

First Ward School Designated!

First Ward School has been selected by Preservation Alliance of West Virginia for the 2009 Endangered List. This designation will help to highlight the need to save the building, raise public awareness, and provide technical assistance to help with planning and preservation.

First Ward School building was closed as a school in the 1970s and was used as a storage facility for a number of years thereafter. It is essentially abandoned now, with an increasingly serious roof leak. It sits next to the old Elkins High School, which is not as old but is in much worse condition, and is slated for demolition as soon as funding can be found. C-HOPE and Elkins Historic Landmarks Commission funded an initial study of the building, working to persuade the school board that the building should be saved and adaptively reused, instead of being torn down with the High School.

C-HOPE is seeking support letters for grant funding to repair the roof. Anyone interested in helping on behalf of the building, please contact C-HOPE for more information.

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New Grant for Darden Mill Work

A Rural Business Enterprise Grant from U.S.D.A Rural Development was awarded to the Darden Mill project in the fall of 2008, breathing new life into rehabilitation work at the Mill. Combined with the final funds remaining from our Phase II Cultural Facilities Grant from the Arts section of the Division of Culture and History we are able to keep contractors and AmeriCorps team busy working. Donations to provide match for these grants are still urgently needed to keep the working moving forward.

A great deal of progress has been made on the Darden Mill. The first AFHA AmeriCorps historic preservation team and Middle Forks Builders wrapped up their work by summer with footer and structural repairs, restoration and building of exterior doors, and cleaning and painting of some of the interior. The heating system for the first floor was installed and one of the bathrooms was made usable, greatly improving working conditions. In October, the second team of AmeriCorps – Joe Sabatino continuing a second year, plus Darrell Barlow, Russell Honderd, Anna Harrod, and Claudette Thorne -- started their work along with Cheat Mountain Builders. Now the first floor has wiring, interior walls for bathrooms, offices, and kitchen area, and the wood floor has been repaired. The next phase of the work will include continued interior work on the first floor, the installation of the heating system on the third floor, and completion of the exterior work.



Feel free to drop by the Mill to see progress, or see pictures on c-hope@yahoo.com listserve or our web site at www.c-hopewv.org.

Riverside School

The Riverside Alumni Association has purchased the old Riverside School with an initial down payment. They have three years to raise the remaining funds to purchase the property. The brick two-story building, located on River Street in Elkins, needs extensive preservation work.

The Riverside School was an all black school during the time of segregation, providing quality education through high school for black students of Randolph and surrounding counties. The Alumni Association plans to turn the top floor into a museum and archive about the school and the black community, and use the lower level as a mentoring facility for youth.



Work to preserve the building began for Make A Difference Day in October 2008, when the AFHA AmeriCorps team chose the building as one of its service projects. Working with Youth Build students and teachers, and other community volunteers, the group restored the pediment on the front of the building, and repaired brick work at the entrance. All products and materials for the work day, as well as lunch for the volunteers, were donated from local businesses.

First Ward continued

First Ward School was constructed between 1908 and 1909 as a facility to educate the children of Elkins' rapidly expanding population at the turn of the 20th century. The design of First Ward School is attributed to Fairmont Architect Andrew C. Lyons, who is credited with the design of two similar schools -- Elkins' Third Ward School and Fairmont's Fifth Ward School. First Ward was completed and opened for class in the fall of 1909.

First Ward is designed in the Georgian-Revival style and is constructed of locally available building materials, including hand-cut sandstone, brick, and native hardwoods, used in the structural members, flooring, and decorative trim. The eight room schoolhouse stands two-stories tall and has a full-basement. The floor plan, very modern for its day, used a modified "H" and rows of large double-hung windows to flood the rooms in natural light for children's health. The floor plan also featured large open rooms with cloakrooms, twin sets of staircases, wide halls, indoor plumbing, washrooms, kitchen, electric lights, central heat, and modern furnishings. In 1910, First Ward School's modern design and architecture were highlighted in a publication by the WV Department of Free Schools on school architecture in West Virginia.

Dues are Due – Join C-HOPE Now!

We are always looking for new folks to get involved and share ideas. What are your preservation issues and priorities? C-HOPE meets monthly, usually on the fourth Thursday of each month, at 7 pm at the Darden House. Join our email list by sending an email to C-HOPE-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to stay up with the latest activities, as well as for confirmations or any changes to the meeting schedule.

Please send in your dues today for 2009. This helps us continue our work – including sending out these newsletters!

We still need donations of match money to complete these grants and to get all the work done. With the hard work of our crew, and the generous donations from our supporters, our work will be able to continue. We ask that you please give now. All donations, large and small, are urgently needed in order to match these grants and get the work done.

**CITIZENS FOR HISTORICAL OPPORTUNITY,
PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION**
PO Box 1961, Elkins, WV 26241 — 304-636-6182 — www.c-hopewv.org



10 March, 2009

Dear Friends,

As you know, C-HOPE is a grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to furthering historic preservation, heritage education, community development, and heritage tourism in Randolph County. We aim to provide one source for coordinating preservation efforts, education and advocacy in our county. Please get involved and let us know your priorities in preserving the rich heritage of our county.

Our initial project, preserving and rehabilitating the Darden Mill building, continues to move forward. We have raised almost \$500,000 to date in grants and donations to match these grants. We still need donations to match the grants and meet the inflating costs of construction. We are doing all we can to keep costs low and stretch our donation dollars as far as possible – but we need continued donations from all of our supporters to complete the building. C-HOPE is an accredited 501c(3) organization, so all donations are fully tax-deductible

When done, the Darden Mill will become the Appalachian Forest Heritage Area Discovery Center, with exhibits showcasing the rich forest heritage of our region and with artisans workshops supporting working artists. This facility will coordinate with and support the other developments on the Elkins Railyard, attracting visitors and encouraging tourists to stay longer, see more, and spend more during their visit.

We are asking you, friends of Randolph County's heritage, to join or renew your C-HOPE membership now, and to donate what you can for 2009 toward making the Darden Mill an outstanding asset for our community. .

Thank you for your support,

Your friends with C-HOPE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

C-HOPE 2008 dues ___\$10 basic ___\$25 family/business ___\$50 supporting ___\$100 sustaining

Donation for Darden Mill project: \$ _____ donation

___ I am willing to volunteer time for projects ___ I want to be on mailing / email list

I am interested in ___ Darden Mill ___ First Ward ___ Riverside School _____ what else??

Please return the form with your tax-deductible donation to: C-HOPE, PO Box 1961, Elkins, WV 26241

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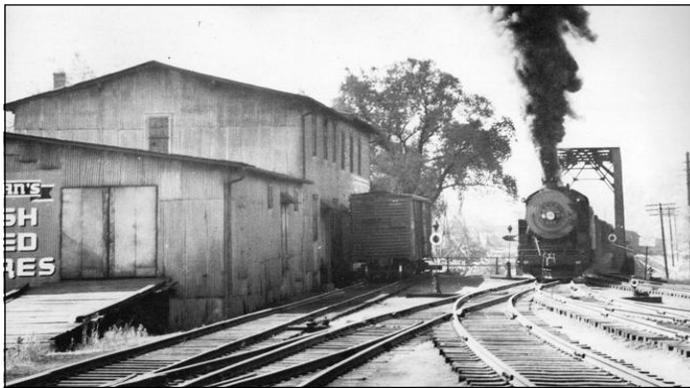


C-HOPE in Randolph Co
PO Box 1961
Elkins, WV 26241



Ramp Rolls!!!

Come enjoy C-HOPE's famous Ramp Rolls at the revamped Ramps and Rails Festival, Saturday April 25th, in the Elkins Town Square behind the Depot. Handmade from a secret recipe, and cooked for you on the spot, our ramp rolls can't be found anywhere else. Accompanied by ramp pad thai, you'll have a unique springtime multi-cultural mountain experience. The ramp rolls are one of C-HOPE primary fundraising events. Contact C-HOPE if you can help us out with the booth or cooking prep. Be sure to come out and eat your fill!



Mill Volunteers!

We're almost ready to paint the walls of the new office area in the Darden Mill. If you would be interested in helping out with a volunteer painting day, contact C-HOPE, watch the email list, or come to our next meeting.