The only surviving structure of the once thriving Blue Sulphur Spring Resort, this Greek-style springhouse, has stood here for more than 180 years. In 2013, the Friends of the Blue began work to save and restore the historic pavilion.

Set your GPS address to 8010 Blue Sulphur Spring Road, Blue Sulphur Springs, WV 24910.

From Lewisburg, take I-64 West to Exit 161 (Alta). Turn LEFT on Route 12 toward Alderson. Go about 3 miles to Spring Valley Road. Turn RIGHT and follow this road for about 6 miles until it splits. Stay RIGHT on Spring Valley Road for about 1.5 miles until it meets Blue Sulphur Road. Turn LEFT on Blue Sulphur Road and the Pavilion will be immediately on your right.

JOIN US IN SAVING THIS HISTORIC STRUCTURE!
HISTORY OF THE BLUE

The Blue Sulphur Spring Pavilion is located about nine miles north of Alderson in the western part of Greenbrier County, West Virginia.

In the early 1800s, sulphur water was believed to have healing qualities, and resorts were quickly established around the numerous springs existing throughout western Virginia.

Unlike most springs which originate on hillsides, the Blue Sulphur Spring bubbled up from the ground in the middle of a large field, discharging as much as 15 gallons of water a minute.

Joseph Martin and Charles Caraway purchased the land on which the spring is located in 1816 for $3000. They built cabins to accommodate visitors who came to the spring for its healing powers. A few years later, they sold the land to George Washington Buster for twice as much as they had paid.

In 1834, the Blue Sulphur Spring Company was officially incorporated by the State of Virginia. A large brick hotel was built, with a grand ballroom, dining room and sleeping quarters. Additional cabins and cottages were built, which increased the capacity to 220. Some of the dignitaries who were known to have visited the resort are Andrew Jackson, Robert E. Lee, Henry Clay, and Jerome Bonaparte.

By 1859 the resort was floundering and its owners decided to sell it to the Baptist Association, which established Allegheny College. Unfortunately, it closed after only two years, due to a fire, which destroyed its main building and the onset of the Civil War. Troops passing through the area used the resort as their campsite. In the winter of 1863 a Confederate regiment from Georgia camped there and an estimated 100 soldiers died from exposure to the harsh weather. They are buried on a hill about 200 yards from the spring.

The following year Union troops burned all that remained of the resort, with one exception: the Greek-style springhouse was spared. Following the war, ownership was returned to George Washington Buster when the courts ruled that the payments made by the Baptist Association were invalid as they were made in Confederate money. Bernard H. Buster inherited the property and sold it in 1964 to Lewis A. Fleshman. His daughter, Rebecca Fleshman Lineberry, inherited the property upon his death.

The Pavilion was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 and has been named to the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia’s 2013 Endangered Properties List. On April 16, 2013, the Pavilion and two acres were donated to the Greenbrier Historical Society by Mrs. Lineberry.

FRIENDS OF THE BLUE

A Greenbrier Historical Society Committee, “Friends of the Blue,” chaired by Alex McLaughlin, will manage the restoration process. Other members of the Committee include Cathy Bolt (daughter of the donor), Irma Smith Cadle, Skip Deegans, Raymond Tuckwiller, Margaret Hambrick (GHS Board President), and Nora Venezky (GHS Executive Director).

Work Completed So Far
Under the guidance of the Mills Group and the supervision of the State Historic Preservation Office, new drainage was inserted into the spring box and piped to Kitchen Creek; the columns were repointed and wrapped in a fabric used in earthquake zones; the leaning column was straightened; and the interior was excavated. Much more needs to be done including further drainage, waterproofing the foundation, restoring the look of the foundation and columns, and replacement of the roof.

Project Support
We have received support from the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, the Greenbrier County Commission, the James F.B. Peyton Foundation, the Daywood Foundation, and hundreds of private donors. Much more support is needed and your donation, of whatever size, will make a difference.

Thank You!