

**STATE REVIEW BOARD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
May 17, 2023**

The State Review Board for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 met at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at the Tennessee Historical Commission's offices at Clover Bottom Mansion, 2941 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, and online via WebEx video conference. The meeting was held in a hybrid format. All votes were taken by roll call and unless otherwise noted in the minutes, decisions were unanimous.

Members present were Kevin Smith, Chair; Juan Self, Vice Chair; Lee Ingram; Tom Maher; Tara Mitchell Mielnik; Margot Payne; Jefferson Rogers; Claudette Stager; and James Thompson. Learotha Williams arrived during the presentation of The Meltons Bank nomination.

Members unable to attend were Beverly Robertson and Amanda Rose.

THC staff members attending the meeting were Rebecca Schmitt, J. Ethan Holden, Justin Heskew, Philip Staffelli-Suel, Lane Tillner, Kelley Reid, and Caty Dirksen. E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr., Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer, and Holly Barnett, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, also attended the meeting.

Numerous owners of nominated properties also attended the meeting.

The first order of business was to approve the agenda. Mr. Thompson moved, Ms. Stager seconded, to approve the agenda. Voted and approved.

The second order of business was to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2023, meeting. Mr. Thompson moved, Ms. Stager seconded, to approve the minutes. Voted and approved.

The next meeting of the State Review Board will be held on September 20, 2023, in Nashville, in person and by WebEx. The board determined that the January 2023 meeting will be held on January 24, 2023.

The next order of business was the introduction of new Tennessee Historical Commission staff members Philip Staffelli-Suel and Lane Tillner. Mr. Staffelli-Suel joined the staff as the Technical Preservation Coordinator and Certified Local Government Coordinator for West Tennessee. He received a M.A. in Public History from Middle Tennessee State University, and a B.A. in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to joining the THC, Mr. Staffelli-Suel worked as an Educator at the Tennessee State Museum and as a Graduate Research Assistant at MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation.

Dr. Lane Tillner joined the staff as the Technical Preservation Coordinator and Certified Local Government Coordinator for East Tennessee. Dr. Tillner earned her Ph.D. in Public History and her M.A. in History from Middle Tennessee State University. Prior to joining the

THC, Dr. Tillner worked as Graduate Research Assistant at MTSU's Center for Historic Preservation, where she developed exhibits for the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County. She also completed a typology of historic roller-skating rinks in the Southeast and Midwest for her dissertation.

Mr. McIntyre presented the "Progress Report on the National Historic Preservation Act (PL 89-665) Activities". The report is a summary of the federal staff activities since the last meeting.

National Register Nominations

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

The Meltons Bank, Cannon County

The property was nominated under Criterion A for local significance in Commerce. Mark Dudney of the Upper Cumberland Development District prepared the nomination with assistance from THC National Register staff. Owners Gary and Jama Hancock attended the meeting in support of the nomination.

Mr. Dudney spoke on behalf of the property owners and in support of the nomination. Dr. Mielnik noted that a citation in the bibliography needed correction and asked about additional historic photographs. Mr. Lee asked Mr. Hancock why the owner of the bank did not seek insurance by the FDIC. Mr. Hancock explained that the owners were wary of government agencies, and that customers continued to support them despite not being insured because they trusted the bank owners.

Mr. Self moved, Ms. Stager seconded, that the nomination be approved. Voted and approved.

Fox House, Coffee County

The property was nominated under Criterion C for local significance in Architecture. Rebecca Schmitt of the Tennessee Historical Commission prepared the nomination. Owner Leslie Wurst attended virtually in support of the nomination.

Ms. Wurst spoke on behalf of the property and in support of the nomination. Ms. Stager complimented Ms. Schmitt on the quality of the nomination. Dr. Mielnik also complimented Ms. Schmitt on the nomination. Mr. Thompson noted that the upside-down columns on the house's façade were a unique feature of the house.

Mr. Thompson moved, Dr. Williams seconded, that the nomination be approved. Voted and approved.

Bruce High School, Dyer County

The property was nominated under Criterion A for local significance in Ethnic Heritage: Black, Education, and Social History. Savannah Grandey Knies of the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University prepared the nomination. Ms. Knies attended in support of the nomination. Yolanda Harris and members of the Bruce High School Alumni Association also attended in support of the nomination.

Ms. Harris spoke before the board about the importance of the property to their community and expressed her gratitude to Ms. Knies and the THC for working on the nomination. Mr. Ingram noted that the county name was misspelled in the nomination header. Dr. Holden agreed to correct this before submittal to the National Park Service. Ms. Stager recommended that it be clarified which parts of the building were demolished in the nomination, and also noted that classifying the property as International Style might not be appropriate. Dr. Mielnik emphasized the importance of listing modern resources and commended the Bruce High School Alumni Association on their stewardship of the property.

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

Haynes Haven Stock Farm, Maury County

The property was nominated under Criterion A and Criterion C for its state and local significance in Agriculture and Architecture. Tegan A. Baiocchi of Arcadis, Inc. prepared the nomination. Ms. Baiocchi attended the meeting virtually in support of the nomination.

Ms. Baiocchi spoke in support of the nomination. Ms. Stager commented on the high quality of the nomination and asked for more context on the architect to be included in the nomination. Ms. Baiocchi and Ms. Schmitt agreed to provide that information before submittal to the National Park Service.

Mr. Thompson moved, Ms. Stager seconded, that the nomination be approved. Voted and approved.

Removals and Reassessments

Two National Register-listed properties had been demolished and the board reviewed these nominations for removing them from the National Register.

Lea Springs, Grainger County

The property was listed on May 29, 1975, for its local significance in Industry and Politics. The last aerial image of the property was taken in 1997, and its Wikipedia page stated

that it was demolished in 2007, though it did not have a cited source. Current aerial imagery showed that the property is no longer extant.

Mr. Thompson moved, Ms. Stager seconded, that the removal be approved. Voted and approved.

Elisha Johnson Mansion, Monroe County

The property was listed on December 24, 1974, for its local significance in Industry and Architecture. The property was damaged by a fire in 1996. An April 2001 news article stated the mansion was being torn down to be rebuilt later. The property was no longer extant by 2022.

Mr. Thompson moved, Ms. Stager seconded, that the removal be approved. Voted and approved.

Other Business

Rebecca Schmitt presented updates to the National Register GIS layer on the Tennessee Historical Commission Viewer. Mr. McIntyre presented Claudette Stager with the Preservation Leadership Award, the fifth bestowed in forty-eight years. The award honored her thirty-seven years of service with the THC and State Historic Preservation Office, where she served first as National Register Coordinator before serving as the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. Mr. McIntyre then honored Rebecca Schmitt for five years of service. Ms. Schmitt joined THC staff in 2017 as co-coordinator of the National Register of Historic Places Program. Since joining, Ms. Schmitt implemented several important digitization projects, created the National Register GIS layer on the Tennessee Historical Commission Viewer, and assisted with the nomination of many properties throughout Tennessee.

There being no further business, Dr. Mielnik moved, Mr. Thompson seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 am.

Approved,

Kevin Smith, Chair