The Town of Fayetteville wishes to breathe new life into its old high school building. The local C.G. Janutolo Company provided the stonemasons for the school’s construction in 1923. This three-story, stone structure originally housed the high school and was later used as a middle school. In 1999, the school board closed the building to students and converted it into storage. In 2007, a West Virginia University Community Design Team identified the importance of the old high school and encouraged preservation and restoration efforts for the Fayetteville Historic District. It was suggested that the town acquire the former school and repurpose it for community use. Since then, Fayetteville purchased the building, began the restoration process, and reached out to community groups and local artisans to become potential tenants.

The school building was constructed by local Italian stonemasons in 1923. The building first housed a high school, then middle school, until it was closed to students in 1999. Until 2011, the building was used a storage facility by the Fayette County Board of Education. The school board deeded the building to the Town of Fayetteville in 2011. The school was constructed by Italian stonemasons of the C.G. Janutolo Company, the school is an example of local craftsmanship. Preservation of the school would help to preserve their craftsmanship. It also was an important educational institution for over seventy years.

Preservation Steps: Repair the roof, secure the envelope, clean the interior of the structure, and renovate while preserving key elements of the old school.

Ultimate Goal: The ultimate goal is to provide office and activity space for civic groups while preserving the stone architecture, enhancing cultural opportunities in the community, and promoting economic opportunities through heritage tourism.

Resources: The Town of Fayetteville is budgeting funds for the maintenance, future repair, and restoration efforts. Potential civic groups interested in using the space have already expressed a desire to volunteer towards the preservation efforts.

Nominated by: Bill Lanham, Superintendent, Town of Fayetteville

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