



ROANOKE VALLEY PRESERVATION FOUNDATION ENDANGERED SITES 2015

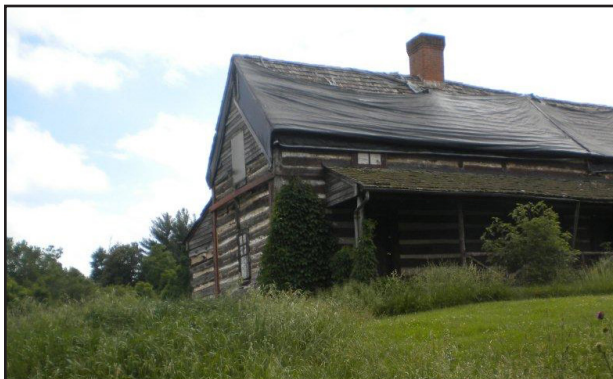
The Preservation organization has called attention to threats against old, potentially useful buildings and natural resources annually since 1996. The Foundation encourages owners to find ways to use these older properties and to care for natural resources.

BULLDOZER AWARD WINNER

THE ROANOKE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

For the 2015 demolition of Wood's End

The 2015 Bulldozer Award will be presented to the Roanoke County School Board for razing Woods End, the historic home of acclaimed artist Allen Palmer, in February, despite offers from prospective buyers to restore the building, a public outcry for preservation and a positive assessment of the house from the State Department of Historic Resources. The Preservation Foundation offered alternatives to demolition but they were not accepted. If owners of historic properties were aware of significant resources available for restoration or rehabilitation, structures might continue to be useful. The school system used the building for occasional functions until it became unaffordable, according to retiring School Superintendent Lorraine Lange.



BILLY'S CABIN TO BE RAZED

Two early cabins associated with Col. William Fleming, near Tinker Creek in Northeast Roanoke, are on the list. After standing perhaps two centuries in Big Lick and Roanoke, a log cabin once known as Billy's Cabin, is destined for removal in the next year or so. Termites have the upper hand and the logs are crumbling on the two-story cabin now owned by Roanoke Natural Foods Co-Op on its Heritage Point farm. Bruce Phlegar, Co-op general manager, said that his organization plans to disassemble the cabin and salvage as much of the logs as possible for a small structure/display which would tell the story of a building. Restoration would require much more funds than are available. Local legend says that Billy Fleming, son of Col. William Fleming, lived there perhaps as early as 1810. Later, Charles

Oliver, a native of Nottoway County, served in the War of 1812 and moved here in what was then Botetourt County. He and his wife, Lucy, lived in this cabin next to Oak Spring until his death in 1851. Their son, Yelverton Oliver, built Monterey, a large house on the next hill, about 1845.

SPICKARD HOUSE

The ca. 1840 Spickard house on Colonial Road in the Webster section of Botetourt County is an example of neglect by generations of owners. The two story, three-bay frame house has been owned by the same family through a series of Spickards—Samuel, believed to have been the first owner, followed by Conrad, Elmer and Joe Spickard, present owner. Repair of the building is not economically feasible, Spickard said. A farmer for 67 years, Joe Spickard said he will continue to use it for storage as long as it's standing.



GAS PIPELINE

The proposed natural gas pipeline planned to run all the way from West Virginia through Southwest Virginia to Pittsylvania County would run through the few remaining farms, as well as yards and gardens, disturbing property in the Catawba Valley and Bent Mountain in Roanoke County, as well as Craig, Montgomery, Giles and Franklin counties. These are endangered sites. Although supporters claim the line will bring economic benefits, hundreds of opponents worry about decreased property values, safety issues, water and air pollution and other environmental hazards if the 42-inch line is built. Surveying for the line is challenged in court. The final decision on building the line will be made by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

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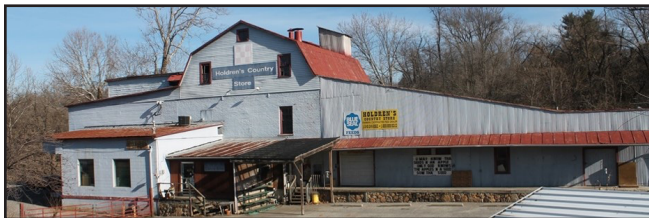
ENDANGERED SITES 2015

19TH CENTURY STONES - MILL SITE, BRIDGE ABUTMENT, GREENWAY

A stack of stones believed to be the foundation of an old bridge or a mill in the early 1800s has been located at the end of Roanoke Avenue in the Norwich section, near the proposed extension of the Roanoke Greenway on the bank of the Roanoke River. The stones are at the edge of Walker Foundry property. The site “may experience some disturbance” from construction of the greenway and a pedestrian bridge across the river said Priscilla Cygielnik of the Roanoke City Engineering Department. She said a Department of Historic Resources survey showed that “no historic properties will be affected by the project.” But after the greenway is built, the site will be far more accessible and can be marked. A Persinger Mill was located in this vicinity, according to the 1820 John Wood map, but Betsy Biesenbach, a title recorder who spotted the stones from her river kayak, believes the stones may have been used by the Roanoke Development Co. about 1890 as an abutment for a bridge across the river to a railroad materials yard.



HOLDREN'S COUNTRY STORE



The former Holdren's Country Store in Vinton housed the remains of a grist mill said to have been built by David Gish in 1797. The town was originally known as Gish's Mill before it was named for the Vinyard and Preston families. The mill burned and was rebuilt several times, most recently in 1946 when it was known as Vinton Milling Company. The Holdren family bought the building on Gus Nicks Boulevard but closed the business last winter and an auction is planned. The property is in a flood plain and some parts of the building are in

poor condition. But the remaining part of the old brick mill may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places if some of the modern elements are removed, according to Mike Pulice of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The site reflects important elements of Vinton's history.

OLE MONTEREY GOLF COURSE CABIN AGING

A frame-over-log cabin on Ole Monterey Golf Course along Tinker Creek, has been vacant and untended for many years. Now, a Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) plaque states that this was Belmont, the home of pioneer surgeon, Col. William Fleming, who died in 1795, but a State Department of Historic Resources study determined that the cabin was probably constructed around 1828-30 or more years after Fleming's death.. Historians believe the original Belmont, a larger structure, probably stood nearby on the golf course. The cabin is an early example of dogtrot architecture and a rare decoratively painted log fireplace lintel. The North Carolina owners of the golf course could not be reached for comment on the cabin.



This year's list reminds us how important it is that we continue to work to identify significant historic, cultural & natural resources, make the public (including owners) aware of their importance and inform them of the tools and incentives available to maintain and preserve them. We cannot take care of our resources when we do not know they exist. We also cannot wait too long to preserve them. Years of neglect - whether by the current owner or previous owners - can often leave no option except for demolition when deferred maintenance makes it either structurally or financially unfeasible to preserve. - *Alison Blanton, Roanoke Valley Preservation Board President*



Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation
PO Box 1366 Roanoke VA
info@roanokepreservation.org

www.roanokepreservation.org
www.facebook.com/roanokepreservation
@PreserveRoanoke