



West Virginia

Historic Preservation Conference

AIA
Continuing
Education
Provider

 Preservation
Alliance of
West Virginia

Wheeling
May 1-3, 2025

Various Locations

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Small Scale Development Workshop & Historic Tax Credit Training



***Eligible for 7 AIA Learning Units**

This program is for supporters of the redevelopment of historic properties, including but not limited to Main Street Directors, Economic Developers, Engineers, and, especially, Small Scale Developers working in small to mid sized communities, and Downtown or Neighborhood Commercial District Property Owners.

Presenters: Jennifer Brennan (WV Main Street), Meredith Dreidstadt (WVSHPO), and Phoebe Randolph (Edward Tucker Architects)

Location: Allegheny Room, Wilson Lodge, Oglebay Resort, 465 Lodge Dr, Wheeling

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Marshall County Historic Sites Tour

This tour will take participants out of Wheeling to experience 3 diverse historic sites in Marshall County: The Cockayne Farmstead, Grave Creek Mound, and the Marshall County Historical Society.

Guide: *TBA*

Location: Meet at the parking lot at Wilson Lodge, Oglebay Resort.

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Hands-on Stucco Demonstration

We often find historic stucco structures painted with coatings that do not allow for the natural transfer of moisture, or we see modern, synthetic stucco mistaken for its historic predecessor and used interchangeably. Historic stucco is a unique building material designed to be breathable, and when this quality is compromised by modern materials, it can cause irreversible damage. Join Adventures in Elegance for a classroom session at their Scottish Rite workshop, followed by a short demonstration at their nearby job site at McLain Flats. This session will provide an introduction to historic stucco—its composition, application, and how to repair it using appropriate modern materials and techniques.

Presenters: Sarel Venter & Rebekah Karelis (Adventures in Elegance)

Location: Scottish Rite, 83 14th St, Wheeling

THURSDAY, MAY 1

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Opening Reception & Student Showcase

Enjoy food and drinks with attendees to kick off the conference. View Belmont College students' historic preservation projects in ornamental plaster, wood parquetry, stained glass, blacksmithing, hand-made ceramic tile, and scagliola.

This event is also suitable for middle & high school students.

Location: Wheeling Heritage, 3rd floor, 1400 Main Street, Wheeling

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Lime Burn

Step back in time and discover how lime mortar was traditionally made. This demonstration shows the process of burning limestone and shells to create lime, a key ingredient in historic masonry. Enjoy food, drinks, and bonfire fun! This is a 21+ event.

Presenter: Jon Smith (Smith Family of Workshops)

Location: Kraft House, 326 N. Huron St, Wheeling

Platinum Sponsors



FRIDAY, MAY 2

White Palace, Wheeling Park, 1801 National Road, Wheeling

8:00 am

Registration & Coffee Meet-up

Exhibitor & Poster Presentation

Location: Veranda, White Palace

8:45 am - 10:00 am

PAWV Welcome & Opening Plenary: Independence Hall, the Suspension Bridge and

PAWV Co-founders Emory Kemp and Beverly Fluty

This session explores the history and significance of two Wheeling landmarks: Independence Hall, site of the Second Wheeling Convention and the birth of West Virginia, and the Wheeling Suspension Bridge, completed in 1849 and challenged by collapse and legal controversy. It also highlights the work of Emory Kemp, noted civil engineer and preservationist, and his collaboration with Beverly Fluty to protect these sites. As advisors to the National Trust, they helped organize the first Preservation Alliance meeting in 1981.

Presenters: Dr. Barb Howe (Professor Emeritus at West Virginia University's History Department) and Jeanne Finstein (President, Friends of Wheeling)

Location: Ballroom, White Palace

Educational Sessions Begin!

10:15 am - 11:30 am

Communicating with Decision Makers to Promote Historic Preservation and Main Street Streets

Building and maintaining strong relationships with federal, state, and local decision makers is crucial for advancing historic preservation goals and supporting Main Street programs. In this session, attendees will learn practical strategies for engaging with key leaders throughout the year, ensuring ongoing support for their initiatives. We will explore best practices for advocating effectively and educating decision makers on the value of preservation, especially during times of change. Gain the tools you need to strengthen your advocacy efforts and secure lasting partnerships for your community's future.

Presenters: Lauren Cohen (National Trust for Historic Preservation) and Kelly Humrichouser (Main Street America)

Location: Ballroom, White Palace

The background of the entire page is a dark, textured collage of architectural drawings and blueprints. It includes various technical drawings such as floor plans, elevations, and sections of buildings. Notable elements include a large circular plan at the top right, a detailed elevation of a building with a clock tower on the left, and a section of a building with a gabled roof on the right. The drawings are rendered in white and light gray lines on a black background. A bright green diagonal line runs from the top left towards the bottom right, and a green curved arrow is visible at the bottom right. The Mills Group logo, consisting of a stylized 'M' in a square, is positioned to the left of the company name.

MILLS GROUP
ARCHITECTURE ■ PLANNING ■ PRESERVATION

Celebrating
20
years

SHAPING WEST VIRGINIA'S BUILT
ENVIRONMENT FOR THE FUTURE

10:15 am - 11:30 am (continued)



Flood Adaptation Strategies for Historic Buildings

***Eligible for 1.25 AIA Learning Units & Eligible HSW Eligible**

Recurring flood events cause significant damage to existing buildings, prompting many states and local communities to consider demolition as a primary solution to reduce repair costs. However, historic structures present unique challenges, as their preservation is often vital to community identity and cultural heritage. This presentation will provide an overview of flood hazards, mitigation concepts, and strategies for floodproofing historic buildings.

Presenters: Adam Rush, P.E., ART RP & Alexander D. Stephani, P.E. (Simpson Gumpertz & Heger)

Location: Meeting Room A, White Palace

The Future of Preservation Trades Training Panel

Historic buildings across the country reflect our shared heritage—but preserving them takes more than appreciation. It requires skilled hands and a workforce that’s growing harder to find. As demand for restoration and reuse rises, fewer tradespeople are entering the field. This panel features three seasoned professionals working to reverse that trend. Together, we’ll explore how to attract, train, and retain the next generation of craftworkers—offering real-world insights, innovative models, and strategies to keep preservation thriving.

Presenters: Jordan Riggs (Campaign for Historic Trades), Derrick Smith (Belmont College) and Joshua Adamo (Adamo Building Arts)

Location: Hall of Champions, White Palace

11:30 am - 12:00 pm

Exhibitor Space & Poster Presentations

Location: Veranda, White Palace

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Lunch Served & Plenary: Breathing New Life into Old Buildings



***Plenary eligible for 1 AIA Learning Unit**

What is adaptive reuse? Adaptive reuse is a sustainable approach in urban development that transforms old buildings for new purposes. It not only preserves cultural heritage but also reduces waste and promotes environmental sustainability. This presentation explores effective strategies to enhance adaptive reuse in urban settings.

Presenter: Michael Mills, AIA, NCARB (Mills Group)

Location: Ballroom, White Palace

FRIDAY, MAY 2

1:45 pm - 4:45 pm

Wheeling Preservation Walking Tour



***Eligible for 3 AIA Learning Units**

Wheeling is blessed with numerous historic districts. This 2-mile walking tour along level, paved streets, will take participants past key locations in the Wheeling Island and North Wheeling Historic Districts, with brief stops in the Downtown Historic District. Participants will enjoy walking over the iconic 1849 Wheeling Suspension Bridge, which connects the two districts. Other featured locations include the 1871 Kraft House, the “Flood Wall”, the Frederick Fais House, the Robert W. Hazlett House, and the Hughes Duplex. Some interiors will be included.

Guide: Jeanne Finstein (President, Friends of Wheeling)

Location: Meet in front of the White Palace. Participants will be bussed to/from Wheeling Park for this tour

Educational Sessions Continue!

1:45 pm - 3:00 pm

Preserving our Heritage: Addressing the Challenges of Neglect and Abandonment in Historic Buildings



***Eligible for 1.25 AIA Learning Units**

In today's world, historic buildings face severe threats from neglect and abandonment. This presentation highlights the importance of preserving our architectural heritage and the challenges we face in these endeavors.

Presenter: Stephen DeNeui (Preservation Associate, Mills Group)

Location: Ballroom, White Palace

Preservation Business Basics: What You Need to Know

Thinking about starting your own business in the preservation trades? In this session, Joshua shares the essential building blocks for launching, growing and sustaining a successful preservation-focused company. Drawing from his own experience and lessons learned in the field, he breaks down the core elements that every aspiring business owner should understand. Joshua offers practical insights and real-world guidance to help you thrive in this specialized industry.

Presenter: Joshua Adamo (Adamo Building Arts)

Location: Meeting Room A, White Palace

FRIDAY, MAY 2

1:45 pm - 3:00 pm (continued)

Research Essentials: Strategies for Researching Historic Properties

“Research Essentials” explores various strategies for researching historic properties in West Virginia. In this session, attendees will review the basics of historical research such as determining research questions, taking notes, and identifying sources. The multifaceted nature of historical research will be broken down into easy-to-understand steps. During the session, attendees will have the opportunity to apply newly learned skills in an interactive matching game. While this session focuses specifically on researching historical structures in the state, the foundational research principles are universal, and can be applied to other research projects.

Presenter: Jessica Eichlin (WV State Historic Preservation Office)

Location: Hall of Champions, White Palace

3:15 pm - 4:30 pm

Resurveying Downtowns/Historic Districts and Amending National Register Nominations



***Eligible for 1.25 AIA Learning Units**

This session will delve into the National Register of Historic Places and its vital role in shaping local preservation efforts. Participants will explore why planners and historic landmark commissions should periodically resurvey, update, expand, or refine National Register Historic Districts. By keeping designations accurate and reflective of evolving landscapes, communities can strengthen preservation incentives, attract investment, and enhance economic development in commercial areas and downtowns.

Presenters: Courtney Zimmerman, P.E. (Aurora Research Consultants) and Cody Straley (WV State Historic Preservation Office)

Location: Ballroom, White Palace

The Deconstruction Discussion: Salvage, Sustainability, and Preservation Possibilities ***Eligible for 1.25 Learning Units**



As preservationists grapple with aging structures, sustainability mandates, and limited resources, deconstruction—the careful dismantling of buildings to preserve usable materials—has emerged as a powerful tool. This session will discuss the role of deconstruction in historic preservation, exploring how salvaged materials can be ethically and effectively integrated into preservation projects. We'll examine the challenges and opportunities involved in sourcing, storing, and reusing historic building elements, while highlighting successful case studies that prove the value of this approach. Whether you're navigating policy, hands-on reuse, or curious about the intersection of heritage and sustainability, join us to rethink what we preserve—and how.

Presenters:

Jessica Anderson (City of San Antonio, TX)

Nicole Dias (Coalfield Development Corporation)

Terry Wiles (Construction Junction) - Terry is the Online Sales & Outreach Coordinator at Construction Junction, Pittsburgh, where he has spent over a decade promoting reuse and sustainability. His 11 years with the organization include coordinating deconstruction efforts and finding creative uses for salvaged materials.

Location: Meeting Room A, White Palace



Aurora Research
Associates, LLC

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING
SERVICES**

Preserving the Past, Building the Future

- Section 106 Review
- Historic Resource Surveys
- NEPA Documentation
- National Register Nominations
- Public Involvement
- Mitigation

Contact Us :

 www.aurora-llc.com

(304) 685-7410



FRIDAY, MAY 2

Panel: Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Lessons



***Eligible for 1.25 AIA Learning Units**

This panel will explore how historic preservation incentives support revitalization efforts, offer insights into the application process, and highlight successful preservation projects in Wheeling. Drawing from their expertise, panelists will address the economic impact of tax credits, common challenges, and strategies for leveraging these resources to restore historic properties. This discussion aims to inform property owners, developers, and community leaders about the benefits and opportunities of historic tax credits in fostering sustainable development.

Panelists:

- *Tighe Bullock, J.D.* (Crawford Holdings),
- *David Abruzzi, R.A.* (Cacapon Preservation Services) - David Abruzzi is a veteran, architect, and historian in the eastern panhandle. In 2022 he established Cacapon Preservation Solutions with the vision of protecting and preserving WV's historical places for the benefit of current and future generations. In fulfilling that vision, David consults with and assists WV property owners, municipalities, residents, and concerned citizens who want to protect and preserve historic structures navigate the historic preservation process. In one year he completed four nominations in Paw Paw (Morgan County), while also investing in preserving its history by purchasing the 1876 St Charles Catholic Mission Church. David is using historic tax credits to offset the costs of a second act for the building.
- *Glenn Elliott* (Two-term Wheeling Mayor), and
- *Betsy Sweeny* - A passionate preservationist, Betsy promotes community and economic development through the built environment. An instructor at Belmont College's Historic Preservation and Restoration Program and an independent consultant, she brings hands-on experience from her time as programming director at Wheeling Heritage and the restoration of her own East Wheeling home—shaping her thoughtful approach to adaptive reuse locally and beyond.

Location: Hall of Champions, White Palace



West Virginia's Oldest Historic Preservation Organization

- Monthly Activities
- Biennial Cemetery Tours
- Low Interest Preservation Loan Guarantees

P.O. Box 889, Wheeling, WV 26003

<https://wheelingheritage.org/friends-of-wheeling/>

Follow us on Facebook

West Virginia Historic Preservation Awards Banquet

Glessner Auditorium, Oglebay Resort

Doors Open at 6:00 pm!

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Matt Wagner

Chief Innovation Officer, Main Street America

We're honored to welcome Dr. Matt Wagner as our keynote speaker for the evening. As Chief Innovation Officer at Main Street America, Dr. Wagner leads the organization's Innovation Team, driving forward-thinking research, cutting-edge tools, and creative strategies to support vibrant, resilient communities. His work centers on testing and launching new ideas that shape the future of downtown and neighborhood development.

Before joining Main Street America, Dr. Wagner brought his passion for community revitalization to a global stage, serving as Director of Global Community Affairs and President of Johnson Redevelopment Corporation at SC Johnson—a \$10 billion global consumer products powerhouse. His unique blend of private sector leadership and place-based innovation continues to inspire the next generation of changemakers.

Banquet Program

- **6:00** Cocktail Hour & *Tour of Oglebay Mansion (tentative)*
- **7:00** "Taste of the Ohio Valley" themed dinner served
- **7:45** Keynote Address - Dr. Matt Wagner (Chief Innovation Officer, Main Street America)
- **8:30** Awards Presentation

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Gold Sponsors



Scottish Rite, 83 14th Street, Wheeling

8:00 am - 8:45 am

Registration Opens!

Location: TBD

Coffee Meet-up

Location: Bar Room/Trestle Board Room

Exhibitor Space & Poster Presentation Open

Location: Rotunda

Historic Trades Demonstrations

Scottish Rite Parking Lot

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Step into the world of traditional craftsmanship and discover the skills that preserve our built heritage. This interactive session offers live demonstrations of historic trades by expert artisans, each specializing in a unique facet of preservation work.

Glazing Techniques for Historic Windows with Kim Byrd (Byrd Art Restoration): Watch intricate glasswork come to life and learn how delicate repairs preserve both beauty and function.

Linseed v Latex with Vincent DiProsperis (Van Gogh Painting) *More information to follow.*

Metal-working with Jeffrey Forster (Artistic Metals by Forster): See sparks fly as traditional tools and techniques shape and restore historic metal elements.

Replacing Historic Trim with Kegan Jackson (Smith Family of Workshops): Explore the art of replicating original wood details to maintain architectural integrity.

3D Printing & Historic Preservation with Jeff Mamone (Belmont College, Building Preservation & Restoration Department). *More information to follow.*

Attendees will have the opportunity to engage directly with the tradespeople, ask questions, and gain insights into the tools, materials, and methods used to protect and restore our historic places. Whether you're a preservation professional, student, or enthusiast, this session offers a rare, hands-on look at the living traditions that keep our past alive.

Educational Sessions

8:45 am - 10:00 am

West Virginia's Green Book Multiple Property Documentation and the State's New Smallest Historic District

From 1936 to 1967, the Negro Motorist Green Book provided Black travelers in the United States with a list of safe lodgings, restaurants, and services during a time when being in the wrong place at the wrong time could be a matter of life and death. Over the course of its publication, the Green Book included listings for over 140 West Virginia businesses. As a consultant to the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, Aurora Research Associates prepared the Multiple Property Documentation cover document Green Book Sites in West Virginia and two associated National Register nominations for small historic districts in Bluefield and Morgantown. This seminar will provide an overview of the project and encourage attendees to locate, document, and nominate additional Green Book sites.

Presenters: Courtney Zimmerman, P.E. (Aurora Research Associates), Sarah Elswick (Aurora Research Associates), Cody Straley (WV State Historic Preservation Office), Vonnia Davis and Dr. Bailey Lewis (descendent of Thelma Stone, Hotel Thelma owner in Bluefield)

Location: Library (1st floor)

Creative and Revenue-Generating Uses for Historic Places

Every historic place is distinct, so also must be our approach and use of the resource. Join staff from the New Deal historic site of Arthurdale to learn about creative uses for historic places. Viewing Arthurdale Heritage as an example, this session will explore a variety of ideas to reuse and adapt challenging historic spaces such as garages, basements, barns, and ruins into revenue-generating, community hubs. We will explore and brainstorm inventive ways to breathe life into our most-cherished historic places, creating makerspaces, housing, event venues, exhibit space, and long-term rentals. Kenny and Elizabeth will share tips and tricks from their years of experience, building on the efforts of Arthurdale Heritage since 1985. Come prepared to share and discuss with fellow participants!

Presenters: Kenny Kidd and Elizabeth Satterfield (Arthurdale Heritage, Inc.)

Location: Ladies Lounge (2nd floor)

8:45 am - 10:00 am (continued)

Making the Case for Transformation - the Chattanooga Story

More information is coming soon.

Presenter: Ronna Jackson

Location: Tea Room (1st floor)

Fort Henry and the Semiquincentennial

Major Samuel McColloch's daring escape down Wheeling Hill during the 1777 siege of Fort Henry remains one of the Upper Ohio Valley's most legendary stories of pioneer heroism. In 2023, that legacy was honored with a dedication ceremony marking the relocation and restoration of the monument commemorating his leap. Led by the Fort Henry Chapter of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), this three-year project earned one of only four national preservation awards at the 131st SAR National Congress—becoming a signature contribution to America's 250th anniversary. This session will take you behind the scenes, tracing the journey from concept to completion. Hear how the team tackled the challenges of moving and restoring the monument, designing the site, and rallying financial and community support. The presentation will also highlight Wheeling's vital role in the Revolutionary War and connect this effort to other local America 250 initiatives.

Presenter: Jay Frey (President, Fort Henry Chapter, National Society, Sons of the American Revolution)

Location: Bistro (1st floor)

Morning Walking Tour Options

10:15 am - 12:15 pm

“How to Read a Building” – Navigating the Preservation Needs and Coordinating the Restoration/Renovations of a Historic Structure

This hands-on evaluation of a historic structure using actual building(s) in downtown Wheeling will provide contractors, property owners, investors and realtors with the general overview and laundry list necessary to build a phase restoration/renovation schedule and where to concentrate budget and labor efforts to achieve specific goals.

Presenter: Josh Adamo

Location: Begin in Scottish Rite classroom location TBD

East Wheeling Walking Tour

Starting at Independence Hall, this guided walk explores highlights of the Downtown, Monroe Street East, and East Wheeling historic districts. Discover a rich mix of commercial and residential architecture, ending at the McLain House—your guide’s own home, featured on Magnolia Network’s *In with the Old*.

Guide: Betsy Sweeny

Location: Meet outside, in front of the Scottish Rite to begin tour

West Virginia Independence Hall Tour

Enjoy a short walk to nearby WV Independence Hall for a tour of the birthplace of WV. This historic government building was built in 1859 for the federal government as a custom house, post office and courthouse. A National Historic Landmark, it was fully restored to its original state in the 1960s and is open to the public to tour.

Guide: Deborah Jones (Site Manager, WV Independence Hall)

Location: Meet in Scottish Rite parking lot to begin walking tour

Morning Educational Sessions Continue

10:15 am - 11:30 am

Strange Fruit - The Lethal Legacy of Sacred Places

Explore the powerful legacy of Vonnia Harris Davis's enslaved female ancestors and their deep roots in Appalachia. This session shares the stories of three extraordinary women: Olivia America Davidson Washington, second wife of Booker T. Washington; Louisa Hargro Smith, a descendant of the Goodwine Plantation and Davis's Gullah heritage; and Charlotte Walker, whose story traces through the New River Gorge and connects to Vice President Al Gore's ancestry. Their lives span seven Appalachian states—each reflecting the complexities of identity, resilience, and the lasting impact of African American history in the region.

Presenter: Vonnia Harris Davis

Location: Library

Locating, Documenting & Preserving Historic Cemeteries

Speaker 1: Courtney Zimmerman, P.E. (Aurora Research Consultants) is an architectural historian and licensed professional engineer with over 20 years of experience in historic preservation and environmental review. As founder of Aurora Research Associates, she was selected by the Hampshire County Historic Landmarks Commission to survey 100 cemeteries—building on an earlier effort that documented 150. These groundbreaking projects mark the first county-wide cemetery surveys in the state. Her presentation explores the challenges, lessons learned, and techniques behind this important work.

Speaker 2: Joni L. Morris (Preserve WV AmeriCorps Alum) launched the West Virginia Cemetery Preservation Project during her 2022–2023 term with the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, which expanded into 2023-2024 with support from a WV Humanities Council grant. These free public sessions explored the history of mountain cemeteries, along with preservation and documentation techniques. Over two years, Joni led 20 workshops, reaching 255 participants who documented more than 2,000 graves and preserved over 50 headstones. Joni will share challenges faced, methods used, and lessons learned—plus memorable moments from cemeteries state-wide.

Speaker 3: Jamie Billman (Preservation Alliance of WV) is the Preservation Manager for PAWV. She holds a Master's degree in Public History from West Virginia University and a certification in Cultural Resource Management. As an AmeriCorps member with the City of Weston, Ms. Billman led a research project to locate and document the town's African American cemetery. The project culminated in the use of Ground Penetrating Radar to identify grave sites and support ongoing preservation efforts.

Location: Ladies Lounge (2nd floor)

10:15 am - 11:30 am (continued)

From Landmark to Legacy - The Business of Transforming Wheeling's Historic Buildings into Community Assets

This session explores how historic preservation can be strategically integrated into broader commercial real estate development plans in Wheeling and across West Virginia to enhance economic growth and community engagement. Through a detailed case study of Wheeling's 1400 Market Block Redevelopment, attendees will discover how preservation can be effectively combined with other key aspects of real estate development — while also navigating challenges that arise from competing priorities and requirements.

Presenter: Eric Heinowitz (Director of Construction, Tipping Point)

Location: Bistro (1st floor)

Exhibitor Space & Poster Presentation

Rotunda

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Lunch Served & Closing Address

Bar Room/Trestle Board Room

12:30 pm

Afternoon Activities Following Lunch

Option 1 - Mt. Wood Cemetery Walking Tour

The Ohio County Cemeteries Foundation, a Friends of Wheeling spin-off, has begun concerted efforts to support preservation and conservation efforts at several “orphaned” cemeteries with no formal financial support. Through donations and city financial support, Mt. Wood Cemetery has been one of those receiving the most attention. Founded in 1848, this cemetery holds the remains of many of Wheeling's early, prominent citizens.

Guide: Jeanne Finstein (President, Friends of Wheeling)

Location: Meet following lunch and carpool over to Mt. Wood Cemetery

Option 2 - Shopping Trip to the Centre Market Historic

Guide: TBA

Location: Meet following lunch and walk/carpool over to Centre Market Historic District.




Welcome to Historic Centre Market!

Built in 1853, it is older than the state itself. The upper market house, one of the oldest in the country, was originally an open air market. From a hub of commerce to a hub of culture a century later, Centre Market is a great destination for food, shopping, events, festivals, art, and exploration in Wheeling. This easily walkable pocket district is packed with an eclectic mix of charming boutiques, unique local shops, and inviting cafés. Just a 10-minute stroll or a quick 4-minute drive south of downtown.

Where History and Modern Culture Meet

CENTREMARKET.ORG

2200 MARKET STREET 304.234.3878

Centre MARKET



explore the Market!



Silver Sponsors

