*Pilot Mountain School*

Pilot Mountain School is a historic Appalachian school located in Southwest Virginia. Built in 1921, it first served the region academically and more recently as a community center. The arts outreach organization, WVarts, is currently using the school to serve and educate the community of Pilot and Floyd and Montgomery Counties. The school hosts social functions, music, art, poetry and tutoring events, as well as the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Little Libraries outreach program involving book sharing and literacy.

Pilot Mountain School has been deemed eligible for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The school is in need of funding for immediate roof repairs and ongoing maintenance and a preservation plan so that it can remain viable for the community.

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**Solution**

Historic school buildings owned privately or by non-profit organizations often face greater challenges in securing funding than those owned by developers or for-profit companies.

If a local entity wishes to maintain a historic school for use by the community, it is wise to establish stable partnerships with local governments whereby the locality uses a portion of the school for offices, libraries or other purposes, thereby creating a source of funding for ongoing repair and maintenance. Where appropriate depending on ownership and use, state and federal rehabilitation tax credit programs could help reduce the cost of returning schools to community use.

<https://preservationvirginia.org/press-room/release/preservation-virginia-announces-2017-most-endangered-historic-places-listin>