

Common Bond

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation Newsletter

The Heritage Center Tells the Stories of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County

Those who work and live around the Murfreesboro courthouse square got a new neighbor this fall, the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County. Designed to be an information and orientation center for tourists and residents alike, the Heritage Center offers exhibits, tours, and public programs on area historic sites and cultural events.

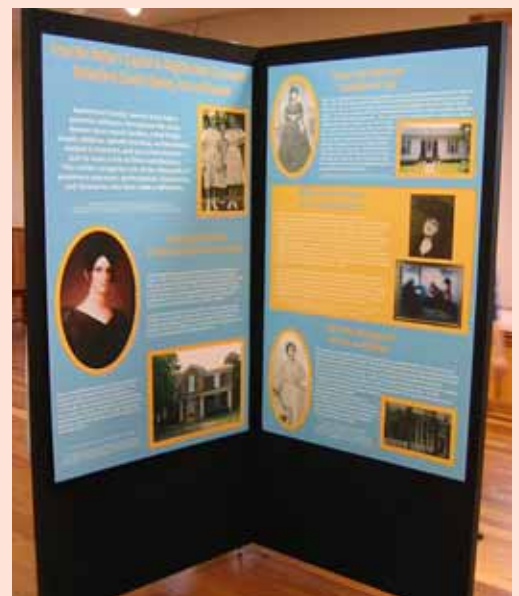
Current exhibits at the Heritage Center include: "The Occupied City," featuring an overview of Murfreesboro's Civil War occupation story; "Community Building Blocks: Downtown Murfreesboro's Historic Architecture," highlighting twelve of Murfreesboro's many historic buildings; and "From the Nation's Capital to Neighborhood Classrooms: Rutherford County Women, Past and Present," honoring ten significant local women and their accomplishments.

The Heritage Center is a partnership of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA), a program administered by the Center for Historic Preservation (CHP), and Main Street Murfreesboro/Rutherford County, Inc. Both Main Street and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area staff have offices at the Heritage Center. Continuing in the CHP tradition of providing hands-on learning experiences for students, MTSU students are contributing to staffing and the creation of exhibits and programming.

Visitors are invited to check in regularly to watch the progress and enjoy exhibits and new program offerings. The center's hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The Heritage Center is located at 225 West College Street in Murfreesboro, on the corner of Walnut and West College. Contact the Heritage Center at (615) 217-8013 or by e-mail at heritage_center@bellsouth.net for more information or to schedule a group visit and tour.



Linley Moreland, student research assistant, sets up the exhibit on Rutherford County women at the Heritage Center in Murfreesboro.



The exhibit "From the Nations Capital to Neighborhood Classrooms: Rutherford County Women, Past and Present" honors ten significant local women and their accomplishments.

Around the State and the Country



Students in Dr. West's Seminar in American Architectural History with representatives of the Wilson County Black History Committee at Pickett Chapel in Lebanon.

The Roy Bailey African American History Center and Wilson County Black History Committee contacted the Heritage Area concerning Pickett Chapel in **Lebanon**. Center director Van West and preservation specialist Michael Gavin guided the work of Ph.D. and M.A. students Donna Baldwin, John George, and Tom Kanon. As a class project, the research team completed a historic structure report that provides documentary and graphic information about the property's history and existing condition.

Local preservationists in **Russellville** with the Lakeway Civil War Preservation Association sought out the Heritage Area's assistance after they acquired the house where General James Longstreet of the Army of Northern Virginia kept his winter camp in 1863–1864. Preservation specialist Michael Gavin and Ph.D. students Spurgeon King and Heather Bailey prepared a historic structure report and a restoration plan to guide the house's proposed new use as a regional visitor center and museum.

In **Spring Hill**, CHP assistant director Caneta Hankins, public service coordinator Anne-Leslie Owens, and TCWNHA preservation specialist Michael Gavin provided some technical assistance to members and friends of the St. Mark's United Primitive Baptist Church. Center and Heritage Area staff provided a building assessment, created a publicity flyer for use in fundraising, and appealed successfully to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for emergency funding to repair the roof.

In December 2006, AkinsCrisp Public Strategies contracted with the CHP to develop a heritage tourism plan for **Oak Ridge**. Working in partnership with AkinsCrisp, the Oak Ridge Convention and Visitors Bureau, the City of Oak Ridge, and Cockrill Design and Planning, CHP director Van West and TCWNHA manager Laura Holder helped create a report containing practical, cost-effective strategies and specific action items designed to increase heritage tourism and visitation and generate excitement about Oak Ridge's unique history. This project also identified the key historic resources and interpretive themes necessary to provide visitors with an authentic and memorable heritage tourism experience.

Murfreesboro served as the site for two heritage meetings in March. The Tennessee Association of Museums (TAM) Conference brought together museum staff and volunteers. Melissa Zimmerman, heritage programming specialist for the TCWNHA, served on the planning committee for the TAM conference. Zimmerman, along with TCWNHA manager Laura Holder held an information session on partnership opportunities with the Center for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area.

One of MTSU's strongest partners is the Stones River National Battlefield. This collaboration resulted in the fourth Legacy of Stones River Symposium, "Remembering the Civil War," held at the battlefield and at the Rutherford County Courthouse in **Murfreesboro**. Antoinette van Zelm, TCWNHA historian, and Van West, center director, have served on the planning committee for this conference since it began in 2002. Center graduate assistant Ashley Tate coordinated the marketing and publicity effort for this year's symposium.

Center director Van West traveled to **Billings, Montana** in mid-March to deliver the opening address at the city's 125th anniversary celebration. Prior to working for the CHP, West worked in Montana and wrote several books documenting the state's history.



Guard House at Oak Ridge, Anderson County

Recent National Register Work

One of the major services the center offers is assistance in nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places. The Tennessee State Review Board approved the following CHP-prepared nominations.

Approved January 2007

Smithson-McCall Farm, Williamson County
Oakland Cemetery, Gibson County
Pi Beta Phi Settlement School Multiple Property Submission, Sevier County
Promise Land School, Dickson County
Pi Beta Phi Dormitories and Dwellings District, Sevier County



*Headstone at Oakland Cemetery
in Trenton, Gibson County*



Pi Beta Phi dormitory in Gatlinburg, Sevier County

New National Trust Advisor

On January 31, the National Trust for Historic Preservation appointed center director Carroll Van West to the Trusts Board of Advisors. West joins William Kennedy, M.D., from Jonesborough as Tennessee's two advisors. In addition to directing the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, West is a leader in heritage development and brings a great deal of experience to the National Trust. He currently serves as director of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, one of the member organizations of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas. He has served as chair of the Heritage Development Institute and as chair of the 2005 International Heritage Development Conference, both educational initiatives of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas.

Center Staff Update

Stacey Graham joined the center as a research professor in the spring of 2007. A Murfreesboro native, she had previously served as the center's first fellow in the summer of 2003. She contributed historical research to reports on the projected Fort Blount site in Jackson County and on the Nashville Christian Institute and wrote a brief history of Rutherford County for *Murfreesboro Magazine*.



Stacey Graham, Research Professor

Her interest in local historical issues has remained constant throughout her life, even as she pursued majors in medieval European history and Latin and conducted research as a Fulbright Scholar in Paris. She received her B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1998 and her M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of California-Los Angeles in 2001 and 2005, respectively. Her dissertation, "The Dissemination of Christian and Intellectual Culture in Late Antique North Africa, A.D. 430-695," traces manuscripts of intellectual and theological texts from their origins in Christian North Africa to the monastic centers of Europe.

CENTER FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Box 80, MTSU
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
(615) 898-2947
(615) 898-5614 (fax)
histpres@mtsu.edu
<http://histpres.mtsu.edu>

Carroll Van West, Director
Caneta S. Hankins, Assistant Director
Anne-Leslie Owens, Public Service Coordinator
Elizabeth Moore, Fieldwork Coordinator
Stacey Graham, Research Professor
Nancy Smotherman, Executive Aide
Mandy Holder, Secretary

TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



Box 80, MTSU
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
(615) 898-2947
(615) 898-5614 (fax)
civilwar@mtsu.edu
<http://histpres.mtsu.edu/tncivwar>

Carroll Van West, Director
Laura Stewart Holder, Manager
Michael T. Gavin, Preservation Specialist
Antoinette G. van Zelm, Historian
Melissa Zimmerman, Heritage Programming Specialist
Jennifer Butt, Program Assistant

**MIDDLE
TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

Center for Historic Preservation

Box 80
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

2-25400

Mark Your Calendar

Staff from the Center for Historic Preservation will be at the following events. We look forward to seeing you.

Franklins Charge Conference

“Why Franklin Matters: Exploring the Preservation and Interpretation of Franklins Civil War Story”

Franklin, Tenn.

June 21-24, 2007

www.franklinscharge.com

National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference

“Preservation Matters!”

St. Paul, Minn.

October 2-6, 2007

www.nthpconference.org

MTSU Reception at the National Trust Conference

St. Paul, Minn.

October 3, 2007

www.nthpconference.org

Please contact us at histpres@mtsu.edu with any changes to your mailing address.

MTSU, a Tennessee Board of Regents university, is an equal opportunity, nonracially identifiable, educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. AA234-0407

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 169
Murfreesboro, TN