



THE COURIER

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

WINTER 2021



HISTORICAL MARKERS

A Collective and Inclusive Narrative

By Linda T. Wynn, Assistant Director for State Programs

Historical markers are a ubiquitous presence along many state highways and country roads. Tennessee Historical Commission historical markers bear a distinctive three-star logo, with text in black lettering on a silver background. Although these historical markers fall within the sphere of public history, they adhere to the sound methodological approach grounded in the discipline of history. The Tennessee Historical Commission's Historical Marker Program began in 1948. Since then, the commission has placed more than 2,000 historical markers across the state. Topics range from Abolition to the Civil Rights Movement; from the Civil War to Churches; Enslavement to Education; from Business to Journalism, Music, Animals, and People.

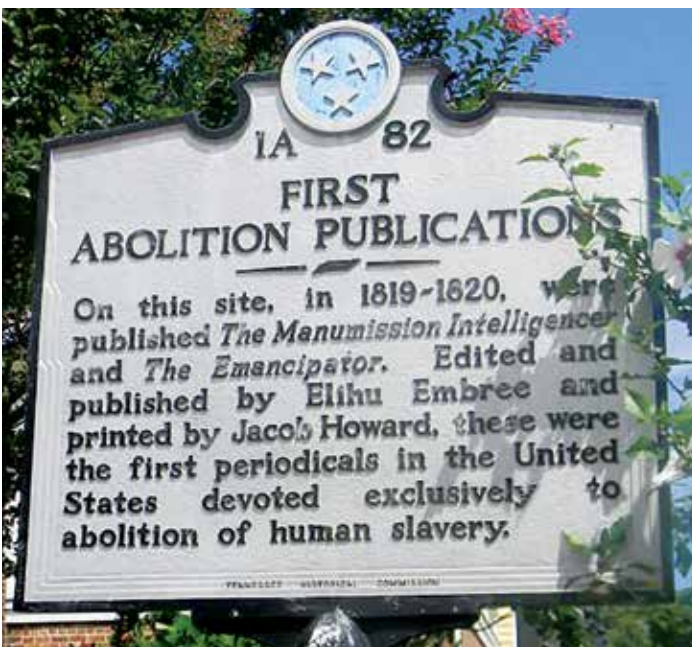
Tennesseans who actively participate in the state's historical marker program are responsible for the collective and inclusive historical experience that currently dots the highways and byways of the state. A constituent-driven program, persons and/or organizations propose and pay for markers that commemorate events, objects, persons, and places. Like the "traditional history" chronicled by academic historians prior to the 1960s, the state's marker program initially reflected the experiences and issues most relevant to a small minority—almost all male, white, and affluent. The narratives of African Americans, Native Americans, other people of color, and women were predominantly missing.

Just as scholars began to engage in the process of lifting ordinary people out of historical obscurity, making the ordinary not only consequential, but central to our past and present society and culture, an expanded historical-marking constituency began to broaden awareness of the state's history and those who contributed

to its narrative. Their marker text submissions confronted perceptions that many had come to embrace and intimated that conjecture supporting the notion of a single Tennessee experience was incomplete. Some even required the commission to meet head-on the less commendable aspects of the state's experience. Their proposals suggested that the historical narrative of the Tennessee experience actually was one of many experiences—each different and each tinted by a different historical frame of reference. Essentially, the historical-marking constituency attempted to bridge the breach between "the ivory tower" and "the real world," without lessening the significance of either.

The marker titled the "First Abolition Publications," was erected for a centennial celebration and continues to exemplify one of the state's 19th Century roadside history lessons. *The Manumission Intelligencer* and *The Emancipator*—the first American periodicals devoted exclusively to abolitionist topics—were published in Jonesborough from 1819-1820 by editor Elihu Embree and printer Jacob Howard. Two years later, between 1822 and 1824, Benjamin Lundy, a Quaker, published the *Genius of Universal Emancipation*, a small monthly paper devoted exclusively to the abolition of enslavement. While in Greeneville, Lundy also published a weekly paper, the *Economist and Political Recorder*. THC's marker 1C 53, located on Greenville's town square, commemorates Lundy's legacy.

Another centennial celebration that occurred in 2020 and is represented by historical markers is the state's role in making the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution a reality. The marker dedicated to Anne Dallas Dudley, a Nashville native, tells that she served as president of the Nashville Equal Suffrage League; the Tennessee Equal Suffrage Association; and as vice president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. In May of 1916, Dudley and others walked from downtown Nashville to Centennial Park to demonstrate their support for the right of women to vote. Markers are dedicated to African American women, such as Juno Frankie Pierce and Dr. Mattie Coleman, who also supported Women's Suffrage. On May 18, 1920 Pierce spoke at the first meeting of the League of Women Voters of Tennessee, at a meeting in the House Chamber, where she addressed the convention and stated, that African American women supported the right of the franchise for women. The state marker for J. Frankie Pierce does not address her role in the suffrage movement. Another marker denotes Niota native Harry T. Burn, who on August 18, 1920 changed his vote to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. However, a constituent realized that another Tennessean also deserved to be noted for the role that he played in ratifying the 19th Amendment and put forth a text commemorating Yorkville native Banks P. Turner. During the debate on ratification of the 19th Amendment in August 1920,





Turner surprised everyone by twice opposing a motion to kill the ratification resolution on the final vote. It was his decisive action which enabled Tennessee to claim its historic role as the 36th and final state to ratify the Amendment that gave 27 million American women the right to vote.

Many submit proposed historical markers, but none are more gratifying than the ones submitted by young people and students who have taken an interest in the history of their local community or school—such as the young man who worked with the Wilson County Black History Committee in obtaining the Pickett Chapel/Civil Rights Movement historical marker. A double-side marker, one side narrates the founding of Pickett Chapel, a Methodist Church in Lebanon, where white and enslaved members worshiped in the same ecclesiastical structure until the end of the Civil War. The other side of the marker informs the public about the Civil Rights Movement in Lebanon when the Wilson County Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (C.O.R.E.) met to educate African American citizens on the tenets of direct non-violent protest. A true community joint venture, the making of this marker included Sam Bond of Eagle Scout Troop 360, who took on fundraising for the marker as his Eagle Scout Project.

Tennessee Historical Commission markers convey what individuals contribute to their locales, communicate how events that occurred within the state fit into the local, state, and/or national narrative, and elucidate the intersection of race, class, and gender. When put into a collective historical context, one can detect the state's history through the various topics covered by the markers placed across the eastern, middle, or western regions of the state. They illustrate how all citizens interlace the state's cultural, economic, political, and social evolution. The stories motorists encounter on state historic markers must be seen not only as contingencies, but also as the legacies of Tennesseans with a common story and mutual fate.

THIRTY THC HISTORICAL MARKERS APPROVED IN 2020

February 21st approvals: *John McAdams School/Bedford County Training School*, Bedford County; *Braxton Lee Homestead*, Cheatham County; *Danny Thomas*, Shelby County; *Bernard School*, Warren County; *Rich-In-Tone Records*, Washington County; *Pickett Chapel/Civil Rights*, Wilson County.

July 10th approvals: *Pat Head Summitt*, Cheatham County; *Morris Memorial Building, Inc. Nashville Alumnae Chapter (Pi Chapter)*, *Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.*; Davidson County; *Willow Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. Louis Edmundson*, and *Bethel United Methodist Church*, Giles County; *Trail of Tears: Cherokee Removal*, Harde-man County; *Speedway Circle, Mary Frances Housley and First Evangelical Lutheran Church, USA*, Knox County; *McReynolds High School*, Marion County; *Caney Fork Baptist Church*, Putnam County; *The Rose Terrace House*, Roane County; *Benevolent Cemetery*, Rutherford County; *St. John Baptist Church*, Shelby County; *Benjamin Hooker/John Rice and Skirmishes at Rural Hill*, Wilson County.

October 16th approvals: *"She Jumped the Tracks" Last Words of Fireman J. W. Tummins and Jellico's First Commercial Airport*, Campbell County; *Davis Creek Primitive Baptist Church*, Claiborne County; *Hermitage Springs*, Clay County; *Centennial of Pi Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.*, Davidson County; *Sikta School*, Gibson County; *The Rev. Edmund Kelly and Columbia State Community College: Tennessee's First Community College*, Maury County.



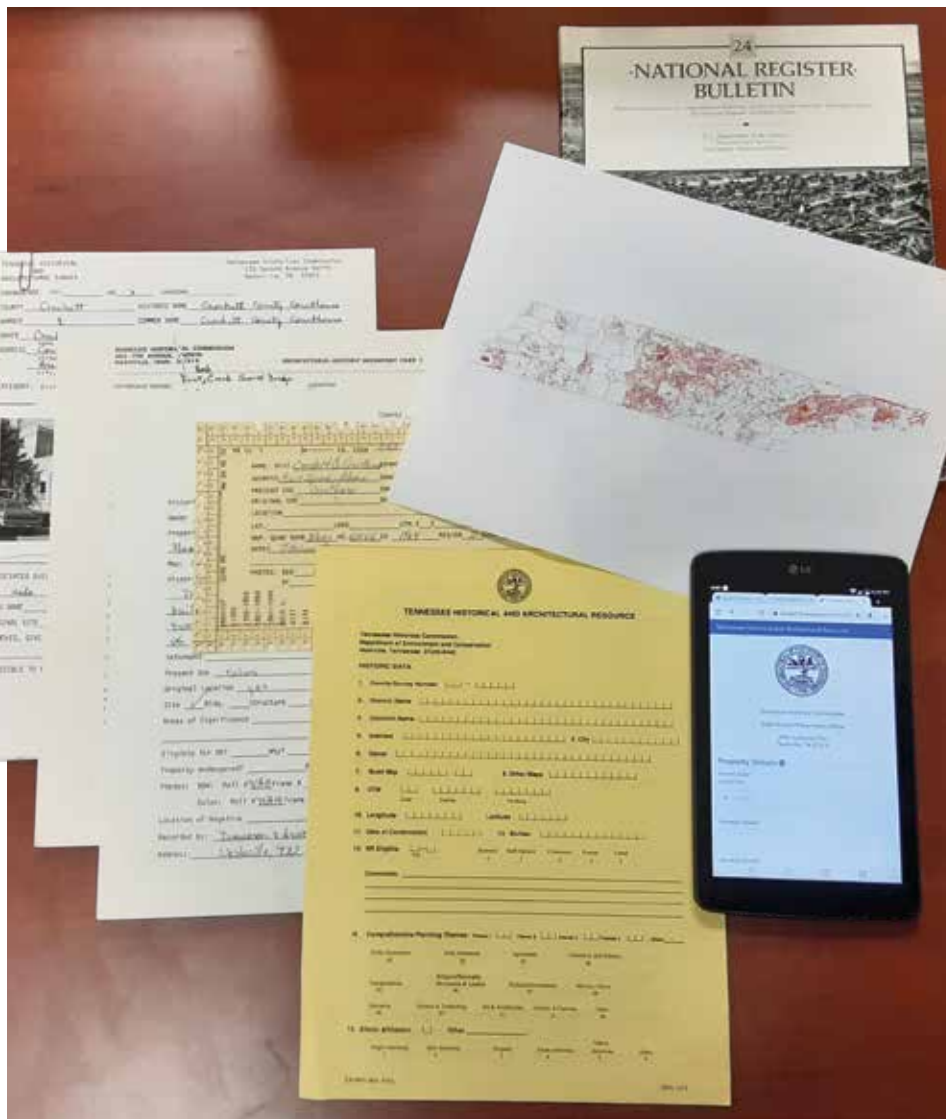
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

by Kerri Ross and Peggy Nickell

Following Congressional passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966, the Tennessee Historical Commission, as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), expanded its duties to include a survey program responsible for keeping an inventory of all properties at least 50 years or older to build awareness of the significance of historic resources and increase support for preservation statewide. This ongoing inventory program includes sites, structures, buildings, objects and districts. Residential, commercial, public spaces, and industrial areas are surveyed. Historic resource surveys are an important tool for state and federal programs, such as the environmental review process known as Section 106 and the nomination process for the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, the survey data is used by government agencies for planning and development purposes and provides counties with historic records of various time periods.

In recent years, survey data was collected on a paper form and entered into a geodatabase that provided survey information to the public. THC created a digital format for collecting data using the Survey123 application, which launched August 2020 and replaces the paper form. This application has made the survey process more accessible to consultants, local planning departments, and it has streamlined the data collection process. This fall, Survey staff assisted and trained Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) parks staff on the new application so they can survey historic resources within the state parks to improve and enhance their management policies. We look forward to working with other agencies and local governments to use the new survey tool to add to our understanding of Tennessee's architectural past.

Please visit the Tennessee Historical Commission's website for more Tennessee Historical and Architectural Resources Survey program information.



The evolution of Tennessee's survey forms and formats: (left to right) the Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey Forms from the late 1960s through the 1970s (first 3), the computer punch card from the 1980s, the Tennessee Historical and Architectural Resource 4-page form CN-0601 (Rev. 9-92) used in the 1990s and the new Tennessee Historical and Architectural Resource data collector application (app) in ESRI Survey123 that was released in August of 2020. The red-colored map shows the density of 168,371 surveyed resources in the state as of June 2020. The booklet is the National Park Service Bulletin that includes information and instruction regarding survey.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND GRANTS A BIG CHECK

Representatives of the African American Heritage Society of Williamson County (AAHS) and the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) met to recognize a \$50,000 Federal Historic Preservation Fund grant from the THC to restore the historic McLemore House Museum in Franklin. The AAHS and community partners will restore the exterior roof, siding, and windows of the house. Built in 1880 by freedman Harvey McLemore, the museum showcases the property's history and focuses on Williamson County's African American heritage. Federal preservation grants provide 60% funding and require a 40% match for historic preservation projects on National Register listed properties. They also fund architectural surveys and planning. Applications for the next grant round will open in late 2021.

See the full National Register nomination for the McLemore House at: <https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/62be1a63-77b2-4936-adb3-b84e87238b0e>



From left to right: AAHS Vice-President Harvey Chrisman, THC Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Patrick McIntyre, THC Grant Coordinator Holly Barnett, THC Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Claudette Stager, AAHS Board member Mary Pierce, AAHS President Alma McLemore, and AAHS Board member Sarah Critchlow

CONDUCTING FIELDWORK IN A PANDEMIC



Top left: Peggy Nickell standing beside Agnes Cheatham Higgs, 1872-1936, grave in the Roberts Cemetery. Top right: Peggy Nickell surveying a c. 1890s residential building. Bottom left: Kerri Ross investigating column materials of a c. 1900s Greek Revival residence. Bottom right: Kerri Ross training Hobart Akin from the TN State Parks Division to survey a c. 1890s Standard Oil commercial building.

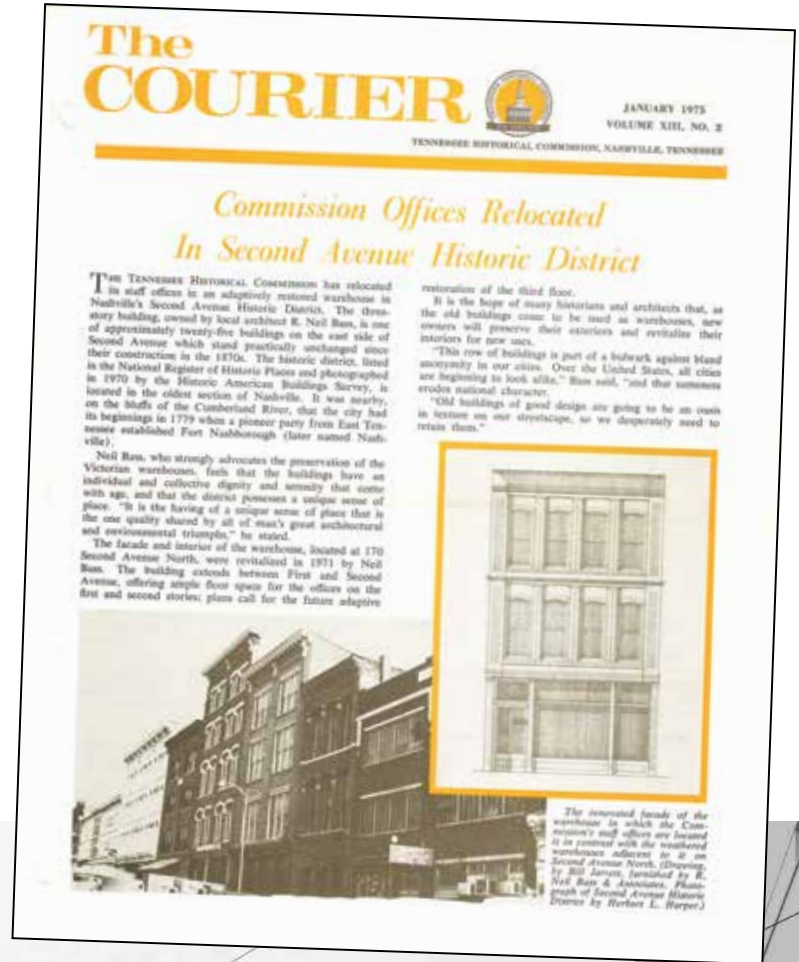


PRESERVING SECOND AVENUE

Christmas morning, the Second Avenue Commercial District bomb blast damaged over 40 buildings, displacing some 1200 workers. The Tennessee Historical Commission's 50-year involvement in the area began with its 1972 listing as Nashville's first National Register Historic District. Jack Boucher's 1970 view of Second Avenue at Church Street from the Library of Congress' Historic American Buildings Survey presents the pre-restoration streetscape in contrast to the January photograph by Tennessee Photographic Services. (bottom left & right)

THC headquarters were relocated, as reported in a 1975 *Courier*, to 170 Second Avenue North, a building restored to its 1870s appearance by Nashville preservation architect Neil Bass. There, THC participated for years in the neighborhood revitalization. By 1998, when Ricky Rogers photographed Bass for *The Tennessean*, the building was at the center of downtown's resurgent tourism industry. Tragically, 170 is now the façade-less shell that THC staff member Rebecca Schmitt photographed in January. (top right)

THC has continued to support the district with over a dozen Federal historic tax credit historic preservation projects, including a current one. We continue working with our partners at the Metro Historical Commission to support the restoration efforts, as we continue to post information for impacted property owners on our website.



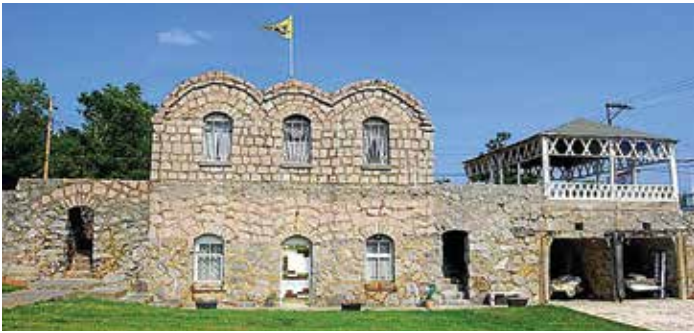


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NEWS

By Christopher Kinder and Rebecca Schmitt

Six 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 Officer (SHPO) administers the program in Tennessee.



Millennium Manor

(Alcoa – Blount County)—listed 11/18/2020

Designed and built to survive Armageddon, William Andrew Nicholson and Emma Fair Nicholson constructed Millennium Manor between 1938 and 1946. Both Nicholsons were 61-years old when construction started, and they believed that the world would end in 1959, later thought to be 1969. Although research did not show that the Nicholson's named their home Millennium Manor, in 1957 an Associated Press reporter wrote that the building was known locally as Millennium Manor or The House That Faith Built. Millennium Manor is constructed of hand-carved granite, Tennessee pink marble and concrete. The exterior has an abundance of arched openings, a two-car garage and a stone fence enclosing the yard. Exterior walls are at least 25" thick and interior walls at least 19" thick. The interior is distinguished by arched hallways and rooms that reveal the concrete and stone structure of the building. Millennium Manor is architecturally unique in Tennessee and the National Register nomination did not find any comparable examples in the U.S.

Mt. Olive Cemetery

(Clarksville – Montgomery County)—listed 11/16/2020



James Hunt is the first known burial at Mt. Olive Cemetery (in 1817) but little else is known about the early history of the historic African American burial site. *The Clarksville Semi-Weekly Tobacco Leaf* newspaper reported on the cemetery in 1889, noting that a board of trustees had just been appointed. Over the years the cemetery was sold several times and burials continued until 1958. The Mt. Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society was established as a non-profit in 2004 with the aim of preserving the 7.24-acre property. At least 1,350 burials are in the cemetery and a recent ground penetrating radar survey suggests that there are more, especially since over 90% of the burials are unmarked. These burials represent Clarksville's historic African American community. Handmade grave markers, trees, vinca vines and dirt walkways characterize the physical features of the property. The Mt. Olive Cemetery is also the largest and oldest private African American Cemetery in Clarksville.



First Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church

(Dayton – Rhea County)—listed 11/16/2020

The Gothic Revival First Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1887, with additions of a cupola on the bell tower before 1920 and classrooms around 1925. A brick church with limestone foundation, the Gothic Revival design is seen in the pointed arch stained glass windows, arched entry, and paneled doors topped by transoms. Located at the edge of Dayton, the building retains its important historic features. First Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church began in 1844 when the Methodist Church split on the issue of slavery. This church associated with the Northern Methodist branch in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and became part of the Holston Annual Conference in 1887. Decreasing membership resulted in the sale of the building and today it is privately owned as used as an event space.





Kingsport Hosiery Mills

(Kingsport – Sullivan County)—listed 11/16/2020

The former Kingsport Hosiery Mills complex was built in 5 phases between 1917 and 1956 as the businesses occupying the complex grew. The first building erected was a 4-story brick edifice that housed machinery and workers to knit hosiery. Opened with 85 employees and a capacity to make 26,400 pairs of hose, within two years the plant employed 150 people. Amenities for the workers included health facilities and a cafeteria. Kingsport Hosiery Mills products were sold throughout the world under different brand names. Kingsport Hosiery closed in 1932 and Miller-Smith Hosiery began operating in the complex of buildings, although production was less than under the old company. In 1943 the Kingsport Press was operating here and in 1945 Dobyns-Taylor Hardware owned the buildings and the press used part of the complex. Both companies used the complex as a warehouse, a use that continued for many years with various companies.

Johnson City Postal Savings Bank and Post Office

(Johnson City - Washington County)—listed 11/17/2020

The Johnson City Postal Savings Bank and Post Office was built in 1910 under the auspices of the U.S. post office’s Office of



the Supervising Architect, James Knox Taylor. Two-stories in height with a raised basement, the brick building is delineated by terra cotta and granite Beaux Arts detailing. The arcaded entry and embellished balustrade at the roofline are important and character defining features of this building. As both a post office and post office savings bank, the building had a unique use in the city. The Postal Savings System started by President Taft encouraged customers to save while using a familiar institution - the post office - and included savings accounts for children over 10-years old and married women. The post office and bank were here until a larger building was needed in 1937. In 1940, Washington County purchased the building and used it as the county courthouse and offices until 1985, it then became the county’s 911 call center until 2018. The Heritage Alliance of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia is working to find a new use for the building.



Hughes House

(Clifton – Wayne County)—listed 11/17/2020

William Alford Hughes, a cashier at a local bank, had this house built in 1892 on West Pillow Street in Clifton. The transitional Queen Anne-Stick style house is a unique design in the community. Two-stories, sheathed with weatherboard and with an abundance of wood trim, the Hughes House dominates the streetscape. The large bay, stained glass transoms and turned and sawn wood brackets represent the ever popular Queen Anne style. The corner boards and horizontal trim between stories reflect the Stick style. The interior of the house is embellished with more woodwork as seen in the wainscoting, main stair, and built in cabinets. Today the Hughes House is known as the Commodore Inn and is open for events.

Entire nomination information for each site is available on the National Register web page.



TENNESSEE WARS COMMISSION FORGES AHEAD

Plus Battlefield Acquisitions and Projects Supported by The Tennessee Wars Commission in 2020

By Nina Scall

In 1994, the Tennessee General Assembly enacted legislation to create the Tennessee Wars Commission (TWC) as a part of the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC.) Through the administration of two grant funds, TWC has helped acquire and permanently protect over 7000 acres of historic properties and support over one hundred projects that preserve, protect, and interpret Tennessee's military heritage from the French and Indian War (1754-1763), American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), War of 1812 (1812-1815), Mexican-American War (1846-1848) through the American Civil War (1861-1865) as well as Underground Railroad sites.

The nation's first National Park Service (NPS) Foundation Document for an affiliated area debuted in January 2021, as a result of the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding formed between the Tennessee Historical Commission's TWC, the National Park Service, Parkers Crossroads Battlefield, and Shiloh National Military Park. In 2020, five projects were supported by the **Wars Commission Grant Fund**:



This NPS document outlines the relationship of an affiliated area, demonstrates the park's fundamental resources and values, interpretive themes, and key issues.



Nina Scall, Tennessee Wars Commission's Director of Programs, speaks at the October 2020 sculpture unveiling ceremony at Camp Blount Memorial Park

Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park, Davidson County—awarded \$5,000.00 for interpretation of Tennessee's African American participation in the Civil War. The project will update reference materials, establish a K-12 traveling trunk program, and support African American living history interpreters.

Camp Blount Historic Site Association, Lincoln County—awarded \$25,000.00 to complete Phase II fabrication, transportation, and installation of the *Tennessee Volunteer* statue. TWC awarded \$40,000 for Phase I of the project in 2018.

Historic Cragfont, Sumner County—awarded \$5,000.00 to research and present the home front story of Castalian Springs during the Civil War. The project focused on the interpretation of the enslaved communities as well as the Bates, Wynne, and Winchester families.

Johnsonville State Historic Park, Humphreys County—awarded \$11,500.00 to purchase a reproduction 1861 Springfield Musket and a 10-pound Parrot artillery piece for demonstrating the Federal defense of Johnsonville during the Civil War.

Parkers Crossroads, Henderson County—awarded \$48,180.00 to purchase a reproduction field limber with

ammunitions chest and limber pole, plus a caisson with ammunition chests and spare wheel, to demonstrate the role of field artillery in battlefield strategy at Parkers Crossroads.

Five tracts of land were acquired with **Civil War Sites Preservation Fund** support and help from the American Battlefield Trust and the American Battlefield Protection Program:

The Chapin Tract at the Chattanooga and Wauhatchie Battlefields in Chattanooga, Hamilton County—an approximately 9-acre tract that contains Brown's Tavern, a log structure associated with the 1838 Cherokee Removal along the Trail of Tears and the Civil War. In 2020 TWC granted \$15,708.37 in matching funds to combine with \$231,737.63 awarded in 2019 in order to complete this purchase.

The Cotner Tract at the Shiloh Battlefield in Michie, Hardin County—a 53-acre tract adjacent to the Shiloh National Military Park where 40,000 Confederate soldiers attacked Union divisions in a decisive battle of the Civil War. \$51,000 of TWC matching funds supported this purchase.



The Olive Tract at the Parkers Crossroads Battlefield, Henderson County

—a 0.55-acre tract where Union Brig. Gen. Jeremiah Sullivan, with the brigades of Col. Cyrus Dunham and Col. John Fuller, attempted to prevent Confederate troops under Nathan Bedford Forrest from withdrawing across the Tennessee River. \$125,000 of TWC matching funds supported this purchase.

The O'Reilly Tract at the Stones River Battlefield in Murfreesboro, Rutherford County

—the 42-acre parcel adjacent to the Stone's River National Battlefield, a National Park Service-owned site, where George Wagner's troop was position

during the Battle of Stone's River. A grant award of \$170,530.63 in 2020 brought TWC matching contributions to \$1,998,033.01 for this purchase.

The Van Cleave Tract at the Stones River Battlefield in Murfreesboro, Rutherford County

—a 6-acre parcel adjacent to the National Military Park's boundaries where the final day of fighting occurred on January 2, 1863. \$540,000 of TWC matching funds supported this purchase.

THC Executive Director, Patrick McIntyre, serves as the Executive Director of the TWC and Nina Scall serves as the Director of Programs and sole staff member of the TWC.



Camp Blount Memorial Park's new Tennessee Volunteer statue by sculptor Wayne Hyde



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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 Claudette Stager, 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, 18,500 copies promulgated at a cost of \$0.65 per copy, 2/10/21.

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ON THE COVER: This is a composite pre-preservation and post-explosion image of the c. 1887 Rhea Building at 166 Second Ave. N., created by graphic designer Keith Wood from a 1970 photograph in the Library of Congress HABS Collection and a 2021 photograph by THC staff member, Rebecca Schmitt