

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia's

ENDANGERED PROPERTIES 2009



Tyler County Home – TYLER COUNTY



Bowers House – MANNINGTON



McCreery Hotel – HINTON



Old Glenville Bridge – GLENVILLE



Wyco Church – MULLENS



Waldo Hotel – CLARKSBURG



Capitol Music Hall – WHEELING



First Ward School – ELKINS

PAWV has named eight historic West Virginia properties to its 2009 Endangered Properties List.

The recently revitalized endangered program was initiated more than two decades ago. Periodically over the last 25 years, the organization has sponsored an Endangered Properties List for West Virginia.

PAWV Executive Director Karen Carper said the 2009 list is diverse both geographically and architecturally. "We have a church, a school, two historic hotels, a theater, a bridge, a private home and a historic homeless shelter," she said. Locations span the state from the northern panhandle to the southern coalfields, the Ohio River Valley to the Potomac Highlands.

Properties named to the 2009 list include Hinton's McCreery Hotel, Capitol Music Hall of Wheeling, First Ward School of Elkins, Wyco Church of Mullens, Tyler County Home,

(Continued on page 4)



At-Risk Historic Assets of West Virginia



McCreery Hotel

Construction on the five story “McCreery Hotel” commenced in 1907. When completed in 1908 it was regarded as the premier hotel on the railroad main line extending from Washington DC to Chicago, Illinois. Nominated to the National Register in 1984, it was a resting spot for many of America’s favorite celebrities and politicians.

Currently operated by Human Resources Development and Employment, Inc., of Morgantown, the historic Hinton hotel faces considerable restoration challenges. Deteriorating roof and windows have allowed water intrusion to take a toll on the upper floors of the building.



Capitol Music Hall



Since its opening in 1928, this grand Beaux-Arts theater has played a vital part in Wheeling’s economy and image. Listed as a “pivotal structure” in the Wheeling Historic District, the theater is the home of legendary Jamboree USA, which has been broadcasting live over WWVA Radio since 1933. The theater has also been home to the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra and various other musical, dance, and theater groups over the years.

The building was closed in May 2007 as a result of twenty-three life safety-fire code violations. Subsequent architectural and economic feasibility studies have shown the building remains a viable theater. Recently, a consortium of Wheeling area non-profit organizations purchased the building and are now engaged in trying to raise the funds needed to save this local icon.



Wyco Community Church

Coal Baron Major W. T. Tams built the Wyco Coal Camp “C” in 1917, soon after establishing his coal camp at nearby Tams in Raleigh County. In Wyco both of the churches built for the white and African-American families remain, along with the Superintendents house and other dwellings. In the 1990’s the Wyco Church was abandoned. Since that time the roof has become compromised and water intrusion has led to ongoing deterioration of the structure.

In 2003 ownership of the church was transferred to the Rural Appalachian Improvement League (RAIL). Currently, RAIL is seeking assistance in its efforts to stabilize and eventually restore the historic church.



Tyler County Home

Also known as the “Poor Farm” or the “Poor House,” the County Home was built early in 1915. The home and associated pauper’s cemetery are a testament to the forgotten disadvantaged and poor who struggled to help build this county and state.

The building itself is now idle and serves primarily as storage for old surplus equipment of the County and County Fair Board, and Emergency Management. Water intrusion continues to further damage the building interior and exterior. The County has had insufficient funds to maintain the building and it has slowly deteriorated. Fortunately, lack of funds has also prevented the County from demolishing the building.



Waldo Hotel

The Waldo Hotel, Clarksburg, W. Va.



A pivotal structure in downtown Clarksburg’s Historic District, the Waldo Hotel is currently in a stable, “mothballed” condition. A 2007 feasibility study supported redevelopment of the Waldo Hotel to its original use. However, the property is threatened by a demolition order from the City of Clarksburg, which has stated it is a public safety hazard and in violation of city code.

The Beaux-Arts style building with Moorish influences, currently owned by the Vandalia Heritage Foundation, was designed by noted architect Harrison Albright of Charleston and completed in 1904. Construction was financed by Nathan Goff, Jr., who left the property to his sons Guy D. and Waldo Goff. It was the official residence of Senator Guy D. Goff during his term (1925-31) and site of a 1928 meeting of conservative Republican U.S. Senators who supported Goff as the presidential nominee over Herbert Hoover.



First Ward School

First Ward was designed in the Georgian-Revival style and constructed in 1909 of locally available building materials. These included hand-cut sandstone, brick, and native hardwoods, used in the structural members, flooring, and decorative trim.

The building was closed as a school in the 1970s and used as a storage facility for a number of years thereafter. It is essentially abandoned now, and has developed an increasingly serious roof leak. Structurally, the building was relatively stable until the recent roof leaks began. Over the last year or two, it has deteriorated significantly.



1929



2009

Bowers House

The Bowers House is located in Mannington's Historic District. Built about 1870, the Queen Anne Victorian home was later purchased by state Senator George W. Bowers, who served from 1921 to 1924. Bowers also served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1936. A prominent entrepreneur, he was the owner of the Warwick (USA) China Company, Homewood Glass Company, Bowers Pottery Company, Bowers Realty Company, First Exchange Bank and many other turn-of-the-century enterprises.

The home underwent many changes influenced by the Arts and Crafts period of the 1930s and 40s and remained in the Bowers family until 2003. Little maintenance was done for an extended period of time, but restoration has been undertaken by the present owners.



(Continued from page 1)

Glenville Bridge and the Waldo Hotel of Clarksburg. All properties are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and meet other criteria such as historic significance, geographic location, preservation emergency, and resources available to resolve the endangerment.

Endangered lists are collections of at-risk historic properties in a given region compiled primarily to bring attention to the plight of the properties and the organizations involved in their preservation. These lists have been used by preservation organizations for many years to help draw attention to diminishing historic resources.

With new properties accepted annually to the re-energized program, PAWV's Endangered List will help focus attention on the most pressing issues or significant resources in West Virginia.

Nominations to the 2010 Endangered Properties List will be accepted in the fall. Watch for announcements in Preservation News or log on to pawv.org for details.

Old Glenville Bridge

The Old Pratt Truss Bridge spans 265 feet across the Little Kanawha River. In 1884, the Gilmer County Commission purchased steel components from the Canton Iron Works, Canton, Ohio and contracted with Stewart and Sheirriff's of Richmond, Virginia to build the bridge. The construction of the bridge greatly enhanced the development of the city of Glenville and Glenville State College.

Nominated to the National Register in 1998, the historic bridge now lays decommissioned from use. Lack of maintenance has led to severe deterioration of the bridge's structural system.

