

# GENERAL ALBERT GALLATIN JENKINS HOUSE AND PLANTATION

Lesage, Cabell County

Constructed in 1835, most likely by slaves residing on the site, the brick Albert Gallatin Jenkins House exemplifies the late Federal style with a symmetrical façade and paired end chimneys. It is best recognized for the activities of its namesake, Confederate Brigadier General and United States and Confederate Congressman Albert Gallatin. But the home also symbolizes the contributions enslaved people made towards the growth of plantation wealth in antebellum Virginia. Currently owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and leased to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), this building has been mothballed with no plans to preserve deteriorating first floor joists in danger of collapse. The



Greenbottom Society, a local group working for 23 years to save this site, maintains its decades-long goal to restore the house, reconstruct the outbuildings, interpret the building and site, and create programming for visitors. The society hopes to include the property on the WV Civil War Trails program, thus increasing interest and visitation.



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

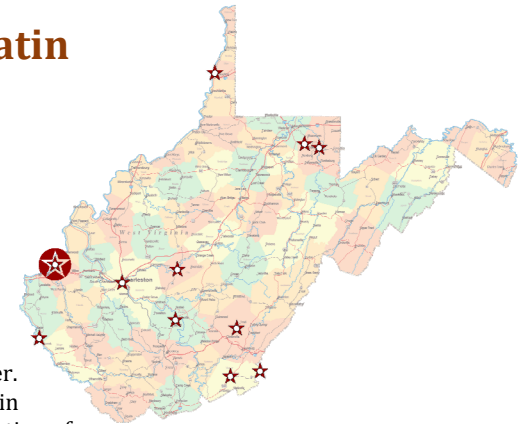


## PAWV ENDANGERED LIST 2012



### General Albert Gallatin Jenkins House and Plantation

Lesage, Cabell County



**Site:** Historic General Albert Gallatin Jenkins House and Plantation

**Description:** This building is a rectangular, 2½ story, 5-bay brick structure, located along the Ohio River. Representing the late Federal period in architecture, it sits atop a high foundation of local cut sandstone blocks. Paired-end brick chimneys adorn the side gables.

**Community:** Lesage, Cabell County

**Date of Construction:** 1835

**Significance:** The plantation is nationally significant as an example of a quality building constructed for prosperous businessman, William Jenkins, who was part of a general westward movement in the early 19th century. His son, Albert Gallatin Jenkins became a distinguished lawyer and politician in the 1850s, having served two terms in the U.S. Congress by the age of 30. He was also elected to the Confederate Congress after siding with the Confederacy during the Civil War.

**Endangerment:** Danger of collapse from deteriorating first-level floor and floor joists

**Resources:** The Army Corps of Engineers is the owner of the building and is the only entity that has legal authority to raise funds or authorize repair for the site.

**Next Steps for 2012:** The Greenbottom Society is circulating a petition requesting that preservation/restoration work continues. The Society is working with Congressman Rahall's Office to locate possible funding the Corps can use for preservation work, and with state and federal representatives in search of further solutions.

**Goal:** The goal is to prevent the Corps and Department of National Resources, to which the building is leased, from mothballing the historic house and instead persuade the Corps to continue its preservation and restoration project. Other short-term goals include allowing the public and Civil War Trail program tourists to visit the site and historic marker, even if the house itself is closed. The long-term goal is the same as it has been for 23 years: to restore the site to its antebellum appearance and offer prehistoric and historic heritage interpretation for tourism and educational development.

**Nominated by:** The Greenbottom Society, Inc.



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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).*