



THE COURIER

TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

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\$18 MILLION DOLLARS IN IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY AT THC STATE HISTORIC SITES

By Dan Brown, THC Historic Sites Program Manager

The THC's 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 between THC and independent nonprofit organizations that raise funds and operate the Commission's sites as historic resources for the state's citizenry and visiting public.

Due to our long-range planning and the support of the Governor and Legislature, we are currently under construction, have recently completed, or are in project design or contract development with an unprecedented approximately \$18 million dollars of capital improvements across the state—the most in the history of the agency. This will be a major contribution to assisting the sites with the slump related to the pandemic and position them for not only full recovery but improved, enhanced, and additional operational facilities and rehabilitated historic structures. In many ways this is a “golden age” in the history of the care, redevelopment, expansion, and preservation of the historic sites and the Historic Sites Program.

The **Alex Haley House and Museum State Historic Site in Henning** celebrated the wrap up of a \$500,000 rehabilitation project this summer. Capital improvements at this site included replacing HVAC systems, mold remediation, security system repairs, and correcting a standing water problem at the house entrance. A major interior plumbing leak was discovered and repaired before any damage to the historic artifacts occurred. Alex Haley's tomb received additional site maintenance. This property, 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. On

August 13, 2021 a festive ribbon cutting ceremony took place to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Alex Haley's birthday and to rededicate the site after the completion of the rehabilitation of the home and Alex Haley's gravesite.

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 \$5.2 million dollar rehabilitation project has kicked-off, with the foremost masonry consultant in the US, John Speweik, preparing a report for state-of-the art repairs to the site's masonry structures. The project includes geophysical analysis to determine stability for reestablishing the viewing platform and fencing at the edge of the site's gorge. A consultant is also involved with identifying and outlining preservation processes for the approximately 30 unique pieces of mining equipment located across the site. Extensive reworkings of the cojoined Hoist and Boiler Houses to redevelop them as catering, rental, and public use areas will be an important part of the project as well as improvements to the museum and visitors' center.

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 \$6.5 million dollar visitor center at this site were put on hold until additional funding could be allocated in 2022. Repairs to the smoke house, farm office, slave cabin, and Carter House are also slated for next year as well as improvements to the museum, visitor's center, and ten structures across the site.

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. A \$710,000 capital project for HVAC replacement and historic exterior repair is in design development for this site.

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, historic outbuildings, and cemetery site. Repairs are in process by the Department of General Services (DGS) to the site's storm damaged cemetery fencing. Recently, when the YMCA purchased the adjacent non-historic residential site, property lines were reestablished by DGS to maintain the historic cemetery's National Register boundary. Overgrown fence lines separating the overseer's house and cemetery from the main house have also been cleared to incorporate these sites into the broader main campus' historical narrative.

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. Historic paint analysis of the main house interior,



THC Historic Sites Program Mgr., Dan Brown, and Baris Douglas, Mayor of Henning, August 13th





THC Executive Director/SHPO
Patrick McIntyre, August 13th

by Matthew Mosca, has been completed and planning for a \$8.2 million capital fund request to complete an exacting rehabilitation of the interior paint, historic rehabilitation of the main house, and the addition of a special event and catering pavilion and complex is underway. Site and pond irrigation repairs were made and interior professional cleaning conducted, in support of the historic house museum's revised collections policy.

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. A \$550,000 HVAC and building repair project and analysis of masonry issues in the attic are underway, after the 2020 completion of a \$330,000 historic window rehabilitation project.

Hawthorn Hill State Historic Site, Castalian Springs, a 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**. Last year, THC completed 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, the oldest permanent building listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Middle Tennessee. The 18-acre **Rock Castle State Historic Site in Hendersonville** is administered by the Friends of Rock Castle. HVAC repairs and replacement took place this year. Capital projects planned for this site in 2022 include sitewide landscaping, reconstruction of historic gardens, shoreline stabilization and dock, storage and maintenance barn, performance stage, as well as a new Visitor's Center/Event Space for \$7.26 million.

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 col-

lect 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. A \$620,000 capital repair project will address a thorough historic reinterpretation of the building's interior, exterior, and 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. A \$189,000 HVAC system reconfiguration project is underway at this site to complete a mold remediation cleanup (approx. \$100,000) after a \$500,000 visitors' center and site improvements project in 2019.

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 that capped a total building and site rehabilitation of \$1.1 million dollars.

Sam Davis Memorial, Pulaski, is the smallest THC site. A small structure preserves the site where Confederate Sam Davis was hanged. Repairs to the engaged gutter system are underway as well as repairs to related interior leaks. The site has received an HVAC system replacement in the recent past.

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 site has had extensive tree maintenance and general site repairs in the past year.

(continued on page 11)



Rededication Ceremony at Alex Haley State Historic Site Visitor Center, August 13, 2021



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NEWS

By Rebecca Schmitt

Seven 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.

T-201 Aircraft Hangar (*Tullahoma - Coffee County*)

Middle Tennessee was a center of military training during WWII, with Camp Forrest in Tullahoma and the Smyrna Army Airfield in Rutherford County. The Tullahoma Army Base (now Tullahoma Regional Airport) was a supplementary training base where the T-201 Aircraft Hangar was built in 1941. When it was built, the 1,300-acre training center included over 100 buildings and three runways capable of handling bomber planes. Constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the center was in use from 1941-1945. The aircraft hangar was used for flight operation and maintenance training. Clad in metal, the hangar is distinguished by the large sliding glass and metal doors and its irregular roofline. It is one of the few extant buildings from the training center.



Beck Knob Cemetery (*Chattanooga - Hamilton County*)

Beck Knob Cemetery is a one-acre site believed to have been started around 1865 for deceased African American contraband soldiers. Joshua Beck, a Union supporter, donated the land to the African American community. The first known documented burial was in 1884 and in 1888 the property was deeded to a local African American church (now the Hurst United Methodist). There are 188 known burials and 42 grave markers; it is thought that many graves have not yet been discovered. The cemetery represents the diversity of individuals and families who were a part of the African American community in northern Chattanooga. The aus-



terity of the cemetery design and use of handmade markers is an often-seen feature of African American cemeteries in the state.

Price-Evans Foundry (*Chattanooga - Hamilton County*)

The five buildings of the erstwhile Price-Evans Foundry were built between 1907 and 1923. Most of the buildings were constructed of brick with large expanses of glass. Resources at the site include the bungalow-style office building, foundry and storage facilities. Located in the Highland Park section of Chattanooga, near the railroad, the foundry was active during the heyday of the city's industrial development when Chattanooga was branded as the Dynamo of Dixie. Price-Evans was known for ornamental ironwork that was used in-state and shipped throughout the eastern US. Their ironwork can be found on Chattanooga's historic buildings. Although the company declared bankruptcy in 1934, the site continued to operate under various other names, manufacturing products such as boilers, mining machinery and industrial metal wheels.



Overton Park Court Apartments (*Memphis – Shelby County*)

Located in Midtown Memphis, the 1924 Overton Park Court Apartments consist of two two-story with raised basement apartment buildings set in a u-shape. The layout of the buildings provides a large grassy courtyard for residents. The brick veneer buildings feature multi-light windows, eave brackets and belt courses on the exterior. An interesting feature of each building is the tall curved central parapet, reflective of Renaissance Revival or Mission Revival styles. Architect William Lester designed the apartments, as well as other apartment buildings in Memphis. Overton Park Court Apartments were designed to attract the middle-class who worked in the city. The complex was near the streetcar lines and close to retail businesses and restaurants.



FIRE LOOKOUT TOWERS

Three fire lookout towers were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 2015 a consultant prepared “Tennessee Division of Forestry Fire Lookout Towers, 1933-1975.” This document contains a comprehensive history of the state’s fire towers constructed from 1933-1975. Often called a “cover form”, individual nominations that are written for fire lookout towers require less context, since that is in the larger document. The document makes preparing individual nominations easier.



Big Hill Fire Lookout Tower (*Sequatchie – Marion County*)

The Tennessee Division of Forestry constructed the tower, operator’s cabin, utility building and crew house around 1947 as part of its efforts to manage forest fires. Aeromotor Company built many of Tennessee’s lookout towers and although there is no marking on the Big Hill tower, it is believed to be an Aeromotor MC-39. The 60-foot tower was ideally suited to provide

an all-around view of the surrounding forest in Marion County. As with other fire lookout towers, this tower was permanently staffed. Of the five towers that were once located in Marion County, the Big

Hill tower was sited at the highest elevation of 2,032 feet. Big Hill is one of the three remaining in the county, Prentice Cooper and Cave Spring are the other extant towers.



Twinton Fire Lookout Tower (*Crawford – Overton County*)

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) erected the 80-foot Aeromotor MC-39 Twinton Fire Lookout Tower in Overton County in 1933. The square cab at the top provided an unobscured panoramic view of the surrounding forests, allowing rangers to spot fires more easily than at ground level. Although this was built by a federal government program, fire lookout towers were

part of the Tennessee Division of Forestry’s statewide forest fire protection program. Aeromotor was a leading manufacturer of steel fire towers in the 20th century. Federal and state agencies cooperated to conserve forests and prevent fires and the Twinton Fire Lookout Tower is a good example of this. The tower was built as part of the conservation efforts that included having permanently staffed towers. At one time Tennessee had 208 lookout towers, but little more than half remain.

Chuck Swan Fire Lookout Tower (*Sharps Chapel – Union County*)

Unlike the other two fire lookout towers, the Chuck Swain Fire Lookout Tower was built for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) rather than for the state of Tennessee. An example of the TVA’s efforts to improve fire and forest management in the state, the CCC erected the tower around 1935. In 1952, the TVA sold the tower and forest lands to the state. When constructed, the tower was known as the Central Peninsula Fire Lookout Tower. It was later named for Commissioner of the Department of Conservation, Chuck Swann, who oversaw the purchase. The 100-foot Aeromotor LS-40 tower, lookout operator’s cabin, privy, crew house, workshop, shed and two utility buildings are included in the National Register nomination.



Full nominations and photos available at www.tn.gov/historicalcommission/federal-programs/national-register.html.

REMINDER: DECEMBER DEADLINE FOR MERIT AWARD NOMINATIONS

<https://www.tn.gov/historicalcommission/about-us/merit-award-program.html>.





TENNESSEE HISTORIC CEMETERY PRESERVATION PROGRAM'S ONLINE RESOURCES

By Graham Perry, THC Cemetery Program Specialist

Recognizing that early cemeteries were becoming lost or destroyed, the Tennessee General Assembly created Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 46 Tennessee Cemetery & Burial Site Laws (1911). This code was bolstered by precedent established by *Walter Hines v. State of Tennessee* (1911). With exceptions, cemetery protection laws have remained unchanged since 1911. Tennessee cemetery code has not always kept pace with forces of progress. Economic development and cultural identity—both of which contribute to our state's uniqueness—have not always been compatible. For this reason, the Family Burial Grounds Protection Act was passed and added to Title 46 as Chapter 8 in 1996. In 2018, Title 46 was

amended, authorizing and requiring the Tennessee Historical Commission to post all cemetery petitions, maintain an Historic Cemetery Preservation Specialist position, and form the Historic Cemetery Advisory Committee to examine current law for the purpose of recommending any necessary changes. Taking these requirements to the next level, the Tennessee Historical Commission has added dedicated historical cemetery preservation program pages to the agency's new website: www.tn.gov/historicalcommission/state-programs/tennessee-historic-cemetery-preservation-program.html.

In addition to the page where legal notices and petitions related to cemetery

relocation or removal are posted, website visitors will find pages devoted to laws and guidelines concerning historic cemeteries; the forthcoming statewide cemetery register; a guide to cemetery preservation practices; and a frequently asked questions section. These pages are accessed by clicking on the page listing in the menu located on the left side of the program's main page.

Please keep in mind that cemeteries face many threats. Deterioration due to natural factors is probably the most serious. Most other damage is done by people—even sometimes by those who try to preserve them! Headstones and cemetery features are exposed to acid rain, water damage, incorrect cleaning and maintenance techniques, uncontrolled plant growth, and even gravity. Even though commercial development, agricultural land-clearing, and desecration are the probably the best-known threats, improper cleaning and restoration techniques are just as—if not more—damaging.

To ensure a cemetery's continued survival:

- **When in doubt, do nothing** — While a headstone might look like it is in serious need of conservation or preservation, doing nothing is always safer than doing something that might cause lasting damage. If you are unsure of what to do in such a case, contact a professional.
- **Contact the cemetery owner** — Although descendants have the perpetual





right to visit and maintain the family cemetery, it is a good idea to contact any surrounding property owners prior to visitation to avoid confrontation. Also consider reaching out to other descendants so they know what you are doing. They have the same rights you do, and they might even help!

- **Have a plan** — Be sure to be prepared for your trip to preserve a cemetery. Wear proper attire, carry proper equipment, and walk the grounds. In short, make sure what needs to be done before you accidentally destroy something due to lack of preparation.
- **Use D/2 solution, a soft-bristle brush, and water to clean headstones.** See website for more information.
- **Do NOT pressure wash headstones** — High pressure water cleaning always damages headstones even if the damage is not visible and it often leaves unsightly marks. Cleaning by hand using soft bristled brushed, soft plastic spatulas or a low-pressure sprayer is best. The less abrasion

used the less the damage. Water is ok for cleaning as is D/2, but do not use over-the-counter cleaning chemicals. They will also cause damage.

- **Refrain from string trimming around headstones** — Like pressure washing, string trimming can damage the headstone even if the erosion is not apparent. Hand trimming is best. If a string-trimmer is to be used, always use the lightest gauge string available and angle the trimmer head toward the ground to minimize damage. Herbicide use is NOT recommended.
- **Never reset headstones (unless you know what you are doing)** — Stones can be deceptively heavy, and there are proper methods for resetting stones. If you know them already, be sure that you have enough volunteers on hand to maneuver stones without hurting yourself. Otherwise, contact a professional.
- **Never reattach or patch headstones yourself (unless you know what you are doing)** — Do NOT use cement or other adhesive products from your local hardware store. Contact a professional who will use proper techniques and adhesives that minimize damage.
- **Never cut trees, shrubs, etc. without proper consultation** — TCA 46-2-101 states that to “destroy, deface, or injure . . . any tree, plant or shrub” that is original to the cemetery is a Class E



Felony. Certainly, special situations will arise that require maintenance. Just be sure that any living brush or tree is not original to the cemetery prior to removal.

- **Do NOT use shaving cream or flour to read a headstone** — It is common for people to try applying shaving cream, flour or other foreign substances into carvings to better read the information, but this is never a good idea. Foreign substances such as these cause lasting damage to the stone leading to further deterioration. Use light. Rubbings are also frowned upon for the same reasons.
- **Always document your work** — Before and after documentation--written and photographic--ensures that others will understand what you have already done. Remember, you won't be around forever, just like the folks in the cemetery you are trying to protect.



Jon Appell preservation workshop demonstration at Greenwood Cemetery



African American cemetery history lesson from Greenwood Cemetery manager Dwayne Bell



PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

By Linda T. Wynn, Assistant Director for State Programs & Publications Editor

University Press of California, 155 Grand Avenue, Oakland, California, 94612-3764.

Education in Black and White: Myles Horton and the Highlander Center's Vision for Social Justice by Stephen Preskill is the first biography of Horton in twenty-five years. This tome spotlights the educational theories and strategies he advanced at Highlander to assist the interests of the poor, marginalized, disempowered and oppressed. Appalled by the disrespect and discrimination heaped upon poverty-stricken and low-waged earning people, both Black and white, throughout Appalachia, Horton, a native Tennessean, resolved to create a space available to all. In this unimpeded space, everyday ordinary people could speak forthrightly, learn from each other, and come to an understanding about the issues that obstructed a broader comprehension surrounding class and race, right and wrong. A former student of Reinhold Niebuhr, a professor at Union Theological Seminary and one of America's leading public intellectuals, in 1932 Horton, Don West, Jim Dombrowski and others founded the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee, during the Great Depression. Twelve years later, Highlander also fought segregation

in the labor movement, holding its first integrated workshop in 1944. Because of Horton's commitment to ending segregation, Highlander became a significant incubator in the Modern Civil Rights movement. Workshops and training sessions at Highlander helped lay the groundwork for many of the movement's most important initiatives, including the Montgomery bus boycott, the Citizenship Schools, and the founding of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Horton's vision influenced civil rights activists from Rosa Parks and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Congressman John Lewis. Preskill, a writing consultant and professor at Columbia University, narrates Horton's influence as an advocate for organized labor, a civil rights activist, supporter of Appalachian self-empowerment, and a champion for direct democracy. This work, as a mnemonic for mid-twentieth century social justice movements, is both informative and inspirational for the today's representative aspirations. **Cloth, \$29.95**

Vanderbilt University Press, 301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37240-1813

Hot, Hot Chicken: A Nashville Story by Rachel Louise Martin relates the history of Nashville's African American community through the culinary dish of Hot Chicken. Typically, chicken and African Americans have been viewed through stereotypical lens, as seen in D.W. Griffith's 1915 silent movie *Birth of a Nation*, where some of the elected African American legislators are depicted as lacking culture and refinement and ostentatiously eating fried chicken. When one hears about chicken and African American communities, it is from the perspective of offensive stereotypes. This author and public intellectual, who received a Ph.D. degree in Women and Gender History from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, has joined the course of voices recognizing the numerous contributions made by African Americans to cooking "the gospel bird." Notwithstanding their gaining freedom from enslavement with the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, public organs omitted African American entrepreneurs from the records. *The Nashville Globe*, an African American newspaper founded by Richard H. Boyd, in 1941 published a list of forty-one African American-owned restaurants in the city. Yet, the city directory lists only seven of those businesses. From their migration to Nashville to the present, Martin shares the story of the Prince family and their place in history as the primary creators of the hot chicken phenomena. She makes the connection of how the Prince family narrative paralleled Nashville's major civic and political occurrences. The Prince family narrative exemplifies how urban policies forced them to relocate numerous times as renewal projects decimated one African American community after another, forcing the family business to constantly relocate. Notwithstanding, through perseverance, the Prince family stands in the forefront as the creators of the hot chicken phenomena that has become a favorite fare among white culinary taste. **Paper, \$19.95.**

Another work published by Vanderbilt University Press is *I'll*

Take You There: Exploring Nashville's Social Justice Sites edited by Amie Thurber and Learotha Williams. Contributors included those who intimately know Nashville, placing the struggles and achievements of people's movements toward social justice. More than one hundred Nashvillians direct the reader to places that they might not otherwise come across. Their collective entries illuminate the ways social, political, and economic elites used power to tell or omit certain stories. The stories and sites in *I'll Take You There* exemplify the power of counternarratives as a tool to resist injustice. Indeed, each entry is simultaneously a story about place, power, and the historic and ongoing struggle toward a more just city for all. Editor Amie Thurber is an assistant professor in the School of Social Work at Portland State University and Learotha Williams, Jr. is a scholar of African American, Civil War and Reconstruction, and Public History at Tennessee State University. He also spearheads the North Nashville Heritage Project, an effort that seeks to encourage a greater understanding of the history of North Nashville, including but not limited to Jefferson Street and its historic relationship to the greater Nashville community. *I'll Take You There* provides a thorough indexing of Nashville and other sites throughout Tennessee through the prism of history, social justice and the struggles for racial and economic equality. *I'll Take You There: Exploring Nashville's Social Justice Sites* is a fascinating and wide-ranging guidebook that tells a more inclusive history of Nashville and compliments *Nashville Sites*, a program funded and sponsored by the Metropolitan Historical Commission Foundation that focuses on incorporating scholarly research with historic sites in Nashville with delivery available on all devices: mobile, tablet, and desktop. Both *I'll Take You There* and *Nashville Sites* are excellent sources for Nashvillians, Tennesseans, and tourists who want to learn more about the history of Music City. **Paper, \$17.95.**



AWARD-WINNING TWC-FUNDED PROJECT



Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park received the Tennessee State Parks Award for Excellence in Interpretation from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Funds from a \$10,000 Tennessee Wars Commission grant were used to expand African American interpretation in the Civil War and Reconstruction eras. For this project, two outdoor classrooms were constructed in the park's amphitheater. As the pandemic forced

public programming to go online, park staff utilized social media and interpretive videos for educational outreach. Live history in the urban state park returned in time to commemorate Tennessee's 225th year of statehood and the park's 25th anniversary on June 1—to the delight of crowds who came to celebrate.

Learn about the grant program at www.tn.gov/historicalcommission/state-programs/tennessee-wars-commission.html.

IN MEMORIAM W. CALVIN DICKINSON

The Tennessee Historical Commission was saddened by the recent passing of former member Dr. Calvin Dickinson of Cookeville. A member of the Commission from 2005 to 2016, he served as Chair of the Monuments and Markers Committee.

Dr. Dickinson's Tennessee Tech colleague and friend Dr. Michael Birdwell, who serves as Chair of the THC's State Review Board, penned the following tribute.

Eternally youthful in attitude, infinitely curious about many things, and gracious to a fault, Dr. William Calvin Dickinson died peacefully at his home on August 30—almost four months to the day after his wife Charlene shuffled off this mortal coil. The two of them lived life to the fullest; they loved to travel and to entertain.

Born on March 30, 1938, and raised in Atlanta, Texas, Calvin graduated with his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Baylor and completed his doctorate at UNC Chapel Hill. He began his academic career as a scholar of English History and published his first book (based on his dissertation) on the career of Sidney Godolphin, the first Lord of the Treasury— and arguably the first Prime Minister of England— in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. He initially taught at Chowan College before moving to Cookeville in 1973.

At Tech Calvin earned a reputation as a beloved lecturer, gifted scholar and mentor to his students. He earned the Outstanding Teaching Award among many other honors. Researching English history

at Tech proved more difficult as the years passed and Calvin turned his attention to local history. Together with Homer Kemp of the English Department, they created the Upper Cumberland Institute to conduct research into the history and culture of the plateau region of Kentucky and Tennessee. The Institute provided resources for continued research and offered students the opportunity to work on a variety of projects, including architectural surveys of the region, interpretive material for state parks and local museums, and much more. Dickinson and Kemp worked together to add materials to enrich the TTU Archives. They produced a book based on the architectural surveys for the Tennessee Historical Commission entitled *Upper Cumberland Historic Architecture*.

As a scholar Calvin published dozens of articles and books. In addition to his biography of Godolphin, Calvin wrote the history of Cumberland and Morgan counties in Tennessee. He and Dr. Larry Whiteaker published two anthologies devoted to Tennessee history, a volume on the Upper Cumberland entitled *Lend an Ear: Heritage of the Tennessee Upper Cumberland* and a book about the Civil War correspondence of Cornelius Tenure. Dickinson, Whiteaker and Dr. Kent Dollar published two books dedicated to the Civil War in Kentucky and Tennessee. With Eloise Hitchcock, Calvin published two book-length bibliographies; one devoted to the history of Tennessee and the other concerning the War of Spanish Succession. He worked with Jennie Ivey on two

volumes of Tennessee history targeted at high school students and developed pedagogical tools to accompany them. Dickinson and Dr. Michael Birdwell edited two anthologies about the Upper Cumberland region (and had plans to write two more books on the region before his unexpected passing). Both of those books included scholarship by former students. One of Calvin's last books was an investigation of the Walton Road, one of the oldest east-west thoroughfares in Tennessee. His interest in public history led Governor Phil Bredesen to appoint Calvin to the Tennessee Historical Commission where he lent his expertise to statewide historic appreciation and preservation.

Dr. Dickinson was dedicated to the Cookeville community and supported local arts, the Bryan Symphony Orchestra, WCTE-TV, and was a founding member of the Friends of White Plains. He believed in community service and was an exemplar Rotarian, past president of that organization and a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. A faithful member of the Cookeville United Methodist Church, he enjoyed singing in the choir.

Calvin had a tremendous sense of humor and an infectious hearty laugh. He liked trekking through the Upper Cumberland "in search of history." On numerous occasions he remarked, "Hey fellas, I wonder where this road goes." More than once the roads were dead ends, but that did not matter. It was the company of friends and sense of adventure that amused him. Travel on my friend.



35 FEDERAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND GRANTS AWARDED IN 2021

By Claudette Stager

Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grants totaling over \$925,000 have been awarded for historic preservation and archaeological projects this year. The 2022-2023 grant cycle opens in December and closes in January. www.tn.gov/historicalcommission/federal-programs/preservation-grants.html.

Grant recipients, listed by county:

Bedford County

Bedford County

\$26,637.60 to fund the restoration of windows at the Bedford County Courthouse (National Register-listed in the Shelbyville Courthouse Square Historic District).

Bell Buckle (CLG)

\$6,000 to fund an alleyway master plan.

Davidson County

Metro Historical Commission (CLG)

\$37,042 to survey historic rural cemeteries in the county.

Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art

\$26,025 to fund restoration of historic stone steps at National Register-listed property.

Edgefield Baptist Church

\$40,000 to fund restoration of stained-glass windows in the historic church (National Register-listed in the Edgefield Historic District).

Grainger County, City of Rutledge

\$33,240 to fund restoration of the National Register-listed Nance House.

Henry County, City of Paris (CLG)

\$24,660 to fund restoration of 3 classrooms in the National Register-listed Paris Academy (Lee School).

Lincoln County,

Fayetteville-Lincoln County Museum

\$15,000 to fund a restoration plan an unused portion of the museum (National Register-listed as Borden Powered Milk Plant).

McMinn County, Town of Englewood

\$30,000 to fund the first phase of restoration of the National Register-listed water tower.

Morgan County, Christ Church Episcopal

\$16,836 to fund restoration of stained glass windows and for fire protection measures for Christ Church Episcopal in Historic Rugby.

Obion County,

Westover Center for the Arts

\$24,000 to fund mothballing the historic building until a new use is found. (National Register-listed in the Washington Ave and Florida Ave Historic District).

Roane County, City of Harriman (CLG)

\$15,000 to fund updating the survey of two National Register-listed historic districts.

Sevier County,

Sevier County Heritage Museum

\$42,120 to fund interior restoration and fireproofing of the museum (National Register-listed as US Post Office – Sevierville).

Shelby County,

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church

\$20,000 to fund restoration of windows (National Register-listed in the Glenwood Historic District).

Warren County,

Tennessee Division of Archaeology

\$10,500 to fund an archaeological survey of National Register-listed Cardwell Mountain.

Weakley County, City of Martin (CLG)

\$18,000 to fund an update of design guidelines for historic districts in the city.

White County, City of Sparta (CLG)

\$12,000 for locally designated historic district design guideline updates.

Williamson County

City of Franklin (CLG)

\$12,000 to fund the restoration of markers in the in the National Register-listed Rest Haven Cemetery.

City of Franklin (CLG)

\$8,750 to update the National Register nomination for the Lewisburg Avenue Historic District.

Wilson County

City of Lebanon (CLG)

\$30,000 to work with Lebanon and Wilson County Black History Committee to fund restoration of the barrel vault ceiling of the National Register-listed Pickett Chapel.

City of Lebanon (CLG)

\$8,940 to work with History Associates of Wilson County to fund restoration of the National Register-listed Fite Fessenden House.

City of Lebanon (CLG)

\$12,000 GPR survey for the National Register-listed Rest Hills Cemetery and the historic Greenwood Cemetery.

City of Lebanon (CLG)

\$24,000 to update design guidelines for historic districts in the city.

Multi-County Grants

Tennessee Division of Archaeology

\$50,000 to fund a position for archaeological review of Review and Compliance/Section 106 projects.

Middle Tennessee State University

\$3,541 to Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology, Tennessee Archaeology Week posters

\$50,000 to Fullerton Laboratory for Spatial Technology, survey data digitizing and data entry for computerization of survey files.

Development District Preservation

Specialist Staffing

\$42,000 to East Tennessee

\$35,000 to First Tennessee

\$25,000 to Memphis Area

\$36,000 to Northwest Tennessee

\$50,000 to South Central Tennessee

\$54,000 to Southeast Tennessee

\$42,000 to Southwest Tennessee

\$40,000 to Upper Cumberland



STAFF MEMBER NEWS

Ellen Dement Hurd joined the staff in July as the Certified Local Government Coordinator. A native of Conyers, Georgia, Hurd holds a bachelor's degree in U.S. History and History of Art from Vanderbilt University and a master's degree in Architecture, History and Theory from the University of Washington. Her undergraduate thesis on the Nashville Customs House received highest honors in History of Art. As a Vanderbilt Library Fellow, Hurd created a digital exhibition of the university's collection of architectural drawings of the Woolworth Building in New York. She also worked as a research assistant on a book on the Cambridge School of Architecture for women in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and volunteered with Historic Nashville's Easements Committee. Hurd's master thesis focused on architecture of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma. In graduate school, she worked as a processing assistant with the University of Washington Special Collections Architecture Collection. Recently, Hurd worked as an architectural historian with Jacobs Engineering, where she documented historic resources for transportation projects in Seattle and Atlanta.



SEVEN NEW STATE HISTORICAL MARKERS

Markers approved at the June 18 meeting of the Tennessee Historical Commission: ***First Integrated Public Schools in the Southeast*** and ***The Scarboro Community Church***, Anderson County; ***Gordon Browning 1889-1976/Alvin Hawkins 1821-1905***, Carroll County; ***Stigall High School***, Gibson County; ***The Montgomery County Negro Agricultural Fair/Pope G. Garrett, Sr. and Affricanna Town***, Montgomery County; ***Ford v. Ford***, Washington County.

Markers Program information www.tn.gov/historicalcommission/state-programs/historical-markers-program

PRESERVATION PROJECTS (continued from page 3)

The **Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City**, is operated for THC by the Tipton-Haynes Historical Association, Inc. All but the roof replacement of a \$750,000 structural repair project wrapped up this year and a \$2.45 million capital project will address the historic interiors across the site. The roof project was placed on hold due to the nonavailability (a pandemic supply issue) of appropriate white oak logs to split for historically accurate roof shakes.

As the **Wynnewood State Historic Site**, the 1828 inn and mineral springs resort complex in **Castalian Springs**, transitioned 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. The roof project was placed on hold due to pandemic-related supply shortages of white oak long to split for roof shakes. Repairs to the dry stack stone wall by the site's barn were completed at a cost of \$90,000. Site repairs, tree trimming, and bush hogging were also completed this year.

Advisory services

The THC Historic Sites Program also serves in an advisory capacity to other historic sites. This year, the Comer Barn in Sumner County, Braxton Lee House in Ashland City, Hintz Barn in Brownsville, Long House in Athens, Harpeth Shoals House in Charlotte, Jake Moore House in Hendersonville, Historic House in Mulberry, Rock Hardin House in Warren County, enslaved structure in Marion County, log house in Ashland City, log cabin in Mt. Juliet, Moore Carter House in Elizabethton, Rippavilla in Columbia, Kefauver House in Madisonville, Livingston Furniture Store in Brownsville, and Stonecipher Kelly House in Wartburg are among the places that have benefitted from this resource.



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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 departmentally 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: **Comb graves**, also called tent graves, at Mt. Gilead Cemetery in Sparta, Tennessee. Photo by Dawn Majors. Location information provided by commission member, Beth Campbell.