



ENDANGERED PROPERTIES

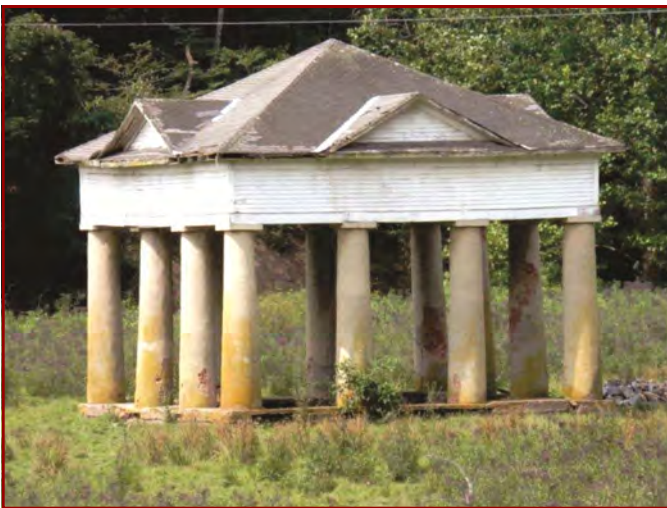
of West Virginia

PAWV 2013

Blue Sulphur Springs Pavilion Blue Sulphur Springs, Greenbrier County

The Blue Sulphur Springs Pavilion lies about 9 miles north of Alderson, West Virginia in a bucolic cattle pasture surrounded by mountains. The pavilion was originally built around 1834 by Dr. Alexis Martin in the Greek Revival style. Made of marble slabs five-feet wide, the sides enclosing the mineral spring are covered with brilliant pink sandstone.

The pavilion was the heart of a nineteenth-century resort complex, Blue Sulphur Springs, where Dr. Martin was the resident physician and administered the first mud baths in the



United States. During the Civil War, the resort served as a bivouac and hospital for both armies until finally torched by Union soldiers in 1864.

All that remains are the pavilion and the rich archaeological potential of the resort and Civil War encampment. Currently, the pavilion is deteriorating.

The private owner has been unable to preserve the property but has promised to deed the pavilion and some land to the Greenbrier Historical Society. The Historical Society is already developing plans to restore the pavilion and develop it as a tourist and social destination.

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia

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PAWV ENDANGERED LIST 2013

Blue Sulphur Springs Pavilion

Location: Near Alderson, Greenbrier County

Endangerment: Neglect

Construction Date: 1834

Background: The Blue Sulphur Springs Pavilion is located approximately 9 miles north of Alderson in a cattle pasture surrounded by mountains. The pavilion was the heart of a mid-nineteenth century resort complex, Blue Sulphur Springs, where Dr. Alexis Martin was the resident physician and administered the first mud baths in the United States. Currently, the pavilion is deteriorating as the private owner has been unable to preserve the property but has promised to deed the pavilion and some land to the Greenbrier Historical Society, which is already developing plans to restore the pavilion as a tourist and social destination.

Description: The Greek Revival pavilion is made of marble slabs five-feet wide, the sides, which enclose the mineral spring, are covered with brilliant pink sandstone. The full entablature and roof are supported by twelve modified Roman Doric order columns constructed of brick and covered with plaster, which is deteriorating. Currently, the drainage system is clogged and still water has undermined the foundation. One of the twelve columns has slipped off its center. The foundation, columns, and roof are in need of significant and timely repair.

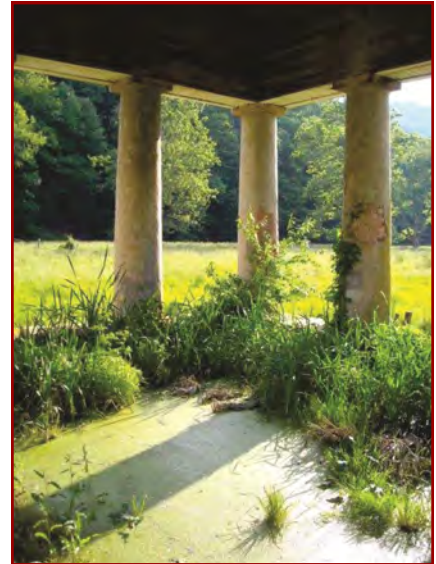
Significance: The site's main period of significance is 1834-1864. The pavilion is the only structure remaining of the once-fashionable resort. It was the heart of the resort and was where the first bath mud baths were administered in the United States. During the Civil War, the resort served as a bivouac and hospital for Confederate soldiers until being burned down by Union troops. All that remains are the pavilion and potentially rich archaeology of the resort and Civil War encampment.

2013 Preservation Steps: The Greenbrier Historical Society is working with the private owner to secure ownership of the pavilion. The property will be surveyed, and the group plans to submit a pre-development grant application to the WV Division of Culture and History for the purpose of studying and outlining the pavilion's structural needs. Additional funding for preservation will also be sought.

Ultimate Goal: To restore the pavilion and develop the site for recreational and tourism purposes.

Resources: A group of individuals known as the Friends of the Blue will be the managing committee operating under the auspices of the Greenbrier Historical Society and in conjunction with the Greenbrier County Commission and the Greenbrier County Historic Landmarks Commission to bring about the full restoration of the pavilion. The Greenbrier Historical Society and Greenbrier County Commission have secured a match for the pre-development grant.

Nominated by: Greenbrier County Historical Society



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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