



*Roland E Cook School formerly on the  
Endangered Sites List*

**FOCUS ON  
PRESERVATION**  
LATEST NEWS FROM ROANOKE  
VALLEY PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

**SPRING  
2019**

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## May is Preservation Month!

This month is all about how this place matters. RVPF is hosting and partnering with different organizations throughout the month of May to help promote community success stories and to advocate for continuing preservation of our special places.

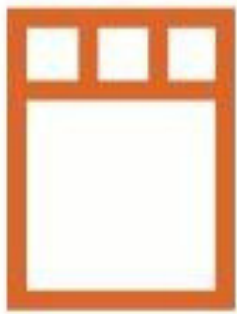
You can join us for a historic walking tour of downtown Roanoke on May 4; see the latest interpretive sign installed by RVPF on May 16; have a beer and some conversation about Roanoke before it was Roanoke also on May 16; get your hands dirty at an important community clean-up on May 18th at the historic Villa Heights; hop on your bike and learn more about Roanoke's history while you ride and enjoy the day; and hear about the 2019 Endangered Sites List!

*Villa Heights formerly on the  
Endangered Sites List*



**YOU'RE INVITED!**

## Community Partnership Day at Villa Heights



**RESTORATION  
HOUSING**

Come get your hands dirty and experience the power of community working together! Volunteers are needed for Restoration Housing's 4th Annual Community Partnership Day presented by Freedom First Credit Union. This event brings members of our community together to beautify properties under the management of Restoration Housing. This year we are working on Restoration Housing's third project - the future satellite center for the Boys & Girls Club of SWVA, Villa Heights. Work will include clearing brush and debris, cleaning playground equipment, prepping flowerbeds, installing plants, and mulching. Plan to BYOGT – bring your own gloves and trowel! All other tools, refreshments, and Restoration Housing Community Partnership Day T-Shirt will be provided.

To participate contact Maribeth at

[maribeth@restorationhousing.org](mailto:maribeth@restorationhousing.org)



McClanahan's Mill at the Big Spring  
*Virginia Room, Roanoke Public Library*

Crystal Spring was the main water source for Native Americans and early European settlers of Roanoke. It was known originally as the "Fountain" and the "Big Spring." The first pioneer to use the spring was Mark Evans, a Welshman who migrated to the Roanoke Valley around 1740 after securing several land grants from King George of over 1,900 acres, including the Big Spring tract (87 acres) at the base of present-day Mill Mountain.

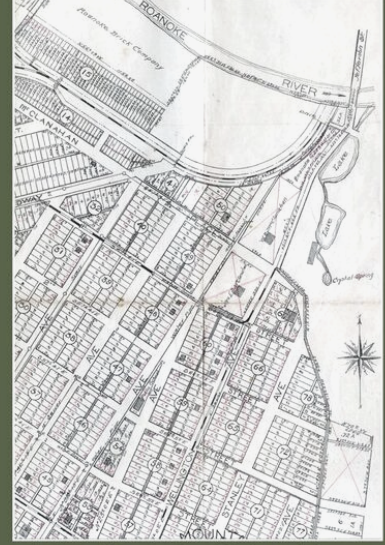
Mark Evans built a grist mill about 400 feet below the spring. When he died in 1748, his eldest son, Daniel, inherited the mill and the Big Spring Homestead. After Daniel's death in 1755, his wife, Rhoda, continued to live there. In October of 1756, during the French and Indian War, Colonel George Washington inspected the region's forts and water sources for the militia and stayed one night at Widow Evans' home.

In 1782, William McClanahan acquired Big Spring. McClanahan owned over 3,000 acres in Northwest and South Roanoke, including Mill Mountain. In 1851, his grandson, Elijah McClanahan, bought the Big Spring Homestead

with expanded milling operations for flour, corn, and lumber. Fire destroyed the mill in 1886.

In 1889, the Roanoke Gas and Water Company purchased all the McClanahan interests and granted 837 acres to the Crystal Spring Land Company, which developed the South Roanoke neighborhood. In 1905, the Roanoke Gas and Water Company purchased a modern 200-ton water pump and built a brick station to house it. Manufactured by the Snow Steam Pump Company of Buffalo, New York, the pump was replaced by an electric pump in 1957. Crystal Spring continues as an important drinking water source for the valley with a flow of about 4.3 million gallons per day.

Crystal Spring Pump Station is on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.



1915 Map of Property, Crystal Spring Land Company  
*courtesy of Sarah Renick Baumgardner*



McClanahan's Mill Flume  
*Virginia Room, Roanoke Public Library*



Commissioned by the Roanoke Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia in celebration of their Centennial Anniversary 1918-2018



# Unveiling of New Interpretive Marker for Crystal Spring/Evans Mill

Our Tours and Interpretive Panels Committee completed the graphics for an interpretive sign about the history of Crystal Spring and the Pump House. The sign has been sponsored by the Colonial Dames, Roanoke Chapter. The Gropen, Inc. sign company of Charlottesville has finished production and installation and the 24 x 36 sign will be unveiled on the property of the Western Virginia Water Authority at the intersection of Jefferson Avenue and Yellow Mountain Road/McClanahan Street.

**Join us for the unveiling on Thursday May 16 at 5:30pm near the Crystal Spring Pump Station at the corner of Yellow Mountain Road and Jefferson Street.**



# ENDANGERED SITES FOR 2019

*Billy's Cabin formerly & currently on the  
Endangered Sites List*



*The Virginian Station formerly on  
the Endangered Sites List*

## This Place Matters: Help RVPF Save Local Treasures

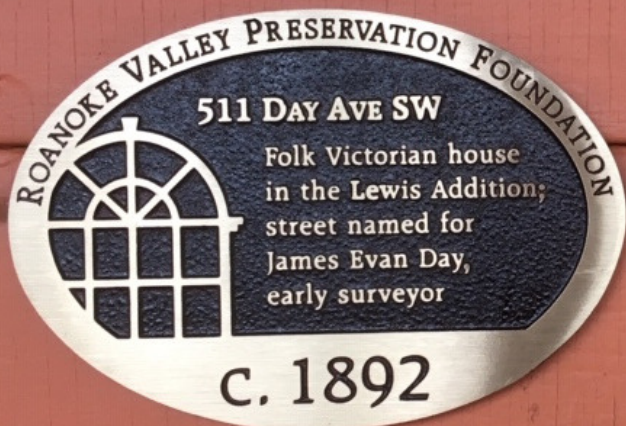
In 1988 Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation formed to save the historic facades at 120 Campbell Avenue in downtown Roanoke. Ever since then, RVPF has announced an annual list of Endangered Sites. These are important places throughout the Roanoke Valley that are in danger of being lost forever due to demolition and neglect. There have been many success stories over the last 30 years - RVPF has even played a big role in helping save or rehabilitate some sites. But we can't do it alone - it takes an entire community to be aware of and willing to invest in saving these treasures. Join us on May 18 at 12pm at Villa Heights (2750 Hoover St NW) as we announce our 2019 list of significant places that are in danger of disappearing forever AND learn how you can help!

# Have You Heard About Our Plaque Program?

Historic homes and buildings in the Roanoke Valley can now be recognized under a Historic Plaque Program being administered by RVPF. The program not only brings 'history to the street' for those passing by your home or building, but also brands them as desirable locations for potential home buyers, tenants, and business owners to live, work and/or invest in. Installing a plaque on your home or building helps others understand its historical significance in our community. Plaques are 10" x 7" cast bronze ovals with brown pebbled backgrounds forged by Paul W. Zimmerman Foundries (responsible for casting most National Register of Historic Places plaques across the country). Several sites already have plaques including Fire Station No. 1, the Virginia Museum of Transportation (Norfolk & Western Freight Station), the Municipal Building and most recently, Old Southwest homeowner Bill Joyce at 511 Day Avenue SW. The cost per plaque is \$300 and includes research for the text to be used on the plaque that includes the building's historic name, brief description and construction date, the plaque's production, shipping, regulatory approvals from the city, installation instructions, and hardware.

*For additional information,*

visit <http://www.roanokepreservation.org/historic-plaque-program/> or email [plaques@roanokepreservation.org](mailto:plaques@roanokepreservation.org).



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## Historic Properties and Section 106 Historic Preservation Act

Have you ever wondered if there are protection measures in place for known historic properties? The answer is yes, IF there are federal funds involved. The 1966 National Historic Preservation Act established federal policy for historic properties and initiated the National Register of Historic Places and the National Landmark Register Programs. Section 106 of the Act established how federal agencies should work with historic properties and requires agencies to consider the effects of its actions on historic properties by identifying properties, assessing adverse effects, and resolving those adverse effects. Federal agencies initiate the evaluation process and include comments and input from stakeholders at the local and State levels, working with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Some examples of how Section 106 procedures apply to recent projects in the Roanoke Region include:

**City of Roanoke (HUD and other Federal Funding)** – A long-standing programmatic agreement lists The Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation as a consulting party when dealing with federal funds that affect historic properties in the City of Roanoke. Our past participation resulted in successful implementation of design changes to the cell tower erected near Franklin Road and the Southwest Historic District. At present, we are consulting party for proposed improvements to Wasena Bridge (Southwest Historic District and Wasena Historic District).

**Mountain Valley Pipeline, Roanoke County** – As part of the environmental review procedures, historic districts and properties were identified as affected. A programmatic agreement between the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) included the County of Roanoke as a consulting party for commenting on the following Bent Mountain Rural Historic District, Coles-Terry Rural Historic District, and two archaeology sites. As part of the Section 106 mitigation plan, Mountain Valley Pipeline provided \$500,000 for rehabilitation of the former Bent Mountain School.



PROTECT • PROMOTE • PROSPER

PO Box 1366, Roanoke, VA, 24007  
[www.roanokepreservation.org](http://www.roanokepreservation.org)

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## Calendar of Events

*Saturday, May 4* - **Jane Jacobs Walk** - Downtown Roanoke @ 11am  
@ City Market Building with Roanoke Dept of Planning

*Thursday, May 16* - **Crystal Spring Interpretive Sign Unveiling** @  
530pm @ Crystal Spring Pump Station with Colonial Dames

*Thursday, May 16* - **Preservation Pub Talk** - *Roanoke Before It Was  
Roanoke* @ 630pm @ Fork in the Alley

*Saturday, May 18* - **Community Work Day** - Outdoor Clean-Up at Villa  
Heights @9am (2750 Hoover Street NW) with Restoration Housing

*Saturday, May 18* - **2019 Endangered Sites Announcement** @ 12pm  
@ Villa Heights

*Saturday, May 18* - **History By Bike** @ 10am @ Villa Heights with  
RideSolutions

*Thursday, June 6* - **Trivia Night** @ 6pm @ Soaring Ridge Brewery  
with History Museum of Western Virginia

### Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation Board of Directors:

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