

**STATE REVIEW BOARD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2020**

The State Review Board for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 met at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, online via WebEx Video Teleconference. The meeting was held virtually pursuant to Governor Lee's Executive Orders 16, 34, 51, and 60 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for social distancing. All votes were taken by roll call and unless otherwise noted in the minutes, decisions were unanimous.

Members attending were Michael Birdwell, Chair; Kevin Smith, Vice Chair; Lee Ingram; Tara Mitchell Mielnik; Margot Payne; Amanda Rose; Jefferson Rogers; Juan Self; and Jim Thompson. Bennett Graham, Beverly Robertson, and Learotha Williams were unable to attend.

Dr. Smith acted as chair, since Dr. Birdwell had technical problems with his audio.

Also present were E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr., Executive Director of the Tennessee Historical Commission and State Historic Preservation Officer; and Tennessee Historical Commission staff members Claudette Stager, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer; Holly Barnett; Rebecca Schmitt; Christopher Kinder; Casey Lee, Claire Meyer; Kerri Ross; Peggy Nickell; and Jane-Coleman Cottone.

Numerous owners of nominated properties and consultants attended the meeting. A list of participants at the meeting follows the minutes.

The first order of business was to approve the agenda. Mr. Thompson moved; Dr. Mielnik seconded that the agenda be approved. Voted and approved.

The next order of business was to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2020, meeting. Mr. Self moved; Mr. Thompson seconded that the minutes of the meeting be approved. Voted and approved.

The next meeting of the State Review Board will be held on January 27, 2021. It will be in Nashville or online via WebEx, depending on developments with COVID-19. Other meeting dates: May 19, 2021 at 9 a.m.

Mr. McIntyre spoke about the Progress Report and discussed how adaptable everyone has been during this time, including the staff who have been working diligently and productively. He and the staff are teleworking most days; however, when staff come into the office they are always socially distanced. Mr. McIntyre then pointed out the nine new entries to the National Register and for the first time during his tenure, a new National Historic Landmark (NHL). The Hermitage Hotel in Nashville was added as a NHL in time for the 100th anniversary of the women's suffrage movement.

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS

Dr. Smith called on Ms. Schmitt and Mr. Kinder to lead the discussion on the nominations. Mr. Kinder showed a PowerPoint and presented information on the properties being reviewed.

Millennium Manor, Blount County

The property was nominated under criterion C for its local significance in architecture. Ms. Schmitt and Ms. Ross prepared the nomination. Dean and Karen Fontaine, owners of the property, attended the meeting and spoke in support of the nomination.

There was a discussion about why the building was constructed in this style, the House of David influence, the potential for this to become a museum, and the floor plans in the nomination.

Ms. Rose moved, Dr. Mielnik seconded that the nomination be approved. Voted and approved.

First Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, Rhea County

The property was nominated under criterion C for its local significance in architecture. Melissa Mortimer, preservation planner for the Southeast Tennessee Development District, prepared the nomination and attended the meeting in support of it. Lindsey and John Bamber, property owners, also attended the meeting in support of the nomination.

Mr. Thompson moved; Mr. Ingram seconded that the nomination be approved. Voted and approved.

Kingsport Hosiery Mill, Sullivan County

The property was nominated under criterion A for its local significance in industry. Gray Stothart, preservation planner for the First Tennessee Development District, prepared the nomination and attended the meeting in support of it.

There was a discussion about industry and labor in Kingsport and questions about the gypsum roof mentioned in the nomination description. The roof material will be clarified before the nomination is submitted to the National Register office. Mr. Stothart was complimented for his work on the nomination and he, in turn, complimented the staff.

Dr. Rogers moved; Mr. Self seconded that the nomination be approved. Voted and approved.

Johnson City Postal Savings Bank and Post Office, Washington County

The property was nominated under criteria A and C for its local significance in government and architecture. Hal Hunter, Megan Tewell, and Anne Mason, with the Heritage Alliance of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia, prepared the nomination and attended the meeting in support of it.

The board noted that the nomination needed editing for architectural terms used. Changes will be made before the nomination is submitted to the National Register office. Ms. Schmitt was complimented for her assistance in preparing the nomination.

Mr. Thompson moved; Mr. Self seconded that the nomination be approved. Voted and approved.

Mount Olive Cemetery, Montgomery County

The property was nominated under criteria A and C for its local significance in African American ethnic heritage and landscape architecture. Members of the Mt. Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society prepared the nomination with contributions from Ms. Schmitt.

The board had questions about the boundary of the nomination, GPS mapping, and the paths in the cemetery. The nomination will be updated, and the questions answered before it is submitted to the National Register office.

Dr. Rogers moved; Ms. Rose seconded that the nomination be approved. Voted and approved.

Hughes House, Wayne County

The property was nominated under criterion C in the area of architecture. Sarah Elizabeth Hickman-McLeod, preservation planner for the South Central Tennessee Development District, and Ms. Schmitt prepared the nomination. Michael and Kathy Dumont, property owners, also attended the meeting in support of the nomination.

The board discussed that the architectural style should be transitional Stick – Queen Anne and suggested that more social history be added to the nomination.

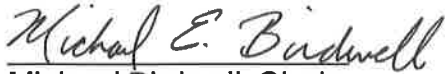
Mr. Thompson moved, Ms. Rose seconded that the nomination be approved with the change to transitional Stick – Queen Anne and suggestion that additional social history be added to the nomination. Voted and approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Thank you to all the Board Members for being patient with the set up and the WebEx technical difficulties. The board thanked the staff for putting the draft nominations on the Tennessee Historical Commission's National Register web page.

There being no further business, Dr. Kevin Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:18 am. Mr. Thompson moved, Mr. Ingram seconded that the motion be approved.

Approved,


Michael Birdwell, Chair

Participant List from WebEx

Dean and Karen Fontaine
Ann Mason
Lindsey and John Bamber
Megan Tewell
Melissa Mortimer
Sarah Elizabeth Hickman-McLeod
Sarah Weeks Robbins
Gray Stothart
Hal Hunter
Michael and Kathy Dumont
Boyd Sandler
Tom Skeeahan

Note: Dr. Williams emailed that he had technical issues in joining the meeting and that was the reason he did not attend.