



Local Rosenwald Schools Host Benefactor's Granddaughter Center Explains Basics of Completing National Register Forms at Conference

The Center for Historic Preservation (CHP) assisted the National Trust for Historic Preservation with a conference at Fisk University in Nashville on May 21 and 22. "Reclaiming Rosenwald Schools: Preserving a Legacy" brought together 150 preservationists from across the country to explore strategies for preserving and reusing Rosenwald Schools.

Julius Rosenwald, a philanthropist and president of Sears, Roebuck and Company, initiated a school building program that changed the landscape of the rural South and the lives of its African American residents. The Rosenwald Foundation worked with African American communities to construct more than 5,300 schools, shop buildings, and teachers' houses across the South from 1917 to 1932.

Alice Rosenwald, granddaughter of Julius Rosenwald, came from New York to attend the conference. At the opening session she announced the Rosenwald Foundation's gift of \$100,000 to the National Trust to be matched by other donations. The first match, a \$15,000 gift by Cracker Barrel Foundation, will be used to digitize the Rosenwald records housed at Fisk University.

On Friday afternoon, center staff members Dr. Leslie Sharp and Dr. Carroll Van West led a technical session explaining how to complete a National Register form and how to apply the criteria to Rosenwald Schools. Jennifer F. Martin, former CHP graduate assistant now with Edwards-Pitman Environmental Inc. in Raleigh, North Carolina, showed National Register-listed schools in North Carolina and discussed how the case had been made for altered properties to be listed.

The final event of the conference was a bus trip to two Rosenwald Schools in Sumner County. The Cairo School, listed in the National Register, is now used as a community center. As Alice Rosenwald and others entered the one-room school they were delighted to see a picture of Julius Rosenwald still hanging above the door as it had since the school's construction in 1922.

The second stop on the tour was Durham's Chapel Rosenwald School, where the dedication date "10-23-23" can still be seen in the front step. Maintained by Durham's Chapel Baptist Church, the church uses the school building for meetings. The Center for Historic Preservation has already begun work on a National Register district nomination to include the historic school, church, and adjoining cemetery.



Jennifer Martin and Dr. Carroll Van West discuss National Register eligibility of Rosenwald schools.



Mrs. Verdell Williams of Cairo School tells tour participants about the school's history.



Maggie Brown, Anne-Leslie Owens, and Roberta Gardner listen to John Brown describe life at Durham's Chapel School.

CENTER PARTNERSHIPS

Forum on Tennessee Historic Iron Furnaces Promotes Multicounty Cooperation

The CHP and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA), in cooperation with the Buffalo Duck River Resource Conservation and Development District (BDRRCD), sponsored a public forum on April 27 entitled "Tennessee's Western Iron Furnaces: Forging the Future." The purpose of this public meeting, held at Montgomery Bell State Park, was to address the history, conservation, interpretation, marketing possibilities, and future of the resources that tell the stories of the state's western iron industry. These resources can be found in fifteen counties, most of which border on or are near the Tennessee River. The counties include Cheatham, Davidson, Decatur, Dickson, Hardin, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lawrence, Lewis, Montgomery, Perry, Stewart, Wayne, and Williamson.



Remains of the Lee and Gould Furnace, built circa 1833-1835, in Hickman County.

The forum attracted over fifty participants including federal, state and local government employees, educators, chamber of commerce members, historians, members of not-for-profit heritage groups, and interested citizens from several counties in which iron furnace remains are located. Michael T. Gavin, TCWNHA, presented remarks based on his research and on-site examination of several of the remnants. Along with Larry Lofton of BDRRCD, the center's Caneta Hankins developed the conference and facilitated the discussion. Other presenters were Sam Smith, Tennessee Division of Archaeology; Mike

Huddleston, Tennessee Division of Forestry; Ramay Winchester, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development; Cindy Earls, Land Between the Lakes Association; and Darrin Samborski, U.S. Forest Service at Land Between the Lakes.

Cincinnati Students Tour Nashville Civil Rights Sites

During the fall of 2003, CHP graduate student David Price completed a survey of Nashville's remaining historic places associated with the civil rights movement. After interviewing local activists and historians and completing library research, David identified and photographed important sites in Davidson County. The project, a collaboration between the center and the Tennessee Preservation Trust, will eventually result in interpretative materials to tell this important story in American history. Based on this research, David Price and CHP Public Service Coordinator Anne-Leslie Owens led students from Cincinnati's Clark Montessori High School on a civil rights tour of Nashville. The bus tour for over forty students and teachers ended at the Nashville's Civil Rights Room at the Nashville Public Library.



Cincinnati students listen to David Price discuss sit-ins that occurred along Fifth Avenue in Nashville.

Center Sponsors Rafter Raiser at Statewide Preservation Conference

The Tennessee Preservation Trust celebrated five years of successful preservation education and advocacy efforts at the 2004 Statewide Preservation Conference in Nashville April 15-17, 2004. Blythe Semmer, former CHP graduate assistant now at the Metropolitan Nashville Historical Commission, chaired the event attended by 200 people from across the state.

CENTER PARTNERSHIPS, cont.

The Center for Historic Preservation assisted with two educational sessions. Dr. Carroll Van West discussed his recent work in Birmingham documenting civil rights sites at a session on African American neighborhoods. Nancy Morgan, TCWNHA technical services liaison, and Dan Allen, graduate assistant and president of Cumberland Research Group Inc., led an informative session on heritage development assistance for cemeteries offered by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area using Greenwood Cemetery in Columbia as a case study. The CHP was a major sponsor and hosted the "Rafter Raiser," a festive silent auction and reception in the McKinley Room at Union Station on Friday. The event featured live bluegrass music provided by center graduate assistant David Price and his band, the Bluegrass Playboys.



Preservationists from across the state mix and mingle at Friday night's Rafter Raiser at Union Station.



Former CHP graduate assistants Tara Mielnik, Blythe Semmer, Leslie Sharp, and Anne-Leslie Owens pose for a photo after the conference.

SPOTLIGHT ON CENTER PROJECTS

Central Elementary School in Union City

In September 2003, Union City Mayor Terry Hailey contacted the center with concern over the proposed demolition of the 1936 National Register-listed Central Elementary School, built with federal funds from the Public Works Administration and designed by the Nashville architecture firm of Tisdale and Pinson. After meeting with city officials and interested citizens, Dr. Leslie Sharp and Dr. Carroll Van West of the CHP prepared a feasibility study to facilitate a dialogue between the City of Union City and the citizens interested in preserving the building. The study was well received and led to the city securing the building to prevent further vandalism and exposure to the elements. The citizens have formed a Friends of Central Grammar School group and are partnering with the city to find an appropriate use for the building that respects its historic and architectural character while keeping the building a vibrant, functioning, and integral part of the community.

Paint Analysis of Court of Appeals Building in Atlanta, University School of Nashville

The center recently completed two historic paint analysis projects to identify the chromochronologies of historic buildings. An analysis of the paint colors used on the plaster ceiling of the Tuttle Court of Appeals Building for Technicon in Atlanta, Georgia, revealed that the ceiling had been painted off-white through most of its history. Harriet Hall Cates, an architect with Everton Oglesby Architects in Nashville, contacted the center about completing a paint analysis for the University School of Nashville. The building, constructed in 1925 by the noted architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White, was the Demonstration School for Peabody College, now part of Vanderbilt University. CHP staff members Leslie Sharp and Anne-Leslie Owens found that its foyer showed evidence of light green and gray layers, colors recommended by school building experts such as Peabody College's Dr. Fletcher B. Dresslar.

END SEGMENTS

Murfreesboro Antique Dealers Make Donation to Center

The Murfreesboro Antique Dealers' Association made a generous donation to the center. Making the presentation to Carroll Van West was R.L. Pinson, founder and current president of the association, which is now celebrating its 36th year. According to Don Detwiler, show manager, this year's show and sale at Murphy Center on July 16, 17, and 18 will again feature items from carefully screened antiques dealers. The center is grateful to the association for this financial support and recognition of their programs.

New HDI Web Site

The Heritage Development Institute (HDI), coordinated by the Center for Historic Preservation, is a workshop series of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas. Sarah Martin serves as the HDI coordinator. For more information on the workshops and for a schedule of upcoming HDIs, visit the new HDI Web site at www.heritagedevelopmentinstitute.org.

Update on 2005 Conference

Plans for the 2005 International Heritage Development Conference (IHDC) "Creating Economic Futures: One Story at a Time," hosted by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area in Nashville, June 4–8, 2005, are progressing quickly. The conference is the bi-annual meeting of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and will enable attendees to explore new ideas for assisting their communities with heritage concerns and projects. Session proposals are due July 30, 2004.

The conference staff, Laura Stewart and Lauren Batte, have established an office in the MTSU Vaughn House, across from the main CHP office.

International Heritage Development Conference
Box 438, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN 37132

For more information on IHDC or to submit a session proposal, phone (615) 494-8916, e-mail them at IHDC2005@mtsu.edu, or visit them on the Web at www.IHDC2005.org.

The Center for Historic Preservation is a research and public service institute committed to the preservation, protection, enhancement, and sensitive promotion of our historic environment. A Center of Excellence at Middle Tennessee State University, it is funded by the General Assembly and the University. Now in its twentieth year of service to Tennessee's 95 counties, the center administers several programs including the following:

Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA)
Tennessee Century Farms Program
Town and Country Preservation Initiative
Tennessee Rural African American Church Program
The Heritage Education Network (THEN)

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EVENTS CALENDAR

MTSU Reception at National Trust Conference in Louisville, Kentucky

Wednesday, September 29, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
Bristol Bar and Grill Downtown, 614 West Main Street

National Heritage Area Reception at National Trust Conference in Louisville, Kentucky

Thursday, September 30, 7–9 p.m.
The Seelbach Hilton, 500 Fourth Avenue

International Heritage Development Conference in Nashville, Tennessee

June 4–8, 2004
Nashville Downtown Sheraton
(See article to left.)

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