

HISTORY

Weston Historic Landmark Commissions news and announcements

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2021 In Review

This year has included numerous projects for the Weston Historic Landmark Commission. With the support of city staff and volunteers who helped make 2021 a very productive year for the HLC we wanted to share a few of the highlights with you.

The HLC welcomed our first PAWV AmeriCorps member, Jamie Billman, to the commission.

The Clio walking tour provided by a grant by the West Virginia Humanities Council complete with interpretive signage along the route. Have you not had a chance to experience the walking tour yet? You can find it here <https://www.theclio.com/tour/1774>

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The Woman Suffrage historical marker has been awarded and installed at the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum.

The former Columbia Club building located on Court Street has been slated for preservation through a grant from the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture, and History. The building has been cleaned out and restoration will begin in early 2022. This will be a three-year project which will provide Weston with a community facility for all.

The Smithsonian Crossroads in Rural America exhibit was awarded by the West Virginia Humanities Council and came to Weston this fall for an amazing tour. The grant supported additional programming including, a historic play, heritage music in the park, mental health panels, historical reenactments, local historical exhibits, scavenger hunts and so much more. The exhibit was graciously hosted at the WV Museum of American Glass on Main Street. Several guided walking tours were created and offered this year by the Weston Historic Landmark Commission.

Grant awards for ARPA funds were provided by the West Virginia Humanities Council to HLC to support several impacted ongoing projects.

Did you notice the new parking lot sign at the free parking lot across from the municipal building? This sign was provided by the City of Weston through an initiative of the HLC.

These are just a few of the 2021 highlights for the Weston Historic Landmark Commission. So what is next? 2022 is going to be an exciting year for historic preservation in Weston. Projects underway include the repointing and masonry workshops on downtown buildings. Historic photo contest, Historic Home walking tour, and civil war walking tour.

We are currently updating our entire historic registry list of historic buildings. Do you have a historic home or building not on the list and want it included? Now is the time to reach out and find out how we can help you get your home or building added to the historic registry.

Spring of 2022 will kick off the major efforts on Old Hill Cemetery including restoration and clean up.

The Cultural Center will be making great progress this year and giving our downtown a major facelift. Initiatives to protect and preserve local history and work on new exciting exhibits and efforts for the community to enjoy. If you wish to contribute to this project you can find out how by visiting the center on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/westonculturalcenter>

Archaeology Feature

Weston is currently in the works to bring Youngstown State University's Tom Jordan to Weston as part of ongoing efforts to resurvey the Old Hill Cemetery. Jordan, a specialist in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), has worked at several cemeteries with an emphasis on clandestine grave research. He has also done work on underground hazard identification and landslide susceptibility. Information gathered by Jordan and his students will be used to create a more accurate plot map of the old cemetery that accounts for natural land movement occurring over time, sinking, and the movement of tombstones. With this plot map, volunteers will be able to work in the cemetery to restore headstones and put them in line with the graves they are meant for. If you'd like to help out with this project please reach out to the historic landmarks commission.



"Historic Focus" Photo Contest

The honorary first recipient of the "Historic Focus" Photo Contest is Jadis Cardelli who submitted this photo of the Court House in town. This photo contest is meant to highlight local photographers and historic buildings and sites throughout the town. Anyone is eligible to enter, and quarterly winners will win a prize. Submissions can be made to jbillman@cityofwestonwv.com with the email subject line "Historic Focus Photo Contest".



The Weston Cultural Center

2022 marks the beginning of the historic preservation of the former "Columbia Club" Building. Efforts are slated to start mid-February 2022 with the demolition of the front façade addition. The process may appear slow at first to passersby as most of the efforts of the first quarter of work are put into electrical, HVAC, and the roof, but trust the process, these are integrally important steps in historic preservation.

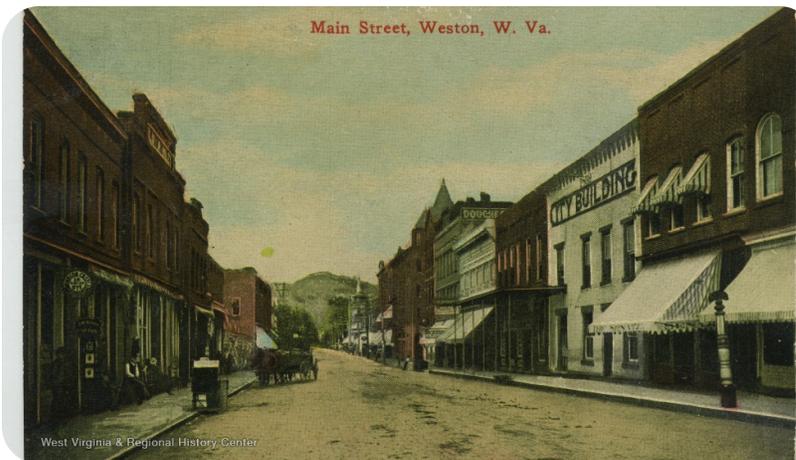
Now being called the "Weston Cultural Center", the city of Weston is designing this building to be a space for everyone to come together and experience cultural events like art, theater, music, and also function daily as a recreational space for everyone, with an emphasis on the humanities. This will be accomplished with programming brought to you by community partnerships.

The venue will be a space to feature local artists, musicians, and exhibits. A place to gather and a place to learn.

While we work on programming to shape the way we live and learn we would love to hear from you to find out more about what cultural experience you would like to enjoy in our community. This project is being funded in part by the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture, and History.



West Virginia & Regional History Center



Main Street, Weston, W. Va.

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