

ENDANGERED PROPERTIES

of West Virginia

PAWV 2013

Ananias Pitsenbarger Farm Franklin, Pendleton County

Situated on 130 acres of rolling hills, the **Ananias Pitsenbarger Farm** was a historically self-sufficient farmstead currently consisting of a collection of 23 log and frame buildings constructed by hand and made from local materials.

The builders utilized distinct traditional German building techniques including hand-hewn horizontal logs, hand-carved wood hinges and pegs, forged nails and iron latches, and saddle, V-, and dovetail notching. This mountain farm complex is an excellent example of mountain family institutions and Germanic and occult traditions that date to the preindustrial era.

In 1974, the last Pitsenbarger passed away on the farm, and the current owners' parents bought the farm in an auction. Since their purchase, the owners have made efforts to preserve the farmstead with roof updates and overgrowth clearing.

Presently, the owners are working on a plan to preserve the site and hope to expand current events for historic and recreational purposes.



Preservation Alliance of West Virginia

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PAWV ENDANGERED LIST 2013

Ananias Pitsenbarger Farm

Location: Franklin, Pendleton County

Endangerment: Neglect

Construction Date: 1845 and c. 1900

Background: Situated on 130 acres of rolling hills with several springs, the Ananias Pitsenbarger Farm complex is an excellent example of mountain family institutions and Germanic and occult traditions that date to the preindustrial era. In 1973, the last Pitsenbarger passed away on the farm, and the current owners' parents bought the farm at auction. Since their purchase, the owners have made efforts to preserve the farmstead with roof updates and overgrowth clearing. However, most of the buildings are vacant and have not been maintained. Presently, the owners are working on a plan to preserve the site and hope to expand current events for historic and recreational purposes.

Description: The Pitsenbarger Farm was a historically self-sufficient farmstead, which currently consists of a collection of 23 log-and-frame buildings constructed by hand and made from local materials. Buildings include a woodworking shop, chicken coop, stable, carriage house, spring house, and hay barns. The builders utilized distinct traditional German building techniques including hand-hewn horizontal logs, hand-carved wood hinges and pegs, and saddle, V-, and dovetail notching. Also remaining are old stands of sugar maples, fruit trees, open hay fields, wooded areas, and split-rail fences.

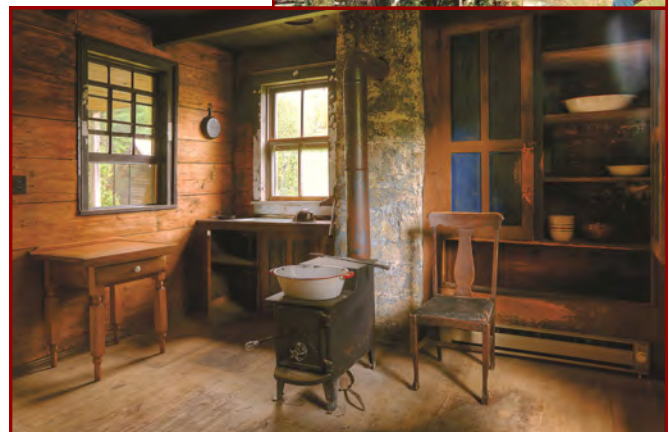
Significance: For over 100 years, the complex has been an outstanding example of pioneer architecture and ancient German home and farm influences. It looks very much the same as it did a century ago. It is an important example of a self-sufficient farming operation. During the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, it was the center of Germanic culture and practices in West Virginia. It was owned from 1799-1973 by three German families that were known for their old-world music, recreational, and religious traditions including Ascension Day and the idea that nature was aware of Godly activities.

2013 Preservation Steps: The current owners will prioritize tasks for preservation and locate craftspeople to help with foundation and masonry repairs, as well as window rehabilitation.

Ultimate Goal: To preserve the site for recreational and tourism purposes.

Resources: The current owners have limited financial resources for preservation but are able to provide some labor and are dedicated to the preservation of the site.

Nominated by: The private owners



The Preservation Alliance of West Virginia is the statewide grassroots organization devoted to preserving West Virginia's history and culture. The PAWV provides assistance to help save endangered sites. For more information on the 2013 Endangered List, or if you would like to suggest a site for next year, see www.pawv.org/endangernom.htm



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