



## Betty Woods Nutting - *Public Service*

For her groundbreaking leadership in the preservation of Wheeling's architectural heritage, Betty Woods "Snookie" Nutting is being recognized for her outstanding Public Service. A Wheeling native, Snookie was born Feb. 2, 1936, daughter of Robert McLain Woods and Betty Shirk Woods. She was educated at Mary Washington College, now the University of Mary Washington, where she says her eyes were first opened to the beauty of Victorian architecture. She graduated from Wheaton College in Massachusetts. She was married in 1960 to G. Ogden Nutting, a member of the Wheeling Hall of Fame. She is the mother of two adult sons, William Ogden Nutting and Robert McLain Nutting, and the grandmother of six.

As a founding member of the Friends of Wheeling she initiated the effort to preserve the city's unique sense of place. Snookie personally rescued important architectural gems that would otherwise have been lost. Throughout a period of 40 years she has been involved in saving 22 buildings in Wheeling. There is not a quadrant of the city where her efforts have not made an enduring impact.

Snookie led the effort to rescue the historic district officially designated as Monroe Street East. This block of 12th Street was slated for demolition by the City's urban renewal authority. The important structures that survive today because of her efforts are the Mendel House, home of a furniture manufacturer; the Frank House, residence of a clothier and merchant tailor; and the Pendleton House, post-Civil War home of a Confederate soldier, politician, and Wheeling attorney.

The genesis of the Chapline Street Row National Register designation was Snookie's restoration of 2305 Chapline Street. Today this block is described as the "best example of a series of high style Victorian structures in West Virginia." In East Wheeling, Snookie restored 118 and 120 Fourteenth Street, which contribute to the character of the neighborhood.

Snookie formed a partnership with the Vandalia Heritage Foundation resulting in restoration of 823 Main Street, built by Henry List; 811 Main Street, built by Benjamin Exley, but more commonly known as the home of tailor Christian Hess; the Stifel-Kossuth House, built by dry goods merchant George Stifel and later the home of famed photographer George Kossuth; 753 Main Street, now Uncle Pete's Restaurant; the Thomas Hughes House at 751 Main Street; and the 1870s house at 834 Main Street. She also worked with the late Beverly Fluty and others to restore the Wheeling Suspension Bridge.

Snookie served as West Virginia's advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and continues as an advisor emerita. She was appointed by Gov. Jay Rockefeller to the West Virginia Archives and History Commission and was reappointed by his successors. She served as the first president of Preservation Alliance, was a member of the board of directors of the Vandalia Preservation Foundation, and was president of the Victorian Landmarks Foundation.

Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation honored Snookie's efforts with their Friend of Heritage Award. Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin named her recipient of the Distinguished West Virginian Award for her "passion for not only Wheeling and Ohio County, but all of West Virginia." She received the Dr. Emory Kemp Lifetime Achievement Award from the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia. In 2016, the 50th anniversary year of the National Historic Preservation Act, Snookie was honored with a special award and a lecture series for Exemplary Service to Historic Preservation by Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. He said of Snookie, "No one better exemplifies the face of historic preservation in West Virginia than Snookie Nutting. She is an inspiration to anyone who aspires to protect, preserve, and restore our historic sites."