

# STAATS HOSPITAL

Charleston,  
Kanawha  
County

The four-story  
Staats Hospital  
was constructed in

1922 and boasts elegant detailing including a central window with an arch and Tuscan columns supporting an entablature with intricate ornamentation. It is the cornerstone of the Elk City historic district on Charleston's West Side and is at risk structurally from water infiltration through a leaking roof and open windows. The upper floors have been sealed for over 20 years because of asbestos and lead paint contamination, and construction workers are stripping the building of any salvageable metal



materials in preparation for potential demolition. West Side Main Street (WSMS) has been in discussions with the lien holder to stop any demolition projects, and they plan to cultivate a partnership with a private developer to rehabilitate the building for mixed commercial and residential use. WSMS will also assist with funds from brownfields clean-up grants.



**ENDANGERED  
PROPERTIES**  
Of West Virginia  
**2012** PAWV



## PAWV ENDANGERED LIST 2012



### Staats Hospital

Charleston,  
Kanawha County

**Site:** Staats Hospital

**Description:** The hospital is located in the Elk City Historic District in Charleston. It is a four-story Classical Revival brick structure complete with a central bay on the upper story of the facade. Tuscan columns supporting an entablature with metopes and caryatids adorn the central bay.

**Community:** Charleston, Kanawha County

**Date of Construction:** 1922

**Significance:** Designed by John Norman, the first registered African-American architect in West Virginia, the Staats Hospital is the cornerstone of Charleston's West Side Elk City Historic District, which is significant for its association with the growth and development of Charleston's commercial neighborhoods.

**Endangerment:** Deterioration - The building is in danger structurally from a leaking roof and open windows that are allowing for excessive water infiltration. Demolition - Additionally, the current lien holder has construction workers stripping the building of any salvageable materials that can be sold for scrap in preparation for demolition.

**Resources:** West Side Main Street (WSMS) will write US EPA and historic preservation grants for funding to rehabilitate and restore the building. The lien holder has indicated he would be willing to invest a match for these grants if it appeared he could make the building more appealing to a developer.

**Next Steps for 2012:** WSMS is planning to form a development corporation with the intention to enter into contracts with private developers for the building. WSMS would be the nonprofit arm that would apply for and administer grants, and the private developer would provide the match, receive tax credits, and oversee redevelopment.

**Goal:** The short term goal is to save the building from demolition and to stabilize it. The long term goal is to apply for brownfields clean up grants and remediate the environmental threats. WSMS aims to develop a partnership with a private developer to rehabilitate the building for mixed commercial and residential use.

**Nominated by:** Charleston's West Side Main Street



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**NATIONAL  
TRUST  
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PRESERVATION**

*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 this year's Endangered List, or if you would like to suggest a site for next year, see the Preservation Alliance website at: [www.pawv.org](http://www.pawv.org).*

