



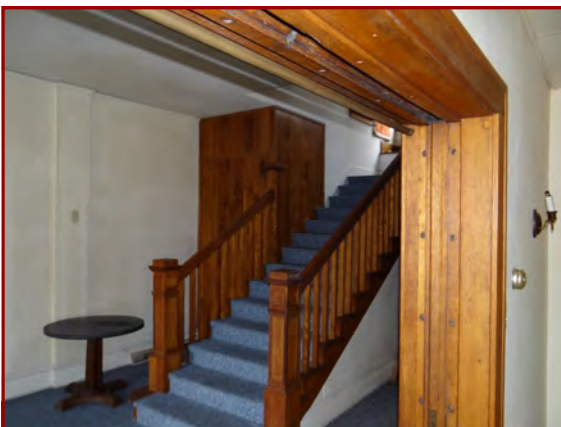
ENDANGERED PROPERTIES

of West Virginia
PAWV 2013

Abruzzino Mansion Shinnston, Harrison County

The **Abruzzino Mansion** is a contributing building in the Shinnston Historic District. Overlooking downtown Shinnston, the Neoclassical mansion originally had 28 rooms, 4 bathrooms, and a third-floor ballroom when Frank Abruzzino and his family moved into the residence in 1922.

Frank was a prosperous West Virginia businessman who hired Shinnston master builder Charles Ashby Short to build his luxury home. In the 1960s, the home was converted into



apartments; however, the renovators maintained much of the historic layout and features.

The mansion's current owners were restoring it when fire struck in 2010. Part of the west wing of the house, including much of the tile roof, was destroyed. Now the owners are working to repair the wing and restore the house. They hope that eventually it can be donated to a nonprofit and used for educational purposes.

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia

PO Box 3371, Charleston WV 25333 / 304-345-6005 / www.pawv.org



PAWV ENDANGERED LIST 2013



Abruzzino Mansion

Location: Shinnston, Harrison County

Endangerment: Environmental Damage

Construction Date: 1921

Background: The Abruzzino Mansion is a contributing building in the Shinnston Historic District. Overlooking downtown Shinnston, the mansion originally had 28 rooms, 4 bathrooms, and a third-floor ballroom when Frank Abruzzino and his family moved into the residence in 1922. Frank was a prosperous West Virginia businessman. In the 1960s, the home was converted into apartments; however, the renovators maintained much of the historic layout and features. The mansion's current owners were restoring it in 2010 when a fire destroyed part of the west wing of the house including much of the tile roof.



Description: The mansion is constructed in the Neoclassical style. It features a red tile roof and is dominated by a full-height entry porch. It maintains three large brick chimneys and a two-story portico.

Significance: The dwelling is directly associated with the settlement and commerce of the railroad town of Shinnston. Its spectacular style reflects the prosperity of its original owner, Frank Abruzzino, and the success of his grocery chain and business endeavors. The prolific builder Charles Ashby Short constructed the dwelling in the years following World War I.

2013 Preservation Steps: Enclose the building and rehabilitate the roof and west wing of the house.

Ultimate Goal: The private owners are working to restore the dwelling and release it to a group or groups that can fully preserve the site and use it for educational purposes.

Resources: The private owners have limited financial resources but are able to continue with some preservation projects. They are also committed to helping any nonprofit with fund-raising and 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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