

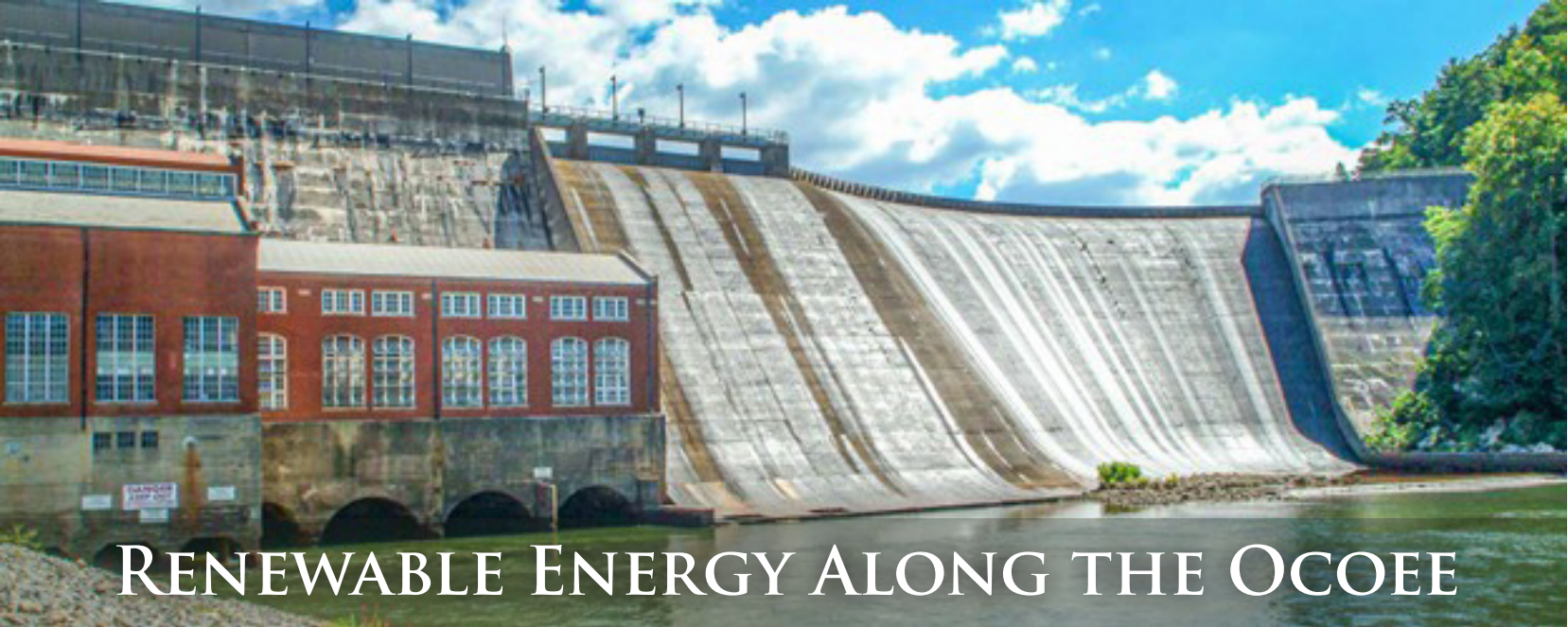


THE COURIER

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

FALL 2023

In This Issue: National Energy Awareness Month • State Historic Sites Brochure Released
Tennessee Wars Commission Receives Award



RENEWABLE ENERGY ALONG THE OCOEE

By Kelley Reid

In honor of Energy Awareness Month this October, we are highlighting three historic hydroelectric power facilities owned and operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The Ocoee River is a well-known destination for whitewater rafting, but the landscape of this river gorge was altered significantly to generate power for industries and control local flooding. Overall, this effort required the construction of three dams along the lower Ocoee in the span of about 30 years. It also required some unique engineering to harness the potential of the river.

The Eastern Tennessee Power Company, later Tennessee Electric Power Company (TEPCO), started this process with the completion of their first dam, Ocoee No. 1, in 1911. This dam is 135 feet high and stretches 840 feet across and led to the formation of Parksville Reservoir. The completion of Ocoee No. 1 was the first of two hydroelectric facilities planned for the Ocoee River by the Eastern Tennessee Power Company.

A few years later in 1913, the company completed its second development, Ocoee No. 2, several miles upriver, which features a dam measuring 30 feet high and 450 feet across. The two facilities were among the earliest hydroelectric plants in Tennessee. Through a network of connecting transmission lines and switching stations, also built by the Eastern Tennessee Power Company, Ocoee Nos. 1 and 2 provided hydroelectric power to Chattanooga, Knoxville, Dalton, Georgia, and to points in between. In 1939, TVA acquired Ocoee Nos. 1 and 2. This was later



Section of the Ocoee No. 2 wooden flume, 2023. Photo courtesy of Caty Dirksen.

Ocoee No. 1 dam and powerhouse. Source: Tennessee Valley Authority.

followed by its construction of Ocoee No. 3 in 1943 to provide more power for industries in the region that were producing materials needed for World War II. This dam is 110 feet high and 612 feet across and is located roughly two miles upstream from the powerhouse.

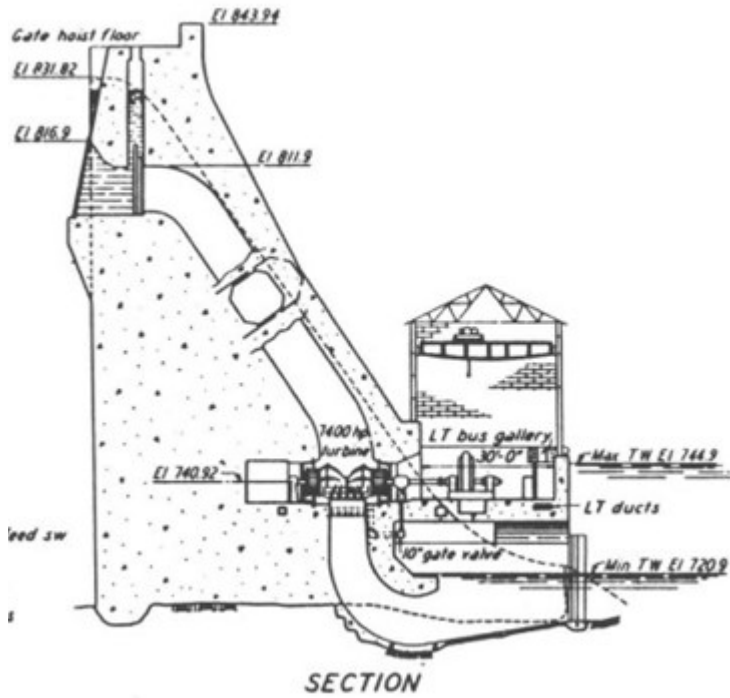
Like many conventional dams, Ocoee No. 1 holds a reservoir behind it. This facility produces power by letting water from the reservoir flow through a section of the dam, where it spins turbines connected to the generators located in the powerhouse on site.



Ocoee No. 2 dam. Source: Tennessee Valley Authority.

Ocoee No. 3 also created a reservoir, but the powerhouse is located about two miles downriver from the dam. Instead of letting water through the dam to begin power production, the water is diverted through a pipeline, which extends about 2.5 miles downhill toward the powerhouse where it connects with the penstock. The water drops 180 feet through the penstock into the powerhouse, where the turbine and generator are housed.

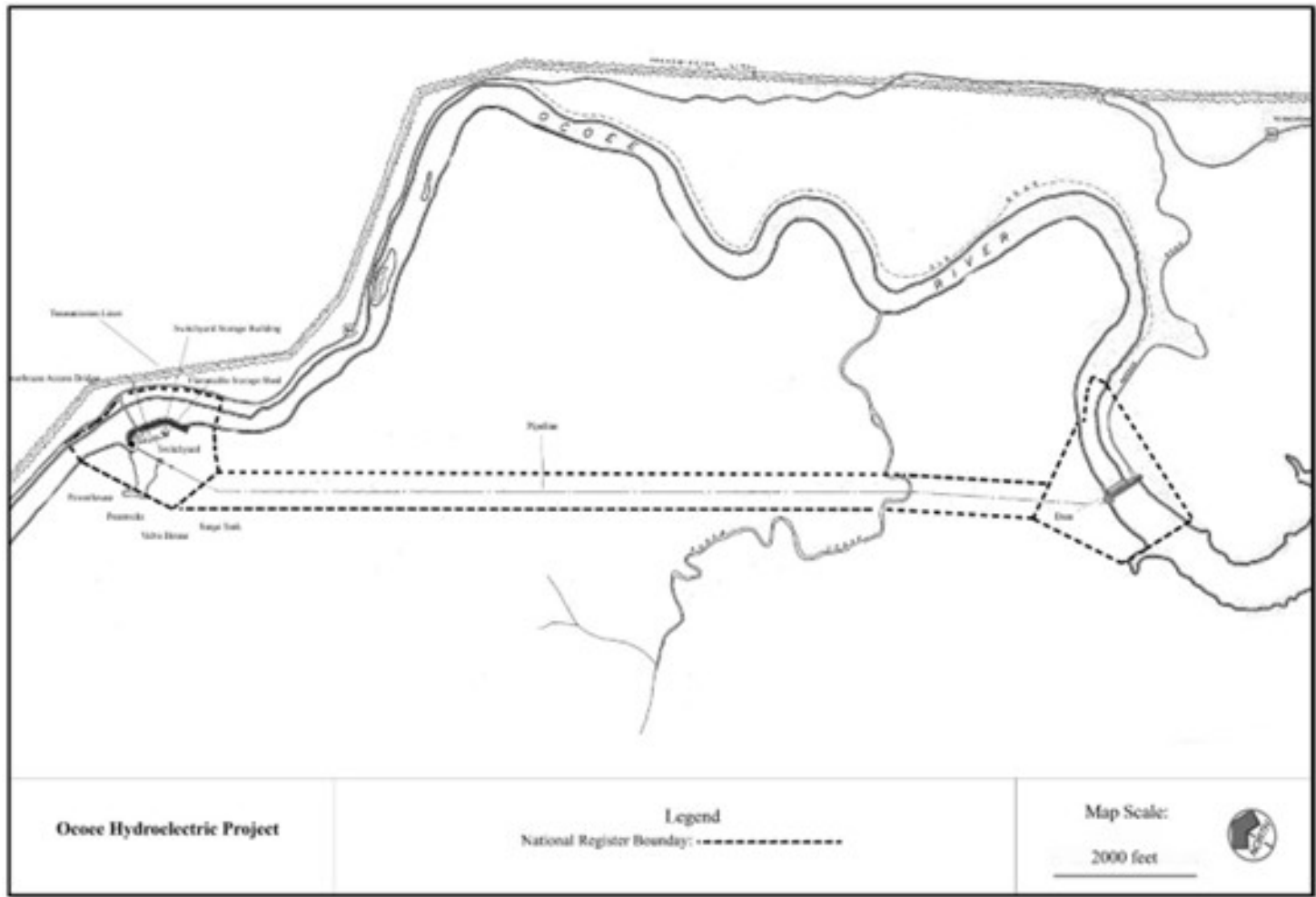
While these dams are each significant, Ocoee No. 2 is unique among the three, and within the TVA system. While Ocoee No. 1 and No. 3 are much larger than Ocoee No. 2, the three dams produce comparable amounts of power. Similar to Ocoee No. 3, Ocoee No. 2 is designed to take advantage of the significant drop in elevation over the roughly 5 mile stretch of river between the dam and the powerhouse. Instead of building a large dam, the engineers designed a 4.7-mile-long wooden flume that would start at the location of the Ocoee No. 2 dam and travel along the



Site plan and National Register boundary for Ocoee No. 3. Source: Ocoee No. 3 Hydroelectric Project National Register Nomination Form.



Site plan and National Register boundary for Ocoee No. 3. Source: Ocoee No. 3 Hydroelectric Project National Register Nomination Form.



Site plan and National Register boundary for Ocoee No. 3. Source: Ocoee No. 3 Hydroelectric Project National Register Nomination Form.



Ocoee No. 1 powerhouse interior, 2023. Photo courtesy of Caty Dirksen.

cliffs above the river until it reaches the powerhouse. This wooden flume was a significant feat of engineering at the time due to its length and size. The flume only loses 19 feet of elevation by the time it reaches the powerhouse, but the river below loses 270 feet. This means the water flows down into the powerhouse from 250 feet above, creating the momentum to move the turbines. This process gives the 30-foot-high dam the necessary head rate, or potential power, of a dam several times its height.

All three dams are still operating today and are an important part of the TVA system. The employees at these facilities continually express pride in their work with these engineering feats that have had a significant impact in the history of their state.

These three dams are all listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Ocoee No. 1 and No. 2 under the Pre-TVA Hydroelectric Power Development in Tennessee Multiple Property Submission and Ocoee No. 3 under the Tennessee Valley Authority Hydroelectric System, 1933-1979 Multiple Property Submission.

SCAN FOR AN
AUGMENTED REALITY
EXPERIENCE AT OCOEE
DAM #2



Sources

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STAFF NEWS



NEW COMMISSION MEMBER
CHRISTIAN POTUCEK

Christian Potucek is the Governor's Representative and the Deputy Chief of Staff, External Affairs for Governor Bill Lee. Potucek holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History from Vanderbilt University.

NEW STAFF MEMBER
BOBBY COOLEY



Bobby Cooley joined the staff in 2023 as the State Historic Sites Program Coordinator. A native of Manchester, Tennessee, he earned his B.A. in History at Middle Tennessee State University. Previously, Cooley worked as a Park Ranger in Tennessee State Parks at Port Royal State Historic Park, where he was a part of the ongoing historic preservation and restoration project of the 1859 General Store and Masonic Lodge. During his time in parks, Cooley also worked at Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Park, Sgt. Alvin C. York State Historic Park, and Dunbar Cave State Park where he celebrated multiple park awards with other staff, including two 'Park of the Year' Awards and two 'Excellence in Interpretation' Awards. Cooley is currently pursuing a M.A. in Public History at Middle Tennessee State University.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

At its meeting on June 16, 2023, the Tennessee Historical Commission approved seven historical markers: **Piedmont/Fleet Building**, Campbell County; **Aaittafama Archaeological Park**, Davidson County; **Col. Robert Henry Dyer and WW II Mid-Air Collision**, Dyer County; **Line Springs Hotel**, Sevier County; **Cordell Hull Powerhouse**, Smith County; and **Moye Green Boarding House**, Sumner 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.

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Celebrate Fall with our State Historic Sites, check out their events on our website's calendar!

FALL
2023

- **Hidden History: Behind the Scenes Tour of Cragfont State Historic Site**
November 11, 2023 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm EST
- **Christmas Bazaar at Sam Houston Schoolhouse State Historic Site**
November 18, 2023 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm EST
- **Stargazing at Marble Springs State Historic Site**
November 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm EST
- **Rock Castle State Historic Site Holiday Open House**
December 2, 2023 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm CST
- **Visions of Christmas: 1861 at Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site**
December 2, 2023 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm EST



SCAN FOR MORE
EVENTS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NEWS

By J. Ethan Holden

Five Tennessee Properties Added to National Register of Historic Places

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 State Historic Preservation Office administers the program in Tennessee. The state’s new listings are:

The Meltons Bank

Listed July 3, 2023
(Liberty Vicinity, Cannon County)

Located in the small community of Gassaway near Liberty, The Meltons Bank was nominated for the exceptional service the bank and Kidwell family provided to the surrounding community. George G. Melton and his sons chartered and officially opened the first Meltons Bank for business in 1903. They operated the bank out of their mercantile store. After George Melton and his sons passed away, James Kidwell, who worked as assistant and head cashier at the bank, purchased the lot adjacent to the mercantile store in 1925. He constructed the current bank building on the lot that same year, and in 1926, The Meltons Bank moved into the new building. From 1925 to 1986, James Kidwell and his son, Jesse Howard Kidwell, provided the community



The Melton's Bank. Photo Courtesy of Mark Dudney

exceptional service. In addition to offering regular banking services, the Kidwells also served the community as financial advisors, budget directors, and confidants. The First National Bank of Manchester purchased The Meltons Bank in 1987 after Jesse Kidwell passed away in 1986. The bank closed its doors six months after the sale. Gary and Jama Hancock purchased the bank in 2018 and have since transformed The Meltons Bank into the Gassaway Museum, which is open to the public.

Fox House

Listed June 21, 2023
(Tullahoma, Coffee County)

The Fox House sits on a ridge above Ovoca Lake along the northern edge of Tulla-

homa’s city limits in Coffee County. The house was constructed in 1910 for Walter Dennis Fox and his wife Sara Bell Fox. W.D. Fox was a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternal organization and eventually rose to the station of Grand Keeper of the Records and Seal. He played a major role in the establishment of the Knights of Pythias Ovoca Home for Windows and Orphans, which was once located down the ridge from the residence. The Fox House is a locally important example of the Craftsman architectural style. Angled chestnut shingle sidings, tapered shingled porch columns, and second-level sleeping porch are all character defining features of the residence. A Craftsman style garage was also constructed on the property in 1933. The Fox House changed ownership several times after the death of W.D. Fox in 1912 until the current owners purchased the property in 1995.

Bruce High School

Listed July 6, 2023
(Dyersburg, Dyer County)

Bruce High School, located on Vernon Street in Dyersburg, Dyer County, was nominated for the crucial role it played in the education and daily life of the historically African American Bruce neighborhood. The current building was constructed in 1951, making it the third building to house Bruce High School. It was the only place Black Dyer Countians could obtain a



Fox House. Photo Courtesy of Rebecca Schmitt



Martin Downtown Commercial Historic District. Photograph Courtesy of Melinda Winchester

secondary education during the period of Jim Crow. The school served the educational and social needs of the surrounding community from its construction in 1951 until its closure in 1972. Reading, arithmetic, science, geography, civic classes, French, and building and trade classes were offered at the school. Students were also able to participate in many extracurricular activities, including the New Farmers of America and New Homemakers of America clubs, marching band, football, and choir. After the school closed, city officials demolished the high school wing and library, and the building reopened as the Bruce Community Center. In 1983, several female alumni began holding a biennial Bruce alumni reunion at the community center and were instrumental in starting the nomination process.

Haynes Haven Stock Farm

Listed July 6, 2023
(Spring Hill, Maury County)

The Haynes Haven Stock Farm in Spring Hill was nominated for both its architecture and statewide significance for its association with the breeding, training, and

showing of Tennessee Walking Horses. Dr. Spivey McKissack founded Woodlawn in 1824. The farm rapidly gained a name for its pacing and show horses, a reputation it maintained throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Colonel John L. Haynes purchased Woodlawn in 1936 and renamed it Haynes Haven. Under Haynes’s ownership, the farm won national acclaim as the home of World Grand Champion, Haynes Peacock. The farm is also home to several important architectural buildings and outbuildings. The Haynes House is a Late Classical Revival home constructed in 1938. A Craftsman stone stable barn and Queen Anne-influenced lattice barn also call the farm home. Haynes Haven remained an important part of the pacing and show horse industry until it was sold by the Haynes family in 1959.

Martin Downtown Commercial Historic District

Listed July 10, 2023
(Martin, Weakley County)

The Martin Downtown Commercial Historic District is a collection of commercial

buildings located within the city of Martin in Weakley County. The district collectively tells the story of Martin’s growth from its origin as a railroad town in 1873, to the district’s modernization in the 1970s and 1980s. William Martin originally owned the land that the district was built on, though he died before the city was founded. His sons made a deal with the Mississippi Central Railroad, which resulted in the intersection of the Mississippi Central Railroad and the existing Nashville and Northwestern line on their family’s land. Surveyor H.C. Draughn laid out the town of Martin in September of 1874 around the railroad intersection, and the town was incorporated that same year. Martin grew rapidly throughout the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The Great Depression resulted in hard times for the businesses within the district’s boundaries, but by the end of World War II, the district had recovered. The arrival of a new shopping center strip and Walmart caused the district to decline in the 1970s and 1980s. However, recent efforts by local preservation groups and concerned citizens have seen new life breathed into the commercial district.



Bruce High School. Photograph Courtesy of Savannah Grandey Knies & Dr. Carroll Van West.



Haynes Haven Stock Farm. Photograph Courtesy of Tegan Batocchi.



THC AWARDS \$1.1 MILLION IN FEDERAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND (HPF) GRANTS

By Holly Barnett

This Fall the Tennessee Historical Commission awarded over \$1.1 million for Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grants for historic preservation and archaeological projects throughout the state. Several projects this year will restore character defining historic windows. From the beautiful stained-glass windows of the Lindsley Avenue Church of Christ to courthouse windows in Perry and Cannon counties, the restoration of these important features is commended and encouraged through this grant program. Applications for the next round of grants will open in December 2023.

A complete list of grant recipients and/or National Register listed sites of the projects include:

BEDFORD COUNTY
Town of Bell Buckle
\$4,800 to restore exterior of the Bell Buckle Town Hall

BENTON COUNTY
NAPAS
\$17,335.00 to fund archaeological investigations at the Moore Family Century Farm in Holladay

CANNON COUNTY
Cannon County Government
\$70,320 to restore the windows of the Cannon County Courthouse.

DAVIDSON COUNTY
Andrew Jackson Foundation
\$21,000 to restore the masonry on the smoke house at the Hermitage, a National Historic Landmark

Metropolitan Historical Commission
\$40,000 to fund third phase of the countywide cemetery survey and preservation plan
\$15,069 to fund neighborhood survey and preparation of a National Register nomination

Centennial Park Conservancy
\$25,000 to restore the windows of the Centennial Park Croquet Clubhouse building

Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art
\$34,000 to complete a window preservation predevelopment plan-of the Cheek House

Preserve Lindsley Avenue Now
\$30,750 to restore stained glass windows of the Lindsley Avenue Church of Christ

GRAINGER COUNTY
City of Rutledge
\$29,000 to fund the restoration of exterior of the Nance House

HAMILTON COUNTY
City of Chattanooga
\$70,000 to update local residential historic district guidelines and create local landmark guidelines

HENRY COUNTY
Quinn Chapel AME
\$16,200.00 to restore the masonry of Quinn Chapel AME Church

JEFFERSON COUNTY
Glenmore Preservation Society, Inc.
\$16,000 to restore the Entry Foyer of Glenmore Mansion

KNOX COUNTY
Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum
\$60,000 to restore clay tile roof on Joe Howell Home

LOUDON COUNTY
Dunbar Rosenwald School Foundation Inc
\$41,000 to fund interior restoration of the Dunbar Rosenwald School

MAURY COUNTY
James K. Polk Memorial Association
\$10,000 to restore windows in the Polk Home, a National Historic Landmark

PERRY COUNTY
Metropolitan Government of Perry County
\$60,000 to restore windows on the Perry County Courthouse

RHEA COUNTY
Rhea County Government
\$40,300 various restoration projects on the National historic Landmark-listed Rhea County Courthouse

SHELBY COUNTY
Junior League of Memphis
\$60,000 to fund exterior repairs to the Boyce-Gregg House

WILLIAMSON COUNTY
City of Franklin
\$24,000.00 for development of a Preservation Assessment and Maintenance Plan for the Toussaint L'Ouverture Cemetery

WASHINGTON COUNTY
Heritage Alliance
\$6,000 to fund roof restoration of the Duncan House

MULTI-COUNTY GRANTS

Middle Tennessee State University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
\$3,735 for posters for Tennessee Archaeology Week.

Middle Tennessee State University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
\$23,040 for archeology survey of Cragfont State Historic Site to locate spaces of enslaved at Castalian Springs

Middle Tennessee State University, Fullerton Laboratory for Spatial Technology
\$4,140.00 to digitize archaeological site forms for post-emancipation African American archaeological sites



Boyce Gregg House

Middle Tennessee State University, Fullerton Laboratory for Spatial Technology
\$62,181.00 GIS services for historic/architectural survey

Tennessee Division of Archaeology
\$5,220 to fund the 2024 Current Research in Tennessee Archaeology conference (CRITA)

East Tennessee Development District
\$40,000 to fund a preservation specialist staff position for the East Tennessee Development District

First Tennessee Development District
\$35,000 to fund a preservation specialist staff position for the First Tennessee Development District

Northwest Tennessee Development District
\$38,000 to fund a preservation specialist staff position for the Northwest Tennessee Development District.

South Central Tennessee Development District
\$50,000 to fund a preservation specialist staff position for the South Central Tennessee Development District

Southeast Tennessee Development District
\$54,000 to fund a preservation specialist staff position for the Southeast Tennessee Development District

Southwest Tennessee Development District
\$44,000 to fund a preservation specialist staff position for the Southwest Tennessee Development District

Upper Cumberland Development District
\$40,000 to fund a preservation specialist staff position for the Upper Cumberland Development District



STATE HISTORIC SITES SPOTLIGHT: WYNNEWOOD STATE HISTORIC SITE

Welcome to the largest extant log structure in Tennessee! Constructed in 1828, this structure served as a stagecoach inn for travelers along the Nashville-Knoxville Road. Operations at this site continued until the 20th century, as it evolved into a resort. The nearby mineral springs attracted people from all over to take to the waters, in the hopes of health benefits to cure ailments, from indigestion to kidney disease.

On February 5, 2008, Wynnewood State Historic Site suffered major damage from the Super Tuesday Tornado Outbreak. In a four-year, \$3 million dollar project, the Tennessee Historical Commission and State of Tennessee were able to restore the property and re-open the site to the public

Wynnewood State Historic Site is one of 31 sites designated as a National Historic Landmark in Tennessee. The site is operated by Historic Castalian Springs and offers several special events throughout the year. Check out their website for operating hours and current events offered!

Explore Wynnewood State Historic Site through augmented reality here!



Images courtesy of TN Photographic Services



THC executive director Patrick McIntyre (in green jacket at center) at Wynnewood State Historic Site on the morning of February 6, 2008, assessing site damage and assisting with cleanup. With McIntyre is longtime site manager Lee Myers and LaRae Smiley with TDEC. Also pictured is Rick Hendrix (carrying board) who went on to work at Wynnewood for many years.

NEW TENNESSEE STATE HISTORIC SITES BROCHURE

Travel through Tennessee history with our new Tennessee State Historic Sites brochure! From the humble log structure where a young Sam Houston taught school, to the most heavily damaged building to survive the Civil War, the Tennessee Historical Commission's State Historic Sites are amazing destinations to visit no matter what region you are in.

See Tennessee's history come alive with an immersive augmented reality experience at all the sites highlighted in this brochure.

Pick up a copy at a State Historic Site or Welcome Center near you!





DEMYSTIFYING THE FEDERAL HISTORIC TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Dr. Lane Tillner

YWCA in Nashville, determined as a "Certified Rehabilitation" in January 2023.

The year 1976 not only marked the Bicentennial, but it also saw the creation of the Federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC) program, which has been going strong ever since. A collaborative relationship between the National Park Service, the Internal Revenue Service, SHPOs, and the public, the HTC program promotes the rehabilitation of historic buildings, listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, for original or new commercial uses as income-generators. Those projects that are designated as “Certified Rehabilitations” by the National Park Service are eligible for a 20% tax credit over a five-year period, once the building is placed in service.

Rehabilitation projects under the scope of the HTC program must be in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. Despite, the commonly held misconception that the ten Standards are rigid, prescriptive work methods; they exist as flexible, best practice guidance. The Standards do not exist to make rehabilitation projects difficult or prohibitively expensive, rather they ensure that as buildings change over time their unique character is maintained.

The Historic Tax Credit program does not restrict property use or tell an owner how to use their property (beyond the income-producing requirement). It does not require, ask, or want owners to freeze a building in time without any flexible changes whatsoever. History does not remain fixed, nor do the buildings that came out of it. The program requires that owners recognize, respect, and retain the historic features and character of the building as they work to create a new chapter in the building’s history.

The program application consists of three parts used to apply for certification: Part 1: Application Evaluation of Significance, Part 2: Description of Rehabilitation, and Part 3: Request for Certification of Completed Work. Part 1 certifies that a building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places either individually or as a contributing resource to a listed historic district and is deemed a “certified historic structure.” Or Part 1 may be used to request a preliminary determination of whether a building might be eligible for listing individually or as a contributing resource to in a potential district. Part 2 simply details the proposed rehabilitation work. It is during the Part 2 that rehabilitation work is reviewed for conformance with The Standards. While each Part is separately reviewed and approved (or denied or conditionally approved), it is not until a Part 3 has

been approved by the National Park Service that the work has been determined to meet the Standards and deemed a “Certified Rehabilitation.” Each application part requires documentation that is reviewed to ensure conformance with The Standards.

Recently, the program moved to an all-electronic format. Gone are the days of printing and sending photographs and architectural drawings. All applications and documentation are now easily transmitted electronically to the SHPO who then transfers it to the National Park Service following their review of the materials. Transitioning the program to an electronic format will likely decrease review times, create more program access for new users, and build upon existing relationships to continue to highlight historic character of buildings while providing them with a new life. You can learn more about the electronic submittal process and documentation requirements at the NPS’s “Electronic Submission of Certification Applications” or the Tennessee Historical Commission’s “Federal Historic Tax Credit Program.”

In its nearly fifty years of existence, the Federal Historic Tax Credit program has certified over 48,000 historic rehabilitation projects and generated over \$122 billion in estimated rehabilitation investment.

In an effort to mirror the benefits of the Federal Historic Tax Credit, in 2021, the Tennessee General Assembly authorized the creation of the Historic Development Grant Program (HDGP), jointly administered by the Tennessee Historical Commission and the Department of the Economic and Community Development. The annual, competitive grant program provides grants to aid property owners in the rehabilitation process. The HDGP directly follows the same practices and procedures of the Federal Historic Tax Credit. All buildings must be listed on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places. All awarded projects must be in conformance with The Standards and follow the same application and documentation process. Best of all, the Federal Historic Tax Credit and the Historic Development Grant Program can be stacked, providing even more incentives for property owners and economic benefit to the region and State at large.

If you think the HTC program might be a good fit for your rehabilitation project or want to know more about the program, please reach out to THC.Rehab@tn.gov.

TENNESSEE WARS COMMISSION’S PRESERVATION EFFORTS RECOGNIZED BY THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

Nina Scall

The Wars Commission was honored with the American Battlefield Trust’s preservation leadership award this spring at the culminating banquet of the Trust’s 2023 annual conference held this year in Franklin, Tennessee. The Program Director, Nina Scall and Executive Director Patrick McIntyre Jr. were presented with the Brian C. Pohanka Preservation Organization Award for the Wars Commission’s dedicated work in helping to advance the study of military history, battlefield preservation, and interpretation efforts in Tennessee.

The Preservation Organization Award is named after the late Brian Pohanka, a lauded historian and a founding member of the modern battlefield preservation movement. “For more than two decades, the Trust has used its awards program to recognize individuals and groups for their unwavering support in protecting tangible links to our history” noted ABT representatives. Together, the Wars Commission and the Trust have preserved thousands of acres across the state and worked to administer grants related to interpretation and restoration efforts. The Wars Commission continues to collaborate with preservation partners and stakeholders to preserve, protect, and restore battlefields and historic sites in Tennessee related to conflicts in the 18th and 19th centuries — including the French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, Mexican-American War, War of 1812, and the Civil War.

“Bringing people closer to Tennessee’s wartime stories, and the many perspectives they encompass, provides pathways to understanding the great depth of the Volunteer State’s past,” said Wars Commission Program Director Nina Scall. “It is an honor for the Tennessee Wars Commission to be recognized by the American Battlefield Trust — who we’ve partnered with on numerous occasions — for the extensive work we partake in to protect and uplift these precious pieces of Tennessee’s military heritage.”

The American Battlefield Trust began as a grassroots organization founded by historians over 35 years ago and has evolved into the preservation powerhouse it is today. The Trust has grown into the largest non-profit battlefield preservation organization in America. Their mission focuses on preserving hallowed ground associated with the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War by collaborating with State and Federal agencies to purchase endangered lands as well as to educate the public about what happened there and why it matters.

Tennessee Wars Commission Grants Open

Civil War Sites Preservation Fund open through November 3, 2023

Tennessee Wars Commission Grant Fund open through November 19, 2023



For applications and additional information please view our website.

HISTORIC CEMETERY PRESERVATION SUCCESS STORIES

By Graham Perry

This summer, Historic Cemetery Preservation Specialist, Graham Perry, visited Willow Mount Cemetery, located in and cared for by the city of Shelbyville. Willow Mount stands out as an excellent model of historic cemetery care. Ben Chapman, the cemetery's acting sexton, contacted Perry in July for advice on how to best protect the cemetery from damage during maintenance and from vandals and to discuss the development of reasonable rules for the cemetery.

During his visit, Perry found Willow Mount to be in excellent shape compared to most other municipal cemeteries throughout the state. Chapman's dedication to historic preservation proved instrumental to that success. Even so, the cemetery is still plagued by similar problems faced by others throughout the state. Perry has worked diligently to find applicable solutions, searching for related precedents.

One troubling example at Willow Mount is that some citizens have buried their loved ones without consulting the cemetery. Such acts are highly likely to disturb existing unmarked graves. TCA 46-8, the Family Burial Grounds Protection Act, requires a boundary of protection of at least 10 feet around any existing grave, and 39-17-312 Corpses; abuse; purchase or sale of skeletal remains codifies that corpse abuse, which can easily result from non-compliance with 46-8, is a Class E Felony, a law that local law enforcement has a duty to uphold. Since compliance is mandatory, rules of these kind are a necessary tool for general protection of this and any other municipal cemetery.

THC strives to support both cemetery owners and family members who often face the difficult task of protecting historic cemeteries. For more information about the cemetery program, contact Graham Perry at graham.perry@tn.gov



Cemeteries recently added to the Tennessee Historic Cemetery Register

Since the release of the Statewide Cemetery Map and the Tennessee Historic Cemetery Register in April 2023, the Tennessee Historical Commission has listed nine cemeteries to the Register. To date, the database providing location information for the map includes over 36,000 cemeteries, a notable increase over last quarter's 33,000. New data is added to the cemetery map every day, thanks to the efforts of the public.

- The new Tennessee Historic Cemetery Register listings are:
- Spencer Hill Cemetery, Maury County. Listed on May 10, 2023
 - Laurel Dale Cemetery, Scott County. Listed May 30, 2023
 - Patterson Cemetery, County. Listed June 23, 2023.
 - Price-Essman Cemetery, Coffee County. Listed June 23, 2023.
 - Calhoun Community Cemetery, McMinn County. Listed July 19, 2023.
 - Mee Family Graveyard, County. Listed July 19, 2023.
 - James M. Hooper Cemetery, County. Listed July 24, 2023.
 - Huntsville Cemetery #2, Scott County. Listed August 23, 2023.

HISTORIC CEMETERY PRESERVATION PROGRAM RECEIVES AWARD



On May 19-20, 2023, the Tennessee Historical Commission partnered with Jonathan Appell and the Zion Community Project for a successful cemetery cleaning and repair workshop at the Historic Zion Christian Cemetery in Memphis. The 15-acre cemetery was established in 1876 as an honorable and respectable burial

site for the African American community. Zion Cemetery was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on February 23, 1990.

Over the two-day workshop, several members of the community learned of the importance of cemetery preservation and proper cleaning techniques. Community members took what they learned from the workshop and have hosted their own cemetery clean ups since.

At their 14th Annual Fundraising Awards Dinner, the Zion Community Project Inc. presented the Ron Walter Zion Preservation Award to Perry for his efforts to preserve and educate. Named after historian Ron Walter, the award honors those who work to preserve the African American history of Memphis.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWSLETTER

Established in 1980, the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program promotes preservation through partnerships between the National Park Service, State Historic Preservation Offices, and local governments that have historic zoning ordinances. The Tennessee Historical Commission has 50 Certified Local Governments across the state. Keep up to date with our CLG program by subscribing to our monthly newsletter! Each month, learn about a featured CLG, preservation tips, news, and training opportunities.

SIGN UP HERE:



CLG Featured: Bell Buckle, home of the RC Cola and Moon Pie festival. The Bell Buckle Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 20, 1976. Bell Buckle became a Certified Local Government in 2018.



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Caty Dirksen,
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Linda T. Wynn, Assistant Director
of State Programs

Public Comment Solicited
As the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Tennessee Historical Commission is soliciting public comment and advice on its administration of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Especially, we are seeking input on such matters as geographic areas or classes of properties which may be a priority for survey and/or registration efforts, criteria and priorities which should be established for Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grants, and ways and means through which local efforts at preservation of historic properties can be most effectively assisted. The HPF is the federal fund appropriated under the authority of the NHPA to assist states in carrying out the purposes of the NHPA. Comments and advice on other areas and issues of a more general nature are also encouraged. Activities carried out by SHPO under the mandate of the NHPA include efforts to survey and inventory historic properties across the state and to nominate the most significant of them 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; administering the federal historic tax credit program; awarding and administering HPF grants; and providing technical assistance and advice to local governments which are attempting to establish local programs and ordinances to protect historic properties. The comments received will be used to structure the SHPO's annual application to the National Park Service for these funds. 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 accepted throughout the year and should be addressed to Holly Barnett, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, 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, 4,845 copies promulgated at a cost of \$1.02 per copy, 10/31/23.



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ON THE COVER: The Ocoee Dam No.2 Powerhouse in Polk County, TN. Photograph by Caty Dirksen, THC Outreach Coordinator, August 22, 2023

