

# FORT MCCOY

Williamsburg, Greenbrier County

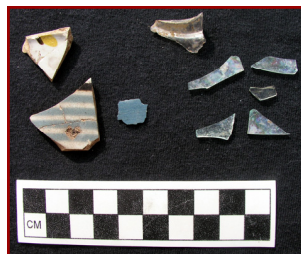


A log fort constructed by the William McCoy Family around 1770, Fort McCoy is currently situated inside a wood barn that is near collapse. The fort and its surrounding site are potentially rich in archaeological information that could provide further documentation about Native Americans, especially the Shawnee, and early settlers' non-militia, privately-constructed forts. McCoy was among the first group of permanent white settlers who came to Greenbrier County from Augusta County, Virginia in 1769. The Williamsburg District Historical Foundation is slated to receive the fort and a few acres of surrounding property through donation from the current property owner. The Foundation, in addition to the Williamsburg Community Action Group and Greenbrier Historical Society, aim to complete an archaeological dig of the site but must first remove the barn, dismantle the fort, and store its elements to be reconstructed after the completion of the dig. A fundraising festival will be held in June 2012 to benefit this program.



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

**PAWV**



## PAWV ENDANGERED LIST 2012



### FORT MCCOY

Williamsburg,  
Greenbrier County

**Site:** Fort McCoy

**Description:** This site is an 18th-century log frontier fort located on a farm in Greenbrier County. It is currently housed within a barn that is used for sheep and cattle.

**Community:** Williamsburg, Greenbrier County

**Period of Construction:** c. 1770

**Significance:** Fort McCoy may be the only standing 18th-century frontier fort in Greenbrier County. Built by one of the earliest settlers to the Williamsburg area to serve as protection from Native Americans, the fort is also located very near Fort Donnally, which figures prominently in Virginia's annals of Indian warfare. Remnants discovered during initial archaeological tests indicate that Fort McCoy may have been used as a home as well.

**Endangerment:** The barn containing the fort is in disrepair and in danger of collapse.

**Resources:** The Williamsburg District Historical Foundation will take the lead in seeking resources to protect and preserve Ft. McCoy. Several archaeologists and scholars of the Allegheny Mountains plan to participate in an archaeological dig. Additionally, the Foundation has received sponsorship from Sunnybrook Stock Farm as a social enterprise for the project with fundraising festivals planned for June of 2012 and 2013.

**Next Steps for 2012:** The Williamsburg District Historical Foundation is seeking funds to immediately dismantle the barn currently containing the fort in preparation for an archaeological study. The Badlands Bluegrass Benefit Festival and fundraiser will be held in June to raise money for a grant match ([www.badlandsbluegrass.com](http://www.badlandsbluegrass.com)).

**Goal:** The barn and fort will be carefully dismantled, which will clear the area for an archaeological excavation of the grounds which will take about 3-5 years. Following the study, the log fort is to be reconstructed and fortified to allow tourists to study a signage diorama explaining the use of this structure during the settlement era. Plans are to install a circular drive and a signage diorama explaining how the building was used in the 18th century, the historic preservation process, and photographic evidence from the dig.

**Nominated by:** Williamsburg District Historical Foundation



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

