Mills Group maintains a commitment to the cultural heritage of our region. We strive to raise awareness of the significant history and culture that is the foundation of who we are and ultimately, will become.

In September 1981, a group of dedicated volunteers established the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia (PAWV). Founding members of PAWV included Dr. Barbara Howe, Ralph Pederson, Eugene Harper, Jeanne Doughty, Dr. Emory Kemp, and Beverly Fluharty. These volunteers were determined to build interest in, knowledge about, and legislative support for historic preservation through grassroots advocacy, education, and outreach. Officially incorporated the following year, the organization quickly began making significant, positive contributions to the preservation of West Virginia’s vast, proud heritage.

With similar goals in mind as were in 1981, PAWV continues to build on the original insight of its founding members. The organization continues to grow and focuses on how historic preservation can be a tool for economic and community development throughout our Mountain State.
1. Nathan Goff Jr. House

The Nathan Goff Jr. House was built from 1880 until completion in 1883, and belonged to a prominent figure in Clarksburg, and the state of West Virginia. Goff was the United States District Attorney for West Virginia from 1868 to 1883, and was the son of Waldo Goff, the owner of Waldomore. Nathan Goff Jr. was also responsible for creating the Waldo hotel, named after his father. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, but was delisted in 1994 after the house was demolished in 1993.

2. Empire National Bank Building

The Empire National Bank Building was established by Virgil Goff in 1903 in the Oak Hall Building directly across Main Street from the structure on the northwest corner of Main and Fourth Streets. In 1907, the Empire National Bank moved to the Empire Building. The Clarksburg Publishing Company used to print copies of the town’s newspaper in the bank portion of the structure. The bank was later used by MVB Bank.

3. Stonewall Jackson’s Birthplace

This site is one of over 50 within WV that can be found using CLIO! The birthplace of Confederate General Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall” Jackson was born on January 21, 1824 in Clarksburg, Virginia. He entered West Point in July 1842 and, in spite of his poor childhood education, was able to graduate seventeenth in his class in 1846. Upon graduation, Jackson served as an officer in the Mexican American War. In 1851, Jackson became a professor of artillery tactics and natural philosophy at Virginia Military Institute. He resigned from the army in 1852 and entered politics in Virginia. Also displayed on the courthouse square is the location marked by a “Civil War Trails” plaque that describes the significance of the Union Meetings in 1860 and the role they played in forming the state of West Virginia. Also displayed in the courthouse square is the flag staff of the U.S.S. West Virginia.

4. The Golf Building

The Golf Building located at Main and Court Street was constructed between 1910-1911 by Nathan Goff Jr., the owner of Waldomore. Goff was the United States District Attorney for West Virginia from 1868 to 1883, and was the son of Waldo Goff, the owner of Waldomore. Nathan Goff Jr. was also responsible for creating the Waldo hotel, named after his father. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, but was delisted in 1994 after the house was demolished in 1993.

5. Harrison County Courthouse

The current Harrison County Courthouse is not the original building and in fact has been replaced four times. However, the location is quite close to the original courthouse. The first courthouse was built at a cost of $550, while the second courthouse boasted a whipping post in the rear. The third courthouse featured a bell and clock from the previous courthouses in its construction. The location is marked by a “Civil War Trails” plaque that describes the significance of the Union Meetings in 1860 and the role they played in forming the state of West Virginia. Also displayed in the courthouse square is the flag staff of the U.S.S. West Virginia.

6. Union Bank Building

The Union Bank Building started construction in 1911, directly following the destruction of the Traders Building. The Traders Building was established in 1895 and was a prominent location for Downtown Clarksburg social life. The Union Bank Building was complete in 1913 and originally housed the Union National Bank and the Waldo Hotel. Today, the building is occupied by Chase Bank and has available commercial rental space.

7. Merchants Bank Building

The Merchants and Mechanics Bank was established as a branch of a bank in Wheeling in 1860. The bank was originally housed in a storefront of the Despard Bock. In 1894, the Merchants Bank was established and housed the storerooms, all of which are still in their original state today. In 1961, Merchant Bank’s assets were purchased by Union Bank, and the building was then purchased by its present namesake, Community Savings and Loans.

8. The Towers School

The Towers School site was previously inhabited by the Northwestern Virginia Academy until 1893. During the Civil War, the Academy was utilized as a barracks, military prison, and a hospital because Clarksburg was home to hundreds of troops from 1861 through 1865. Not only did the Academy provide room and board for soldiers, but every church did as well. Towers School was established in 1895 and served the Clarksburg community for nearly 100 years. Towers was demolished in the mid-1900s.

9. Clarksburg Municipal Building

This historic hotel was built in 1913 by Dr. Truman E. Gore, the brother of Governor Howard M. Gore, who served West Virginia from 1925 to 1929. The hotel quickly earned a reputation for elegance and it was the place to be for the leaders of the city and their guests during the boom years of the 1920s. As fewer guests came to the city center, the building was converted into office space. In 1998, the structure was reopened by Steve Haning who worked to restore some of the original exterior features while modernizing the interior.

10. Hotel Gore

This hotel was built in 1913 by Dr. Truman E. Gore, the brother of Governor Howard M. Gore, who served West Virginia from 1925 to 1929. The hotel quickly earned a reputation for elegance and it was the place to be for the leaders of the city and their guests during the boom years of the 1920s. As fewer guests came to the city center, the building was converted into office space. In 1998, the structure was reopened by Steve Haning who worked to restore some of the original exterior features while modernizing the interior.

11. Waldomore

This stately mansion was constructed in 1842 by local businessman and Virginia state senator Waldo P. Gore. The Waldomore was built with the intent to entertain prominent guests at Clarksburg and become the hub of social and political life. The Waldo Hotel currently sits vacant and is at risk of being condemned, however there are efforts being made to preserve and eventually restore the hotel.

12. Waldomore

This stately mansion was constructed in 1842 by local businessman and Virginia state senator Waldo P. Gore. The Waldomore was built with the intent to entertain prominent guests at Clarksburg and become the hub of social and political life. The Waldo Hotel currently sits vacant and is at risk of being condemned, however there are efforts being made to preserve and eventually restore the hotel.

13. Robinson Grand Theatre

The theatre opened in 1913 with the help of the Clarksburg Amusement Company. It was renovated and enlarged in 1927. A fire destroyed most of the stage and theater house in May 1939. Luckily, it was able to be rebuilt by December of the same year. The theater continued to show movies and host local events, but later shutdown due to suburban multiplexes. Thanks to local efforts, the theater has been completely remodeled.