Bulltown Historic Area and artifacts (Ceramic shard, left; Ammunition, center; Bottle seal, right).
Remembering Frank Buckles

In late February the country mourned the death of Frank Buckles, the last living American World War I veteran. I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Buckles and his wife, Audrey, in the mid 1990s during the development of the Route 9 highway improvement project in Jefferson County.

The initial plans by the West Virginia Division of Highways included a stretch of road expansion that cut through several historic properties. Our agencies met many times in the Eastern Panhandle to visit the properties and discuss their National Register eligibility and historic boundaries. On one such trip, we met Frank and Audrey. At the time, Mr. Buckles was not yet famous for his veteran status; he was simply introduced as the property owner of Gap View Farm.

As we drove up the lane, we passed an elderly gentleman driving a tractor. This was Mr. Buckles, the owner of Gap View Farm. As a farmer and land owner, he was interested in seeing what could be done to prevent the four lane highway from cutting an east-west section of right of way along the edge of his property. During our visit to Gap View Farm, the Buckles gave us a tour of their home. On that tour, Mrs. Buckles shared with us the romantic story of waiting to hear the fate of her future husband, who was a
Welcome to the Team

Emily Dale, Review and Compliance archaeologist, joined the staff in March 2011. She received her B.A. in Anthropology and Sociology with minors in Appalachian Studies and French from Warren Wilson College in 2004. She holds an M.A. in Archaeology from the University of South Carolina at Columbia, where she concentrated her studies on the late prehistoric, or Mississippian, period. Her Master's thesis focused on the socio-political relationships between contemporary settlements in the Savannah River Valley, which involved leading excavations and analysis of a mound site in Georgia.

October is Archaeology Month

Archaeology is the scientific study of the human past. It allows us to learn beyond the limits of written records. Through studies and research by archaeologists, we can learn more about our culture and also about the people who were here centuries before us.

At the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), our staff provides technical assistance to the public and to government agencies to ensure that archaeological sites are preserved. Our efforts help to protect West Virginia's prehistoric resources. Many times when people discuss historic preservation, they forget about the resources that cannot be seen. What lies beneath the ground; the information we can learn from earthworks, mounds and petroglyphs or even the site where an old barn once stood, can provide vital information about our past.

This October we will celebrate Archaeology Month. We encourage you to learn more about your heritage through archaeology. There are many organizations that can be contacted to learn more about West Virginia archaeology. You can attend a program or lecture at Grave Creek Archaeological Mound Complex in Moundsville, operated by the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex’s annual Archaeology Month Weekend is scheduled to be held on October 1-2, 2011. For more information about this program, contact Grave Creek at (304)843-4128.

While we encourage you to discover more about our history, please remember that we discourage digging artifacts and that trespassing on federal land and private property is illegal.
Preservation Inspiration

Brown-Shugart House, Charles Town

Charity Beth Long and her husband, Kevin, were awarded a State Development grant through the West Virginia Division of Culture and History in May 2010. The grant was awarded to repair the roof and the exterior of the home, which includes window restoration, repairing and replacing multiple standing seam roofs, replacing gutters and repairing a number of the wooden architectural features of the house.

Charity grew up in a historic district in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, where she lived in a 1920s Colonial home. She recalls the beautiful fountain set in the middle of her street and can recall the time she spent on the historic main street visiting the ice cream parlor, gift shops and restaurants. Seeing how Charity grew up surrounded by historic buildings, experiencing the benefits of historic preservation and learning the importance of preservation from her mother, Charity is sincere when she says that preservation runs in her blood.

She and her husband have been restoring the Brown-Shugart House over the past five years, living out of a few makeshift rooms during these restorations. Anxious to get the exterior projects finished and to complete the family room, Charity wants to host a dinner party! The house design includes a ballroom, and with this space, it would be a great room to hold an event. Charity loves to entertain and her desire to share the beauty of this historic home with her friends keeps her motivated during these many restoration projects.

Charity has some words of encouragement for others who are tackling a restoration project. First word of advice, “Go with the flow!” The Longs have faced many setbacks in the past five years and unfortunately it has taken much longer to restore the house than expected. However, she reminds us that once you see the results of your preservation projects, it can “fill you with such pride.” Finally, Charity reminds us to “stay focused and keep positive.”

If you would like to share the story of your restoration projects with SHPO, please contact Sara Prior at sara.a.prior@wv.gov.

Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex

What do a 2,000 year old Adena burial mound and 2,000 boxes of artifacts have in common? Answer: they are both located at the Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex in Moundsville.

In 2008, the West Virginia Division of Culture and History officially opened a new state-of-the-art archaeological collections management facility at the Grave Creek site in Moundsville. The $3.1 million facility features cutting-edge technology for artifact storage and retrieval. The 13,000 square foot facility includes 2,000 cubic feet of temperature and humidity controlled space for artifact storage, as well as space for public exhibits and educational programs.

If you would like to learn more about the Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex or plan a visit, please contact the West Virginia Division of Culture and History at 1-800-455-3849 or visit their website at www.wvhistory.org.
The West Virginia Division of Culture and History employs two full-time staff members, Heather Cline and Yvonne Becka, to oversee the operations of the facility. Volunteers and student interns assist them in their work. The Research Facility is designed to meet federal curation standards, which means that environmental climate and archival controls are maintained to protect the collection for future generations.

While the Research Facility is generally closed to the public, it is open for special guided tours throughout the year, such as during Grave Creek Mound’s Annual Archaeology Weekend held each October as part of West Virginia’s Archaeology Month Program. Researchers who wish to use the facility must call to schedule an appointment.

The Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex is located at 801 Jefferson Avenue, Moundsville, West Virginia 26041 and is open 9-5 Mon.-Sat. and 12-5 Sun., with access to the mound and gift shop closing at 4:30 p.m. For further information, call (304)843-4128. –David E. Rotenizer, Site Manager
When the time came to plan this issue of Details, Tami Koontz, SHPO GIS manager, told me a little about her “favorite place.” I could feel her excitement as she explained, “I went on a site visit to the Heck Mansion, located in Spencer. The house is beautiful! The visit was some time ago, so I can’t remember too many details, but I can remember the large skylight and the locker rooms with showers in the basement.”

Tami went on to talk about how the house reminded her of the Governor’s Mansion. While discussing the mansion, Tami pointed out several similarities that the Heck Mansion shared with the Governor’s Mansion. Wanting to know more about this beautiful mansion in Roane County, I decided to do some research.

In 1999, the Heck Mansion, or the McIntosh Mansion, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural value. Designed by the West Virginia construction firm of Wallace Knight, the home was built in 1925 by the home’s namesake, Albert S. Heck. He was born in Tyler County, but was most notable for his business in the oil and gas industry in Roane County. The home sits on approximately 30 acres of land that includes a large pond and a wetland area. The house was designed with 17 rooms, six baths and a full basement.

Even though Wallace Knight was never registered to practice as an architect in West Virginia, he specialized in the design and construction of fine residences and apartment buildings. Knight gained local fame and respect when he constructed the West Virginia Executive Mansion, 1924-25, which was designed by architect Walter F. Martens. It just so happened that when Knight was hired to be a builder for the construction of the Executive Mansion, he was constructing the Heck home in Spencer also. With both buildings being of Neoclassical design and having similar features, no wonder Tami immediately thought of the Governor’s Mansion when she visited the Heck Mansion.

The discovery that the same construction firm was credited for the work of these two amazing homes made me excited and happy that Tami shared her “favorite place” with me. Historic places and homes are vital connections to our past. These places make us feel at home and invite us to explore the history that can be found. Whether we are studying about a Civil War battle, an architectural style or the people that once lived in a home, it is the preservation of these resources that allow us to see and experience history.

Tami was an architectural detective without knowing it. Even though she didn’t know why these two homes looked so much alike, she had paid attention to the details that could connect them to Wallace Knight. Each day we can observe the defining characteristics of the buildings that we pass by when commuting to work or school or running errands. From the grandest building to the simplest designs, buildings from our past were built to become someone’s “favorite place.”—Sara Prior with contributions from Tami Koontz
At its February 4, 2011 meeting, the West Virginia Archives and History Commission awarded the FY2011 survey and planning grants. These grants are funded through the annual Historic Preservation Fund of the National Park Service. Each year at least 10% of the state’s annual grant is set aside for use by Certified Local Governments (CLG) to conduct historic preservation activities. For more information, please contact SHPO.–Pam Brooks

C&O Depot Historic Condition Report, Ronceverte
Hire a consultant to prepare a Historic Conditions Report on the C&O Depot to determine condition of building $16,000. City of Ronceverte, Greenbrier County.

Greenbrier County Survey Phase II, Rainelle Vicinity
Hire a consultant to conduct an architectural/historical survey of the western portion of the county outside of Rainelle. $7,000. Greenbrier County Commission, Greenbrier County.

Hampshire County National Register Project, Hampshire County
Hire a consultant to prepare four individual National Register nominations. $7,000. Hampshire County Commission, Hampshire County.

Hinton Walking Tour, Hinton
Develop and print an updated historic Hinton walking tour brochure. $4,200. City of Hinton, Summers County.

Oak Hill Survey, Oak Hill
Hire a consultant to conduct an architectural/historical survey within the city limits of Oak Hill. $14,000. Fayette County Historic Landmark Commission/City of Oak Hill, Fayette County.

Ranson Old Town Survey, Ranson
Hire a consultant to conduct an architectural/historical survey of the Old Town section of Ranson. $7,000. City of Ranson, Jefferson County.

Ronceverte ARCGIS Program, Ronceverte
To assist with the purchase of the ArcGIS program. $1,000. City of Ronceverte, Greenbrier County.

The Wonders of the Wine Cellars, Dunbar
Hire an engineer and historic architect to examine and investigate the cellars and design a plan to restore doors, damaged front wall; evaluate current landscape and its stability. $3,500. City of Dunbar, Kanawha County.

Thomas City Tour Development, Thomas
Research, develop and print walking tour brochure and install interpretive signs. $12,600. Tucker County Historic Landmark Commission, Tucker County.

Woodburn Historic District Survey, Morgantown
Hire a consultant to conduct an historic/architectural survey of the Woodburn neighborhood in Morgantown. $8,400. Morgantown Historic Landmark Commission, Monongalia County.

Second Round State Development Grants

The WV Legislature provides annual funding assistance for the preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of historic resources listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This matching grant program is competitive and based upon selection criteria included in our annual work program. For FY2011, with remaining funds after the first round of grants, we advertised for applications. The following State Development Grants were recommended by staff and approved by the Archives and History Commission at their February 4, 2011 meeting: For more information about grant opportunities, please contact SHPO. –Pam Brooks

Fort Pleasant, Old Fields
Rebuild masonry; structural repairs on collapsed wall; repair windows, doors, chair railing, floors; repair/replace electric and plumbing. $50,000. Renick & Betty Williams, Hardy County.

Thomas Fleming House, Fairmont
Repair/replace rotted wood; repair declamation of stucco; repair window sills; preserve window heads; install pebble dashed veneer over all existing pebble dashed area; re-caulk sides and bottom of window. $5,587. Woman’s Club of Fairmont, Marion County.

Mawell Duncan House, Clarksburg
Repair the front porch, back porch, sun room; repair structural damage to West wall; repair windows; install heating system and fire sprinkler. $8,500. Martin Shaffer, Harrison County.

(Continued on Page 8)
(Continued from Page 7)

Capitol Theatre, Wheeling
Restore existing windows; replace existing door in newly renovated concession/restroom area with bronze anodized aluminum in similar style. $14,000. Wheeling Convention and Visitors Bureau, Ohio County.

Rowlesburg Area Historical Society Building, Rowlesburg
Repair foundation; repair/replace rim board; repair bathroom floor; remove and replace shingles; repair eave; repair gutters; repair 15 windows. $9,894. Town of Rowlesburg, Preston County.

IN THIS ISSUE
Remembering Frank Buckles / 2
Welcome to the Team / 3
Archaeology Month
Brown-Shugart House / 4
Grave Creek Mound
Heck Mansion / 6
FY 2011 Grants Awarded / 7
HP Calendar / 8