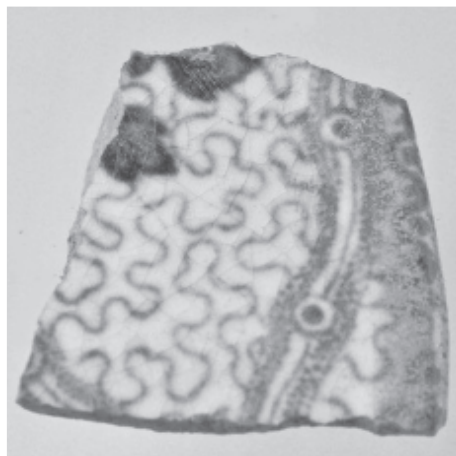


VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2, AUGUST 2011

DETAILS



A Newsletter from the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office
West Virginia Division of Culture and History



*Bulltown Historic Area and artifacts (Ceramic shard, left; Ammunition, center; Bottle seal, right).
Landscape photo by Ryan S. Davis, Park Ranger, Burnsville Lake. Artifacts photos by Alesha Jordan, volunteer.*

Remembering Frank Buckles

In late February the country mourned the death of Frank Buckles, the last living American World War I veteran. I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Buckles and his wife, Audrey, in the mid 1990s during the development of the Route 9 highway improvement project in Jefferson County.

The initial plans by the West Virginia Division of Highways included a stretch of road expansion that cut through several historic

properties. Our agencies met many times in the Eastern Panhandle to visit the properties and discuss their National Register eligibility and historic boundaries. On one such trip, we met Frank and Audrey. At the time, Mr. Buckles was not yet famous for his veteran status; he was simply introduced as the property owner of Gap View Farm.

As we drove up the lane, we passed an elderly gentleman driving a tractor. This was Mr. Buckles, the owner



Driveway to Gap View Farm

Front Cover: In the photo, you can see the Museum on the left followed by the corn crib, cellar, spring house, and Cunningham house. The Cunningham house was built in the mid-1800s on this site. Most of the structures were relocated to this area when the property for Burnsville Lake was purchased by the Corps of Engineers in an effort to preserve some of the unique history of the area. A total of 11 structures are present in this area and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Weston and Gauley Bridge Turnpike pass by the Cunningham House and was a major artery of transportation before, during, and after the Civil War. —Ryan S. Davis

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of Gap View Farm. As a farmer and land owner, he was interested in seeing what could be done to prevent the four lane highway from cutting an east-west section of right of way along the edge of his property. During our visit to Gap View Farm, the Buckles gave us a tour of their home. On that tour, Mrs. Buckles shared with us the romantic story of waiting to hear the fate of her future husband, who was a

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prisoner of war imprisoned in the Philippines. One day as she sat under the piano, she heard Frank's voice from the radio as he was interviewed upon his release. To me, it seemed like a 1940s war movie plot.

We also discussed the highway project that day. Subsequently, a consultant prepared a National Register nomination for the farm. It became one of the first nominations in West Virginia that broke a then existing office tradition of nominating only the main residence with a small boundary around it. The boundary for Gap View Farm included 330 acres as well as 17 contributing buildings, three structures and agricultural fields. These fields had been used for grazing and other farm activities since the late eighteenth century. Further consultation with the Division of Highways led to the redesign of the highway right of way to avoid the farm.

I haven't forgotten my visit to Gap View and looking out over the farmland to the gap in the mountain ridge. I later realized that I had visited two unique people.

Recently, when I scanned Mr. Buckles' Wikipedia entry, the extensive information in his entry focused on his efforts to establish a national World War I memorial and his late in life celebrity status. There was a brief mention of his membership in the Jefferson County Historical Society of which he served as president from 1960-64. That one line is a clue to another important dimension of his life. He cared about history, and he cared about his historic farm.

Individuals make a difference, and during the review process for Route 9, the Buckles protected their heritage. My visit with them that day will remain one of my favorite memories of my career. —Susan Pierce

NEWS AND NOTES

Welcome to the Team

Emily Dale, Review and Compliance archaeologist, joined the staff in March 2011. She received her B.A. in Anthropology and Sociology with minors in Appalachian Studies and French from Warren Wilson College in 2004. She holds an M.A. in Archaeology from the University of South Carolina at Columbia, where she concentrated her studies on the late prehistoric, or Mississippian, period. Her Master's thesis focused on the socio-political relationships between contemporary settlements in the Savannah River Valley, which involved leading excavations and analysis of a mound site in Georgia.



Emily Dale, archaeologist

Since graduating, Emily has taught artifact analysis, managed archaeological laboratories and led archaeological projects across the Southeast.

October is Archaeology Month

Archaeology is the scientific study of the human past. It allows us to learn beyond the limits of written records. Through studies and research by archaeologists, we can learn more about our culture and also about the people who were here centuries before us.

At the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), our staff provides technical assistance to the public and to government agencies to ensure that archaeological sites are preserved. Our efforts help to protect West Virginia's prehistoric resources. Many times when people discuss historic preservation, they forget about the resources that cannot be seen. What lies beneath the ground; the information we can learn from earthworks, mounds and petroglyphs or even the site where an old barn once stood, can provide vital information about our past.

This October we will celebrate

Archaeology Month. We encourage you to learn more about your heritage through archaeology. There are many organizations that can be contacted to learn more about West Virginia archaeology. You can attend a program or lecture at Grave Creek Archaeological Mound Complex in Moundsville, operated by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex's annual *Archaeology Month Weekend* is scheduled to be held on October 1-2, 2011. For more information about this program, contact Grave Creek at (304)843-4128.

While we encourage you to discover more about our history, please remember that we discourage digging artifacts and that trespassing on federal land and private property is illegal.

Preservation Inspiration

*Brown-Shugart House,
Charles Town*


Charity Beth Long and her husband, Kevin, were awarded a State Development grant through the West Virginia Division of Culture and History in May 2010. The grant was awarded to repair the roof and the exterior of the home, which includes window restoration, repairing and replacing multiple standing seam roofs, replacing gutters and repairing a number of the wooden architectural features of the house.

Charity grew up in a historic district in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, where she lived in a 1920s Colonial home. She recalls the beautiful fountain set in the middle of her street and can recall the time she spent on the historic main street visiting the ice cream parlor, gift shops and restaurants. Seeing how Charity grew up surrounded by historic buildings, experiencing the benefits of historic preservation and learning the importance of preservation from her mother, Charity is sincere when she says that preservation runs in her blood.

She and her husband have been restoring the Brown-Shugart House over the past five years, living out of a few makeshift rooms during these restorations. Anxious to get the exterior projects finished and to complete the family room, Charity wants to host a dinner party! The house design includes a ballroom, and with this space, it would be a great room to hold an event. Charity loves to entertain and her desire to share the

beauty of this historic home with her friends keeps her motivated during these *many* restoration projects.

Charity has some words of encouragement for others who are tackling a restoration project. First word of advice, “Go with the flow!” The Longs have faced many setbacks in the past five years and unfortunately it has taken much longer to restore the house than expected. However, she reminds us that once you see the results of your preservation projects, it can “fill you with such pride.” Finally, Charity reminds us to “stay focused and keep positive.”

If you would like to share the story of your restoration projects with SHPO, please contact Sara Prior at sara.a.prior@wv.gov. 

Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex

What do a 2,000 year old Adena burial mound and 2,000 boxes of artifacts have in common? Answer: they are both located at the Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex in Moundsville.

In 2008, the West Virginia Division of Culture and History officially opened a new state-of-the-art archaeological collections management facility at the Grave Creek site in Moundsville. The \$3.1



Brown-Shugart House, Jefferson County



Left-right: Heather Cline and Yvonne Becka, staff members

million research wing was funded by the National Park Service's *Save America's Treasures* program through the efforts of the late Senator Robert C. Byrd and matching funds from the West Virginia Legislature.

The facility provides West Virginia archaeology with a permanent home for an existing collection of some 2,000 boxes of artifacts excavated from around the Mountain State. More than 5,000 of the 9,600 square foot facility are dedicated to the security and archival storage for West Virginia's archaeological collections. The facility will soon be home to materials obtained during recent archaeological projects and those anticipated to be recovered over the next fifteen years.

The research wing was added to the existing Delf Norona Museum, which is dedicated to the interpretation of West Virginia archaeology and the Adena Culture that built the nearby

Grave Creek Mound between 250-150 B.C. The Grave Creek Mound is the largest conical earthen burial mound known to have been built by the Adena—standing nearly 70 feet.

A popular aspect of the research wing is an observation window which allows visitors to look into a working archaeological laboratory. Here visitors can witness archaeology in action while curators carefully process, catalog and analyze artifacts prior to placement in storage for future access.

Aside from artifacts, the research facility maintains an archival collection of field notes and records which accompany each collection that is brought in. The facility also houses archaeological documents from the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey's former Archaeology Section which once oversaw archaeological work in the state. The archival collections include site files relating to each of West Virginia's

counties. A research library is being developed around a large personal library that was donated by Christine Dragoo, the widow of Dr. Don Dragoo, a prominent archaeologist who spent much of his career working in the upper Ohio Valley Region.

While one objective of the Research Facility is to house collections, it plays an important role with ongoing archaeological research. Visiting researchers and scholars have access to the collections in a room where artifacts are made available for study. Since opening, the facility has seen an increase in the research use of the collections.

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History employs two full-time staff members, Heather Cline and Yvonne Becka, to oversee the operations of the facility. Volunteers and student interns assist them in their work. The Research Facility is designed to meet federal curation standards, which means that environmental climate and archival controls are maintained to protect the collection for future generations.

While the Research Facility is generally closed to the public, it is open for special guided tours throughout the year, such as during Grave Creek Mound's Annual Archaeology Weekend held each October as part of West Virginia's Archaeology Month Program. Researchers who wish to use the facility must call to schedule an appointment.

The Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex is located at 801 Jefferson Avenue, Moundsville, West Virginia 26041 and is open 9-5 Mon.-Sat. and 12-5 Sun., with access to the mound and gift shop closing at 4:30 p.m. For further information, call (304)843-4128. —David E. Rotenizger, *Site Manager* ■

Roane County's Heck Mansion

When the time came to plan this issue of Details, Tami Koontz, SHPO GIS manager, told me a little about her “favorite place.” I could feel her excitement as she explained, “I went on a site visit to the Heck Mansion, located in Spencer. The house is beautiful! The visit was some time ago, so I can’t remember too many details, but I can remember the large skylight and the locker rooms with showers in the basement.”

Tami went on to talk about how the house reminded her of the Governor’s Mansion. While discussing the mansion, Tami pointed out several similarities that the Heck Mansion shared with the Governor’s Mansion. Wanting to know more about this beautiful mansion in Roane

County, I decided to do some research.

In 1999, the Heck Mansion, or the McIntosh Mansion, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural value. Designed by the West Virginia construction firm of Wallace Knight, the home was built in 1925 by the home’s namesake, Albert S. Heck. He was born in Tyler County, but was most notable for his business in the oil and gas industry in Roane County. The home sits on approximately 30 acres of land that includes a large pond and a wetland area. The house was designed with 17 rooms, six baths and a full basement.

Even though Wallace Knight was never registered to practice as an architect in West Virginia, he specialized in the design and construction of

fine residences and apartment buildings. Knight gained local fame and respect when he constructed the West Virginia Executive Mansion, 1924-25, which was designed by architect Walter F. Martens. It just so happened that when Knight was hired to be a builder for the construction of the Executive Mansion, he was constructing the Heck home in Spencer also. With both buildings being of Neoclassical design and having similar features, no wonder Tami immediately thought of the Governor’s Mansion when she visited the Heck Mansion.

The discovery that the same construction firm was credited for the work of these two amazing homes made me excited and happy that Tami shared her “favorite place” with me. Historic places and homes are vital connections to our past. These places make us feel at home and invite us to explore the history that can be found. Whether we are studying about a Civil War battle, an architectural style or the people that once lived in a home, it is the preservation of these resources that allow us to see and experience history.

Tami was an architectural detective without knowing it. Even though she didn’t know why these two homes looked so much alike, she had paid attention to the details that could connect them to Wallace Knight. Each day we can observe the defining characteristics of the buildings that we pass by when commuting to work or school or running errands. From the grandest building to the simplest designs, buildings from our past were built to become someone’s “favorite place.”—Sara Prior with contributions from Tami Koontz

Heck Mansion, Roane County, above; Governor’s Mansion, Kanawha County, below



Survey & Planning Grants

At its February 4, 2011 meeting, the West Virginia Archives and History Commission awarded the FY2011 survey and planning grants. These grants are funded through the annual Historic Preservation Fund of the National Park Service. Each year at least 10% of the state's annual grant is set aside for use by Certified Local Governments (CLG) to conduct historic preservation activities. For more information, please contact SHPO.—*Pam Brooks*

C&O Depot Historic Condition Report, Ronceverte

Hire a consultant to prepare a Historic Conditions Report on the C&O Depot to determine condition of building. \$16,000. City of Ronceverte, Greenbrier County.

Greenbrier County Survey Phase II, Rainelle Vicinity

Hire a consultant to conduct an architectural/historical survey of the western portion of the county outside of Rainelle. \$7,000. Greenbrier County Commission, Greenbrier County.

Hampshire County National Register Project, Hampshire County

Hire a consultant to prepare four individual National Register nominations. \$7,000. Hampshire County Commission, Hampshire County.

Hinton Walking Tour, Hinton

Develop and print an updated historic Hinton walking tour brochure. \$4,200. City of Hinton, Summers County.

Oak Hill Survey, Oak Hill

Hire a consultant to conduct an architectural/historical survey within the city limits of Oak Hill. \$14,000. Fayette County Historic Landmark Commission/City of Oak Hill, Fayette County.

Ranson Old Town Survey, Ranson

Hire a consultant to conduct an architectural/historical survey of the Old Town section of Ranson. \$7,000. City of Ranson, Jefferson County.

Ronceverte ARCGIS Program, Ronceverte

To assist with the purchase of the ArcGIS program. \$1,000. City of Ronceverte, Greenbrier County.

The Wonders of the Wine Cellars, Dunbar

Hire an engineer and historic architect to examine and investigate the cellars and design a plan to restore doors, damaged front wall; evaluate current landscape and its stability. \$3,500. City of Dunbar, Kanawha County.

Thomas City Tour Development, Thomas

Research, develop and print walking tour brochure and install interpretive signs. \$12,600. Tucker County Historic Landmark Commission, Tucker County.

Woodburn Historic District Survey, Morgantown

Hire a consultant to conduct an historic/architectural survey of the Woodburn neighborhood in Morgantown. \$8,400. Morgantown Historic Landmark Commission, Monongalia County.

Second Round State Development Grants

The WV Legislature provides annual funding assistance for the preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of historic resources listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This matching grant program is competitive and based upon selection criteria included in our annual work program. For FY2011, with remaining funds after the first round of grants, we advertised for applications. The following State Development Grants were recommended by staff and approved by the Archives and History Commission at their February 4, 2011 meeting: For more information about grant opportunities, please contact SHPO.—*Pam Brooks*

Fort Pleasant, Old Fields

Rebuild masonry; structural repairs on collapsed wall; repair windows, doors, chair railing, floors; repair/replace electric and plumbing. \$50,000. Renick & Betty Williams, Hardy County.

Thomas Fleming House, Fairmont

Repair/replace rotted wood; repair declamation of stucco; repair window sills; preserve window heads; install pebble dashed veneer over all existing pebble dashed area; re-caulk sides and bottom of window. \$5,587. Woman's Club of Fairmont, Marion County.

Mawell Duncan House, Clarksburg

Repair the front porch, back porch, sun room; repair structural damage to West wall; repair windows; install heating system and fire sprinkler. \$8,500. Martin Shaffer, Harrison County.

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DETAILS

State Historic Preservation Office
The Culture Center
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston WV 25305-0300

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
P.O. Box 2868
Charleston, WV
25301

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Capitol Theatre, Wheeling

Restore existing windows; replace existing door in newly renovated concession/restroom area with bronze anodized aluminum in similar style. \$14,000. Wheeling Convention and Visitors Bureau, Ohio County.

Rowlesburg Area Historical Society Building, Rowlesburg

Repair foundation; repair/replace rim board; repair bathroom floor; remove and replace shingles; repair eave; repair gutters; repair 15 windows. \$9,894. Town of Rowlesburg, Preston County.

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hp CALENDAR

August 2-6, 2011

The 15th annual International
Preservation Trades Workshop
Lancaster, PA
www.iptw.org

October 19-22, 2011

National Trust Historic
Preservation Conference
Buffalo, NY
www.preservationnation.org

October 1-31, 2011

Archaeology month
West Virginia
www.wvculture.org

October 31, 2011

Survey and Planning grant
application deadline
www.wvculture.org/shpo

October 12-15, 2011

Pioneer America Society:
Association for the Preservation
of Artifacts and Landscapes
Annual Conference
Indian River State College
Stuart, FL
www.pioneeramerica.org