

**STATE REVIEW BOARD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
May 22, 2024**

The State Review Board for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 met at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 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; James Thompson; and Learotha Williams.

Members unable to attend were Beverly Robertson.

THC staff members attending the meeting were Rebecca Schmitt, Casey Lee, Justin Heskew, 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.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation was represented by Haley Seger, who was in attendance.

Numerous owners of nominated properties also attended the meeting.

The first order of business was to read the Determination of Necessity into the record. Dr. Smith read the Determination into the record. Mr. Thompson moved, and Dr. Williams seconded, the Determination of Necessity. Voted and approved.

The next order of business was to approve the May 22, 2024, agenda. Ms. Stager moved, Mr. Self seconded, to approve the agenda. Voted and approved.

The next order of business was to approve the Minutes of the January 24, 2024, meeting. Dr. Williams requested a correction to the previous minutes. The minutes stated that Dr. Williams was not present during the previous meeting erroneously, as he had attended the meeting by phone. Mr. Self moved, and Dr. Williams seconded, that the minutes of the meeting be approved with the requested change. Voted and approved.

The next order of business was presented by Rebecca Schmitt. Dr. Schmitt proposed that future State Review Board meetings be held in December, April, and August. She also proposed that the meeting be held on a different day besides Wednesday. These changes would make it much easier for National Register staff to prepare and schedule nominations. Mr. Thompson suggested retaining the old schedule for September and that the new schedule could start in December. Ms. Stager commented that December could work, it would just have to be earlier in the month to account for the holidays. Dr. Mielnik expressed

concerns that the changed schedule could negatively impact board members involved in academia, as exams took place in August and December. Mr. Self asked if a later January date may help National Register staff, though he could make whatever schedule or arrangement the board decided on work for him. Ms. Stager recommended keeping the current monthly meeting schedule at the moment and that it could be revised in the future based on Dr. Mielnik's schedule. Ms. Payne and Dr. Williams proposed moving the meeting days to Fridays instead of Wednesdays. Dr. Mielnik and Dr. Smith confirmed that Fridays worked for them.

The next meeting of the State Review Board will be held on September 20, 2024, in Nashville, in person and by WebEx. The board determined that the January 2025 meeting will be held on January 24, 2025.

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 Dr. Schmitt to lead the discussion on the nominations. Robbie Jones of Richard Grubb & Associates delivered a presentation for The Civil Rights Movement in Nashville, Tennessee, 1942-1969 Multiple Property Documentation Form. Dr. Schmitt presented the Clark Memorial Methodist Church Complex in Davidson County, the First Community Church in Davidson County, and the Haywood County Farm nomination in Haywood County.

The Civil Rights Movement in Nashville, Tennessee, 1942-1969 Multiple Property Documentation Form, Davidson County

The Multiple Property Documentation Form outlined the significant history of the Nashville Civil Rights Movement, identified property types that could be nominated under the MPDF, and provided registration guidelines to evaluate a property's potential eligibility under the multiple. The MPDF was prepared by Robbie D. Jones and Carolyn Brackett of Richard Grubbs & Associates. Mr. Jones attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the MPDF to the board. Various members of the public also attended the meeting in support of the nomination.

Mr. Self thanked the entire team for their work on the nomination. Dr. Mielnik stated that she was pleased to see the nomination put together. First Community Church Historian Ardana Foxx thanked the team during the comment period and said that C.T. Vivian would be proud of what they had achieved. Caroline Eller of the Metropolitan Nashville Historical Commission thanked Tennessee Historical Commission staff for their hard work and the State Review Board for their consideration. Ms. Eller noted that the MHC had approved all three nominations unanimously and that the nominations were all funded by the National Park Service's Civil Rights Grant.

Dr. Mielnik moved, Mr. Self seconded, that the MPDF be approved. Ms. Stager and Dr. Williams recused themselves from the vote because of their involvement with the project. Voted and approved.

Clark Memorial Methodist Church Complex, Davidson County

The property was nominated under Criterion A and Criterion B at the local level of significance with areas of significance including Black Ethnic Heritage, and Social History: Civil Rights Movement. The property was nominated under “The Civil Rights Movement in Nashville, Tennessee, 1942-1969” Multiple Property Documentation Form. The nomination was prepared by Robbie D. Jones & Sydney Schoof of Richard Grubbs & Associates. Mr. Jones attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the nomination to the board. A member of the current congregation, Damita Chavez Fielder, attended the meeting on behalf of the congregation.

Mr. Jones noted that Ms. Chavez Fielder from the church was in attendance. He also reinforced that the Clark Memorial complex was significant as the cradle of the Nashville Civil Rights Movement. Ms. Chavez Fielder spoke on behalf of the congregation. She said that she attended church as a child but did not fully appreciate that she stood amongst giants until she was older. She is the granddaughter of M.C. Carr, a writer for the *Nashville Banner*. It is her desire to pass this history on and show that the movement has not stopped. Dr. Williams asked if the Clark Memorial complex could qualify for National Historic Landmark status. Mr. Jones stated that there was a movement twenty years ago to determine if it could be an NHL, but that the National Park Service had issues with the 1980s addition attached to the church. It may be possible to try again in the future.

Dr. Williams moved, Dr. Mielnik seconded, that the nomination be approved. Ms. Stager recused herself because of her involvement with the project. Voted and approved.

First Community Church, Davidson County

The property was nominated under Criterion A and B at the local level of significance with areas of significance including Black Ethnic Heritage, and Social History: Civil Rights Movement. The property was nominated under “The Civil Rights Movement in Nashville, Tennessee, 1942-1969” Multiple Property Documentation Form. The nomination was prepared by Claudette Stager of the Metro Historical Commission.

Ardanna Foxx, representing the church and congregation, spoke in support of the nomination on behalf of the church. She spoke about how much C.T. Vivian and his family valued the church and thanked all those who participated in getting the church nominated.

Dr. Williams moved, Mr. Thompson seconded, that the nomination be approved. Ms. Stager recused herself because she authored the nomination. Voted and approved.

Haywood County Farm, Haywood County

The property was nominated under Criterion A at the local level of significance with areas of significance including Agriculture, Social History, and Politics/Government. Judith Johnson of Judith Johnson & Associates and J. Ethan Holden of the Tennessee Historical Commission prepared the nomination. Judith Johnson, Virginia McLeze, and Sharon Hayes of Haywood Heritage attended in support of the nomination. Other local members of the public also attended.

Sharon Hayes spoke in support of the nomination, saying that she was grateful for its consideration and that locals are currently working to identify people buried on the property. They have erected a monument on the property for those buried there. Ms. Hayes thanked Tennessee Historical Commission staff, Ms. Johnson, and her local team for their hard work. Ms. Johnson spoke in support of the nomination as well. Mr. Thompson asked what the current use of the property was and who the current owner was. Ms. Johnson replied that Haywood County uses the property for storage, and Ms. Hayes added that the new jail served as the historic archives for the county.

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

Other Business

Dr. Schmitt then provided updates on the National Register Mapping and Boundary Clarification Project. Over the past year, National Register staff have completed more than 100 Additional Documentations to correct errors or clarify boundaries. The National Register layer on the THC Viewer now has 90% of listings mapped with exact boundaries. A member of the public and architectural historian, Jane-Coleman Cottone, expressed thanks for the viewer and its regular updates, including integrating new survey forms into the survey layer. Mr. Thompson thanked Dr. Schmitt for her continued hard work on the mapping project and for keeping them updated on its development.

Dr. Schmitt then presented new National Register Guidance and Updates to the Board, including a new NPS Best Practices Review on writing concise property descriptions. Ms. Stager requested that the new guidance provided by the National Park Service be sent to the board members. Dr. Smith then thanked all the board members in attendance for coming to the meeting.

There being no further business, Dr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Approved,

Kevin Smith, Chair