



THE COURIER

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

SUMMER 2020

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35 FEDERAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND GRANTS AWARDED IN 2020

by Claudette Stager

Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grants totaling over \$839,000 have been awarded by the Tennessee Historical Commission for historic preservation and archaeological projects throughout the state this year. Programmatically competitive, THC staff reviewed 50 applications with a total request of approximately \$1.7 million. Grant priorities include projects that are in the Certified Local Governments program. HPF grant recipient properties must be listed in the National Register and grant recipient programs must meet the objectives of Tennessee's Historic Preservation Plan. As matching grants, 60% of project funds are provided by the HPF, 40% come from the grantee. Listed by county, grant recipient projects are:

Carroll County, City of McKenzie (CLG)
\$6,000 for design guideline updating

Clay County, Clay County
\$6,000 for Clay County Courthouse window restoration

Coffee County, Tennessee Division of Archaeology
\$6,000 for archaeological survey of Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Park

Davidson County, Andrew Jackson Foundation
\$30,000 for Jackson tomb laser cleaning at The Hermitage

City of Belle Meade
\$14,000 for survey of historic resources

Cheekwood Estate and Gardens
\$40,000 for historic stone step restoration

Metro Historical Commission (CLG)
\$17,400 for restoration of historic resources in Centennial Park

Gibson County, Mt. Zion Worship Center
\$24,000 for Mt. Zion School restoration

Greene County, Blue Springs Historical Association, Inc.
\$28,548 for foundation restoration at Blue Springs Church

Hardeman County, City of Bolivar (CLG)
\$21,000 for United Sons & Daughters of Charity Lodge Hall restoration

Hawkins County, Town of Rogersville (CLG)
\$26,250 for restoration of the Powell Law Office

Jefferson County, Glenmore Preservation Society, Inc.
\$25,000 for Glenmore Mansion masonry work

Lawrence County, City of Lawrenceburg (CLG)
\$30,000 for Crockett Theater restoration

Maury County, Columbia Academy
\$2,850 for iron fence restoration at Columbia Academy

Monroe County, Monroe County
\$25,200 for Monroe County Courthouse masonry restoration

Moore County, Metropolitan Lynchburg/Moore County (CLG)
\$10,200 for design guidelines and updating Lynchburg survey

Morgan County, Morgan County Tourism Alliance
\$14,000 for Tanner Store restoration

Putnam County, City of Algood
\$22,500 for White Plains Museum restoration

Shelby County, Central Gardens Association
\$15,000 for survey and Central Gardens Historic District National Register nomination

Town of Collierville (CLG)
\$15,000 for town survey

Sumner County, City of Gallatin (CLG)
\$14,000 for city survey

Williamson County
African American Heritage Society of Williamson County
\$25,000 for McLemore House restoration

City of Franklin (CLG)
\$6,000 for City Cemetery ironwork restoration

City of Franklin (CLG)
\$14,700 for Harlinsdale Farmhouse window restoration

MULTI-COUNTY GRANTS

Middle Tennessee State University
\$3,539 to Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology, Tennessee Archaeology Week posters

\$50,000 to Fullerton Laboratory for Spatial Technology, survey data digitization

Development District Preservation Specialist Staffing

\$42,000 to East Tennessee Development District

\$35,000 to First Tennessee Development District

\$25,000 to Greater Nashville Regional Council

\$25,000 to Memphis Area Association of Governments

\$36,000 to Northwest Tennessee Development District

\$50,000 to South Central Tennessee Development District

\$54,000 to Southeast Tennessee Development District

\$40,000 to Southwest Tennessee Development District

\$40,000 to Upper Cumberland Development District

TENNESSEE WARS COMMISSION

by Nina Scall

This summer the Tennessee Wars Commission, the Tennessee Historical Commission program devoted to preserving the state's significant military history, will have a hand in saving a highly threatened nine-acre historic site. Known as the Brown's Ferry Tavern Tract, it is located in the Wauhatchie (Chattanooga) Civil War Battlefield area and richly layered with American history. For two hundred and sixteen years, Brown's Tavern has stood on this land. The two-story dogtrot log home with huge stone bookend fireplaces was constructed in 1803 and witnessed the defeat of the 4th and 15th Alabama regiments by the 23rd Kentucky and 93rd Ohio regiments in the Battle of Wauhatchie. This is the Union victory that reestablished the "Cracker Line" to supply troops further south at Moccasin Bend.

PATRICK MCINTYRE



Increasing real estate development surrounds the Brown's Tavern site.

Prior to its conscription into Civil War service during the 1863/64 winter encampment at Chattanooga, the tavern witnessed an earlier travesty—one steeped in Native American history. The tavern is named for John Brown, a Cherokee businessman who owned 640 acres of land in Chattanooga. His property included the tavern and a ferry that connected Moccasin Bend to the east bank of the Tennessee River along Old Federal Road. Brown operated the tavern until 1819. He returned in 1830 to resume tavern operations, but, was forced out by the infamous Cherokee Removal in 1838. Brown negotiated federal permission to return with his family to their home in the tavern. There he died in 1847. To date, the exact location of this war veteran's grave is unknown. However, his legacy as a

Native American soldier with the Cherokee troops that fought under Col. Gideon Morgan in the War of 1812, is now well known and honored.

Today Brown's Tavern is a stop on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Yet the historic integrity of this site and its surrounding area remain vulnerable to development taking place in the area, that is, until the American Battlefield Trust purchases the property this summer with financial support from the Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund and a conservation easement is established for the Tennessee Historical Commission to hold in perpetuity. Since the conception of the Civil War Sites Preservation Grant Fund in 2013, this matching fund program has helped preserve over 850 acres of battlefield land. Other properties acquired in 2019 with support from this fund were:

The Stones River Battlefield, (O'Reilly Tract, Murfreesboro, Rutherford Co.) Grant contribution \$1,827,502.38. The forty-two-acre parcel at Stones River is where Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans and Gen. Braxton Bragg faced off. This tract is the location of George Wagner's troop position during the battle.

The Battle of Shiloh, (Brown Tract, Shiloh, Hardin Co.) Grant contribution \$23,260.00. The Brown Tract, an eight-acre parcel, marks the location of Brig. Gen. Adley H. Gladden's battle line during the initial phase of the first day of the battle on April 6, 1862.

The Battle of Salem Cemetery, (Yarbro Farms Tract, City of Jackson, Madison Co.) Grant contribution \$345,336.95. The 120-acre parcel surrounds the Salem Cemetery on three sides where on December 18, 1862, Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest's Confederate forces attacked Col. Adolph Engelmann.

The Battle of Franklin, (Spivey Tract, Franklin, Williamson Co.) Grant contribution \$630,000.00. The 0.72-acre tract is adjacent to the main Federal defensive line manned by Gen. Thomas Ruger's Division who faced off with Confederate troops led by Gen. States Rights Gist and Gen. George Gordon.

The Battle of Franklin, (Appalachian Cultivation Tract, Franklin, Williamson County) Grant contribution \$40,000.00. The 1.5-acre parcel is far right of Lt. John Bell Hood's Confederate assault forces and is about 200 yards from the Federal line where troops positioned 10 guns.

PAUL HENRY / ELK VALLEY TIMES



Groundbreaking ceremony of Phase I construction at Camp Blount. August 2019.





Patrick McIntyre and Nina Scall at the agreement signing that established a formal affiliation between Parkers Crossroads, Shiloh National Military Park, & THC.

In 1994, the Tennessee General Assembly enacted legislation to create the Tennessee Wars Commission (TWC). Since then, the TWC has helped acquire and permanently protect over 7,000 acres and support over one hundred projects that preserve, protect, and interpret Tennessee's military heritage—which includes property associated with 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) and Underground Railroad sites. This mission is achieved in part through the administration of two grant funds: the Tennessee Historical Commission Civil War Sites Preservation Grant Fund and the Wars Commission Grant Fund. The American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), a National Park Service program, partners with TWC to protect Tennessee's battlefield sites.

Projects that were funded by Wars Commission grants in 2019:

Alvin C. York State Historic Park, Fentress Co., was awarded \$1,810.00 to expand the park's narrative to include the interpretation of Camp McGinnis, an early Confederate training camp.

Parkers Crossroads Battlefield, Henderson Co., was awarded \$48,800.00 in grant funds to purchase a replica Civil War artillery caisson, limber with munitions box, and wayside signage.

Battle of Franklin Trust, Franklin, Williamson Co., was awarded \$50,000.00 to assist in the purchase of interpretative panels and graphic displays for the new Carter House State Historic Site Visitor Center, a Tennessee Historical Commission capital project slated for construction in the future. These panels will interpret the broader context of America's history from its founding through the Civil War and the war's aftermath.

Johnsonville State Historic Park, Humphreys Co., was awarded \$15,000.00 for the purchase of a reproduction aluminum carriage for a field artillery piece.

CEMETERY PRESERVATION PROGRAM POWERS UP

By Graham Perry

In October, THC launched the Tennessee Historic Cemetery Preservation Program, in response to cemetery-termination public-notification legislation passed by the Tennessee General Assembly in 2018. This legislation also established THC's 7-member Historic Cemetery Advisory Committee—Dr. Beverly Bond (Memphis), Ms. Fletch Coke (Nashville), Dr. Kevin J. Hales (Knoxville), Mrs. Linda Moss Mines (Chattanooga), Mr. Nick Fielder (former State Archeologist), Mrs. Loni Harris (Jackson), and Mr. Phil Hodge (present State Archeologist)—who will propose legislative updates to improve historic cemetery protection in December.

This THC program serves as a resource for identifying, protecting and preserving Tennessee's historic cemeteries, which is achieved by documenting and providing cemetery-care advice to the public. The program database holds information on 25,000 cemeteries to date. Records include official cemetery names, alternate names, locations, and historical information.



72 mph derecho winds toppled two ancient trees in Hoggatt Cemetery at Clover Bottom Mansion in Nashville on May 4, 2020. No headstones were damaged.



STATE HISTORIC SITES UPDATE

By Dan Brown

The Tennessee Historical Commission State Historic Sites Program helps ensure the stewardship of some of Tennessee's most significant places. This model program thrives today thanks to longstanding partnerships with independent nonprofit organizations that raise funds and operate these special sites as historic resources for the state's citizenry and visiting public.

March 3rd tornados in Middle Tennessee did not damage any THC structures, but three storms downed approximately thirty trees at five sites this spring. Thanks to preventive measures that THC implemented in a Comprehensive Tree Safety Pruning and Maintenance Program over two years ago, no operable buildings were damaged by trees. Two separate wind events damaged five structures at the Burra Burra Mine State Historic Site. A May 3rd wind event at the Cragfont State Historic Site damaged non-historic windows and destroyed trees at the THC office. Two that stood for over a century at Clover Bottom Mansion toppled, damaging the limestone and iron fence surrounding the Hoggatt Cemetery. Working closely with the Tennessee Department of Archaeology, repair work was conducted with minimal disturbance to gravesites.

On a positive note, Spring of 2020 has brought exciting changes to Castalian Springs in Sumner County, where, through strong encouragement by THC, a new umbrella organization called Historic Castalian Springs will oversee all four area THC properties—Cragfont, Wynnewood, Hawthorn Hill and the Castalian Springs Mounds. These sites have long been administered by two separate groups. Professionally-trained staff has been hired to manage the properties and to develop new interpretive strategies that will bring increased visitation to these properties.

SITE UPDATES

The **Alex Haley House and Museum State Historic Site, Henning**, the first African American historic site owned by the state, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Author Alex Haley is buried on the grounds of the bungalow

built in 1919 by his maternal grandfather. On this porch, Alex listened to the stories about his ancestors that led to his renowned classic, *Roots*. In 2010, THC dedicated the state-funded Alex Haley Museum and Interpretive Center, an award-winning museum facility designed by architect Louis Pounders. A \$500,000 rehabilitation project on the historic house will wrap up this summer. Capital improvements include replacing 5 HVAC systems, security system repairs, and correcting a standing water problem at the house entrance. Alex Haley's tomb is receiving additional site maintenance.

From 1899 to 1975, the **Burra Burra Mine State Historic Site, Ducktown**, was headquarters for the Tennessee Copper Company's mining operations. Owned by THC since 1988, it is one of the South's few mining heritage museums. Ten original mine buildings remain on the 17-acre property, National Register listed in 1983. A \$1.5 million dollar rehabilitation project, including visitor center exhibit space revision and comprehensive security system installation, wrapped up early this year. Working with the State of Tennessee Real Estate Asset Management Division (STREAM), through architectural consultant Jim Thompson, a master plan for 2020-21 capital projects was completed—which now includes \$100,000 in roof replacement and exterior repairs on five structures, due to wind damage this spring.

The **Carter House State Historic Site, Franklin**, was saved from demolition by the State of Tennessee and THC in 1953 and is now managed by the Battle of Franklin Trust. Built in 1830, it is one of 29 National Historic Landmark sites in the state. In a 1980s land swap, THC acquired an adjacent property for interpretation of the bullet-ridden structures that bear witness to the 1864 Battle of Franklin. Plans to construct a \$3.5 million dollar visitor center there were put on hold until additional funding could be allocated. In the meantime, exhibit planning for the pending visitor center was completed

and decorative repairs were made on the Carter House.

The **Chester Inn State Historic Site, Jonesborough**, preserves one of Tennessee's finest frontier era wood frame inns. Constructed on a prominent stage road in 1797, three U.S. presidents have been guests of this establishment. Restoration began in the 1990s, after THC acquisition. It is operated by the Heritage Alliance of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. Last summer, Spanish Cedar window frames, glazed with restoration glass and affixed with period-appropriate hardware were installed. Warranty inspection for this window rehabilitation project was completed in May. Repairs to the Inn's gutters and drainage were completed in January, with plans for a capital project to complete outstanding issues with the site in 2020-21.

THC offices moved from downtown **Nashville** to the restored **Clover Bottom Mansion** in 1994. Since then, the agency's historic sites program has taken on the role of property steward, overseeing repairs and improvements to the mansion and historic outbuildings. Last year, grounds were cleared for interpretation of the barn field, Hoggatt Cemetery, and Overseer's House, with repairs to a former slave cabin porch and mansion porches completed in the fall.

Construction of the house now known as the **Cragfont State Historic Site, in Castalian Springs**, began in 1798 and ended in 1802. Named Cragfont because it stood on a rocky bluff with a spring at its base, the house typifies architecture of the late Georgian period. This year, THC took care of plumbing repairs, completing the innovative rehabilitation of a tobacco barn on the grounds (see photos) and correcting the site's sinkhole problem, a \$400,000 capital project. Historic paint analysis of the main house, as well as window repairs are in the planning stages.

The **Hotel Halbrook Railroad & Local History Museum State Historic Site, Dickson**, is home of the Clement



Railroad Hotel Museum. The 1913 building is one of the few remaining examples of a railroad hotel in a small Tennessee town. Functioning as a working man's hotel until 1954, it opened to the public as a historic site in 2009. It recently became the town's visitor center as well. This spring a \$330,000 window rehabilitation project wrapped up at the site.

Hawthorn Hill State Historic Site, Castalian Springs, this rare brick hall-and-parlor floor plan I-house is the birthplace of Tennessee Governor and Confederate general William B. Bate, as well as the former residence of Grand Ole Opry pioneer, Dr. Humphrey Bate. THC acquired the c. 1806 structure in 2007. Much of the interior stenciling survived intact and wall finishes have been conserved or restored following paint analysis, as part of a three-year restoration project.

In 1941, the state purchased the plantation home that John Sevier named Marble Springs. The John Sevier Memorial Association operates **Marble Springs State Historic Site**, near **Knoxville**. This year, THC led rehabilitation work totaling \$420,000 at Marble Springs, including road and parking lot improvements as well as building and main entrance gate repairs.

In 1969, the State of Tennessee purchased Rock Castle, a blend of Federal

and Georgian architectural styles that was the home of pioneer surveyor Daniel Smith. Construction began in 1784 on this National Register listed site. The 18-acre **Rock Castle State Historic Site in Hendersonville** is administered by the Friends of Rock Castle. This year, site construction needs were identified in a master plan conducted with STREAM, through architectural consultant, Jim Thompson.

In 1941, the Daughters of the American Revolution obtained funding from the State of Tennessee to purchase and restore the Rock House as a public museum and local chapter meeting place. The small stone structure was built between 1835 and 1839 to collect tolls on a private road near **Sparta**. Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, Sam Houston, Frank Clement, among other notable visitors, stopped at the Rock House. In 1973, the structure now known as the **Rock House State Historic Site** was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Development of a scope of work plan through STREAM is in process for this site.

In 1962, the State of Tennessee purchased Rocky Mount, a log house that was built on the location of the capitol of the old Southwest Territory. Through dendrochronology studies, the construction date of the present home in **Piney Flats** was found to be the late 1820s. Complete with kitchen, barn, and weaving cabin outbuildings, it

operates as the **Rocky Mount State Historic Site**, managed by the Rocky Mount Historical Association. Last summer at Rocky Mount, 7,000 artifacts were treated in a mold remediation project that also required replacing the site's auditorium floor and six HVAC units. This THC-funded work was conducted in agreement with legal and insurance advisors, TN State Library and Archives, and a consulting engineer through the state's environmental compliance office. After certifying the building radon free, the site was reopened to the public in the fall. A \$175,000 HVAC system reconfiguration project, developed at STREAM, is underway this summer.

Sabine Hill State Historic Site, Elizabethton, is a circa 1818 Federal-style I-house that was threatened with demolition and purchased by THC in 2007. Restored as a THC capital project, it opened to the public in 2017. It is administered as a unit of Sycamore Shoals State Park. THC staff recently oversaw the completion of the kitchen's historic paint finish conservation project.

Sam Davis Memorial, Pulaski, is the smallest THC site. A small structure preserves the site where Confederate Sam Davis was hanged. This summer, repairs to the engaged gutter system are underway and interior leaks related to this problem will be repaired.

THE TOBACCO BARN REHABILITATION PROJECT

The 19th century tobacco barn at Cragfont State Historic Site has been partially reroofed with panels that allow filtered light and provide a unique setting for 21st century special events. The rehabilitation project used native red oak for structural and siding infill and restored the barn's original stone



footings. Other work included infilling three sink holes and removing two collapsed non-historic barns on the site. A seismic engineering study was completed to identify possible future sinkhole locations. This THC capital

project was completed through the State of Tennessee Real Estate Asset Management Division. The architectural firm was Moody Nolan Architects and general contractor was Joe Staub Building Group, Inc.



The **Sam Houston Schoolhouse State Historic Site** in Maryville was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. In 1945, the State of Tennessee purchased the schoolhouse and adjacent property where Sam Houston taught before the War of 1812. Operated by the Sam Houston Memorial Association, it exemplifies late 18th and early 19th century field schools.

The **Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City**, is operated for THC by the Tipton-Haynes Historical Association, Inc. Construction on a \$750,000 rehabilitation project will commence this summer, with planning for future work currently in development through STREAM.

As the **Wynnewood State Historic Site**, the 1828 inn and mineral springs resort complex in **Castalian Springs**, long managed by Bledsoe's Lick Historical Association, is transitioning to Historic Castalian Springs management. In 1970, the State of Tennessee purchased the largest extant log structure in the state, Wynnewood, from the last descendant living in the ancestral home. The following year, it was designated a National Historic Landmark, one of 29 in the state. Severely damaged by tornado in 2008, the house was restored by THC and reopened to the public in 2012. Last summer, Spencer cabin repairs were completed, cedar trees planted post-tornado treated for bagworms, and plans made for repairing a dry stone wall by the barn.

ADVISORY SERVICES

The THC Historic Sites Program also serves in an advisory capacity to other historic sites. This year, the John Sevier Office Building on the Capitol Mall; Port Royal State Park Masonic Lodge; Stonecipher Kelly House in Wartburg; Fite-Fessenden House in Lebanon; Collins Farm with the DAR in Franklin; Hayes House and the Custom House in Clarksville; Mel Malone House in Murfreesboro; Paris Henry Co Heritage Center in Paris; Comer Barn in Sumner County; and Rock Island State Park Mill; as well as the National Park Service are among the places and entities that have benefitted from this resource.

NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH AND THE 2020 CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD PROGRAM

By Susan McClamroch

Since 1975, the Tennessee Historical Commission has celebrated National Preservation Month by conferring Certificate of Merit Awards in May. This program honors the exemplary work carried out by individuals, groups, organizations, corporations, and governmental entities that promote historic preservation and the study of history in Tennessee. Nominations from the public are judged by category.

This year, **Dr. William Kennedy** received a **Preservation Leadership Award**, the 3rd bestowed in 45 years,



William Kennedy

for his preservation leadership in Jonesborough, the Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia region, and his service to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Recipients in the Historic Preservation category:

- Joseph Gregory in Bristol, for rehabilitating the E.W. King Co. building as the Bristol Renaissance Center, an exemplary use of Tax Increment Financing for commercial historic district revitalization.
- John Ross in Savannah, for rehabilitating a Queen Anne-influenced residence to commercial space, an exemplary use of federal historic tax credits for small town historic district revitalization.
- Self+Tucker Architects in Memphis, for rehabilitating the 1949 McKissack & McKissack-designed Universal Life Insurance Building, an exemplary green building project and use of federal historic tax credits to preserve African American history and architecture.
- TDOT Cultural Resources and Region 3 in Nashville, for 1823 Nashville Toll Bridge clearing and interpretation, an exemplary addition to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.



Self + Tucker Architects

Recipient in the Book or Public Programming category:

- Rob DeHart in Nashville, for the Tennessee State Museum's exhibit, *Let's Eat! Origins and Evolution of Tennessee Food*, an exemplary program to broaden the museum's audience with an inclusive presentation of the state's food history.

Recipients in the Commissioners' Special Commendation category:

- Lee Millar, Alan Doyle, and Mike Cross in Memphis, for their efforts to recover three historic statues.
- Serina Gilbert in Charlotte, for Promise Land preservation and African American history education.



Serina Gilbert



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NEWS

By Christopher Kinder and Rebecca Schmitt

Nine Tennessee Properties Added to National Register of Historic Places

Nine new Tennessee sites have been added to the National Register of Historic Places. As 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 new listings announced by the Tennessee Historical Commission State Historic Preservation Office are:

Mound Bottom

(Mound Bottom State Archaeological Area – Cheatham County)

In 1971 Mound Bottom was listed in the National Register for statewide prehistoric Native American importance. As part of the Harpeth River State Park, the Mid Cumberland Mississippian site consists of earthen mounds, residential footprints, cemetery areas, and a petroglyph site. The updated nomination includes new research revealing that Mound Bottom was an early Central Basin mound center of regional political significance in the Mississippian period (AD 900-1400).



Sitka School (*Milan vicinity - Gibson County*)

The 2-room Sitka School in Milan was completed in 1942 for African American students in grades 1 through 8. Before then, these students attended school at Moore's Chapel Church. The Anna T.



Jeanes Foundation, also known as the Negro Rural School Fund, provided funds for Jeanes Supervisors who taught and worked in the community. The Sitka School closed in 1966.



Crescent School (*Greeneville - Greene County*)

Kingsport architect Allen N. Dryden, Sr. designed Greeneville's Crescent School, built between 1923 and 1925, as well as the building's 1955 and 1961 additions. Colonial Revival style is evident in the school's symmetrical design, multiple-light windows, bell tower and pedimented entries. After the school closed in 1981, a former student purchased the property and adapted it for office use.



Stanton School (*Stanton – Haywood County*)

From 1948 to 1969, the 4-room Stanton School served educational needs of the community's 1st through 8th grade African American students. Although it resembles a Colonial Revival style Rosenwald School, it post-dates the program that funded African American schools in the South (c. 1917-1932). Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church owns and maintains the Stanton School.





Ripley Fire Lookout Tower (Ripley - Lauderdale County)

The Ripley Fire Lookout Tower is an 80-foot tall steel structure with an observation cab that provides a panoramic view of the surrounding area. Built by the Aeromotor Company of Chicago for the Tennessee Division of Forestry, the site includes a lookout operator's cabin and vehicle service building, all constructed in 1970. Tennessee's 208 fire lookout towers,

now obsolete, are vanishing from the landscape. The Ripley tower is one of the last built for the state.



Englewood Water Tower (Englewood – McMinn County)

The 144-foot Englewood Water Tower represents early 20th century advancements in water system engineering. In 1937, it was constructed with an elliptical bottom and a conical top. Although the tower that drew new industry to Englewood and supplied the community is no longer in use for the municipal water system, it has become an icon in town imagery, with a preservation group dedicated to saving it.



Gladys “MaDear” Bennett House (Memphis – Shelby County)

In 1955, the Gladys “MaDear” Bennett House was moved to its present location and purchased by Gladys and Harvey Bennett,

who were successful African American entrepreneurs during the Jim Crow era. Gladys and her sister, Cora Crawford, operated Gladys’ School of Domestic Arts and the Subway Beauty Salon in the north Memphis house that is still family-owned.



Webb Hotel (Rock Island – Warren County)

Crab Orchard stone and cedar shingles, along with wide eaves and a large front porch, distinguish the 2-story Craftsman style Webb Hotel, built in 1909. Although the hotel business benefited from Great Falls Dam completion in 1915, the Webb family sold the property in the 1930s. Subsequent owners operated it as a boarding house and hotel until the mid-20th century.

Hincheyville Historic District (Franklin – Williamson County)

Originally listed in the National Register in 1982, recent revisions to Hincheyville Historic District documentation include expanded architectural and historic details of Hincheyville. Approval was given for the update that encompasses housing from circa 1830 to circa 1950 and styles range from 19th-century Greek Revival to 20th-century bungalows.



COMMEMORATING NASHVILLE'S AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF THE 1960s

by Linda T. Wynn

"History despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again." Maya Angelou

In 1960 Nashville's African American community and the city in general experienced events that changed the timbre of race relations in the Athens of the South. In many ways Nashville and its contributions to the overall narrative of the Civil Rights Movement are barely recognized. Although a coterie of Nashville student leaders, whose fearless resolve, allowed them to travel throughout the South and waged war on racial discrimination, with the exception of a few are scarcely mentioned in the Modern Civil Rights storyline. Their seeds of courage, faith, determination, and resolve, were planted, watered, and nourished in the ethos of the nonviolent-direct protest classes they attended at Clark Memorial United Church where the seeds of revolution were planted under the master gardener and planter the Reverend James Lawson, Jr., a graduate student at Vanderbilt's School of Divinity, who came to Nashville at the urging of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In the dorm rooms of the city's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and the Nashville Student Movement Office on 21st Avenue North and Jefferson Street, students at American Baptist Theological Seminary (now American Baptist College), Fisk University, Meharry Medical College, and Tennessee Agricultural & Industrial State University (now Tennessee State University) were leaders in challenging racial

segregation at its core and helped construct the foundation of the freedom movement.

From staging some of the modern movement's earliest sit-ins, to helping to organized the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), to continuing the Freedom Rides, to participating in voter registration drives, to the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, to the Selma-to-Montgomery March for voting rights, Nashville student activists participated and in many cases were in the forefront as leaders. Nashville students met weekly during the months of September, October, and November of 1959. During those months, Lawson introduce the student activists to the philosophy of Jesus Christ, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, and Henry David Thoreau, among others. Lawson and others, the Reverend C. T. Vivian among them, gave the students a view of nonviolence by mixing role-playing of various types including experiencing violence that may have been perpetrated upon them. As Diane Nash, one of the student leaders noted, one of the movement's goals was to "be respectful of the opposition and try to keep issues geared towards desegregation, not get sidetracked." Although Nashville student activists conducted "test sit-ins" in November and December of 1959 to confirm the city's exclusionary racial policy, which if proven true, planned to execute Nashville's sit-in movement beginning in early 1960. However, before they could carry out their plans, four students, all men,

sat-in at Woolworth's in Greensboro, North Carolina, on February 1, 1960. Later, the North Carolina A & T students were joined by others, including the women at Bennett College. The sit-in in North Carolina, strengthened the determination and steadfastness of the already organized Nashville students. Two weeks later, on February 13, 1960, Nashville students launched their sit-in movement, when they gathered at Kress, Woolworth's, and McClellan stores at 12:40 p.m. in downtown Nashville. After making their purchases at the stores, the students sat-in at the lunch counters. Store owners initially refused to serve the students and closed the counters, claiming it was their "moral right" to determine whom they would or would not serve. The students continued the sit-ins over the next three months, expanding their targets to include lunch counters at the Greyhound and Trailways bus terminals, W. T. Grant's, Walgreen's Drugstore, and major Nashville department stores, Cain-Sloan and Harvey's. Although the early sit-in protesters experienced no violence that changed during the third protest of eating facilities in February.

The first violent response to the protests came on February 27, 1960, which Lawson called "big Saturday." The protesters that day were attacked by whites opposed to racial desegregation. The police arrested eighty-one protesters, but not one of the attackers faced arrest by law enforcement. The arrested students were found guilty of disorderly conduct. However, they all refused to pay fines and remained incarcerated as a continuation of their protest. "We feel that if we pay these fines we would be contributing to, and supporting, the injustice and immoral practices that have been performed in the arrest and conviction of the defendants. The first phase of the Nashville Sit-in Movement continued until a resolution came to the forefront on May 10, 1960. However, the resolution was wrought by the April bombing of Attorney





"Tennessee Historical Commission markers keep history in the public landscape." —Linda T. Wynn

Z. Alexander Looby's home.

In the Civil Rights Movement of the World War II era, Looby rose to a position of local leadership. After losing a 1940 runoff election to a white opponent in a city council race, from 1943 to 1945 he presided over the James C. Napier Bar Association. In 1946 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People hired Looby, Maurice Weaver, and Thurgood Marshall to represent the African Americans charged with murder following the recent race riot in Columbia, Tennessee. Looby's legal defense helped acquit twenty-three of the defendants. He crisscrossed the state in the company of other black lawyers, arguing against Jim Crow and discrimination. Looby is credited with desegregating the Nashville airport dining room and the city's public golf courses. Politics, he thought was a means by which an oppressive racial system could be changed. In 1951 he and fellow attorney Robert E. Lillard became the first African Americans elected to the city council since 1911. During the sit-in demonstrations and civil rights marches of the 1960s, Looby, one of thirteen black attorneys provided money and legal services for local college

students arrested and jailed. On April 19, 1960, his Meharry Boulevard home was destroyed by dynamite. This refusal of African Americans to participate in the Easter shopping season successfully caused businesses to experienced unprecedented commercial losses.

The bombing of Looby's home caused a definitive moment for Nashville's Civil Rights Movement. It served as the catalyst for a silent march later that day when a diverse group of 3,000 people marched to City Hall where Mayor Ben West met them on the steps of the plaza. After questioning by Nash and Vivian, West stated that lunch counters should be desegregated. A watershed moment, this admission by West paved the way for the beginning of deseg-



regated lunch counters making Nashville the first southern city to do so. Nashville student activists answered Ella Josephine Baker's (1903-1986) call for students conducting sit-ins to come to Shaw University, a HBCU in Raleigh, North Carolina.

As regional desegregation sit-ins led by African American college students, Baker persuaded the SCLC to invite southern university students to the South-wide Youth Leadership Conference at Shaw University on Easter weekend in 1960. This was a gathering of sit-in leaders to meet, assess their struggles, and explore the possibilities for future actions. At this meeting the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was formed. Baker saw the potential for a special type of leadership by the young sit-in leaders, who were not yet prominent in the movement. She believed they could revitalize the Black Freedom Movement and take it in a new direction. Baker brought the sit-in participants together in a way that sustained the momentum of their actions, taught them the necessary skills, provided the needed resources, and aided the students in amalgamating into a more activist and autonomous organization. To this end she



worked to keep the students independent of the older, church-based leadership. In her address at Shaw, Baker also known as “Fundu”, which comes from the Swahili word meaning a person who teaches a craft to the next generation, warned the activists to be wary of “leader-centered orientation.” While many of the student activists thought Nashville Student Movement leader Diane Nash would be elected as the first president of SNCC, it was her fellow student and colleague at Fisk University, Marion Berry who became the organization’s first president. “Diane was a devoted leader . . . but she was the wrong sex,” said John Lewis. “There was a desire to emphasize and showcase black manhood.”

SNCC aided in the coordination of sit-ins and other acts of nonviolent civil disobedience throughout the South. In the fall of 1961, following the United States Supreme Court decision in the *Boynton v. Virginia*, 364 U.S. 454 (1960) ending racial segregation of public transportation and eating facilities within those locations, SNCC members confronted violent opposition as Freedom Riders on buses that carried integrated groups of passengers from Washington, D.C., and Nashville through the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. The first group of Freedom Riders, sponsored by the Congress Of Racial Equality (CORE) and traveling in two groups on Trailways and Greyhound buses, met unmerciful violence and CORE abandoned the rides. The Nashville Student Movement under the direction of Nash and others decided that “we can’t let violence overcome nonviolence. We are coming into Birmingham to continue the Freedom Ride.” Knowing the risk that they all were under Nash stated, “. . . some of the [people I loved the most] might not be alive the next night.” Members of the Nashville Student Movement left Nashville on May 17 for Birmingham. Upon their arrival,



Theophilus Eugene “Bull” Conner, city commissioner of public safety, ordered the new group of Freedom Riders taken to jail. The Riders were released the following day at the Alabama state line. Three days later, despite the governor’s pledge of protection, approximately three hundred white segregationists attacked the new group of Freedom Riders, which included thirteen students from Tennessee A&I State University, four from American Baptist College, two each from Fisk University and George Peabody College, and one student from Atlanta’s Spelman College, as well as John Seigenthaler, the US Justice Department representative of the Kennedy administration, as they pulled into a bus depot in Montgomery. The Riders remained indomitable and started out again four days after the Alabama assault. When the Riders arrived in Jackson, Mississippi, no fanatical white mobs awaited them. However, as they entered the whites-only waiting room, police immediately steered them into a paddy wagon and whisked them away to jail. On September 22, 1961, in response to the Freedom Rides and under pressure from Attorney General Robert Kennedy and others in the Kennedy administration, the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) promulgated regulations prohibiting racial segregation in train and bus terminals, effective on November 1, 1961. Nashville student activists continued to toil in the civil rights vineyard fighting



for all to be treated with dignity and the rights as articulated in America’s governing documents.

Lest you forget, the 60th Anniversary of the Nashville Sit-in Movement, the bombing of Z. Alexander Looby’s home, the silent march in protest against white supremacists, which was suggested by the Rev. Cordy Tindell (C.T.) Vivian, who was familiar with New York’s silent march against lynching in the early 1900s, the desegregation of Nashville lunch counters and other public accommodations, the founding of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Freedom Rides, remember Nashville activists also played key roles in the 1963 March on Washington, the Birmingham campaign of 1963, were frontline leaders during the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964, and the struggle to gain voting rights in Selma, all events at the apogee of the modern struggle for civil and human rights. As the late historian and Fisk University alumnus John Hope Franklin said of them, they were “probably the most courageous and the most selfless” civil rights workers.

Like those of the Modern Civil Rights Movement (a movement that took place during the last half of the 20th century that focused on inequalities and injustices structurally institutionalized against the African American population), other groups followed their model to gain rights denied them because of gender, age, ethnicity, and others in the 21st century denied justice and equality. Discerning the nexuses between past and present is undeniably fundamental for a constructive comprehension of the condition of being human. The wide-ranging span of the human experience, viewed both in depth and protensively over time, is the focus of history as a field of study. That is why the discipline of history matters. It is not just valuable, it is fundamental.



SECTION 106 STAFF IN THE SECRET CITY

by Casey Lee

Staff from the Tennessee Historical Commission's Section 106 program traveled to Oak Ridge for discussions regarding future Department of Energy (DOE) projects and a consultation meeting with DOE, National Park Service, the City of Oak Ridge, and other consulting parties to discuss completed K-25 Memorandum of Agreement stipulations and progress DOE has made towards completing the remaining stipulations. Section 106

staff attended the grand opening of the K-25 History Center, now an integral part of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. Onsite staff responsible for environmental compliance of DOE undertakings guided Section 106 staff through the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Y-12 complex, and the historic Freels Bend cabin that demonstrates life in Oak Ridge before the Manhattan Project transformed it into "the Secret City."



(above) Freels Bend cabin. (top) K-25 History Center Security Badge prop that visitors receive upon entering the museum. The badge allows visitors to access different interactives within the history center.

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Kerri Ross joined the THC staff in April as a Historic Preservation Specialist in Survey and GIS and Certified Local Government Surveys. Kerri is an architectural historian holding an M.S. in Historic Preservation and Restoration from the College of Charleston and the University of Clemson's dual program in



South Carolina (2019). Her undergraduate degree is in Fine Arts from The University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee (2016). Kerri's academic interests include the relationship between art and architecture throughout European and American history and the study of cultural landscapes. Along with being an avid photographer and traveler, Kerri works at an equine sanctuary helping neglected and abused horses find happy homes.



Published by the
**TENNESSEE HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**
2941 Lebanon Pike
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442

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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, 4,600 copies promulgated at a cost of \$0.62 per copy, 02/20.

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ON THE COVER: The Arch Bridge, in Hardin County, one of this summer's National Register nominee sites, is associated with the turn of the century Good Roads Movement that aimed to give farmers easier access to markets. *Photograph by David Cagle, Hardin County Historian*