A Message from the SHPO

An individual contacted me concerned about the possible demolition of several buildings in her community. She stated that they were connections to who we are. She is right. As we move ever onward into the twenty first century, it is clear that the past remains important to understanding who we are. We are members of a community made up of neighborhoods, schools, parks, places of worship, stores, restaurants and libraries. While we are attached our electronic devices, we are still part of an environment of buildings, structures, landscapes and other resources. Our state moves forward upon celebrating 150 years of statehood. Even so, the past still matters today. How we perceive and create our future rests upon how we were changed by events and places of the past.

Historic preservation seeks to identify and protect those resources that tell us who we are. During our public meetings, participants shared that they care about West Virginia’s historic resources. They want others to know more about the historic resources in their community and advocate support. West Virginians are go-getters and I have seen the success of projects due to the leadership and passion individuals bring to the table.

We are connected together to protect West Virginia’s historic resources. In this endeavor, we have identified five goals. They are:

1. Education: West Virginians will have access to information and training for historic preservation techniques, resources and skills.

2. Awareness: West Virginians will recognize and understand the value of our state’s historic resources.

3. Identification: West Virginians will identify, evaluate and designate historic resources.

4. Community and Economic Development: West Virginians will incorporate historic preservation into economic and community development to maintain a sense of place.

5. Stewardship: West Virginians will safeguard and sustain historic resources in their communities and rural areas throughout the state.

I am sure that this is a mighty task we continue to shoulder. However, I am touched by the connections made with individuals who share these goals and work together locally and across the state to create a better future for West Virginia while preserving its past. The past still matters today.

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A West Virginia Perspective on the Historic Preservation Movement

The United States is a relatively young country and its attachment to its historic buildings and sites has varied over its history. When historic preservation efforts in the United States began in the mid-19th century, the focus was on great individuals. Efforts at George Washington’s Mount Vernon and Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello are well known. Other well-known efforts followed in the first half of the twentieth century such as the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg and the first local preservation ordinance in 1931 designed to control land use in Charleston, South Carolina. The federal government began the preservation of Civil War battlefields in the late nineteenth century and passed the Antiquities Act in 1906. Other federal programs like the Historic American Building Survey were established during the Great Depression to document and inventory historic buildings across the country. While these efforts went a long way to preserve and document historic resources, they were the exceptions and not the norm.

Early efforts to preserve historic resources in West Virginia were, like federal efforts, very sporadic. One of the earliest state efforts to preserve and protect historic resources began in 1909 when the West Virginia legislature purchased the Grave Creek Mound in Moundsville. While the state owned the property the Mound received little attention until 1915, when the Warden of the West Virginia Penitentiary, M. Z. White, used prison labor to repair damage caused by an excavation into the mound in 1838 and years of looting and neglect. Prison labor was also used to construct a museum to house some of the mound’s artifacts. Other state efforts included the development of Droop Mountain Battlefield as a state park in 1926; the creation of Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park in 1950; and the purchase and restoration of West Virginia Independence Hall in 1963.

Patriotic societies that formed in late 19th and early 20th century also worked to restore and preserve structures in the state. Groups like the Blue and Gray Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Colonial Dames of America, and others placed historic markers across the state. Some of these groups also worked to restore historic properties. For example, the Colonial Dames of America preserved the 1834 Craik-Patton House on the Kanawha River east of Charleston and the Potomac Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in conjunction with the WPA in 1938 and 1939 restored the French and Indian War fort at Fort Ashby in Mineral County. These efforts in the state were, however, limited and a systematic look at West Virginia history did not begin until the West Virginia centennial in 1963, and the creation of the West Virginia Antiquities Commission in 1965.

On March 6, 1965, the West Virginia Legislature created the West Virginia Antiquities Commission to determine the needs and priorities for the preservation, restoration and development of sites, buildings and other objects of archaeological or historic importance. A year later events on the national stage provided more support for the Antiquities Commission. In 1966 the National Historic Preservation Act created a national historic preservation program with a strong state and federal partnership. The Antiquities Commission assumed the duties outlined in the act.

The Antiquities Commission began the first systematic program of historic preservation in the state and was very productive over its 13-year history. The Commission recognized and
preserved some of West Virginia’s most treasured resources. Through its efforts the Grave Creek Mound in Moundsville, Independence Hall in Wheeling, Rich Mountain Battlefield, Harpers Ferry and cultural resources on Blennerhassett Island near Parkersburg were preserved. The first statewide historic preservation plan was created by the Commission in 1970 to provide a guide to protect historic resources. All totaled 3,000 historic structures and sites were surveyed, an archive of over 7,000 images was compiled, and 150 resources were nominated and listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

On May 6, 1977, the West Virginia Legislature created the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. The authorizing legislation created the Historic Preservation Section and transferred the duties of the Antiquities Commission to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), including those duties outlined by the National Historic Preservation Act. To advise the Department, the Archives and History Commission, a public advisory board, was created. Today, the SHPO remains located with the Division of Culture and History, as the department is now called, and oversees National Register nominations, historic preservation grant programs, Section 106 reviews, CLG/HLC oversight, and educational activities and programs.

A Current Perspective: Partnerships and Cooperation
The successes in historic preservation are not solely due to the SHPO, but to the efforts supported by local governments, historic landmark commissions, organizations and individual property owners. Certified Local Governments (CLGs) carry out many preservation activities in West Virginia communities. This federal program provides funding assistance to local governments with participating historic landmark commissions. From 2009 through mid-2014, the SHPO has awarded 67 matching grants totaling $545,055. The majority of this funding was awarded to the CLGs but SHPO extended the survey and planning grant program to other organizations when funding was available. These projects assisted surveys of historic resources within the jurisdiction of the CLG and 70 nominations to the National Register of Historic Places since 2008. Educational workshops, conferences and other training were supported. Condition assessments and historic structures reports were completed for National Register resources.

The SHPO also sponsored scholarships for local historic preservation volunteers to attend the National Trust for Historic Preservation annual conferences and the National Alliance for Preservation Commissions biennial conference.

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia (PAWV) continues to provide additional resources to historic preservation in the state. Its statewide conference and specialized workshops educate and unite preservationists across the state to discuss current issues facing communities in West Virginia. Its annual List of Endangered Historic Properties receives significant news coverage, drawing attention to the state’s threatened historic resources. The recent publication, *West Virginia’s Endangered Properties: Saved and Lost, 2009-2013*, details five years of efforts to garner support for threatened historic resources. In 2010 the SHPO and PAWV together completed a Preserve America grant to initiate two Heritage Tourism Thematic Trails: Historic Theatres and New Deal/CCC resources.

West Virginia also benefits from the continued activities of two federally recognized heritage areas. Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation serves the City of Wheeling while the
National Coal Heritage Area supports efforts in Boone, Cabell, Fayette, Logan, Lincoln, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Raleigh, Summers, and Wayne counties. WNHAC supported the efforts of the Wheeling Convention and Visitors Bureau to purchase the Capitol Theatre, historic home of the Wheeling Jamboree, and assists in the continued restoration efforts. WNHAC also began fundraising and restoration of Mt. Wood Cemetery in partnership with the Friends of Wheeling and Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley. The National Coal Heritage Area administers an annual grant program assisting in local efforts. In FY 2013, 12 matching grant projects invested $458,594 into local preservation efforts. These projects included roof repairs to the Boone County Arts and Heritage Center, community service projects associated with the National Boy Scout Jamboree and additional educational activities and interpretative materials. NCHA also provided support to construction work at the Patteson Building in Mt. Hope, Fayette County, and the Houston Company Store in Kimball, McDowell County.

In addition to the two federal heritage areas, the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area is an established non-profit organization supporting cultural and natural heritage efforts. While not yet federally recognized, AFHA serves an 18 county area in the highlands of West Virginia and western Maryland. Their efforts support the historic resources associated with the timber industry and railroad lines as well as the commercial downtowns that developed in tandem.

Finally, the West Virginia Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority provides funding assistance to county governments to rehabilitate and renovate existing courthouse facilities. Many counties have historic courthouses listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Funded projects are submitted to the SHPO for a state review. While some projects have adversely affected the historic characteristics of the courthouses, most projects have successfully addressed the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. The SHPO and WVCFIA have worked closely together in the courthouse grant assistance program.

Current efforts in historic preservation involve not only state agencies, but county and city governments. Historic societies and historic landmark commissions support individual projects with donated construction materials, their volunteer hours as well as funding. Historic preservation reaches all corners of West Virginia and engages its citizens. These partnerships insure successful historic preservation efforts.
Creating the plan

The Past Matters Today: West Virginia Statewide Historic Preservation Plan 2009-2014 has served as the overarching framework for historic preservation activities in West Virginia since 2009. This plan still embodies the goals and objectives necessary to address the concerns and issues associated with our state’s historic preservation efforts. This current edition will continue to guide the activities and efforts of partners and shareholders involved in historic preservation across West Virginia and serve as a starting point for agencies, organizations, and individuals to formulate plans tailored to their unique situations.

In order to review and revise the existing plan, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) contacted various preservationists, architects, state and local governmental agencies and officials, preservation groups, and historical societies across the state regarding aspects of the plan and received comments. In March, April, and May of 2013, the SHPO conducted a total of 12 public meetings in Charleston, Huntington, Williamson, Ellenboro, Morgantown, Charles Town, Moundsville, Romney, Sutton, Ronceverte, Fayetteville, and Elkins. The meetings were announced and advertised by press releases that were picked up by local papers. Individual announcements were also mailed and emailed to shareholders and interested individuals. Articles and notices in the SHPO Details newsletter featured the proposed revision. At each meeting, SHPO staff provided a brief overview of activities and accomplishments of the past 5 years. During most of the meeting, participants engaged in discussion about the goals from the previous plan as well as identified issues, threats, and opportunities for the historic preservation community. Discussion was often lively. Many good thoughts and ideas were shared by the over 130 people that came to the meetings.

In order to capture additional comments and ideas, two versions of a survey were developed: an online version and a paper copy that was handed out at several of our events and mailed to people who requested a copy. 107 surveys were completed, with 34 of West Virginia’s 55 counties represented by these comments.

Summary of Public Comments

Comments received at the public meetings and on the surveys indicate that West Virginians are passionate about historic preservation as well as their local and regional history and the desire to share that history. By far, the most mentioned topic was education. While education was a unifying goal for the 5 goals from 2009, many people mentioned that education needed to be directly addressed as one of the goals. Funding was another topic that received a great deal of discussion. People were concerned about the stability and availability of state and federal funding for historic preservation projects. They also expressed concern about the lack of sustained commitment by local government and private funding sources to support these projects. Another opinion that was stated often during the meetings was the appearance that state and local governments were not concerned about historic preservation due to their spotty attention to historic properties that they owned. Some believed that this was further demonstrated by the failure of state and local governments to address the issue of demolition by neglect by absentee landlords and the lack of consistent zoning standards and enforcement across the state.
Summary of completed surveys

Comments that were received from completed surveys also expressed a desire for more education – for local office holders, fire marshals and safety inspectors, county and state office holders and organizations, and in the schools. Respondents also expressed a concern for the demolition of buildings, especially demolition by neglect.

Looking at the data from the surveys, over 80% of the respondents did not own a National Register listed resource nor were members of an Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) (83.1% and 87.5%). 43.7% were members of local historical societies. 50% of the respondents had completed an architectural or archaeological survey form for the SHPO sometime in the past, while over 43% had used the SHPO GIS website. 46.6% of respondents agreed somewhat with the phrase that local leaders in their community believe in the benefits of historic preservation. However 50.7% responded that they disagreed somewhat or disagreed strongly with the statement “current state and local preservation programs effectively protect West Virginia’s archaeological, historic, and cultural resources.” Interestingly only one person responded negatively to the question “Do (the goals from the 2009 plan) still represent the areas where the historic preservation community should focus their attention?” This respondent wanted a goal that tied “awareness” to “giving people information on how to make historic preservation pay.” When asked about adding goals to the list, people mostly responded by urging the strengthening of the current goals and increasing the focus on educational efforts.

Further data gleaned from the surveys included that respondents believed that Main Street/downtowns, homes, residential neighborhoods, churches, and public buildings were the most important resources to protect in their communities. When asked what are the top 5 resources most threatened in their community, respondents stated homes, Main Street/downtown, residential neighborhoods, cemeteries, and commercial neighborhoods.

Successes

One of the successes mentioned by respondents and participants was the continuation of the state development grant program. People expressed concern that the program would not be cut in response to the state’s economic concerns. People were happy that West Virginia’s legislators continue to support this grant program. Various restoration projects completed or under construction throughout the state were also considered as successes. Most of this work was the result of grants and tax credit opportunities provided through the State Historic Preservation Office; however several private restoration projects were mentioned as well.

Challenges

Beyond the challenges cited above from the survey results, respondents and participants stated that the lack of qualified rehabilitation specialists and the requirement of prevailing wage associated with state development grants were two reoccurring issues. Many stated that not being able to find craftsmen who were experienced and knowledgeable about historic buildings
was a big concern in many parts of the state. Once property owners found these specialists, the burden of having to pay the prevailing wage to everyone working on the project was a frustration of the grant process.

**Issues**

**Education**

Public officials, property owners, students, and the public at large were cited as having incomplete or little knowledge of the history of their areas, their state, and of historic preservation and the benefits that come from preservation. Comments expressed citizens’ dismay over their elected officials, public employees, and town leaders not having more understanding and knowledge of historic preservation. Many noted that when leaders in government finally understood and appreciated historic preservation, they left office or were not reelected thereby beginning the whole education process again. This illustrates the need for a continual learning process for local leaders. Including more local history and historic preservation into the curriculum of schools was noted as important for the future. By teaching these stories and topics, students will have a greater appreciation of their history and be more sensitive to the issues involved in historic preservation.

**Funding**

At each meeting and on nearly every survey, the subject of funding was mentioned. Especially in an era of strained public and private budgets, funding has been harder to acquire and the historic preservation community is anxious to find ways to improve the access to funds. While the SHPO has both state and federal grant programs, many feel that more money should be available to restoration, renovation, and preservation projects. Some believe that SHPO grants should reduce the amount of matching contribution for grantees. Others believe that local areas should set aside funds to be used for preservation activities that improve the look and viability of towns. Still others think that historic preservation should be part of tours and other Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) activities and activities such as these should receive funds. While the ideas are plentiful, the funding is not. The challenge for the next 5 years will be finding ways to retain and maximize funding that is current available while identifying additional partners and other funding sources.

**Demolition through neglect or lack of protection**

Participants and respondents both stated their dismay with the types and numbers of resources lost over the past 5 years. Buildings were lost through demolition and new development, but just as often resources were left to decay to the point where they became public safety hazards and were razed. Sometimes the owner has not had the resources to maintain the building; in other instances the owner purposely neglected maintenance until demolition through public funding was necessary. Most who discussed this topic stated that they hoped that local zoning and other laws would be enacted to encourage maintenance and upkeep by property owners and strengthen local government ability to acquire, mothball, and/or rehabilitate abandoned properties.
Archaeological Resources

For about 11,000 years, humans have been making their mark on the land that became West Virginia. Today, there is a very diverse collection of items that document our history and heritage. Collectively these remnants of our past are known as cultural resources. Tens of thousands of these resources have been documented and inventoried in West Virginia. These resources include prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and historic buildings, structures, objects, districts, sites, and landscapes. In West Virginia, the State Historic Preservation Office catalogs cultural resources into three survey groups. Survey records are kept for archaeological resources, architectural resources, and cemeteries. Ongoing refinement of the State Historic Preservation Office’s GIS website links this information for preservation professionals and interested individuals.

Over 14,200 archaeological and cemetery sites have been documented in West Virginia thus far. These sites represent a wide range of time from the earliest human occupation some 11,000 years ago to the more recent past. In order to better understand our predecessors, archaeologists investigate the material remains recovered from archaeological sites (the things that people made and used and the remnants of the plants and animals that people ate) and the context in which they were discovered. Archaeologists also work with other scientists to reconstruct the paleoenvironment, how it changed through time and how it might have affected people’s lives.

Together, this information portrays a more complete picture of what life was like for people hundreds and thousands of years ago and the reasons why their lives or cultures changed through time. This vast stretch of time in our past is divided by archaeologists into the prehistoric period and the historic period.

The prehistoric era encompasses sites that date from the end of the Pleistocene to ca. A.D. 1700, which is when Europeans first began settling the land that is now West Virginia. The rich legacy of West Virginia’s prehistoric past is represented by archaeological sites such as quarries and other workshops, campsites, petroglyphs, earthworks, mounds and villages. Based on differences observed in these sites through time and in the material items that were left behind, archaeologists have broken the prehistoric past into different periods referred to as Paleoindian, Archaic, Woodland, and Late Prehistoric.

West Virginia’s earliest European ancestors also left their mark on the land. Historic archaeological sites such as frontier forts and other types of military encampments, battlefields, and the ruins of early farmsteads, communities and industrial complexes have been discovered throughout the state. Archaeological study of these resources has enhanced our understanding of people’s lives from the 18th through the early 20th centuries and increased our knowledge of changes in agricultural practices through time, the rise of various industries such as salt, timbering and coal, and how these industries have affected people’s lives.
Prehistoric Archaeological Resources

The Paleoindian Period (ca. 9500 - 8000 B.C.)

The earliest occupation of North America occurred before 8,000 B.C. during what archaeologists call the Paleoindian Period. Although evidence of Paleoindian occupation in West Virginia is scarce, data from elsewhere in the northeast suggests that, in areas where a tundra environment predominated, people were focused on hunting caribou rather than mammoth or mastodon. In other places like the Chesapeake Bay area, where a mixed deciduous forest was in place by 9,000 B.C., Paleoindian peoples likely hunted and gathered a more diverse range of foods. Within our region, Paleoindian sites have been found in association with high quality flint and chert outcrops near major river systems. The most recognizable artifacts of the period are large fluted projectile points. Archaeologists have broken these down into different types that are thought to correspond to different times within the period. In West Virginia, fluted points have been found along the Kanawha and Ohio rivers and in select upland locations in the Potomac River Valley. Some of these points appear to resemble the earliest variety found in the eastern United States (known as the Shoop-Debert/Gainey type). However, details about the lives of Paleoindian peoples in West Virginia are not known and will have to come from future research.

The Archaic Period (ca. 8000 - 1000 B.C.)

The beginning of the Archaic Period traditionally coincides with the start of the Holocene. Paleoenvironmental data suggest that modern deciduous forests had reached areas south and east of the Allegheny Front by ca. 7800 B.C., and some archaeologists think, that early in the period, people simply continued the same basic subsistence and habitation practices as they did during the Paleoindian Period. While there is evidence for continued use of high quality exotic cherts, a change did occur in the types of lithic tools that were being used. These Early Archaic projectile points, which have been recovered from sites throughout West Virginia, indicate that different animals, such as deer, were being exploited. Carbonized nut hulls from the St. Albans Site (46Ka61) in Kanawha County date to ca. 7000 B.C. and provide additional evidence in West Virginia of the increasing variety of food in people’s diets. Excavations at the West Blennerhassett Site (46Wd83-A) and the Dickinson Farm Site (46Ka111) should provide additional information about the early part of this period.

Throughout the Archaic Period, population densities continue to increase and archaeologists find sites in progressively more diverse environs. Use of plant processing tools like adzes and celts continues to increase so that by the Late Archaic Period, a distinctive way of living has emerged. Settlements have become focused on river valleys, while more marginal areas are used seasonally to extract specific resources. In the Ohio River Valley, shell midden sites, such as West Virginia’s East Steubenville Site (46Br31) indicate that people are exploiting riverine food sources for the first time. Also for the first time, people began trading for and using steatite or soapstone. Steatite fragments have been recovered from sites all over West Virginia.
The Woodland Period (ca. 1000 B.C. - A.D. 1000)

The Woodland period is typically characterized by the emergence and spread of ceramics. While the trend for semi-permanent base camps continues from the Archaic Period, the use of pottery is seen as evidence for an increasingly sedentary way of life. This in turn is related to an increasing reliance on the systematic exploitation of plants or horticulture. Planned nucleated and non-nucleated settlements appear and tend to become increasingly larger during this period. However, smaller semi-permanent habitations and short term camps likely used for resource procurement have also been identified. In addition, evidence suggests that, late in the Woodland Period, Native Americans made increasing use of rock shelters.

In general, evidence for horticulture appears in sites as carbonized seeds. Domesticated varieties of marshelder, recovered from the Fairchance Village Site (46Mr13-B), as well as maygrass and goosefoot from the Childers Site (46Ms121) indicate that Native Americans in the mid-Ohio River valley were moving toward agriculture, although hunting/gathering and fishing continued to comprise the essential part of their subsistence. Carbonized squash seeds and rind fragments have also been recovered from many sites during this period. While horticultural practices were certainly in place elsewhere in West Virginia, direct evidence of this is scarce or non-existent. Indirectly, the shift in food procurement strategies is also supported by the appearance of deep storage/refuse pits in habitation sites and by the introduction of the bow and arrow. By about A.D. 800 maize horticulture was firmly in place as indicated by data recovered from the Woods Site (46Ms14) and the Corey Site (46Pu100). Again however, solid evidence for crop cultivation outside of the Ohio and Kanawha River valleys does not appear until much later.

The period is also associated with the use of burial mounds and other earthworks. Along terraces of the Ohio, Kanawha and other western rivers in West Virginia, the mounds tend to be earth constructions often containing multiple burials. In the eastern part of the state, especially along the Cheat and South Branch of the Potomac Rivers, Native Americans covered their dead with stone mounds. Whether of stone or earth, burial mounds are often interpreted as evidence of some sort of social hierarchy. The largest extant burial mounds in West Virginia can be found in Moundsville and South Charleston. The Grave Creek Mound in Moundsville was named a National Historic Landmark in 1966 and the Criel Mound in South Charleston was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

The Late Prehistoric and Protohistoric Periods (ca. A.D. 1000 - 1690)

In the western part of West Virginia, the Late Prehistoric Period is defined by the emergence of what is known as the Fort Ancient and Monongahela cultures. Geographically, Fort Ancient sites are located in the Middle Ohio and Kanawha River Valleys, while Monongahela sites occur along the Upper Ohio and Monongahela Rivers. In spite of cultural differences, Fort Ancient and the Monongahela sites share common attributes that include terrace and flood plain village settings, maize-based agriculture and shell-tempered pottery. Additionally, many of the petroglyphs found across the state, like the National Register-listed Wildcat Branch Petroglyphs in Wayne County, are attributed to these Late Prehistoric cultures.
European incursion into the area that became West Virginia began in the late 1600s. Those sites designated as Protohistoric are Late Prehistoric sites that have produced European trade goods such as glass beads, axes, knives, and chisels. Important sites associated with the Fort Ancient culture during this time period can be found in Cabell, Putnam, Mason, Logan, and Mason counties. By 1700, however, it is thought that these groups depopulated the Ohio Valley. Some archaeologists suggest that pressure from the powerful Iroquois nation to the north could have played a role along with European settlement in the region, but this notion is subject to debate.

Fort Ancient Culture

Several Fort Ancient sites have been identified in West Virginia. Generally, they occur in the watersheds of the Ohio River south of the Northern Panhandle, as well as along the Little Kanawha, Kanawha, New, Bluestone and Guyandotte Rivers. A number of West Virginia sites were instrumental in the development of the Feurt-Clover Tradition within the Fort Ancient Culture. The tradition is broken into a number of phases: Roseberry (ca. A.D. 1050-1250); Blennerhassett (ca. A.D. 1250-1450); Clover (ca. A.D. 1450-1640); and Orchard (ca. A.D. 1640-1690). Prominent Fort Ancient sites used to develop the tradition include the Roseberry Farm Site (46Ms53), the Blennerhassett Village Site (46Wd35), the Clover Site (46Cb40), Buffalo Site (46Pu31), the Man Site (46Lg5), and the Orchard Site (46Ms61).

At the time of its appearance in West Virginia soon after A.D. 1000, Fort Ancient settlements were small, oval shaped, planned, nucleated villages with a central plaza surrounded by a ring of houses. Houses tended to be sub-rectangular in shape and were semi-subterranean with compacted floors. Small burial mounds, in which adults and adolescents were interred, are also associated with villages from early Fort Ancient sites. Infants and juveniles were buried amongst the houses. Later in the Fort Ancient Period, villages maintained the same general layout but were much larger in size and tended to be surrounded by palisades or fences. By about A.D. 1250, the beginning of the Blennerhassett Phase, the use of burial mounds seems to have been abandoned and instead, graves are encountered amongst the houses in the domestic ring surrounding the central plaza. Fort Ancient sites exhibit an almost total reliance on maize agriculture rather than the suite of domesticated grasses and other plants typical of earlier periods. However, small mammals, birds, fish, mollusks, elk, and white-tail deer continue to be harvested.

During the Clover Phase, much of the regional variation between Fort Ancient sites, especially as evidenced by differing pottery styles, seems to disappear. In addition, sites belonging to the later Clover Phase (ca. 1580) have produced European goods such as glass or brass beads, copper and items made from scrap metal kettles. These are generally interpreted as evidence for trade rather than an early European presence in the state. By the end of the Late Prehistoric/Protohistoric Period, during what is called the Orchard Phase, the location and patterning of villages seems to have changed again. Instead of large oval shaped villages on river floodplains, archaeologists have found small villages or hamlets located further away from the river. Often the villages are arranged in a dispersed linear, rather than oval shaped, pattern. Also of note, the ceramics recovered from these sites appear to represent a variety of different styles. Some archaeologists have interpreted this as evidence for a fragmentation and decrease in Native American
populations resulting from Iroquois raids into the region. It may also be evidence of a population decrease resulting from European-introduced diseases.

**Monongahela Culture**

In West Virginia, Monongahela sites occur primarily in the northern panhandle region. Subsistence evidence indicates that the Monongahela culture, like Fort Ancient, became increasingly more dependent on maize throughout the Late Prehistoric period. Mussels from the Ohio and Monongahela River were also prominent at Monongahela sites along with the remains of deer, turkey, turtles, and fish. Wild plant foods, like grapes, plums and the seed bearing plants goosefoot and smartweed were also part of their diet. Throughout the Late Prehistoric period Monongahela settlement patterns changed. In early Monongahela sites, circular houses were either clustered around a central plaza or in a linear arrangement. In West Virginia, these sites generally consist of two to six dwellings. Later in the period, village sites become increasingly complex and varied in the arrangement of houses. Of interest, later sites have what are known as “petal houses,” large circular houses with numerous attached, external features. In some instances later village sites were surrounded by stockades or fence lines. Also later in the period, there is a trend for villages to be located on upland saddles rather than in valley bottoms.

Differences between Monongahela and Fort Ancient sites are exhibited primarily in pottery styles and settlement patterns. In addition to stylistic variety, Monongahela pottery types exhibit a gradual increase in shell temper through time. This is different than Fort Ancient pottery styles, in which a shift to the sole use of shell temper seems to have occurred suddenly. Ceramic pipes have also been recorded at Monongahela sites, including cord-impressed types. Monongahela villages tended to be more circular in shape with circular houses, versus Fort Ancient’s sub-rectangular houses in more oval shaped villages.

**Eastern West Virginia**

In the eastern part of West Virginia, the Late Prehistoric Period is not differentiated from the earlier Woodland Period. However, post A.D. 1000, trends in subsistence and settlement practices in this region parallel those occurring at Fort Ancient and Monongahela sites. For example, small, unfortified villages characterized settlements prior to A.D. 1300. But soon after, larger nucleated villages with palisades begin to appear. In addition, Native American diet in the eastern part of the state also became increasingly reliant upon maize agriculture that was supplemented by a variety of other plants and animals such as deer, fish and shellfish. Again, differences between sites in this part of the state and contemporary sites elsewhere appear as stylistic variation in pottery. In eastern West Virginia, people appear to be interacting more with groups to the north and south, from south-central New York to North Carolina. Whereas in the western part of the state, there are clear ties with groups further west. Protohistoric sites in eastern West Virginia are also marked by the presence of European trade goods. In addition, sites such as the Mouth of the Seneca (46Pd1) and Pancake Island (46Hm73) have produced evidence of Susquehannock movement into and habitation in the region.
Historical Archaeological Resources

The Historic Period in West Virginia begins in the early 1700s when settlers first moved into the Shenandoah Valley from eastern Virginia and Pennsylvania. Historic archaeological sites document the evolution of West Virginia history from the frontier settlements to the modern urban landscape. In more recent years exciting discoveries and investigations have provided valuable information about West Virginia history. Historical archaeology combines the material culture of a society with the written documentary record to present a more complete picture of the past by shedding light on common everyday life of a society’s members including individuals such as slaves, indentured servants, factory workers, miners, and tenant or small subsistent farmers, who were sparsely covered in the written record. Through the study of West Virginia’s historical archaeological resources, we are able to better understand settlement (intrasite and intersite) patterns including changes in land use over time, industrialization and its effect on working conditions, diet, health and sanitation, gender roles, and the influence of consumer goods, which have occurred throughout the state. Historical archaeological resources include but are not limited to foundations, wells, privies, cisterns, trash pits, post holes, fence lines, builder’s trenches, cellars, standing structures, outbuildings including barns, smokehouses, detached kitchens, graves, mill races, walkways, gardens, orchards, mine shafts, and quarry pits.

Frontier Forts

The earliest historical archaeological sites in West Virginia are related to the settlement era. These sites include sparsely settled communities, isolated farmsteads, and frontier forts. Frontier forts were part of a defensive system that made settlement of the hostile frontier possible by not only serving as operational bases for scouts and militia but also as a place of refuge for the settlers. Frontier forts can generally be divided into three categories: the blockhouse, the stockade, and the fort. Over the past few years archaeological excavations have been conducted at frontier forts related to the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. Excavations at Fort Ashby in Mineral County and Fort Edwards in Hampshire County have provided a better understanding of the layout and design of forts as well as a glimpse into the life on the frontier. Pre-Revolutionary and Revolutionary-era forts have also been identified at Fort Martin in Monongalia County, Fort Arbuckle in Greenbrier County and Fort Van Meter in Hampshire County. While archaeological investigations at these forts have provided valuable information, many of the 58 French and Indian War-era, 122 Pre-Revolutionary and Revolution-era, and 14 Post Revolutionary-era forts and blockhouses have yet to be located and investigated.

Civil War Battlefields and Landscapes

Renewed interest in the Civil War has brought attention to West Virginia’s Civil War battlefields, skirmish sites, camps, entrenchments/earthworks, and cultural landscapes. Archaeological investigations have taken place at Rich Mountain Battlefield, Carnifex Ferry Battlefield, Droop Mountain Battlefield, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Camp Bartow, and Fort Marrow (Camp Elkwater complex) all of which have been identified, nominated, and listed in the National Register. Other sites across the state have yet to be identified and investigated. While the new interest has had a positive impact on the study of Civil War sites, it
has also put many of these sites at risk of looting. The rapid increase in development especially in the Eastern Panhandle has also put these sites at risk.

**Industrial Sites**

Industrial development plays a key role to the history of West Virginia. Archaeological investigations at West Virginia’s industrial sites have not only documented technological processes and industrial advancements, but have also provided an insight into the lives of the workers and their communities. West Virginia’s industrial sites range from small grist mills to large scale factories and mining complexes. The early manufacturing of salt along the Kanawha “Salines” was a key impetus for settlement along the Kanawha River just outside Charleston. The first salt furnace was constructed in 1797 and by 1815 there were 52 salt furnaces in production along the Kanawha River. Excavations conducted at Burning Spring Branch site, 46Ka142, reveal the material culture and the organization of a nineteenth century industrial plantation.

A federal armory was established at Harpers Ferry in 1794 with production beginning in 1801. By the 1850s, Harpers Ferry was a sprawling industrial town that not only contained the United States Armory and Arsenal but also a private manufacturing center located on Virginius Island which produced flour, lumber, cast iron items, machinery parts, and cotton. A majority of these manufacturing sites were driven by water power systems. Excavations at Flowing Springs Mill, 46Jf340, located north of Charles Town in the Harpers Ferry District of Jefferson County, has provided information significant to the overall understanding of grist mills and their part in the industrialization of American society.

The introduction of railroads resulted in the expansion in both size and scope of industrial sites across the state. For example, the Dry Creek Brick Factory (46Gb19) located south of White Sulphur Springs in Greenbrier County is reported to have provided brick used to face the Allegheny and White Sulphur Springs tunnels of the Covington and Ohio Railroad. Excavations at this site revealed that two brick burning methods and kiln types were utilized to produce handmade bricks and that no mechanized equipment was used in the brick production process. The largest kiln (Kiln #5) at the site, an up draft permanent kiln, had the capacity to burn approximately 1,120,000 bricks at one time.

Coal mine sites from the turn of the century have yielded information regarding the coal industry, its day-to-day operations, and life in the coal towns. At Nuttalburg in Fayette County, the majority of the equipment dating to the tenure of ownership by Henry Ford remains in place. Its steel mine conveyor system demonstrates the “rope and button” technology that was developed to decrease fragmentation and increase conveyor efficiency. Only foundations remain within the Nuttalburg Community. Coke ovens such as those at Bretz in Preston County and at Coketon in Tucker County have been recorded prior to reclamation. These excavations document the use of these structures in the coal refining process.

**Domestic sites**

Excavated in both rural and urban settings, these sites have provided information regarding various domestic activities and distinctions of social class. The “Wilcox-Bradford” summer
kitchen located at Cedar Hill Plantation, residence of a wealthy slave-holder named Luke Wilcox (1795-1854) was excavated and determined to be constructed of log with a block foundation and a dirt floor. Insight into the lives of the African American slaves, who worked in the Kanawha Valley’s salt industry, was provided through the excavations that occurred at the Willow Bluff site, 46Ka352. Pierced silver coins retrieved from excavations are thought to represent details of religious beliefs. Domestic materials such as ceramics and glass were also found.

Excavations at the Reed Farmstead in Hardy County occurred in advance of Corridor H highway construction. Various ceramics, glass, farming tools, and other artifacts provide details of personal life and agricultural activity that began in the early 1800s and extended to the 1880s. These items provide physical evidence in support of the written record, which includes the estate inventories of William Reed and Andrew Garrett, property owners.

Prior to 1840, the armory workers at Harpers Ferry were allowed to build their own houses anywhere outside of the armory complex. Excavations have illustrated how the workers expressed their individuality in terms of building materials used and architectural style executed for their dwellings. In the 1840s, existing armory buildings were torn down and rebuilt in a uniform style.

Archaeological evidence has shown that prior to the construction of the railroad and the C&O canal that the citizens residing at Harpers Ferry relied heavily on surrounding farms, local industry, and home production for everyday commodities. However, the arrival of the railroad and the construction of the canal enabled residents to import mass-produced fashionable goods, materials, and foods at a relatively cheap cost.

In comparison, excavations at High Street in Shepherdstown, an agriculturally-based community, revealed that marked differences in class and race as illustrated through material culture was not evident in the neighborhood. The archaeological record also indicates that the inhabitants of Shepherdstown had a more diverse diet, which continued to increase over time, than residents in Harpers Ferry.

The diet and material goods of seven middle class families from ca. 1848 through 1938 residing on Chapline Street in Wheeling were revealed through the excavation of five privies that were situated in the backyards of three former residences. Artifacts such as ceramics, glass and personal items such as porcelain dolls, early toothbrushes, and buttons were retrieved. Bone and botanical remains provided information regarding the diet of the residents.

**Underwater Resources**

Few underwater resources in West Virginia have been documented. Underwater resources that can be expected to exist within the state’s waterways include bridge piers, dams, wing-dams, submerged vessels, ferry landings, wharves, submerged timbers used for lock and/or canal walls, and foundation walls. Surveys have been conducted by the Army Corp of Engineers that have identified numerous sunken barges along the state’s major rivers. A National Register listed archaeological district is situated along the Coal, Big Coal, and Little Coal Rivers. The district is comprised of a series of nine locks and dams that were built between 1855 and 1859, two log
booms comprised of 25 timber-crib piers, and a lockkeeper’s house. The dams were constructed out of stone-filled timber cribs resting on wooden piles and/or bedrock, whereas the locks were constructed of timber cribs. A later constructed grist mill dam is situated at the former location of the navigational dam at Upper Falls (Lock #3) along the Coal River.

**Cemetery Resources**

Cemeteries are unique historical resources that can provide evidence of various settlement patterns, burial customs, religious and cultural influences, economic development, social relationships, and lineage. The West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office uses the West Virginia Cemetery Survey Form to record information about cemeteries. Currently, over 850 small family plots, church graveyards, as well as private, municipal, and national cemeteries have been added to the survey database. Many cemeteries have been included in the National Register as contributing resources within historic districts or associated with churches.

Prominent and distinctive examples of cemeteries have been listed individually in the National Register through meeting Criteria Consideration D. The Grafton National Cemetery in Taylor County was dedicated in 1868 to inter Union dead and it continues to serve as a veteran’s cemetery. The Confederate Cemetery at the edge of Lewisburg uses an earthen mound in a cross shape to mark the burials of soldiers killed at the Battles of Lewisburg and Droop Mountain. Spring Hill Cemetery overlooking Charleston is well known for its mortuary art. The Hatfield Cemetery located in Logan County is the burial place of Anderson “Devil Anse” Hatfield. His grave is marked by a life like statue commissioned by his children. Green Hill Cemetery was designed by David Hunter Strother (a.k.a. Porte Crayon) in Berkeley County. Its circular design divides the hillside vertically while circular drives create concentric circles. Brooke Cemetery designed by John Chislett in Wellsburg conveys the Victorian idea of “cities of the dead” of its rural setting and nineteenth century mortuary symbolism.

Smaller family and church cemeteries are found in rural and urban settings throughout the state. While generally these are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, cemeteries are listed within historic districts, in association with extant churches or if Criterion Consideration D is met. At Fort Hill Farm in Mineral County the family cemetery is found at the top of a prominent hillside. This location provides a panorama of the farm buildings and related fields. Another family cemetery is located near the William S. Gilliland Log Cabin in Charleston. Spencer Cemetery in Marshall County was listed primarily for the significance of the distinctive design feature: the solitary grave monument is in the shape of two large tree trunks with entwined branches. It represents the movement during the Victorian period that celebrated nature in funerary art.

Unfortunately, small rural family cemeteries can be fragile resources to preserve and protect. Generally preserved through volunteer labor, these cemeteries can be forgotten and lost due to the dispersion of family members. These resources disappear from the landscape due to time, natural elements, neglect, vandalism, and development.
Architectural and Structural Resources

Currently, there are over 1,000 National Register of Historic Places listings from West Virginia. These listings include individually nominated buildings, structures, objects, sites and nearly 170 historic districts consisting of groups of resources. Sixteen of the state’s historic resources have been identified as National Historic Landmarks, the highest designation for a historic property in the United States. All totaled over 20,000 resources representing a wide range of resources and time periods in West Virginia history have been listed. Since the last plan was completed in 2008, 66 listings were added to the National Register. These new listings range from houses, schools, historic districts, hospitals, 4-H camps, state parks and resorts.

While the number of listings for the state is substantial, there are many more worthy of recognition and preservation. Below is a general overview of the historic resources that can be found in West Virginia. By all means this is not a comprehensive list of resources, but it provides a general overview.

Housing

Of all the resources that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places from West Virginia, houses represent the largest and most diverse group of buildings. From the earliest settlement in the wilderness of western Virginia to the relative peace following the Revolutionary Era through the rise of turnpikes, canals, and railroads during the Antebellum Period; the bloodshed of the Civil War and the struggle for Statehood; the exponential growth of the economy during industrialization; the triumph and tragedy of the twentieth century, West Virginians have been building homes from a variety of materials. Houses in the state range from humble log cabins, massive, high-style Victorian mansions and Craft bungalows, four square houses to Lustron fabricated residences, ranch style homes, and planned subdivisions. Whether found in an urban or rural setting, these houses reflect the history of the state and the experiences of West Virginians.

Generally, many of the earliest homes are found in the eastern portions of the West Virginia. When constructed in the mid-1700s these houses were on the fringe of the frontier. Virginia Governor William Gooch, along with the Virginia Council, gave the first land grants in Shenandoah Valley. In the 1740s and 1750s land grant companies like the Ohio Company and the Greenbrier Land Company along with large property-owners like Lord Fairfax pushed for settlement west of the Blue Ridge. Recently discovered archaeological remains of the William Green House site give a glimpse of an early and unique home in Jefferson County. This house, thought to have been built in the 1740s, was built upon a series of wooden posts driven into the ground. The earliest surviving remnants of this era can be found along the Potomac River and its tributaries in the Eastern Panhandle in Berkeley, Jefferson, Hardy and Hampshire Counties. Examples from Jefferson County include White House Farm near Summit Point that was built of rubble limestone by Dr. John McCormick in 1742. In 1735 Robert Worthington built the stone portion of Piedmont and named it “Quarry Banks New Style” after his home in England. Both of these buildings were enlarged by the original or successive owners. In contrast, c. 1751 Peter Burr built a two story, wooden log, beam, and board house near Shenandoah Junction.
Settlement within the region slowed following 1756 when the French and Indian War erupted between the British and the French over who would control the Ohio Valley region. Following the English victory, the colonies at the bequest of the King and his Privy Council issued land patents for military service, but settlement was blocked west of the ridge of the Appalachian Mountains by the Proclamation Line of 1763. While some defied the proclamation and settled on the frontier in spite of the threat of Native Americans attack, many new landholders moved into the Potomac River drainage at the base of the mountains and established substantial farms. Many surviving homes built prior to the Revolution exist in Jefferson County and attest to the burgeoning population of the area. In the 1770s, Harewood in Jefferson County, Lick Run Plantation in Berkeley County and the Switzer house in Hardy County were built. The Switzer house is especially noteworthy for being constructed up against the hillside in the “Swiss fashion” and having the barn below the living quarters. In ca. 1796, Henry Orndoff built one of the earliest log structures in his area of Berkeley County. Additions in the 1830s upgraded the house and gave much needed room for the family.

Following the end of the Revolutionary War, settlers came to western Virginia in larger numbers. Threats of Native American attack had lessened as many tribes moved further west. The Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1795, pivotal to the opening of the Northwest Territory, also relaxed tensions in portions of western Virginia. Beginning in the later 18th century roads, canals, turnpikes, steamboats, and finally railroads overcame the challenges of geography and opened up western Virginia to settlement and commerce. While current architectural trends, such as Federal, Adam, and Greek Revival, were incorporated into home building, the availability and variety of local resources and knowledgeable builders led to the West Virginia panhandle region having a distinct style.

Examples of these styles can be found along the Northwestern Turnpike. The David Pugh house Capon Bridge in Hampshire County exhibits elements of the Federal style. The Washington Bottom Farm near Romney is an exceptional example of the Greek Revival style. George W. Washington and his wife, Sarah Wright, lived in a single pen log cabin until the main house was completed in 1835. Peter Mauzey built the first portion of his house around 1765 and his sons added to the house until the 1840s. Sold to Samuel Hook in 1848, the house became Hook’s Tavern and became one of the most popular inns along the turnpike.

The region of western Virginia served by the James River and Kanawha River Turnpike also saw substantial growth. Elmhurst, constructed in 1824, was located adjacent to the Greenbrier River toll bridge crossing just outside Lewisburg. Further west on the turnpike near Charleston can be found the MacFarland House, Cedar Grove, and Glenwood, which were built by the leaders of the local salt industry.

The South Branch of the Potomac River travels through an extensive valley defined by the Allegheny and Shenandoah Mountains. Many plantations were established in this region which includes present day Pendleton, Grant, Hardy, and Hampshire counties. In the Old Fields area north of Moorefield, the Van Meter family established four individual properties including Fort Pleasant and Buena Vista Farm. The former was built at the site of Isaac Van Meter’s log home and fort. Buena Vista Farm was built in 1836; its imposing multi-gabled barn is a prominent
feature of the landscape. Nearby is Willow Wall. Completed in 1812, the Georgian building is noted for its association with the McNeil Rangers, a Confederate troop that participated in regional skirmishes and the Battle of Moorefield. Further south in Pendleton County, the McCoy House in Franklin and the McCoy Mill demonstrate the continued settlement and industry of the South Branch Valley in the mid nineteenth century. Sites Homestead, located beneath Seneca Rocks, was built c. 1839 as a single pen log structure, then expanded into a clapboard two and a half story frame during the 1870s. Hickory Grove, in Hampshire County, was home to the Stump family and now has 1849 and 1892 additions to a log house that is no longer present. Also in Hampshire County, Valley View was built in 1855 and has Greek Revival elements like Hickory Grove. Frenchwood, also known as the Springfield Brick House is in Hampshire County as well. This house is an example of a grand estate home and blends Georgian and Greek Revival styles.

In the 1840s and 1850s sectional divisions developed between eastern and western portions of Virginia. Residents of the western counties believed that they were underrepresented in the Virginia legislature and that they received less internal improvement funds than they deserved. The Civil War limited construction; however with the war’s end, the new state and the nation embarked on a period that was the beginning of the industrial revolution. Prior to the war, railroads in the state were limited to east-west lines. Beginning in the 1870s, railroads were built to reach remote parts of the state to obtain valuable timber, coal, oil and other natural resources. Within the meander of the Bluestone River, Bramwell in Mercer County contained the homes of the coal operators and company officials who were developing the productive Pocahontas coalfields. The Bluestone Coal Company planned the town of Bramwell and established its headquarters there in 1885. In contrast to the “coal barons’ residences, the standardized workers’ housing within the Bramwell “additions” was modest in scale and size. Ironically, the subdivisions for the workers were named after coal company operators. Another significant example of company planning and design is the Gary “Works” in McDowell County: a series of twelve individual company towns linked by hard-surfaced road and rail lines.

From the turn of the nineteenth century to after World War I, the American economy grew at a great pace. West Virginia was important in this growth as raw materials and manufactured goods poured out of the state. An international leader in pottery production, William Wells built an impressive house in Newell. After taking over the Homer Laughlin Pottery Company, William Wells led an era of great expansion for the company. The Argabrite House in Alderson is representative of the booming economy, as it was ordered from an architectural mail order business. The prospective owner, Dr. Orto Paul Argabrite turned to the J.H. Daverman and Sons Company, a mail order house, in 1908. Architectural and building catalogs such as this offered a variety of styles of homes which allowed national architectural styles to reach smaller towns and more isolated areas. In 1914, Charles Hughes Freeman was able to build his Craftsman home in Huntington due to his successful oil and natural gas activities in Boone, Lincoln, and Mason Counties. The Freeman Estate is one of the last of the “grand estates” remaining in Huntington.

The economic boom in West Virginia began to come to an end in the mid-1920s as agricultural and other raw material prices fell. In West Virginia, the Great Depression was especially harsh. The poverty found at Scotts Run near Morgantown became a national headline. Its notoriety brought Eleanor Roosevelt to West Virginia to review the dire
conditions first hand. Influenced greatly by his wife’s counsel, Franklin Delano Roosevelt drafted and secured passage of the National Industrial Recovery Act early in his administration. The first back-to-the-land housing project was developed in Preston County under the watchful leadership of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. In 1933, the federal government built the community of Arthurdale which included the construction of 165 homes, 6 school buildings, a community center, an inn, and factory buildings. Mrs. Roosevelt also supported and visited similar efforts that took place at the Tygart Valley Project in Randolph County and Eleanor in Putnam County, which was named in her honor.

Even prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor, America began to prepare for war. Beginning in 1939, several dormant factories were revived to address escalating war efforts. The Naval Ordinance Plant in South Charleston was one such plant. Mothballed following World War I, the plant was brought back to life. The size and scale of the operation required new buildings and structures as well as a large number of employees. To supply the need, a large number of single family homes were built on modest lots. Examples of these homes can be found in the Kanawha Valley near Charleston, in the Monongahela Valley near Morgantown and areas across the state where miners, mill hands, and factory workers went back to work to support the Arsenal of Democracy.

With the surrender of Germany and then Japan, America GIs returned home and once again the economy boomed in West Virginia. The automobile had a huge impact on this new era of homebuilding. With a freedom of movement never seen before, new housing projects were created in suburban areas well beyond the city limits. Ranch houses and other modern styles of the era were built in named subdivisions. New housing opportunities were also made to farmers who took advantage of the Farmers Home Administration and other home loan programs. These mid-century modern homes are reaching the 50-year criteria established by the National Park Service and in the years ahead they too will become a part of the historic preservation landscape.

Communities

Communities have always been important in American history, but especially in West Virginia. The rugged terrain and lack of transportation routes often isolated areas within state. Within these areas a community would appear to provide goods, services, and a link to the larger world. Sometimes these areas would grow into villages or larger incorporated areas, many times these communities remained small places that were only known by the people of the region. North River Mills in Hampshire County is one of these places that allowed the larger town of Winchester, Virginia to thrive, but is mainly unheard of elsewhere. This village was established in the era around the Revolution and served the farmers in the area as a place to grind their wheat into flour, with the mill owners using a major road linking North River Mills with Winchester selling their flour there for wider use. The Town of Bath (Berkeley Springs) dates to the same time period; however its existence is credited to serving the people who came to the area for the mineral springs in the area. These springs had been revered by the Native Americans for their medicinal properties and became well known to European settlers. A young George Washington conducted one of his first survey expeditions through the area in 1748 and wrote about the area
Many towns and villages experienced growth in the 1800s and were able to build impressive downtown and residential areas. In Charles Town, a thriving residential area appeared south of downtown in the early 1800’s and throughout the century and into the mid-1900s. These residences demonstrate many of the current major architectural styles. Many of the residences in this neighborhood represent the “high styles” of Victorian, Italianate, and Colonial Revival. A residential neighborhood south of West Union also began its growth in the mid-1800’s and shows some of the same types of styles as Charles Town, only with a few Gothic style houses in the district. Harrisville was founded in the early 1800s and has a tight downtown and residential area that remained vital to the town until the 1950s when businesses began to leave for the outskirts of town. In Upshur County, Buckhannon developed into a local business hub for the timber and college town with the establishment of West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1890.

The City of Martinsburg’s economy throughout its history is tied to the railroad and transportation. Following World War I, the community saw increased residential growth in part due to the use of frame construction and the advanced mechanical ability to replicate materials. Period style architecture became available to the middle class and these styles are apparent in the small scale homes of West Martinsburg. Craftsman, bungalow, Cape Cod, American Foursquare are represented in this historic district’s vernacular architecture. Similarly, in Charleston, the west side of the city saw the growth of residential housing representing the vernacular styles of the early twentieth century. Known as the Luna Park district, this neighborhood was once an amusement park; however a fire in 1923 completely destroyed the park. After clearing the site, the area was developed as a residential neighborhood. Within a decade this area would fill with more than 400 homes, which effectively ended its period of development.

Educational Resources

West Virginians have valued education throughout its history. One room school houses, elementary and secondary schools as well as universities and colleges are identified through the National Register as significant resources.

One of the earliest institutions of education and literature is Literary Hall, located in Romney. The Literary Society was established in this Hampshire County town in 1819 and by 1830 had accumulated 300 volumes in its library. Much of the library was destroyed during the Civil War and with membership drastically reduced, the building was transferred to the Board of Regents of West Virginia to secure a location for the state’s Institute for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind. Officially established in 1870, this school has grown in acreage and number of buildings with distinctive architectural and historic significance. Changing educational methods may impact the character of the campus as the buildings are assessed for programmatic revisions.

Windy Run School was built in 1889 for Braxton County students and is maintained by efforts of a county homecoming organization. The Weston Colored School from 1882 to 1954 served as a one room schoolhouse for African American students. Also, the Seebert Lane Colored School
was established in Pocahontas County to serve the African American community through public sponsored education. This school was built around 1898 and replaced an earlier building that was built ca. 1868.

Another African-American school can be found in Elkins. As the only African-American school in the area between 1905 and 1954, the Riverside School was vitally important for this community. One can contrast the Riverside School with the First Ward School, also in Elkins. As a school for white students, the First Ward School was once praised as being one of the finest school buildings in the state. Designed by Frank Packard in 1914 and expanded in 1926 by architect William Butts Ittner, the Thomas Miller Public School met the needs of students in Fairmont until 2008. Thomas Miller School was an elementary – junior high building until after desegregation in 1954, when the school became exclusively a junior high to meet the needs of the expanded number of students.

Most of West Virginia’s universities and colleges have at least one or two buildings listed in the National Register such as those on Woodburn Circle at West Virginia University and the Old Main at Marshall University. Bethany College’s Main Hall is a National Historic Landmark, known for its Collegiate Gothic architectural style and its association with Alexander Campbell, the founder of the Disciples of Christ evangelical movement. Canty House and East Hall on WV State University’s main campus recognize the institution’s early African American educational heritage.

Residential halls are also significant in the lives of student scholars. Built in 1928, Elizabeth Moore Hall at WVU was constructed on the site of the Woodburn Female Seminary in Morgantown. Named after the principal, her daughter Susan M. Moore was dean of women at WVU from 1923-1930. The WV Chapter of the American Association of University Women assisted in the development of this residence hall. On WV Wesleyan College’s campus, Agnes Howard Hall was built in 1895 with an addition in 1929. During a portion of World War II, it served as housing for the 49th College Training Detachment (aircrew) and students were housed elsewhere in Buckhannon.

**Ethnic Resources**

**The African American Community**

West Virginia’s African American community has contributed significantly to the state’s history. In areas such as education, civil rights, architecture, and industry, resources have been listed in the National Register. Seebert Lane Colored School and Riverside School have been mentioned already. In 1865 Storer College began as a one room school in the Lockwood House on Camp Hill in Harpers Ferry, providing basic education for former slaves. This teacher’s college was the site of significant civil rights events, including the 1906 conference of the Niagara Movement.

Booker T. Washington’s early life is represented in the Malden historic district nomination. John C. Norman was West Virginia’s second registered black architect. The Staats building, a
currently vacant commercial building with a masonic auditorium in Charleston, as well as faculty housing at West Virginia State University represent his career. In 1915 the Mattie V. Lee Home was established in honor of West Virginia’s first black physician to assist young African American women to improve their employment, education and housing opportunities.

Dr. Clinton Constantine “C.C.” Barnett was a prominent African-American in Huntington when he established the Barnett Hospital in 1912. This was the first African-American hospital in Huntington and Dr. Barnett became the first superintendent of a state hospital in West Virginia. In 1918 Barnett added a nursing school; by 1920 there were only 54 nursing schools in the country that accepted African-American students. Of this number, only 14 were accredited, with Barnett’s school being one.

The Jewish Community

The Jewish Community is the second largest ethnic group in West Virginia. Ohev Sholom Temple in Huntington houses a congregation organized in 1887. The current temple was built in 1927 and incorporates Romanesque and Byzantine styles. Temple Shalom in Wheeling was built in 1955 and its unique concentric design is a local landmark. In Wheeling, the first formal congregation was established in 1849. Soon thereafter, the death of itinerant rabbi, Mayer Mannheim caused the new congregation to buy land adjoining Mt. Woods Cemetery and establish a Jewish cemetery. Plots in this cemetery were not formally laid out until 1865.

West Virginia also has smaller diverse communities of Swiss, Italian, German, Slavic, Asian-Indian, Muslin, Eastern and Greek Orthodox, as well as LGBT. These communities and activities have been documented by the WV Division of Culture and History in “An Introduction to West Virginia’s Ethnic Communities,” most recently updated in 2008. Further identification of historic resources associated with these groups will continue.

Agriculture and Rural Landscapes

West Virginia has a strong agricultural tradition. From first settlement to current day, farms of varying size and barns of differing styles along with silos, milk houses, corn cribs, and other buildings are used in West Virginia to grow crops and livestock. The Ananias Pitsenbarger Farm began around 1845 within the long, narrow South Branch Valley in Pendleton County. The farmhouse was expanded around 1900 and many barns and outbuildings were also added at this time. Stone fencing, dating to about 1845, and split rail fencing from the 1930s complete this farm complex.

Individual barns and orchards have also been recognized for their architecture and historic significance. The c. 1860 Faber-Double Crib Barn in Jackson County is a unique surviving example of log construction. It is on land purchased originally in 1843 by Hiram Faber and remains in use by his descendants. The Nathan Hellings Apple Barn in Hancock County represents the late nineteenth apple industry of the northern panhandle of West Virginia. Orchards and their produce have also proved to be a significant land use in the state’s eastern panhandle. Rellim Farm was established in 1888 by Abraham Miller. Since that time, family members have nurtured apple and cherry trees primarily.
Nearby is the West Virginia University Extension Farm at Aspendale which also used the Rellim orchard from the 1920s through 1965 to field test techniques for commercial fruit production.

Transportation

The mountainous geography, numerous rivers, abundant natural resources and mineral-rich geology of West Virginia have shaped its history from the beginning. The development of transportation routes and the means to transport goods and people were instrumental to the developing economy of western Virginia and later West Virginia. Transportation improvements led to the rise of industry in the state especially the timber, coal, oil, gas, and glass industries.

Currently, West Virginia has numerous road and road-related resources listed in the National Register. These include road beds like those found on the Weston and Gauley Bridge Turnpike in Braxton County; bridges like the National Historic Landmark Wheeling Suspension Bridge, the Philippi Covered Bridge in Barbour County, the Elm Grove Arch Bridge in Ohio County, the Winfield Toll Bridge in Putnam County, the Capon Lake Whipple Truss Bridge in Hampshire County, and the Duck Run Cable Suspension Bridge in Gilmer County. One of the newest resources listed is the New River Gorge Bridge in Fayette County. As part of U.S. 19, this bridge transformed a region by turning a 45 minute drive from one end of the gorge to the other, to a trip of less than a minute. Other resources include mile markers like the cast iron markers found along the National Road in Ohio County and buildings associated with toll collections. The WV Division of Highways in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office has developed a survey of bridges throughout the state and evaluated their National Register eligibility according to Criterion C of the National Register. During review of highway assisted projects further evaluation according to the remaining criteria is considered.

Water transportation proved to be the easiest form of transportation when the earliest settlers came to the mountains. The rivers that emptied into the Ohio River were used every spring to move flatboats and timber to the south eventually reaching New Orleans.

Efforts to improve navigation began with the construction of locks and dams, first on canals and later on rivers. The most notable example of canal construction in the region was the construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal that was built along the northern bank of the Potomac River. Other canal and river improvement took place along the major streams of West Virginia during the 19th century. On the Coal River near St. Albans a series of locks were built to move coal to the Kanawha River. The same is true for the Little Kanawha River where a series of locks and dams were built to move oil from the Burning Springs oil field in Wirt County to Parkersburg on the Ohio River. Larger dam projects on the Ohio River, Great Kanawha River, and their tributaries were first constructed in the last decade of the nineteenth century and continued with major construction projects beginning during the New Deal. Other dam projects in West Virginia, like Bluestone Dam in Summers County were started in the late 1930s; suspended during World War II; and completed after the wars’ end.

The largest collection of historic transportation and industrial resources, however, is related to railroads. Even before the completion of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (B&O) to Wheeling in 1852, the railroad company built several bridges and tunnels that were marvels of nineteenth-
century engineering. Railroads that crossed West Virginia include the B&O, Western Maryland, Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O), Virginian, Norfolk Southern and the numerous other small line railroads are gone, numerous examples remain. Railroad depots from the nineteenth century and later can be found across the state. They range from huge stations and hotels found in Wheeling and Grafton to local stations like those found in Tunnelton, Gauley Bridge and Richwood. Beyond depots, support buildings used for fabrication and repair of engines and railcars still exist. The B&O Roundhouses at Martinsburg, site of the Great Railroad Strike of 1877, are an ongoing restoration project. The Virginian Railway Yard which was historically used for service and repair in another example of adaptive reuse in Princeton. Many depots, stations, and workshops have been converted for other productive uses such as offices, visitor centers or museums.

In several cases they remain part of active railroad operation such as the Amtrak Stations in Thurmond and Prince, both stops on the CSX (Chesapeake and Ohio) rail system. The Prince Railroad Station received attention during the recent development of the Summit Bechtel Reserve, site of the Boy Scout National Jamboree. In 2012, the West Virginia Legislature established the Prince Railroad Authority to direct the rehabilitation of this 1946 streamlined Art Moderne designed building. Its building features large windows across the length of the waiting room, a flat, reinforced concrete slab and a terrazzo floor with the sleeping “Chessie” cat featured in a circular design. An elongated oval concrete slab roof supported by a series of columns protects the track platform. This mid twentieth century building is a unique contrast to the wood sided, balloon frame constructed 1904 station found 20 miles away in Thurmond. Both stations connect the remoter areas of the New River Gorge to the surrounding region and the east coast.

Scenic and tourist railroads also still utilize historic rail grades and buildings in Elkins, Romney, and Cass. Popular tourist attractions, railroad enthusiasts and others can ride the rail to explore the logging camps at Cass. Railroad grades have been converted to walking and biking trails such as the lengthy North Bend Rail Trail in Harrison County and Wood County. Other rail-trails have developed near Weirton, Wheeling and along the Ohio River all of which utilize historic bridges and tunnels.

Finally, train locomotives are included in the National Register of Historic Places. Two Chesapeake & Ohio coal hauling engines, the 2755 located at Chief Logan State Park in Logan County and the 1308 in Huntington are permanently located on site. The six compact gear-driven Shay and Climax engines are still in use at Cass and are popular activities for park visitors who wish to ride to the Whittaker Station recreated logging camp or to Spruce and Bald Knob.

Industry

Industry in West Virginia began with small scale milling and manufacturing. Grist mills, blacksmiths, and small shops developed like Fidler’s Mill in Upshur County and Boggs Mill in Pendleton County. By 1810 several larger industries emerged along major rivers: the salt industry developed along the Kanawha River, the iron industry developed along the Ohio River and the United States Armory at Harpers Ferry was created at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. The oil and gas industry along the Little Kanawha River was in its infancy
as well as the coal and timber industries across the state prior to the Civil War. Between 1870 and 1920, the coal, timber, iron, pottery and glass industries exploded and with it new railroad lines were built along rivers and through the mountains to harvest the abundant natural resources. Examples of these resources include the Kay Moor Coal Mine in Fayette County, the Interwoven Stocking Company Plant in Martinsburg, the La Belle Nail Works in Ohio County, the Coal Company Stores of McDowell County, the Davis Coal and Coke Company Administration Building in Tucker County, and the Schulmbach and Reyman Breweries in Wheeling.

While industry has been a huge part of the history of West Virginia and the reason many communities and towns were created, industrial resources from an earlier age are either forgotten or the resources related to them are being demolished. In many parts of the state, coal mines and coal loading facilities after years of neglect are being sold for scrap. Beyond the factories buildings themselves, worker housing, company stores, and even entire communities are disappearing.

**Battlefields, Military Resources, and Historic Landscapes**

Virginia of the early eighteenth century saw encouraged settlement of the western region by the colonial government. Following the Potomac, Shenandoah, Cacapon, and South Branch Rivers, two new counties, August and Frederick were created in the mid-1730s. Treaties between the Iroquois Confederacy and the British furthered settlement as far west as the Ohio River. Alarmed by British settlement, the French pursued claims to the west. This territorial dispute led to the French and Indian war in which settlements were attacked through western Virginia and the Ohio Valley, including Fort Edwards in Augusta County (now Hampshire County, WV) and Fort Pleasant (Mason County, WV). The ongoing disputes over control led to further attacks upon settlements during Pontiac’s War and Dunmore’s War. Despite continued negotiations with the various Ohio Valley and Great Lakes Indian tribes, a border war ensued. The murder of Chief Logan’s relatives at Yellow Creek and the attack of Shawnee and Pennsylvania traders near Grave Creek enflamed the region in 1774. Chief Cornstalk attacked troops led by Colonel Andrew Lewis at the Battle of Point Pleasant in October 1774. Continued strife on the western frontier continued throughout the Revolutionary War and would last until the Treaty of Greenville.

During this period, settlers relied upon local county militia and the establishment of frontier forts for protection. In West Virginia, several of these forts, such as Arbuckle’s Fort and Fort Edwards, have been documented through archaeological survey. Fort Van Meter constructed in 1754 has survived. Constructed of stone, this small building was used primarily for the Kuykendell family and their neighbors. Its walls contain narrow openings to allow for musket fire if attacked.

Upon conclusion of these hostilities, an era of relative peace followed until the growing friction within the state of Virginia and throughout the established United States that resulted in the Civil War. Born of the Civil War in 1863, the state was created through the efforts of constitutional conventions at the U.S. Custom House in Wheeling, now known as Independence Hall. Leading up to the war, Harpers Ferry was the site of John Brown’s Raid in 1859. Other resources are related to military action like, the Philippi Covered Bridge in Barbour County, the site of the first
land battle of the Civil War, Rich Mountain Battlefield in Randolph County, Cheat Mountain Summit, Camp Bartow, Camp Allegheny and Droop Mountain Battlefield in Pocahontas County, Fort Marrow in Randolph County, and Carnifex Ferry Battlefield in Nicholas County. Other resources include the homes of individuals who played a part in the war like the home of Confederate spy, Belle Boyd in Martinsburg and the General Albert Gallatin Jenkins Plantation at Green Bottom on the Ohio River.

Interest and public support of these Civil War resources and others in state has increased greatly and others sites are being identified, interpreted, and preserved. In 2010, the National Park Service issued the Update to the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields: The State of West Virginia as part of the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). Since the first report was issued in 1993, many of the 15 Civil War battlefields in West Virginia have faced pressures from development. The report stated that the State of West Virginia has been doing a better job of helping to preserve battlefields since 2000 and called on this work to continue. Pressures from land development groups continue to threaten many of the battlefields, which the report noted at most of the sites. Local groups that help interpret and preserve the battlefields at Harpers Ferry, Hoke’s Run, Rich Mountain, and Shepherdstown were recognized in the report, but stated that local advocacy groups are needed at more battlefields to help in preservation efforts.

While the new attention has helped some resources, sadly the renewed interest has also led to the looting and destruction of others. Secondary and direct impacts to landscapes continue to concern the public. In West Virginia, suburban development, strip mining, cell phone towers, and wind farm projects may potentially impact the character of the landscape. The public engages in the environmental processes to have their concerns addressed.

**Government Buildings**

From the massive State Capitol in Charleston to county courthouses across West Virginia’s 55 counties, government buildings in the state are the most prominent buildings to be found. The grandest of all buildings in West Virginia is the State Capitol Building in Charleston. Built between 1924 and 1932 and designed by renowned architect Cass Gilbert, the massive Italianate Renaissance building of limestone and marble crowned with its massive gold dome stands prominently along the Kanawha River. While smaller in scale, courthouses across the state provide the focus of county government. Courthouses range in architectural style from Greek and colonial revival structures like the Brooke County Courthouse in Wellsburg to more ornate examples like the Beaux-Arts styled Marion County Court House in Fairmont to larger Neoclassical buildings like the Boone County Courthouse in Madison to more modern Art Deco and Art Moderne styles like the Mercer County Courthouse in Princeton and the Harrison County Courthouse in Clarksburg. In more recent years numerous state and federal building across the state have represented styles from the 1950s and 1960s.

Due to modern requirements for usability, these historic government buildings face challenges that many historic buildings do not face. The WV Courthouse Facility Improvement Authority, the U.S. Department of Justice, the WV Records Management Board all provide funding to support the growing activity and associated records of county government and its court system.
Construction of an addition and the rehabilitation of the original building potentially impact the original, historic courthouse.

*Federal Projects:*  
Projects sponsored by the federal government have impacted the character of West Virginia’s landscape. The Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and early 1940s contributed significantly to the quality of life in West Virginia. The state park system benefited from the efforts of these federal programs. A survey conducted by the SHPO in 2008 identified 16 parks with New Deal resources that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Constructed between 1933 and 1942 they exemplify the rustic style of architecture promoted by the National Park Service during this era. They include structures, roads, trails, bridges, fountains, seasonal rental cabins, culverts, signage, pools, retaining walls, water filtration plants, and/or picnic shelters from this period. New Deal resources found at the following four parks of the 16 surveyed are now listed: Hawks Nest (Fayette County), Holly River (Webster County), Lost River (Hardy County), and Watoga (Pocahontas County). Watoga State Park is unique in that workers from these New Deal agencies helped to establish the Fred E. Brooks Memorial Arboretum, named for the well-known West Virginia naturalist. West Virginia’s state parks are a testimony to the good accomplished by these New Deal initiatives.

Also constructed in the mid twentieth century, Bluestone Dam was intended to aid in flood control in the New and Kanawha River valleys and to generate hydroelectric power. Construction was suspended in 1943 when attention was focused on World War II and was finished in December 1948. The six penstocks were sealed with bulkheads making the reservoir’s purpose solely flood control. The US Corps of Engineers maintains this dam and other river transportation control structures throughout the state.

**CONCLUSION:**

West Virginia contains a wide array of historic resources. However, they are not fully safe from threat. Financial resources, good community planning as well as personal and public commitment are key ingredients needed to maintain and protect our historic resources. While many understand the value of our historic resources, preserving our resources does not come without effort and energy. Sharing the stories of these resources and demonstrating the value of investment in them will bring success. The following Goals and Objectives will direct West Virginia’s historic preservation efforts for the next five years.
West Virginia’s Historic Preservation Plan

In creating the goals and objectives for the 2014 – 2019 statewide plan, one theme could be seen across all the goals. Advocacy is the overarching theme that unified the goals and objectives listed below and breathes life into them. This theme teaches others the importance of historic resources. It focuses attention upon these resources and allows people to learn about them and the history of West Virginia. People and organizations become advocates of identifying new historic resources and strive to protect these places. Advocacy sparks the community and its businesses to maintain the individual charm of their area and to increase the preservation of resources as a driver of the local economy. Citizens of West Virginia are inspired to act as good stewards of historic structures and to take steps to ensure these resources are passed onto future generations. Without advocacy, these goals are empty words on paper. We must remember that historic preservation requires action. Each of us, as citizens of West Virginia or as visitors to the Mountain State, must work toward these goals, even in the smallest of ways. Through action, people will understand and appreciate the importance of the following goals and objectives.

The goals for the next five years focus on education, awareness, community and economic development, identification, and stewardship. By design they represent a plan of action for the entire state. While the SHPO has taken the lead in developing these goals, these goals cannot be achieved without the effort of a great number of people. Preserving cultural resources is not the domain of one agency or solely the domain of federal and state governments. Successful preservation efforts are always the product of grassroots effort, local leadership, and partnerships.

Goals, Objectives and Strategies

Goal 1: Education

West Virginians will have access to information and training for historic preservation techniques, resources, and skills.

Education about the history of West Virginia, its regions and communities is vital to establishing a sense of place and pride. Historic preservation should be, and needs to be, on the front lines in telling the stories that spark interest. The vast array of historic and archaeological resources within the state creates a rich tapestry of West Virginia’s past for students, citizens, and visitors. These objectives are a blueprint to reveal and illuminate the history of West Virginia.

Objectives

1.1 Develop K-12 curriculum which incorporates historic preservation themes to meet current West Virginia teaching objectives.

1.2 Develop historic preservation themed programs such as day camps, one day events, workshops, conferences and presentations for all ages.
1.3 Establish a mentor network to offer workshops and training on historic preservation topics to assist organizations such as historic landmark commissions, Certified Local Governments, Main Street programs, individual property owners and non-profit organizations.

1.4 Develop coursework and programs that address traditional skills such as masonry, wood stabilization and plasterwork to increase the skilled workforce available in West Virginia as well as increase the knowledge of the historic property owner.

**Goal 2: Awareness**

**West Virginians will recognize and understand the value of our state’s historic resources.**

The Awareness goal will inspire an appreciation of cultural resources and instill a lasting historic preservation ethic. A general lack of knowledge about historic resources and the proper historic preservation techniques was identified as the greatest challenge facing historic preservation in West Virginia. To contend with this issue, these objectives are fashioned as a guide for the SHPO and those agencies, organizations, and individuals that make decisions and take actions that impact historic and cultural resources.

**Objectives**

2.1 Develop a historic preservation caucus within the WV Legislature to identify existing support for historic preservation and encourage awareness of the benefits of historic preservation.

2.2 Develop events, publications, video and web resources that highlight and explore West Virginia’s historic resources and historic preservation efforts.

2.3 Develop events, publications, video and web resources that illustrate the proper preservation methods, techniques, and procedures.

2.4 Develop events, publications, videos or web resources that highlight the Secretary of the Interior’s established standards and guidelines for archaeology and the treatment of historic properties.

2.5 Provide information regarding activities, successes, and ongoing programs via social media and internet venues to reach a larger audience and foster a positive image about historic preservation.

2.6 Reestablish a state archaeologist position to direct efforts in education and awareness regarding the value and significance of the state’s archaeological resources.
Goal 3: Identification

West Virginians will identify, evaluate, and designate historic resources.

From archaeological sites dating to some 11,000 years to buildings, structures and objects of more recent vintage, West Virginia has numerous cultural resources. Many of these resources have not been surveyed and identified. The identification of these resources is not only important so that they can continue to be a vibrant part of our environment, but also for the planning of roads, bridges, waterlines and other projects. Once resources are identified, evaluated and designated, then architects, engineers, and other planners can include them in project development and prevent delays and increased costs that occur when they are found after the construction process has begun. This effort must include the SHPO, state agencies, counties, localities and individuals working toward the following objectives.

Objectives

3.1 Expand inventories across the state that focus on underrepresented counties, communities and resource types.

3.2 Develop historic contexts to assist in preservation planning and the identification of resources focusing on resource types whose significance has not been comprehensively studied and evaluated. These resources include agriculture, schools/education, churches/religion, industry (coal, salt, oil, gas, steel, timber) and ethnic Groups.

3.3 Increase the identification and nomination of historic resources to the National Register of Historic Places focusing on underrepresented resource types.

Goal 4: Community and Economic Development

West Virginians will incorporate historic preservation into economic and community development to maintain a sense of place.

Across the country, communities use historic preservation to improve their economies and quality of life. National and statewide efforts like the Main Street Program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation impact communities. Preservation tools help stabilize and revitalize communities despite the recent economic recession. These objectives will support economic stability and growth:

Objectives

4.1 Increase the assistance for historic preservation and development projects in towns and counties identified as economically challenged.
4.2 Increase the use of existing incentive programs such as state and federal tax credits and preservation easements.

4.3 Utilize legal tools such as easements and covenants to protect identified threatened resources working with established non-profit organizations and government entities.

4.4 Develop and sustain partnerships to promote historic preservation resources as tourist destinations and develop programs and activities to link historic preservation with recreation and tourism.

Goal 5: Stewardship

West Virginians will safeguard/sustain historic resources in their communities and rural areas throughout the state.

If historic resources are to be a part of our future, West Virginians must take an active role in safeguarding them. Success requires historic preservation at the forefront of planning activities instead of included as an afterthought. The decision making process must thoroughly consider the benefits of historic preservation. A better understanding can produce creative and alternative solutions. These objectives will improve the stewardship and protection of our historic resources.

Objectives

5.1 Work with historic landmark commissions and local governments to implement local historic preservation ordinances, design review and planning overlay districts to protect historic resources.

5.2 Develop and sustain a working network between individuals, organizations, and agencies to provide a cohesive effort for historic preservation activities.

5.3 Actively participate in environmental review processes such as the Section 106 review process of the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

5.4 Develop state enabling legislation for local governments to mothball, stabilize, and rehabilitate existing, abandoned or underused historic resources.
Bibliography


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**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA PUBLICATIONS**


STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANS


Editor’s Note: National Register nominations were consulted during the writing of this plan. In addition, the National Park Service website was a resource for information regarding parks, programs and other activities. Unless noted, photos are courtesy of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History and its staff.