

# 2014 Endangered Sites List

## Barker House - 19718 Main St., Town of Buchanan

**Description:** The Barker House was constructed in the 1890s and served as the Parsonage for Buchanan Baptist Church. It is a contributing structure to the Buchanan National Historic District.

**Threat:** Still owned by Buchanan Baptist, the church plans to demolish the Barker House for a surface parking lot. The demolition of a contributing structure when replaced by a surface parking lot was prohibited by the Town's Zoning Ordinance. However, a text amendment was proposed and approved by Town Council permitting the demolition of the Barker House and construction of a parking lot twenty feet from the public sidewalk and covering no more than 40% of the lot.

**Recommended Action:** There are numerous solutions that would address the parking needs of Buchanan Baptist Church and the productive use and renovation of the Barker House.

1. Look for creative parking solutions such as shared parking. There is an abundance of parking at surrounding establishments which are closed on Sunday. A valet service for elderly members could also be provided.
2. It could be reused as a fellowship hall, offices, Sunday school classrooms, or even a rental property that brings income to the church. Financial assistance could be explored to renovate the building such as state and federal historic tax credits, grants, and the Robert France Revolving Fund operated by the RVPF.
3. If the church does not wish to maintain the Barker House, it could be subdivided onto its own parcel and sold to a preservation minded buyer – providing income while retaining the rear parking lot for church use.



Barker House.  
Photograph courtesy of Maribeth Mills.

## 9th Street Bridge SE - Southeast Roanoke City

**Description:** Constructed in 1943, the historic Pratt pony truss bridge on 9th Street SE is a contributing resource to the American Viscose Corporate Historic District.

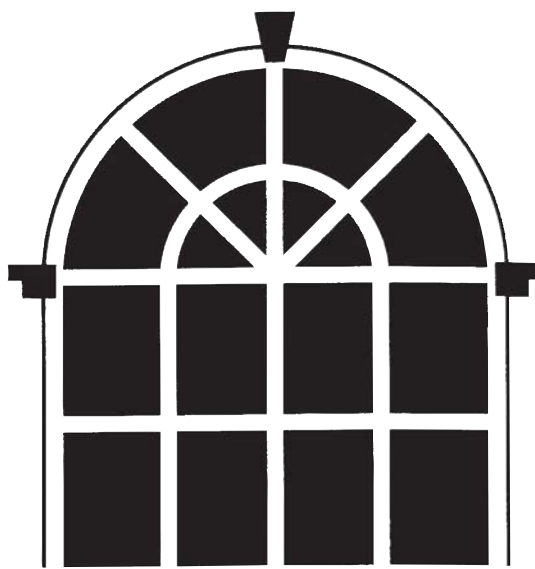
**Threat:** The bridge is in the process of having its superstructure replaced and abutments partially demolished and rebuilt to allow the City to lift load restrictions and add a pedestrian walkway.

**Recommended Action:** As a consulting party, the RVPF recommended that the defining features of the pony truss bridge superstructure be salvaged and reused for a greenway river crossing, preferably at 9th Street SE to retain its historic context. Historic bridges have been successfully salvaged and repurposed on many greenway systems including the Roanoke River Greenway at Hanging Rock; the Tobacco Heritage Trail in Halifax, VA; the Haw River Greenway in Glencoe, NC. The RVPF also noted the project's proximity to the Buzzard Rock Archaeological Complex and encouraged all land disturbing activities be monitored closely.

Work is already underway with City officials noting that the reuse of the pony truss structure for a pedestrian crossing would be a liability due to its design and hazardous lead based coating.



9th Street Bridge.  
Photograph courtesy of Maribeth Mills.



## ROANOKE VALLEY PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

Since 1996, the Roanoke Preservation Foundation has annually announced a list of significant historic, natural, and cultural sites in the Roanoke Valley that are in eminent danger of being lost due to deferred maintenance, demolition, or incompatible development. The intent is not to shame or punish the current owners, but bring attention to these sites and encourage their preservation and stewardship.

In no particular order of severity or significance, these sites are considered endangered.

## Prospect Road - Mill Mountain, City of Roanoke

**Description:** Originally a graded road from Big Lick to the mountaintop, the road was paved with concrete by William and John Henritze in 1922-24. It featured a rare "loop-the-loop" bridge, the only one in the world to be made entirely of concrete, and an arched stone toll booth. It provided access to the Rockledge Inn until that structure burned in 1976. The road was closed to vehicular traffic in 1971. Preservation Virginia placed Prospect Road on its list of 2014 Most Endangered Historic Sites across the Commonwealth earlier this month.

**Threat:** The road and its rubble walls are deteriorating as a result of root intrusion, freeze/thaw cycle and rain. These issues have been largely neglected due to insufficient funding. Mud and rocks are beginning to spill onto the road, threatening the survival of the road and making it dangerous for walking or biking.

**Recommended Action:** Tree/root work and masonry repair should be undertaken immediately.



Postcard showing the loop-the-loop bridge



Deteriorating rubble walls.  
Photograph courtesy of Nancy Dye.

## Krispy Kreme - 4141 Melrose Ave., City of Roanoke

**Description:** The Krispy Kreme building on Melrose Avenue is one of the country's first, opening its doors in 1959 as part of the company's expansion from Winston-Salem, NC in the 50s and 60s. It is a classic example of the signature design used for all early stores with its green tile roof and red, white, and green neon 'heritage road sign.' When the store opened, doughnuts were still made by hand until Krispy Kreme created its own doughnut making machinery that mechanized everything from cooking to glazing.

**Threat:** The store was closed after an electrical fire damaged the building. The company chose to relocate to a new building on Hershberger Road over repairing and returning to the historic Melrose Avenue location. The building is currently vacant.

**Recommended Action:** Krispy Kreme should maintain a store at this well known, iconic location. Damage was minimal with an estimated value of only \$100,000. However, since the company has already constructed its replacement on Hershberger Road, the property should be relinquished to a preservation minded buyer for its adaptive reuse.



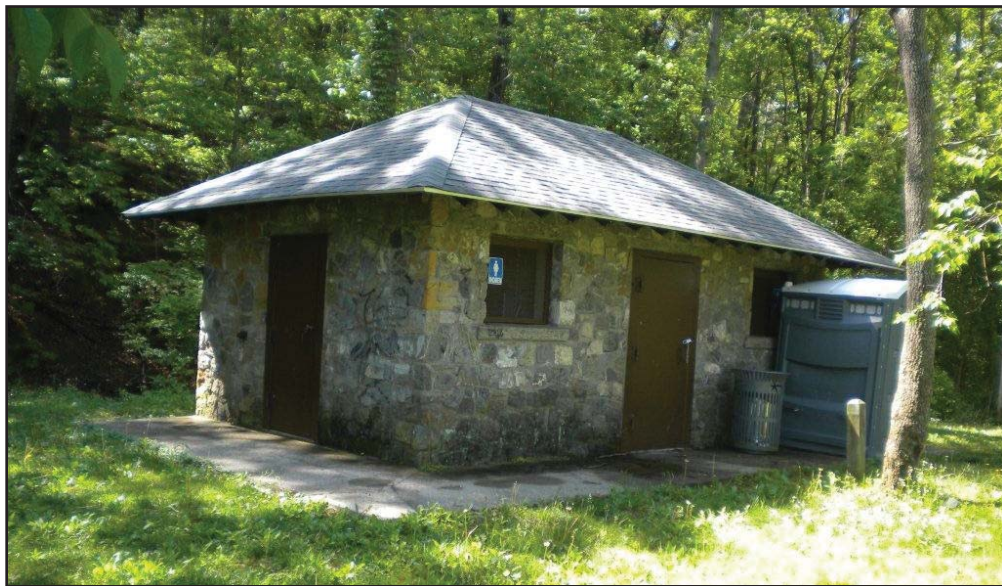
Krispy Creme when still in operation.  
Photograph courtesy of Rob Logan.

## Fishburn Park Stone Restrooms - City of Roanoke

Description: The stone restroom building at Fishburn Park appears to date to the late 1930s after J. Blair Fishburn donated the land for Fishburn Park to the City of Roanoke in 1935. There is a strong possibility that the structure was built using Works Progress Administration (WPA) labor or funds given its stone construction, which was typical of government relief agency programs of the period, and the fact that the WPA was active in building park structures in Roanoke City at the time. While the interior of the structure is in poor and outdated condition, the stone walls and concrete foundation appear to be in relatively good condition.

Threat: The City of Roanoke is currently planning improvements to the park, including a new restroom facility to replace the historic stone structure.

Recommended Action: The RVPF recommends that the historic stone restroom structure be retained and repaired with interior modifications to meet current code requirements.



Fishburn Park Stone Restrooms.  
Photograph courtesy of George Kegley.

## Day Hofawger House - Explorer Park, Roanoke County

Description: A late 18th/19th century farmstead at the intersection of Colonial Avenue and Ogden Road, was threatened by demolition in 1988 to make way for the construction of an apartment complex. The RVPF was able to work with the developer to allow the dismantling and relocation of the house, cobbler's shop, corncrib, and spring house to the Explore Park and conduct a survey of the site through the Roanoke Chapter of the Virginia Archaeological Society. The Day Hofawger House was reconstructed using its original log and roof framing as well as the interior staircase.

Threat: The basement of the Day Hofawger House is currently filled with black mold. Reconstructed adjacent to a wetland, the building site was less than optimal for a basement creating this chronic condition. After standing unused for a number of years, the Virginia Recreational Facilities Authority entered into a lease agreement with Roanoke County in 2013. The lease agreement recognizes the deteriorated condition of the Hofawger House, requiring the Authority to address the mold condition and its future prevention. Furthermore, the agreement designates the Hofawger House as a Class 2 Historic Structure for which the County is responsible to maintain for a period of only ten years. After this period, the County is not required to maintain the structure or its dependencies.

Recommended Action: The RVPF recommends that, given our intense involvement in the initial preservation of the Hofawger House and dependencies, that Roanoke County and the Virginia Recreation Facilities Authority notify the RVPF in the event that the structures will no longer be maintained. The RVPF can be involved in the notification of the original donors and work with them to develop a plan to preserve these historic structures.



David Hofawger House.  
Photograph courtesy of Maribeth Mills.

## Norwich School - 2218 Roanoke Avenue, City of Roanoke

Description: Norwich School opened in the fall of 1892 as part of the Roanoke County school system. In 1919, it became part of the City of Roanoke's school system when the neighborhood was annexed. It held classes for first and second grades on the first floor and third and fourth grades on the upper floor for almost 90 years.

Threat: In 1979, the school was closed and sold to Coy and Elva Bowling. It was boarded up and has suffered from neglect ever since. Visible maintenance issues include vegetation growth which is causing damage to the brick façade and failing gutters. The condition of the roof could not be seen from the street.

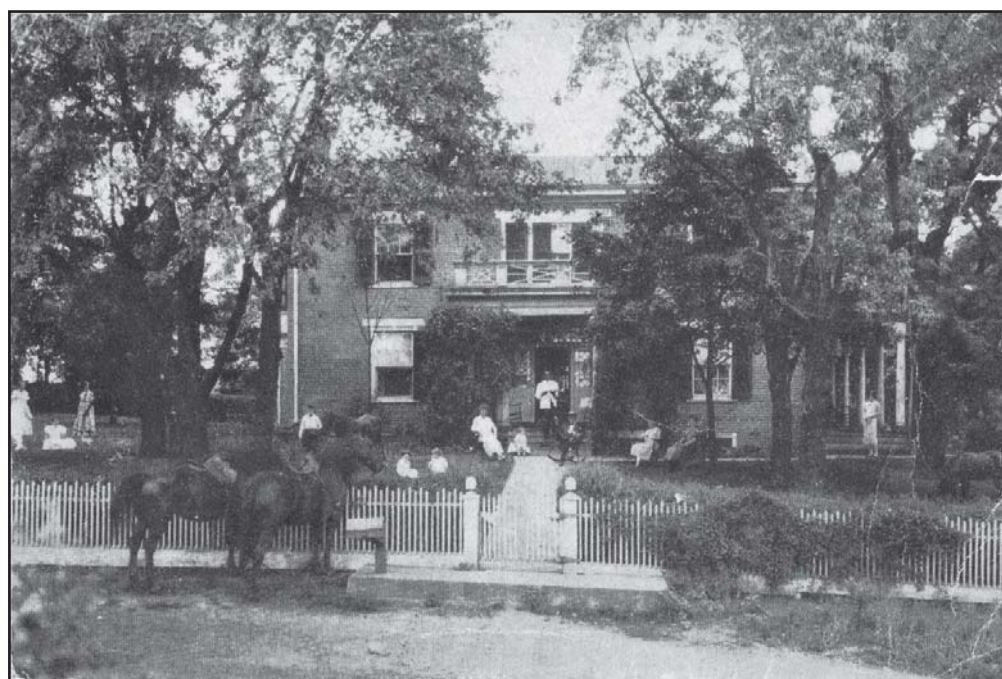
Recommended Action: The owners should stabilize the structure immediately by making necessary roof and gutter repairs and removing the vegetation from the façade. Nearby residents feel Norwich School could once again be an asset as a community center or artists' lofts.



Norwich School.  
Photograph courtesy of George Kegley.

## In memoriam – Nestle Brooke

Neslte Brook was demolished earlier this month by Goodwill Industries. Constructed in the mid-19th century, the home was purportedly designed by prolific brick mason J.C. Deyerle and had the distinction of being only one of two antebellum homes in the Valley with interior end chimneys. It was the long-time home of prominent businessman, William H. 'Uncle Billy' Horton, who lived there from 1901 until his death in 1941. His wife, Susie, remained in the house until 1970 when she died at the age of 101. Horton's nephew, Andrew Roberts inherited the house and had it gutted of all architectural features before selling it to Goodwill Industries.



Historic photograph of Nestle Brooke.  
Photograph courtesy of David Sabean.



Nestle Brooke prior to demolition.  
Photograph courtesy of George Kegley.