

# CLAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Town of Clay,  
Clay County



**E**rected in 1902 under the supervision of architect Frank L. Packard, the original Clay County Courthouse is the only property in Clay County listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The old courthouse boasts eye-catching and elaborate features including a domed cupola surmounting the hipped roof, prominent dentil molding, and Roman Doric columns. The Clay County Landmarks Commission and Historical Society (CCLCHS) have initiated prior



preservation work, but the building continues to be threatened by water infiltration in both its lower and upper portions. The CCLCHS is working with local government officials and citizens to adapt this building to be used as a public space, museum, and repository hopefully owned, operated, and maintained by the CCLCHS.



**ENDANGERED  
PROPERTIES**  
Of West Virginia  
**2012** PAWV

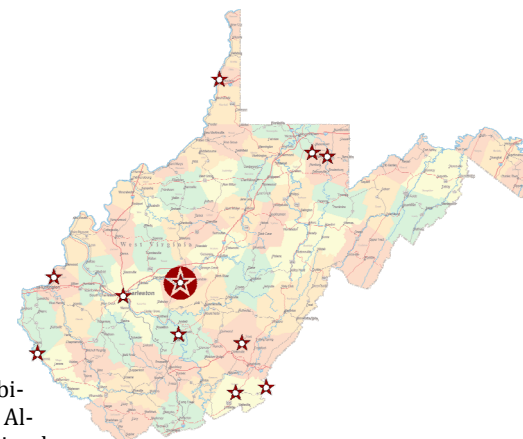


## PAWV ENDANGERED LIST 2012



### Clay County Courthouse

Clay, Clay County



**Site:** Old Clay County Courthouse

**Description:** The old Clay County Courthouse is a pressed blond brick structure exhibiting early 20th century eclecticism, reflected in its combination of classical elements of style. Although the lines of the building are simple, it has a Beaux Arts-style domed cupola and Doric-columned portico, in addition to ornate windows. Flat-headed windows with ornamental flat brick arches at the first level are in contrast to the arched windows of the second. Especially fine brickwork is seen in the arches of the second-floor windows that are set within shallow recessed panels.

**Community:** Clay, Clay County

**Date of Construction:** 1902

**Significance:** Frank Packard designed the courthouse. Packard was America's foremost institutional architect, designing over 3400 buildings, including the Capitol Annex building in Charleston, WV, that burned down in 1966. The old courthouse is the only site listed on the National Register of Historic Places for Clay County and is a staple of the City of Clay's history and community.

**Endangerment:** Water infiltration in the upper and lower portions. Electrical condition.

**Resources:** Clay County Landmarks Commission & Historical Society and the City of Clay are both supportive of adapting this building for a new community use.

**Next Steps for 2012:** Identify and prioritize the scope of preservation work by completing a Facility Report and reach out to volunteers to assist with the project.

**Goal:** The goal is to rehabilitate the building and reuse it for a multitude of purposes including an artists guild; a repository for local, regional, and state history; the Clay County Museum; a multi-county tourist center for the six counties that lay within the Elk River basin; a theater for local performances; a community meeting space; and the county landmarks commission and historical society office space.

**Nominated by:** Clay County Landmarks Commission & Historical Society



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**NATIONAL  
TRUST  
FOR  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION**

*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](http://www.pawv.org).*