



THE COURIER



VOL. LXXI, No. 1

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

WINTER 2018

TREMENDOUS PROGRESS AT STATE HISTORIC SITES

By Dan Brown,
State Historic Sites Program Director

The THC State Historic Sites program is engaged in the busiest construction and development phase in the history of the program. Two new sites opened this past Fall—Sabine Hill State Historic Site in Elizabethton and Hawthorn Hill State Historic Site in Castalian Springs. Rocky Mount State Historic Site in Piney Flats is nearing completion of an approximately \$800,000.00 project for site improvements. Design development and contract documents meetings are ongoing for the new \$3.2 million Carter House State Historic Site Visitor's Center in Franklin. At Burra Burra Mine State Historic Site in Ducktown, a \$2.3 million project marks the next phase of the historic buildings rehabilitation at this historic mine site. At Cragfont State Historic Site in Castalian Springs, a \$400,000 historic barns rehabilitation is underway. At the Halbrook Hotel State Historic Site in Dickson, a \$330,000 historic windows rehabilitation project is underway, and at the Chester Inn State Historic Site in Jonesborough, a \$330,000 project will include period-appropriate windows are being fabricated to replace deteriorated 1970s windows. In addition, dozens of ongoing general maintenance and repair projects are underway at many of these and other sites across the state, as well as the establishment of twice-yearly, seasonally scheduled, preventative maintenance performed at the sites. The iconic Farm Office at the Carter House State Historic Site has been generously rehabilitated recently by the Battle of Franklin Trust, who raised private funding for the project. The non-historic Orman Building located on the original tract of the Polk Home in Columbia was demolished as a THC capital project, with plans in development

for a Memorandum of Agreement to eventually involve the site with the non-profit Polk Home.

The grand openings at Sabine Hill State Historic Site and Hawthorn Hill State Historic Site took place in November and September respectively and involved the attendance of numerous local and state officials and dignitaries as well as local supporters. THC Executive Director Patrick McIntyre gave remarks at both events. Interpretive signage was professionally developed at both sites to NPS standards for content, construction, and materials. These signs reflect a new interpretive standard that will eventually be used at the other THC sites. The development of Sabine Hill and Hawthorn Hill has been, and continues to be completed in phases. For both sites, we are ensuring that interior

interpretation is period appropriate and we have proceeded with long-planned legislative requests for a visitor's center at Sabine Hill and comprehensive site improvements and visitor amenities at Hawthorn Hill.

The bullet-scarred Farm Office at the Carter House State Historic Site in Franklin is widely regarded by historians as the most heavily-damaged building surviving from the Civil War. While it served as the ticket office for the site when it opened in the 1950s, it had not been used for decades. It is now open again and a celebration took place in November. This is a unique partnership project with the Battle of Franklin Trust which manages and operates the site. The Trust raised and generously donated \$150,000 for the design

Progress, continued on page 2



Grand Opening at Sabine Hill State Historic Site, Elizabethton, November 1, 2017

**Awards, continued from page 1**

and contractual services for the project. The THC donated historic paint analysis and hazardous materials analysis and remediation, and both groups worked together with the State of Tennessee Real Estate Management to oversee the restoration. Under state guidelines it was developed as a gift-in-place from the Trust to the state and THC, and the Farm Office is now part of the interpretive tour options for the Carter House State Historic Site. It is a unique and successful example of the emerging public-private partnerships encouraged by the administration.

*Carter House Farm Office*

In addition to the exciting Farm Office completion, the Carter House Site's design and contract documents for the new \$3.2 million dollar visitor's center are near completion. The project is a capital project of the THC and was funded by Governor Haslam and the Tennessee General Assembly. It will be bid in the spring with construction to begin in the summer, with a projected completion date for mid-2019. The design is focused around the agricultural past of the site and will include, with its state of the art building other site and walkways improvements.

The Rocky Mount State Historic Site improvements nearing completion have included extensive site improvements to the exterior of the visitor's center, the parking area, and the historic areas walkways for better access and to meet ADA requirements. A near total replacement of the extensive functioning rustic agricultural fencing on this large site is also a focus of this project. Barring weather conditions, work should be complete in February.

The Burra Burra Mine State Historic Site in Ducktown is also nearing completion of its design and will also have a mid-2019 completion date. Numerous historic structures

on the site will be rehabilitated including the main office (currently their museum and visitor's center), hoist house, time office, maintenance building, boiler house, bit house, other ancillary structures as well as two original c. 1915 electrical towers on site. The electrical towers are some of the oldest extant, electrically related structures in the state. The hoist house is being developed for enhanced community events and will feature historic reconstruction of eight massive 16/16 double-hung wood widows based on the original design of two existing windows that remain in the building.

The windows projects at the Halbrook Hotel and Chester Inn sites will repair and/or historically reconstruct much needed window work for both sites. Only old growth or vintage hardwoods will be used and it will stabilize these character defining aspects of the sites for at least a few generations.

The initial site surveys for design development for the barn rehabilitations at Cragfont has uncovered extensive sinkhole

issues around the three barn sites. We are currently undergoing an engineering survey of existing and potential sinkhole issues that will address this project and any projects for the site for the foreseeable future. These buildings and broader area will be used for future expansion of special event facilities on the site as Cragfont expands its successful special events and community use functions. This project should also be completed in 2019.

All of these exciting projects are well under way as we enter the 2018 legislative session with hopes for funding for additional projects at other THC state historic sites. We invite you to visit our many wonderful historic sites and support them and the partner non-profits that operate them day-to-day with your visitation and attendance at the numerous seasonal and holiday events they host. Full listings, site contact details, and other site information can be found at the THC webpage by clicking on the "State Programs" tab at tnhistoricalcommission.org

TENNESSEE ADDS FIVE NEW CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN 2017

Between January and December 2017, five new cities in Tennessee became part of Tennessee's Certified Local Government (CLG) program. The new CLGs joined thirty-seven other cities, towns and counties that act as local partners in federal and state efforts in historic preservation. To be eligible for the program, local governments must have active historic zoning commissions and agree to participate in several functions of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), most notably the statewide survey of historic resources and the review process for the National Register of Historic Places.

Three out of the five new CLGs (Lynchburg, Lawrenceburg and Manchester) are in the South Central Tennessee Development District, where the SCTDD Preservation Planner Theresa Prober provided invaluable assistance with the

application process. Lebanon became a CLG after years of sustained advocacy on the part of Kim Parks and others from the non-profit organization Historic Lebanon, Inc. The road towards CLG status in Athens was paved in large part by City Manager Seth Sumner, who had spearheaded a similar effort in his previous position with the City of Savannah.

With the help of our supporters across the state, 2017 marked a record of the most the CLGs added within a single year since the program began with eight inaugural participants in 1985. THC Historic Preservation Specialist and CLG coordinator Jane-Coleman Harbison is aiming even higher for this coming year. If seven new cities join the program in 2018, Tennessee will become the 20th state in country to have over fifty CLGs.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NEWS

By Claudette Stager

Eight Tennessee Properties Added to National Register of Historic Places

In November, the National Park Service added eight Tennessee properties to the National Register of Historic Places. "The latest National Register of Historic Places listing reflect Tennessee's unique heritage and honor a diverse group of places worthy of being recognized and appreciated," said Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Patrick McIntyre.

The sites added to the National Register of Historic Places are:

Leach Fire Lookout Tower

(Cedar Grove – Carroll County)

The Leach Fire Lookout Tower is an 80-foot tall bolted steel truss Aeromotor LS-40 structure built in 1957. Aeromotor was a leading manufacturer of steel fire towers in the 20th century. The cab at

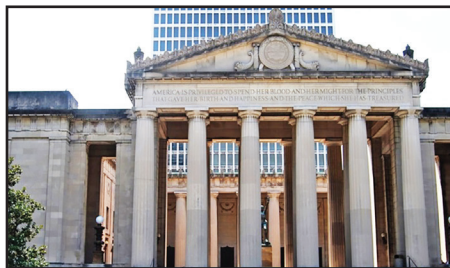


the top provided an unobscured view of the surrounding forests, allowing rangers to spot fires more easily than at ground level. There are several 1957 resources that are part of the historic complex: the tower, utility building, crew house and lookout operator's cabin. Federal and state agencies cooperated to conserve forests and prevent fires and the Leach Fire Lookout Tower is a good example of this. The tower and associated resources were built as part of the conservation efforts that included having permanently staffed towers. At one time Tennessee had 208 lookout towers and little more than half remain.

Tennessee War Memorial

(Nashville – Davidson County)

Designed by Nashville architect Edward Emmett Dougherty, with associate architects McKim Mead and White of New York, the Tennessee War Memorial was completed in 1925. The Classical Revival – Beaux Arts



style of the building is seen in the colonnaded façade, symmetrical design and pedimented entry into the courtyard. In the courtyard is the bronze statue of Victory, designed by prominent sculptors Leopold and Belle Kinney Scholz. The statue and memorial plaques with the names of 3,400 WWI dead were an integral part of the design. A focus of the interior of the building is the auditorium built to seat 2,500. At the end of WWI, the US experienced great interest in commemorating the "War to End all Wars." Starting in 1919 with the passage of the Tennessee Memorial Act, the state, Davidson County and city of Nashville worked together to complete a memorial to WWI. Since it opened in 1925, the Tennessee War Memorial has been used for offices, commemorative events and as an entertainment venue.



Mt. Zion Negro School

(Bradford vicinity – Gibson County)

The original Mt. Zion School was constructed around 1870 and the extant 1915 building may have been constructed on the same site. The school building is located near a modern church and adjacent to a historic cemetery. In the early 20th century, most residents of the area were farmers or sharecroppers and family members were needed to help with crops, so children often went to school only through fourth grade.

Those who went on to secondary schools might go to the Trenton Rosenwald School, boarding with family or friends. By the 1940s, students were allowed to stay in school, helping on the farm after classes. Former students remember walking as far as 10 miles to get to the Mt. Zion school. The school served as a social center for the rural community, a place where people would meet for events such as cake walks, sports, or plays. The school is an important example of African American education in Gibson County and it is the last known one-room elementary school remaining in the county. Mt. Zion Negro School closed its doors in 1960, was briefly used for church services in the late 1980s and sits unused today.



Blue Springs Lutheran Church and Cemetery

(Mosheim – Greene County)

Located in the rural Greene County, the Blue Springs Lutheran Church was built in 1893 and is a good example of an ecclesiastical design that combines elements of the Folk Victorian and Gothic Revival styles. Sheathed in weatherboards, the decorative features of the building include Italianate brackets, drip moldings and dentils at the cornice. A three-story bell tower on the façade and pedimented windows on the side elevations are prominent exterior features. The Rev. Francis Marion Harr, pastor of the church in 1893, is recognized as the architect and builder of the church. The adjacent cemetery pre-dates the church and is an important part of its history.

National Register, continued on page 4

**National Register, continued from page 3****Farmers and Merchants Bank**
(Ethridge – Lawrence County)

The one-story brick building in the heart of Ethridge was built in 1927 after an earlier bank building burned. Many banks in the early 20th century were designed in the Classical Revival style, which was thought to convey security and stability to a community. The restrained detailing, seen in the brick and stone window details on the façade of the Ethridge bank, copies the more elaborate Classical Revival style seen in larger communities. When the current building was constructed, the economy of Ethridge was based on agriculture. The Farmers and Merchants Bank provided financing and capital for expanding businesses and farms. After the bank closed around 1950, it was used for several years as a post office.

**Hardison Mill Farm**
(Columbia vicinity – Maury County)

The Hardison family first settled in this part of Maury County around 1805 and built a farmhouse and mill. After a flood in 1870, the current farmhouse was constructed. Today the working farm includes 66-acres, the farmhouse, sheds, a cistern, dairy barn and a family cemetery. The centerpiece of the complex is the two-story weatherboarded I-house. A centrally placed two story pedimented portico delineates the façade of the house. Segmental arch windows and doors, stone chimneys

and interior paneled woodwork are principal architectural features of the house. In 1930, the farm was sold outside of the family and agriculture shifted from milling to tobacco and dairy farming. The Hardison Mill Farm is an excellent representation of the historic importance of agriculture in Maury County.

**Pottsville General Store**
(Columbia vicinity – Maury County)

The Pottsville General Store is located on State Route 166 near the intersection of State Route 99, giving it a good position to attract travelers on both roads. Constructed around 1890, the one and one-half story frame building was built on a stone pier foundation and has a single entry and two large windows on the façade. In the late 19th century, the community of Pottsville had a school, stores, churches, gristmill and houses but few of the historic resources remain. Fletcher Lumsden ran the Pottsville General Store until the 1930s, providing dry goods, medicine, hardware and other necessities that the farmers could not produce themselves. The store changed ownership several times after the 1930s and was used for canoe rental in the 1980s. Today, the former Pottsville General Store, the only commercial building in the community, is used as a restaurant.

**Black Creek Fire Lookout Tower**
(Robbins – Scott County)

The Black Creek Fire Lookout Tower is an 80-foot tall bolted steel truss Aeromotor

LS-40 that was built in 1951. Aeromotor was a leading manufacturer of steel fire towers in the 20th century. The cab at the top provided an unobscured view of the surrounding forests, allowing rangers to spot fires more easily than at ground level. Also built around 1951 and on the site are an operator's cabin, utility building, pavilion, crew house and shed. Federal and state agencies cooperated to conserve forests and prevent fires in the mid-20th century and the Black Creek Fire Lookout Tower is a good example of this. The tower and associated resources were built as part of the conservation efforts that included having permanently staffed towers. At one time Tennessee had 208 lookout towers and little more than half remain.

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. It is part of a nationwide program that coordinates and supports efforts to identify, evaluate and protect historic resources. The Tennessee Historical Commission, as the State Historic Preservation Office, administers the program in Tennessee.

For more information on the National Register including information on how to begin the process to list a property, visit <http://tnhistoricalcommission.org>.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

At its meeting on October 13, 2017, the Tennessee Historical Commission approved seven historical markers: *LT William McBryar*, *Buffalo Soldier and The Bordeaux Community/Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge*, Davidson County; *Beauford and Joseph Delaney*, Knox County; *Dunbar Rosenwald School*, Loudon County; *Putnam County's Only Public Execution*, Putnam; *Rock of Ages CME Church, 1866*, Shelby County and *Blue Ridge Pottery, 1917-1957*, Unicoi County. Those interested in submitting proposed texts for markers should contact Linda T. Wynn at the Tennessee Historical Commission, 2941 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442, or call (615) 770-1093.



John, Bob and Andy, Tennessee's Other Taylor Brothers A Nineteenth-Century Saga of Law and Order

By James B. Jones, Jr., Public Historian

Andy Taylor was hanged on November 23, 1883, in Loudon. His offense was touted in local newspapers as “one of the boldest and most atrocious ever committed in this State.”

He stayed indifferent to the end. His parting words on earth were profane while his demeanor on the gallows was “wonderful and unparalleled in the annals of crime, and fully in keeping with his desperate nature and atrocious deeds.” He steadfastly refused to see any minister, saying he “would die like a man.” Asked if he wished to say anything to the crowd, he replied: “Not a G-d d—n word.” He mounted “the gallows with a firm step, and calmly surveyed the crowd with a half smile on his beardless, young face.” He asked that his body be sent to his mother.

The trap was sprung at 3:15. He was dead at the end of the ninth minute; he was cut down at the end of the twenty-seventh minute and placed in a coffin for shipment to his mother. The throng witnessing the event numbered 1,500. The gallows, screened for the execution “was the first private hanging ever had in this part of the State.”

Ironically, the deed that led domino-like to Andy Taylor's execution was committed by his eldest brother John Taylor, who killed James Fletcher in Chattanooga on February 21, 1881. Taylor was the engineer on the steamboat *Tellico*. Fletcher was a boat builder; who on the fateful day was repairing the *Tellico*. A quarrel arose and John, “being of a very impetuous nature,” drew a pistol. “Fletcher was an old man, Taylor a large, brawny giant in his prime.” When he drew his pistol, “the old men remarked that none but ____ cowards carried pistols.” Incensed, Taylor fired, killing the old man. Now a murderer, Taylor sprang into a nearby rowboat and went rapidly down the Tennessee river, and was soon hidden in the mountains. The incident created great commotion in the city, and a large posse was soon in pursuit. But Taylor was not located until April, when he was traced to Roane county, where his mountain hideout was besieged by a armed posse. He surrendered. Even though his trial was deferred nearly a year he was finally

convicted of manslaughter and sentenced for ten years; he appealed to the state Supreme Court.

He was conveyed to the Supreme Court, in Knoxville, aboard a Cincinnati & Southern railroad car on September 14, 1882. He was placed in a front car and guarded by Hamilton county Sheriff W. T. Cate and Deputy Sheriff John J. Conway. When the train reached Sweetwater, two men boarded the car from opposite ends to where Taylor was guarded. “They were tall, brawny, ruffian-like men and seemed intent on some deep design.” The train had gone four miles toward Philadelphia when both strangers suddenly rose; they turned out to be John's brothers Bob and Andy. Bob placed his pistol at the Deputy Sheriff's head and fired. Andy Taylor fired at the Sheriff who came charging into the scene. John Taylor jerked the pistol from the dead deputy and, handcuffed as he was, joined Andy and shot the Sheriff, who fired one shot before he died, wounding John in the wrist. The handcuffs were quickly unlocked and the three brothers promptly proceeded to the locomotive. Holding their weapons to the engineer's head, they forced him to move on, at maximum speed, through two stations to Loudon, twenty miles away. Upon reaching Loudon, they mounted waiting horses riding quickly to parts unknown. Chattanooga was in a frenzy when the news reached the city. Soon a posse of 200 boarded a train and sped to Loudon. They unsuccessfully scoured the country for two weeks. Additional posses were organized in nearly every county between Chattanooga and Knoxville; at one time no less than 2,500 men searched, but found nothing. The State offered \$12,500 reward for the murderers, dead or alive, but no trace could be found.

When the three Taylor brothers left Loudon, they proceeded between the mountains between Loudon and Kingston. They forced a physician to dress John's wound. They entered several stores, absconding with boxes of cartridges. Remounting, they continued to the densest forests and hid in the remotest recesses. They were familiar with

the region and remained undetected.

A few days afterward Bob Taylor boarded a train at Rockwood, and proceeded to Missouri where he had kin. He had been there scarcely a week when the Sheriff of Laclede County, recognized him and resolved to arrest him. Taylor was in Lebanon¹ purchasing supplies; as he boarded the train he was followed by the sheriff and a deputy. A few moments after he took his seat, the sheriff sidled behind him and putting a pistol to his head, ordering him to surrender. Taylor was not easily daunted, reached for his revolver, but before he could draw the Sheriff fired and John Taylor fell dead. The news of his death was received with elation in Chattanooga; when his corpse arrived, 5,000 people met it at the train station. It was placed on public exhibition the next day and viewed by 15,000 persons.

Andy and John Taylor, when they were left by Bob, proceeded cautiously over land in the direction of Alabama; they traveled only under cover of darkness, and made five or six miles each day. Disguised as tramps, they actually passed through Chattanooga where militia was guarding the river, and some 1,000 volunteers scrutinized strangers. From Chattanooga they trudged to Memphis and then to Missouri, intending to join their brother Bob. When they reached Missouri they learned of Bob's death. John became very depressed; this, coupled with long exposure and neglected wound, proved too much “for his iron constitution.” He fell ill at Ballenger's Mill, Missouri, and after a painful sickness of nearly a month, died. He was buried near that point by Andy.

The death of his two brothers left Andy despondent. He was but a boy, scarcely 20, and when he realized his situation, he almost committed suicide. He left Missouri and began to work on a farm near Emporia, Kansas. Remorse seized him and he tried to shoot himself, but was prevented. Drinking to excess he confessed, was arrested and placed in close confinement until Tennessee

Law and Order, continued on page 6

¹ The county seat of Laclede County, named after Lebanon, Tennessee, from which its original settlers originated in 1849.



PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

By Linda T. Wynn

Assistant Director for State Programs & Publications Editor

University of Tennessee Press,
110 Conference Center, 600 Henley St,
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996

John C. Brown of Tennessee: Rebel, Redeemer, and Railroader by Sam Davis Elliott. Filling not only a biographical but a historiographical gap in Tennessee's Civil War and Reconstruction era, as well as the post-Confederate South, *John C. Brown of Tennessee* is the first full-scale biography on this Giles County native. A Confederate general in the Army of Tennessee, governor of Tennessee, railroad executive, and an attorney by profession, Brown is one of the era's least studied individuals. Wounded five times he saw action in almost all the army's battles from Fort Donelson to Franklin and played a unique utility role as a division commander in the 1864 Atlanta Campaign. Probably a leader of the early Ku Klux Klan after the Civil War, Brown is known more for his role as leader in the anti-Brownlow movement that sought to end Radical Reconstruction in Tennessee. He was selected president of the 1870 constitutional convention, which helped lead to his election as the state's nineteenth governor later that year. After his tumultuous time as governor seeking to resolve economic conflicts that began long before the Civil War, he became a railroad executive and industrialist. He had a significant role in the struggle between rival financiers for control of the southern route to the Pacific, and was in the front lines of management on behalf of the Texas and Pacific Railroad during the Great Southwest Railroad Strike of

1886. This native Tennessean was involved in many of the most vital issues of his day. He not only helped shape the future of the Volunteer State but that of the nation as well. Elliott, who is a member of the Gearhiser, Peters, Elliott, & Cannon, PLLC Law firm, where he practices primarily in the field of litigation, has written several other books including *Soldier of Tennessee: General Alexander P. Stewart and the Civil War in the West* (1999), *Doctor Quintard, Chaplain C.S.A. and Second Bishop of Tennessee: The Memoir and Civil War Diary of Charles Todd Quintard* (2003), and *Isham G. Harris of Tennessee: Confederate Governor and United States Senator* (2010). **John C. Brown of Tennessee: Rebel, Redeemer, and Railroader should be of interest to anyone wanting to comprehend Brown, the South of his time, and its relevance for the present. Hardback: \$43.00**

Athens of the New South: College Life and the Making of Modern Nashville by Mary Ellen Pethel. This tome narrates the establishment and growth of Nashville's institutions of higher education and their impact on the city, state, region, and nation. The city's colleges and universities also shaped its brand of modernity as demonstrated by the construction of the Parthenon, a full-scale replica of the original Parthenon in Athens, which was the centerpiece of Nashville's 1897 Centennial Exposition. By the turn of the twentieth century, Vanderbilt University had become one of the country's premier private schools, while Peabody College (now Peabody College of Vanderbilt

University) was a leading teacher-training institution. Nashville also became known as a center for the higher education of African Americans. The city's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) also made their educational mark. Fisk University became one of the nation's most prestigious black liberal-arts universities, Meharry Medical College developed as one of the country's few medical training centers for African American medical professionals. Tennessee Agricultural & Industrial College (now Tennessee State University) became the state's first African American public college. Other institutions of higher learning—Ward-Belmont, a junior college for women; David Lipscomb College, the instructional arm of the Church of Christ; and Roger Williams University, which trained African-American men and women as teachers and preachers, all made important contributions to Nashville's higher educational landscape. Connecting these institutions to the progressive and educational reforms of the era, Pethel, an archivist and member of the Social Science Department at Nashville's Harpeth Hall, also investigates their impact in shaping Nashville's expansion, on changing gender roles, and on leisure activity in the city, which included the rise and popularity of collegiate sports. Concluding, Pethel demonstrates that Nashville's present-day reputation as a dynamic place to live, learn, and work is due in no small part to the role that higher education plays in the Athens of the New South's growth and development. **Cloth: \$60.00.**

Law and Order, continued from page 5

lawmen were notified. The Hamilton and Loudon County sheriffs went to Kansas, and Taylor was conveyed to Nashville because the excitement was so intense in Chattanooga that it was feared he might be lynched. As a further precaution, Governor William B. Bate arranged for him to be incarcerated in Williamsburg, Kentucky.

In June, Andy Taylor was transferred to Loudon to face trial. Procuring a jury proved to be difficult, 1,000 talesmen were summoned before the jury was complete. The

court appointed attorney's line of defense was that the prisoner was a minor at the time, having been persuaded into the deed by his elder brother, Bob. After a week, the case was given to the jury and in two hours they returned a verdict of murder in the first degree. His lawyers appealed to the Supreme Court. At special request he was transported to Chattanooga to be kept in prison until the Supreme Court made its decision. When he arrived hundreds called to see him, and all were astonished to see a beardless, dull youth instead of a demon. He remained quietly in

jail in Chattanooga until September, two years after the original crime had been committed, when he was taken before the Supreme Court in Knoxville. The lower court's finding was confirmed; he received his sentence with composure and awaited his fate with indifference. Andy Taylor was sentenced to die November 23rd. He was transferred to Loudon to face the hangman. What the New York Times characterized as a "terrible tragedy," concluded.



NEW SHPO STAFF MEMBER

Rebecca Schmitt joined THC in December as the new Historic Preservation Specialist for the National Register Program. Born in Wisconsin, Rebecca grew up in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains near Cape Girardeau, Missouri. She attended Southeast Missouri State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Historic Preservation and Bachelor of Arts in History with a German minor in 2013. She earned a Master of Arts in History and Graduate Certificate in Public History from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 2015, followed by her Master of Science in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University last April. Along the way, she worked as a Teaching Assistant while completing internships at local museums and the Maryland Historical Trust (SHPO). For the past two years, she worked as the Writer and Reviewer at the Michigan Historical Marker Program. When not at work, Rebecca enjoys walking, scrapbooking, and reading.



STAFF VISITS FT. CAMPBELL

Review and Compliance staff recently visited Fort Campbell to familiarize new staff with the cultural resources there. Highlighted during the visit was the National Register-eligible Clarksville Base Historic District, one of thirteen Cold War storage and maintenance facilities constructed during the early development of the United States' nuclear stockpile from 1947 - 1965. Hired by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, the engineering firm of Black and Veatch designed the plans for the base in 1947. Construction began shortly thereafter and the first nuclear weapons arrived in July of 1949. The number of structures within the base quickly expanded to meet demand as the number of weapons increased from 450 warheads in 1950 to 1,000 by 1952. Along with facilities to store and assemble nuclear weapons came support structures such as recreational facilities, a church, fire station, mess hall, and barracks for the military personnel assigned there, as well as other support facilities for the civilian personnel. Independent electric power and water treatment plants made the base self-sustaining.

In 1961, because of changes in nuclear weapon technology, Clarksville Base began operating as a modification center. This function

entailed not only surveillance of nuclear weapons, but retrofits and weapon retirements. Deactivation of the Clarksville Weapons Modification Facility took place on September 24, 1965, however the base continued to be used by the Defense Atomic Support Agency until 1969 and later decommissioned after radon gas was discovered in the buildings and tunnels of the facility. It currently serves various training and support functions for Fort Campbell.

The context report that has been created for Clarksville Base is but one example of the documentation compiled and cataloged by the Fort Campbell cultural resources staff and serves as a model report that can not only inform the decision making process, but also future preservation planning and scholarship. Their website serves as a portal, by which the entire context for Clarksville Base can be read, and additional cultural resources at Fort Campbell can be explored including a particularly well executed video that was produced as Section 106 mitigation. The above mentioned website and video can be found at:

(<http://www.campbell.army.mil/Installation/Pages/Cultural-Resources.aspx>) (<https://www.ket.org/episode/KBARR%20000000/>).



Published by the
**TENNESSEE HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**2941 Lebanon Pike
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442**

Dr. Reavis L. Mitchell, Jr., Chairman
E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.,
Executive Director & SHPO
Dr. James B. Jones, Jr., Public Historian,
Editor, The Courier
Linda T. Wynn, Assistant Director of
State Programs and Publications Editor

Public Comment Solicited

The Tennessee Historical Commission is again soliciting public comment and advice on its administration of the National Historic Preservation Act. Especially, we are seeking input on such matters as geographic areas or classes of properties which should be a priority for survey and/or registration efforts, criteria and priorities which should be established for restoration grants, and ways and means through which local efforts at preservation of historic properties can be most effectively assisted. Comments and advice on other areas and issues of a more general nature are also encouraged. Activities carried out by the Commission under the mandate of the Act include efforts to survey and inventory potentially-historic properties across the state and to nominate the most significant to the National Register of Historic Places. Other activities involve programs to protect and preserve properties once they are identified by reviewing Federal projects to determine if they will adversely affect historic properties and wish to earn the investment tax credits which are available; awarding and administering grants for the restoration of National Register properties; and providing technical assistance and advice to local governments which are attempting to establish local programs and ordinances to protect historic properties. Besides the restoration grants program, some of these activities are carried out in part by the provision of grant support to local groups and agencies. These grant funds are federal funds which are appropriated under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act to assist states in carrying out the purposes of the Act. The comments received will be used to structure the annual application to the National Park Service for these funds. The Tennessee Historical Commission expects to solicit applications for grants-in-aid in June of this year for the 2017 Fiscal Year (10/01/2016-9/30/2017). The public input and advice which we are soliciting now will help to set both general office objectives and to establish priorities and criteria for the review of grant applications. Comments are requested by April 15, 2017, and may be addressed to Claudette Stager, Assistant Director for National Register Programs, Tennessee Historical Commission, 2941 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37214.

This program receives Federal funds from the National Park Service. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Tennessee Historical Commission, Authorization Number 327324, 16,800 copies promulgated at a cost of \$0.23 per copy, 06/17.

STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
2941 LEBANON PIKE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214

THE COURIER

Presorted
Standard Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Nashville, TN
Permit No 2093

NEW NATIONAL REGISTER ENTRIES

Since the last issue of *The Courier* there have been ten new entries to the National Register of Historic Places from Tennessee. The properties are the following:

Look Rock Observation Tower	3
Hardison Mill Farm, Maury County	7
Mt. Zion Negro School, Gibson County	3
Wilson-Crouch House, Coffee County	2
Farmers and Merchants Bank, Lawrence County	1
Pottsville General Store, Maury County	2
Black Creek Fire Lookout Tower, Scott County	6
Blue Springs Lutheran Church and Cemetery, Greene County	2
Leach Fire Lookout Tower, Carroll County	4

Tennessee Valley Authority Hydroelectric System, 1933-1979 Multiple Property Submissions

Boone Hydroelectric Project, Sullivan County	11
Fort Patrick Henry Hydroelectric, Sullivan County	8

The following property was removed from the National Register due to demolition.

Joseph Wilson County, Williamson County	1
---	---

There are now **2,191** entries in the National Register from Tennessee including **287** districts for a total of **44,144** resources now listed.