formed to determine the next best step for development.



**ENDANGERED
PROPERTIES**
Of West Virginia
2012 PAWV



PAWV ENDANGERED LIST 2012



Arthurdale School Buildings

Arthurdale, Preston County

Site: Arthurdale School Buildings (high school, cafeteria/administration building, elementary school)

Description: The Arthurdale School complex was originally comprised of six buildings: a gym/auditorium, primary school, nursery school, high school, cafeteria/administration, and elementary school. The primary and nursery schools have been demolished, and the gym/auditorium continues to be used by the local school district. The latter three have been listed as endangered. They are simple, one to two-story structures with horizontal wood siding, and they maintain complementary front-entry porticos. The elementary school boasts the most elaborate portico with a prominent central archway.

Community: Arthurdale, Preston County

Date of Construction: 1936

Significance: The school buildings once housed the progressive educational program in the nation's first New Deal Homestead led by School Administrator Elsie Ripley Clapp.

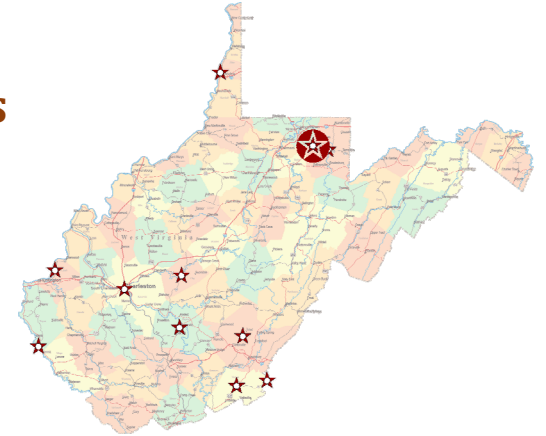
Endangerment: Limited resources. Disuse - mold influx, floor rot, and threat of collapse.

Resources: In 2001, the Preston County Board of Education donated three of the original wood-framed buildings to Arthurdale Heritage, Inc. (AHI): the high school, cafeteria/administration building, and elementary school. Arthurdale Heritage Inc. is seeking various grant funding sources to support the rehabilitation of these buildings. There is strong community support to allocate new uses for these buildings.

Next Steps for 2012: Create a long-range plan for future uses of the buildings and secure funding to carry out such uses.

Goal: The goal is for all the buildings to be occupied, self-supporting, and contributing to the historic integrity of the Arthurdale Historic District.

Nominated by: Arthurdale Heritage, Inc.



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**NATIONAL
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Preservation Alliance of West Virginia is the statewide grassroots organization devoted to preserving West Virginia's history and culture. In partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, PAWV provides assistance to help save endangered sites. For more information on this year's Endangered List, or if you would like to suggest a site for next year, see the Preservation Alliance website at: www.pawv.org.