

THE GOLDEN RULE

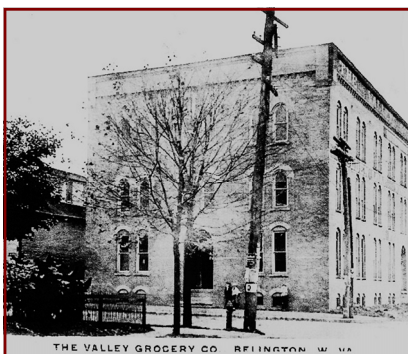
Belington, Barbour County



This beautiful, three-story brick building was built in 1902. Originally a wholesale grocery store, the owner and operator, Luther P. Shinn, gravitated to more merchandise offerings. The thoughtful businessman added a gas-powered gristmill and water-powered elevator to the building. The building is a significant reminder of the commercial boom of the area in the early to mid-1900s. The goal is to hopefully acquire the building from the current owner for adaptive re-use. Eventually the building could house a variety of office, community, and residential spaces.

ENDANGERED PROPERTIES OF WEST VIRGINIA

PAWV 2014



PAWV

Endangered List 2014

The Golden Rule

Location: Belington, Barbour County

Endangerment:
Deferred Maintenance

Construction Date: 1902

Background: The building was originally home to The Valley Grocery Company, a wholesale grocery distributor to Barbour County, as well as neighboring counties. A frame addition connected to the building houses a gas-powered gristmill. Following a 1929

reorganization and name change, the newly chartered "Golden Rule" store began to include more merchandise items in its inventory. Eventually the store evolved into a department store that advertised, "Everything for everyone." Merchandise included furniture, appliances, and household goods.

Description: The building is a three-story masonry building. Brick header arches top the building's windows. There is a small addition, which houses the gristmill.

Significance: The building is significant for its role in the commercial history of Belington and the surrounding area. Operated by Luther P. Shinn, a Buckhannon merchant, the building represents his personal and local commercial success. The Golden Rule is one of the few remaining buildings from the area's economic boom in early 1900s.

Preservation Steps: The Belington Revitalization Committee and the Woodlands Development Group want to acquire the building. Afterward, renovation and preservation can begin.

Ultimate Goal: The ultimate goal is to save this historic landmark, repurpose it for use by the community, and to, once again, contribute to the community.

Resources: The Woodlands Development Group and the Belington Revitalization Committee are working together on this building project.

Nominated by: Jeff Smith, Woodlands Development Group



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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 the 2011 Endangered List, or if you would like to suggest a site for next year, see: www.pawv.org/endangernom.htm

