

HOMESTEAD SCHOOL

Dailey, Randolph County

Construction Date: 1939

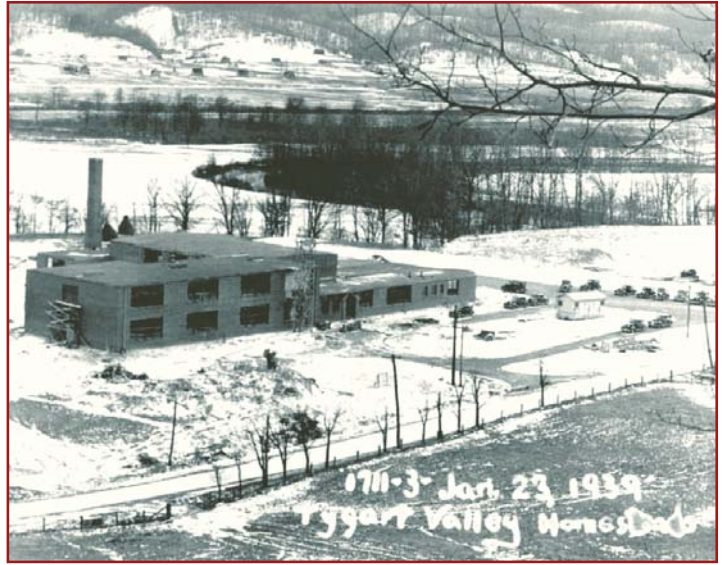
Threat: Maintenance;

Funding; Closure

Homestead School is an elementary school serving the Tygart Valley Homestead communities of Dailey, East Dailey, and Valley Bend.

Located on a 17-acre tract, the school, designed in the Art Moderne style, was an important link in the initial resettlement plans to relieve desperate families in rural West Virginia during the Great Depression. The Tygart Valley Homestead was authorized as part of the

school population increased from 99 students to 150 students. The school is owned by the United States Department of Agriculture, but it has a long-term lease to the Randolph County Board of Education (RCBE) necessitating it to be run as a school and community center. Homestead School is one of fifteen schools the board maintains in a county with a sparse population and a low tax



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Roosevelt Administration's First Hundred Days legislation and was the third (and largest) successful resettlement program in West Virginia. Homestead School, which featured First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt as its first graduation speaker, is the last operational school of the 99 built during the era.

Homestead School is in danger of closure due to lack of funding to maintain and rehabilitate the school. While the actual economy in the region is declining, settlement in the Homestead zone that feeds the school has increased; in the 10-year period of 2004-2014, the



base. The Board was recently unable to pass a bond levy, which would have helped to pay maintenance costs at this school and others. A Friends group, the Homestead Association, helps counter these costs by fundraising and applying for grants to rehabilitate the school and keep it operating. The main maintenance issues for the school are related to electricity, the furnace, plumbing, and the roof, as well as the need to update the HVAC system. The goal of the Homestead Association is to raise funds to keep the school functioning and preserve the memory of the Homestead communities in the Tygart Valley.

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia

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