

**STATE REVIEW BOARD  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
January 24, 2025**

The State Review Board for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 met at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 24, 2025, 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 Juan Self, Vice Chair; Beth Campbell; Lindsay Crockett; Tom Maher; Tara Mitchell Mielnik; Margot Payne; Jefferson Rogers; Claudette Stager; and James Thompson.

Members unable to attend were Kevin Smith, Chair; Lee Ingram; and Learotha Williams.

THC staff members attending the meeting were J. Ethan Holden, Casey Lee, Justin Heskew, 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 read the Determination of Necessity into the record. Dr. Holden read the determination into the record. Dr. Mielnik moved, and Ms. Stager seconded, the Determination of Necessity. Voted and approved.

The second order of business was to approve the January 24, 2025, agenda. Mr. Thompson moved, and Ms. Stager seconded, that the agenda be approved. Voted and approved.

The third order of business was to approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2024, meeting. Ms. Stager moved, and 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 May 16, 2025, in Nashville, in person and by WebEx. The board determined that the September 2025 meeting will be held on September 19, 2025.

The next order of business was the introduction of new Tennessee Historical Commission staff member Stevie Malenowski by Mr. McIntyre. Mr. Malenowski joined the staff in 2024 as the Technical Preservation Coordinator for the western half of the state. Malenowski earned his undergraduate degree from Ithaca College in New York, and he recently received his M.A. in Public History from the University of South Carolina. He served as Preservation Staff for the Adirondack Architectural Heritage where he conducted preservation work on multiple National Historic Landmark structures and assisted with a

\$900,000 Save America's Treasures preservation grant. During his master's program, Malenowski served as Curatorial Assistant for a multi-disciplinary project at USC's McKissick Museum, where he conducted oral history interviews, researched, wrote exhibits, and digitized materials related to the South Carolina forestry and furniture industries.

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**

Mr. Self then called on Dr. Holden to lead the discussion on the nominations. Dr. Holden showed a PowerPoint and presented information on the properties being reviewed.

### **Central High School, Crockett County**

Central High School was nominated under Criterion A at the local level of significance with Areas of Significance including Ethnic Heritage: Black, Social History, and Education. The nomination was prepared by Jessica Baker of the Northwest Tennessee Development District.

Ms. Baker attended virtually in support of the nomination and praised the efforts of the community in preserving and maintaining such an important property. Several members of the community attended in-person. Harold Nance spoke on behalf of the school and indicated that the community plans to continue using the school building. John Emerson, the Mayor of Alamo, reiterated the historical significance of the building and encouraged the Board to approve the nomination.

Mr. Self thanked the community members for attending in person and for their successful efforts in preserving the school. Ms. Stager complimented the historical context in Section 8 and suggested the author revisit the style of the building to see if it was an example of the Modern Movement. Dr. Mielnik expressed her wish that Dr. Williams was in attendance because of the connection between Central High School and Tennessee State University. Dr. Mielnik also complimented the nomination. Mr. Rogers likewise expressed his support and asked if there were any historical photographs of the school from the 1950s/1960s. Ms. Baker said she would determine if such photographs existed.

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

### **Pleasant Garden Cemetery, Hamilton County**

Pleasant Garden Cemetery was nominated under Criterion A and Criterion C at the local level of significance. Areas of Significance include Ethnic Heritage: Black, Landscape Architecture, and Social History. The nomination was prepared by Stacey Graham,

Savannah Grandey Knies, and Steph McDougal of the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University.

Ms. Knies, Dr. Graham, Beth Murphy, Donavan Brown, and David Young all attended in-person to support the nomination. Ms. Knies thanked the State Review Board for their consideration and thanked the community for preserving the cemetery and for their help with the research and writing process. Ms. Murphy introduced Mr. Brown and Mr. Young to the Board. She stated that they had been working with the CHP since 2019 to get the property listed. Ms. Murphy reiterated the historical significance of the site and its natural beauty. Mr. Brown spoke and thanked the Board for their consideration and the CHP for their hard work preparing the nomination. He stated that when you were in Pleasant Garden, you could feel the profound sense of grandeur that accompanied the property. He expressed his hope that listing would expedite the preservation process and, in turn, ensure the continued survival of the cemetery. Mr. Young introduced himself as the longtime caretaker of the cemetery. He also thanked the Board for their consideration. Mr. Young recalled when they first started working on the cemetery, it was overgrown. Since then, he has been amazed at the number of community members who came forward to help clean the cemetery and take care of the tombstones.

Ms. Stager asked Dr. Holden if the property was being nominated under Criterion A and C. Dr. Holden replied that it was. Ms. Stager complimented the nomination's Criterion A argument and suggested that additional information making explicit the connection between the property's features and its landscape design significance would help strengthen the Criterion C argument. Dr. Holden said he would get with the nomination authors and work on that additional information. Ms. Campbell asked Mr. McIntyre if Pleasant Garden was in the Tennessee Historical Commission's cemetery database. Mr. McIntyre confirmed that it was.

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

### **Emory Place Historic District (Boundary Increase), Knox County**

The Emory Place Historic District was originally listed in 1994 under Criterion A and C. This Boundary Increase expanded the district to include the Sanitary Laundry Boiler House. The Boundary Increase was prepared by Rebecca Schmitt of the Tennessee Historical Commission.

There were no public comments. The State Review Board likewise did not have any comments or questions.

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

### **George F. Barber Cottage, Knox County**

The property was nominated under Criterion C at the local level of significance with an Area of Significance in Architecture. The nomination was prepared by Arin Streeter.

The owner of the property attended virtually and thanked the State Review Board for their consideration.

Ms. Stager complemented the nomination and praised the amount of detail and sources included in it. She suggested tying the information present in the nomination into the Knoxville multiple and exploring if this property could be nominated under said multiple. Ms. Stager also expressed some confusion on if this individual property was the work of a master or if it was a good representative of its style. She suggested additional clarification and analysis might make that clearer. Mr. Rogers stated that the nomination was very well done and that he enjoyed reading through it.

Ms. Stager moved to approve the nomination under the condition that it be evaluated for listing under the Knoxville multiple first. Mr. Thompson seconded that the nomination be approved with said condition. Voted and approved.

### **James M. Pardue House, Monroe County**

The property was nominated under Criterion C at the local level of significance with an Area of Significance in Architecture. The nomination was prepared by Jessica Morgan of the City of Sweetwater, and J. Ethan Holden of the Tennessee Historical Commission.

Ms. Morgan and the owner Brent Miller were in attendance virtually and told the State Review Board they would be happy to answer any questions they have.

Mr. Thompson asked Mr. Miller how long he had been collecting antiques. Mr. Miller replied he had been collecting them since he was five years old. Ms. Morgan stated that she was about to be the head of the historical zoning commission and that Sweetwater would be celebrating 150 years soon and invited everyone to attend. Mr. Miller also stated that he would soon be serving on the historical zoning board.

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

### **Hurdlow School, Moore County**

The property was nominated under Criterion A at the local level of significance. Areas of Significance included Education and Social History. The nomination was prepared by Erin Pierce Hill, Jillian Rael, and J. Ethan Holden. Ms. Hill attended the meeting in-person to support the nomination.

Ms. Stager suggested that the nomination state the property retained structural integrity and that the term “equalization school” in the nomination narrative be taken out as it did not accurately describe the property type. Dr. Mielnik pointed out a footnote that needed correction. Dr. Holden stated he would incorporate these revisions into the next draft. Mr. Thompson asked Ms. Stager why she thought the Hurdlow School retained integrity. Ms. Stager stated that properties in worse or similar condition had been nominated before, and that all the important features of the building were still there. She emphasized that there is a difference between condition and integrity and that the Hurdlow School might not have good condition, but did have enough integrity to be listed. Mr. Thompson stated that all the windows were gone, that the building was on its way out, and that the money needed to save it would be prohibitive. Ms. Stager and Ms. Barnett then recalled a similar situation in the past where a school had deteriorated but was restored following National Register listing and other funding.

Mr. Thompson acknowledged this and remarked that this was one of the roughest properties put before the Board for consideration. Dr. Mielnik asked Dr. Holden what the proposed use for the building was. Dr. Holden said the plan was to restore it and turn it into a community center or community venue. Mr. Thompson asked the owner if she was aware of the cost it would take to restore the building. Ms. Hill said she was aware of the money and work it would take and that she was committed to preserving the building. Mr. Self noted that the National Park Service had released guidance on the difference between integrity and condition which may prove useful for future reference.

Dr. Mielnik praised the nomination’s historical narrative. Dr. Holden thanked her and noted that the narrative would not have been possible without the community scrapbook held by Ms. Pierce and the meticulous research of Ms. Rael. Ms. Campbell asked if there had been conversations with the county about assistance preserving the property. She also asked if there could be any county funding to help with repairs. Both Ms. Hill and Dr. Holden noted that there was no county funding available.

Ms. Stager moved that the nomination be approved under the condition that the integrity section be revised to communicate how the property retained integrity more explicitly. Dr. Mielnik seconded the approval with condition. Voted and approved.

### **Reevaluations & Removals**

Dr. Holden presented information on three properties proposed for delisting due to their demolition. Dr. Mielnik moved, Mr. Thompson seconded, that the properties be considered for removal all at once as part of a single vote. Voted and approved.

### **Conway Bridge, Greene County**

The property was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 2009 for its Engineering and Transportation significance. In September 2024, the bridge was destroyed as a result of the catastrophic damage following Hurricane Helen’s arrival in East Tennessee.

### **Moses Looney Fort House, Sullivan County**

The property was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 for Exploration/Settlement, Military, and Politics/Government significance. Fieldwork in the fall of 2024 revealed the property was no longer extant.

### **Bashor Mill, Washington County**

The property was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 for its Industrial significance. It was demolished in 2024.

Ms. Stager noted that Bashor Mill may have been part of a larger National Register district. If it was, it would need to be delisted from that district as well.

Following the presentation of the three properties considered for reevaluation and removal, Dr. Mielnik approved, and Mr. Thompson seconded, that the removal be approved. Voted and approved.

### **Other Business**

Dr. Holden then provided updates on National Register Guidance published by the National Park Service and new developments on the National Register Mapping and Boundary Clarification Project. He also shared information on the National Register Digitization project and a new Recently Listed page published on the Tennessee Historical Commission's National Register website.

There being no further business, Mr. Self adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Approved,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Juan Self, Vice Chair