2018 HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACHIEVEMENTS

First Zion Baptist Church, Harpers Ferry

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia
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Preservation Alliance of West Virginia (PAWV) is the statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to historic preservation in our Mountain State.

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KYLE BAILEY  
Preserve WV AmeriCorps

SHARELL HARMON  
Preserve WV AmeriCorps

GIBBS KINDERMAN  
Preserve WV AmeriCorps
In 2018, PAWV celebrated the sixth year of its Preserve WV AmeriCorps program - a statewide service initiative where AmeriCorps members help main streets thrive, capture local history, and preserve beloved historical landmarks.

Preserve WV AmeriCorps members cumulatively preserved over 40 historical resources and managed more than 500 volunteers in 2018.

The two AmeriCorps members serving directly with PAWV, Sharell Harmon & Kyle Bailey, coordinated these historic preservation projects:

--- Painting and cleaning at Cass Scenic Railroad State Park in Pocahontas County.

--- Installing interpretive signage in the Town of Helen in Raleigh County.

--- Cleaning and organizing the Homestead School in Randolph County.

--- Landscaping and cleaning headstones at the Bramwell Cemetery in Mercer County.

Pictured above is Samuel Richardson, who served with the WV & Regional History Center in 2018. Samuel is seen here painting at the Cass Company Store.
Over the summer, five Preserve WV AmeriCorps museums and historic sites participated in a professional evaluation that revealed these cultural attractions spur tourism visitation to their core areas.

Key findings from the study are that 31% of visitors came from 200 or more miles away, and each visit to a Preserve WV AmeriCorps museum or historic site generated nearly one night’s (.86) hotel stay in West Virginia. Half of the visitors expected to visit other places in the state, from state parks to other heritage sites.

Read the full study http://www.pawv.org/americorps.html
OF VISITORS TO HISTORIC MUSEUMS & SITES TRAVELED FROM MORE THAN 50 MILES AWAY

52%

IS THE AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION TO THE STATE & LOCAL ECONOMY FROM ONE VISIT TO A PRESERVE WV AMERICORPS MUSEUM & SITE

$271
PAWV partnered with the Wood County Historic Landmarks Commission & the Wood County Historical Society to present the 2018 West Virginia Historic Preservation Conference.

About 110 people attended the conference, which took place September 20 - 22, 2018, in Parkersburg. The main venue was the Blennerhassett Hotel with additional activities at the Smoot Theatre, Henderson Hall, Blennerhassett Island, and Oakland Mansion.

Keynote speakers were Kate Greene with SmallChange.org and Ed McMahon of the Urban Land Institute.

Other conference activities included a lecture about the evolution of the movie theater, a hands-on cemetery preservation workshop, walking tours of Julia-Ann Square Historic District and downtown Parkersburg, and a series of educational sessions with experts such as Mark Boggs, Sarel Venter, Jon Smith, and Jennifer Brennan.
2018 Historic Preservation Award Winners

Heritage Tourism Award
Red Oak Knob Fire Tower
Cowen, Webster County

Best Use of Historic Tax Credits
FIBOW Realty for Flat Iron Building
Wheeling, Ohio County

Downtown Preservation Award
Washington Hall Project
Charles Town, Jefferson County

Dr. Emory Kemp Lifetime Achievement Award
Robert Enoch
Parkersburg, Wood County

PAWV also gives out three $500 cash awards to deserving historic preservation projects in our Mountain State. The recipients for 2018 were:

Henderson Hall (Wood County)

Tygart Valley Homestead School Association (Randolph County)

Julia-Ann Square Historical Community Association (Wood County)

Learn more about these projects at http://www.pawv.org/awards.html
PARTNERSHIP WITH ARCADIA IMAGES OF AMERICA SERIES RESULTS IN NEW PAWV PUBLICATION

Beginning in 2017, PAWV partnered with Arcadia Publishing to develop a concept for a new book focused on the West Virginia Historic Theatre Trail.

PAWV’s program associate, Kelli Shapiro, worked on this publication throughout 2018, and we are very grateful to all of the historical organizations and archives that helped with finding and selecting photos for the book.

You can purchase a copy for $21 from PAWV directly with all proceeds going to PAWV.


ABOUT THE BOOK
Over the course of the 20th century, West Virginia contained an impressive diversity of movie theatres—ranging from multipurpose auditoriums in company towns to early nickelodeons and from ornate, urban picture palaces to neighborhood movie houses and suburban drive-ins. In the state’s working-class areas, as well as in upscale districts where industry barons lived, residents came together to find amusement and relaxation in these invaluable venues. Many of these theatres have since disappeared from the landscape, while others sit vacant or have been converted for other uses. Some, however, have been reopened or restored. They proudly provide their communities with entertainment today, whether showing films or hosting the performing arts. They serve as catalysts for local revitalization and as success stories showcasing the value of historic preservation.