

**STATE REVIEW BOARD
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
May 16, 2025**

The State Review Board for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 met at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 16, 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; Lee Ingram; Lindsay Lanois; Tom Maher; Tara Mitchell Mielnik; Margot Payne; Jefferson Rogers; and James Thompson.

Members unable to attend were Beth Campbell; Claudette Stager; and Learotha Williams.

THC staff members attending the meeting were Rebecca Schmitt, J. Ethan Holden, Casey Lee, Justin Heskew, Lane Tillner, 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. Schmitt read the Determination into the record. Mr. Thompson moved, and Dr. Mielnik seconded, the Determination of Necessity. Voted and approved.

The next order of business was to approve the May 16, 2025, agenda. Mr. Thompson moved, and Dr. Mielnik seconded, that the agenda be approved. Voted and approved.

The next order of business was the recognition of Dr. Kevin Smith's life. Mr. McIntyre spoke of Dr. Smith's many professional accomplishments and his personal character. Dr. Smith joined the State Review Board as an archeology expert in 2008. He was later appointed chair in 2022, a role he fulfilled until his passing in 2025. Dr. Smith was a wealth of knowledge and was instrumental in listing many important Tennessee properties in the National Register of Historic Places. He was also a voice of encouragement and support when it was needed most. Dr. Smith will be missed by all.

Mr. Self also spoke in recognition of Dr. Smith. Mr. Self stated he met Dr. Smith in the late 1990's. Dr. Smith was the archeologist on a project Mr. Self was working on. They later connected and bonded over their shared duties serving as members of the State Review Board. Mr. Self enjoyed working with Dr. Smith and was thankful for his hard work preserving Tennessee history.

The next order of business was the approval of the Minutes of the January, 24, 2025 State Review Board meeting. Mr. Thompson moved, and Dr. Mielnik seconded, that the minutes of the meeting be approved. Voted and approved.

The next meeting of the State Review Board will be held on September 19, 2025, in Nashville, in person and by WebEx. The board determined that the January State Review Board meeting will be held on January 23rd, 2026.

The next order of business was the election of a new State Review Board Chair. Mr. Thompson moved that Mr. Self be elected the new Chair. Dr. Mielnik seconded the motion. Voted and approved. Mr. Thompson then moved that Dr. Mielnik be elected the Vice Chair. Ms. Payne seconded. Voted and approved, that Dr. Mielnik is the new Vice Chair.

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.

Dr. Rogers asked Mr. McIntyre how the withholding of federal funds may impact Tennessee Historical Commission staff, and if there was anything the SRB could do to help. Mr. McIntyre expressed gratitude for Dr. Roger's concern and noted that staff positions are secure because they are paid for with state funds. Mr. McIntyre noted that if board members were interested, they should reach out and contact their Congressional representatives and encouraged them to make the Historic Preservation Fund a priority. Dr. Rogers thanked Mr. McIntyre for sharing that information.

Mr. McIntyre also shared that Dr. James Jones, Jr., who worked at the Tennessee Historical Commission for thirty-five years, passed away a few days before the State Review Board.

National Register Nominations

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

Omohundro Water Filtration Complex District (Additional Documentation), Davidson County

The Omohundro Water Filtration Complex District was originally listed in the National Register on May 13, 1987. This Additional Documentation provided updated information on resources within the complex, the history of the complex, and extended the Period of Significance to 1963. The nomination was prepared by Laken Cole as part of Section 106 mitigation.

Ms. Caroline Eller of the Metropolitan Historical Commission attended the meeting in support of the nomination. Ms. Eller thanked the Board and Tennessee Historical Commission staff for their consideration and work. She stated that MHC unanimously supported the nomination.

Mr. Thompson stated he worked on several of the buildings in the complex during his career and felt that more information on the buildings should be included in the nomination. Mr. Thompson would provide Dr. Schmitt with his specific comments. Mr. Thompson praised the buildings of the complex and the people who maintained the buildings and kept them in great shape. He noted that the basilica-like appearance elevated the utilitarian nature of the building to something like a church, and that the flue on the building used to be fifty-feet taller until they stopping using coal as the main source of power.

Dr. Mielnik stated that she agreed with Mr. Thompson's evaluation of the property's impressive architecture and design. Dr. Mielnik stated that when she visited, it was beautiful inside. That it was all designed for waterworks makes it even more impressive, she stated.

Mr. Thompson stated that during the 2010 flood, waters threatened the complex. However, unlike other complexes rendered inoperable by the flood, the Omohundro Water Filtration Complex continued to operate and provide fresh water to Nashvillians in the time of crisis.

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

Old Stone Creamery, Maury County

The Old Stone Creamery was nominated under Criterion C at the local level of significance with an Area of Significance in Architecture. The nomination was prepared by J. Ethan Holden of the Tennessee Historical Commission.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Thompson stated the roof may be better described as a Jerken roof, rather than a clipped roof. He also noted it was plaster, not stucco, present on the interior walls, and that a picture in the nomination wrongly identified a comparable property as Belle Meade Dairy Building when it wasn't. Dr. Holden said he would make those fixes. Mr. Thompson stated he liked the building and that there were not very many left of its type.

Dr. Rogers stated it would be beneficial to include what kind of stone was used in the construction of the building. He also asked if the stones came from a local quarry. Dr. Holden responded it was constructed of limestone and he would be glad to include that information. Dr. Holden also stated the stones likely came from the property, but that he would double check and include that information in the nomination. Mr. Thompson agreed with Dr. Holden's theory that the stones came from the farm fields.

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

Ralph's Donut Shop, Putnam County

Ralph's Donut Shop was nominated under Criterion A at the local level of significance with an Area of Significance in Commerce. The nomination was prepared by Rebecca Schmitt of the Tennessee Historical Commission.

The owners, John and Sandra McDonald, spoke in support of the nomination and thanked Dr. Schmitt for her hard work on the nomination.

Dr. Mielnik spoke in support of the nomination. She has family from the Cookeville area and can confirm the importance of Ralph's to the surrounding community.

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

Earles Drug Store, Sullivan County

Earles Drug Store was nominated under Criterion A at the local level of significance with an Area of Significance in Commerce. The nomination was prepared by Rebecca Schmitt of the Tennessee Historical Commission. Dr. Schmitt stated she received positive comments from the Kingsport Certified Local Government. The property is a recipient of a Historic Development Preservation Grant, administered jointly by the Tennessee Historical Commission and the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

The owner, Ms. Dianna Cantler, and Ms. Jennifer Heider attended the meeting in support of the nomination. Ms. Cantler stated that she appreciated Dr. Schmitt's time and work on the nomination. She stated that the construction of the drive-through was the first one of its kind in Kingsport, maybe even the region. Ms. Cantler stated that she is excited about the work already accomplished on the building and that it is poised to contribute to the revitalization of downtown Kingsport.

Mr. Ingram asked if there had been discussions about the building being potentially eligible under Criterion C. Dr. Schmitt replied that it was a consideration, but that listing under Criterion C was the most efficient path forward.

Dr. Rogers stated that he found the drive-through aspect of the building fascinating. He stated that someone needed to study drive-through window pharmacies to better understand the property type. Dr. Rogers then commented that the picture of Mrs. Earle and President Eisenhower did not have Eisenhower in it.

Dr. Mielnik noted that on page sixteen, the footnotes needed some editing. Dr. Schmitt said that she would review and correct those before final submittal.

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

National Register Program Updates

Dr. Schmitt then presented National Register program updates to the State Review Board. Tennessee now has a new National Register reviewer. Mr. Jim Gabbert took a supervisory position within the National Park Service, so to reduce his workload, Tennessee was assigned to Ms. Michelle Diedrich.

NPS has issued a Best Practice Review stating that preservationists should pay attention to parking lots and inventory them in districts. The automobile era marked a turning point for American architecture and history. Parking lots were essential to facilitating this change but are now overlooked. Ideally, parking lots should be assigned a Contributing/Non-Contributing status in nominations.

The National Register Mapping Project is now at ninety-four percent mapped. There are three Additional Documentation documents currently with NPS to clarify boundaries.

The National Register Digitization project is now at twenty-one percent of all files scanned and digitized, for a total of 470 files. Staff are working on the project as time allows.

Dr. Rogers stated that he was glad parking lots were getting additional attention and recommended books by Jackle and Scully as primers on how to understand parking lots.

Other Business

Mr. Self and Mr. Jimmy Tucker provided an update on Clayborn Temple in Memphis, Shelby County. Mr. Self reported that a devastating fire damaged a large portion of the National Historic Landmark. Mr. Self had been working on NHL designation for the past six to eight years. Placement on the NHL confirmed that Clayborn was one of Memphis' jewels.

Mr. Tucker stated that he appreciated the opportunity to talk to the State Review Board. He stated they were currently working to stabilize the walls of the buildings. Authorities are working to determine the source of the fire. Mr. Tucker also stressed his and the community's commitment to rebuilding Clayborn Temple, and that he appreciates the Tennessee Historical Commission, NPS, and Margot Payne's continued support.

Mr. Self thanked Mr. McIntyre for keeping in touch with the team as the project moves forward. He promised to provide additional information as it became available to him.

Mr. McIntyre stated that the whole staff was committed to seeing the building rise again. He reiterated that though this was a major loss, with a dedicated community, something good could come of it.

Dr. Mielnik asked if there was anything the Board or individuals could do to help with the rebuilding efforts. Mr. Self stated that both public and financial support is important.

Ms. Barnett added that the property did receive grant money from Save America's Treasures, which was funded by the Historic Preservation Fund. This underscores the need for people to contact their Congressional representatives to advocate for the HPF. Mr. Self closed by reading an excerpt of Anasa Troutman's (Executive Director of the Historic Clayborn Temple) letter.

There being no further business, Mr. Self adjourned the meeting at 10:05 am.

Approved,

Juane Self, Chair