

MARGARET MANSON WEIR MEMORIAL POOL

Wheeling, Ohio County

The Margaret Manson Weir Memorial Pool is part of the Marland Heights Park, which first opened in 1934. While the park remains open, the pool closed in 2005. The pool shows some wear, but all of the key components remain. The pool is unique to its designer, Wesley Bintz, who designed over 135 pools all over the United States during his career. Built during the Weirton Steel Company's boom years, this pool is a reflection of Weirton's financial prosperity. The park and pool were intended as focal points in the community, providing recreational facilities for Weirton. Much of the community has personal ties to the pool.



ENDANGERED PROPERTIES OF WEST VIRGINIA



PAWV 2014

PAWV Endangered List 2014

Margaret Manson Weir Memorial Pool

Location: Weirton, Hancock County

Construction Date: 1934

Endangerment: Demolition

Background: The park was constructed in 1934 by Weirton Steel employees and included the memorial pool, bandstand, shuffleboard courts, and in 1938, three large rustic shelters. During the Depression, part of the workers included laid-off local steel workers. The park is a gathering place for several local events including the town's annual Fourth of July Celebration.

Description: The facility includes the cement pool and wooden picnic shelter. The design is of the Modern Movement, specifically Art Deco.

Significance: This site is significant for its regional importance and distinctive architecture. The pool served as a recreational center for the area as examined above. The designer, Wesley Bintz, is a civil engineer who patented his elevated, ovoid pool design; the *Margaret Manson Weir Memorial Pool* is a prime example of Bintz's unique structure.

Preservation Steps: A basic updating of systems to allow it to be operational and used by the public. Eventually, future goals include updating other elements of the park.

Ultimate Goal: The goal is to update the pool to allow for operation and public use. Upgrading the pool is part of the larger plan to improve the entire park and picnic area.

Resources: Community support and fundraising are both vital resources in saving the site. Over 300 people attended a meeting to stop the demolition process and the community has been active in raising funds to finance the feasibility study.

Nominated by: Marland Heights Community Association, Inc.



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Preservation Alliance of West Virginia is the statewide grassroots organization devoted to preserving West Virginia's history and culture. In partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, PAWV provides assistance to help save endangered sites. For more information on the 2011 Endangered List, or if you would like to suggest a site for next year, see: www.pawv.org/endangernom.htm

