

CHIP MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Scholars • Partners • Leaders

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016



From the Director

The Center for Historic Preservation had perhaps the most productive year of its existence, not measured by the amount of external funding, although that number was more than \$750,000, nor by the amount of publications (one university press book, multiple peer-reviewed chapters and articles), and not even by the number of its graduate assistants who graduated and moved to jobs in North Carolina, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

We measure our success by the communities we touch and by the students we influence, and as the pages of this report attest, it was a remarkable year, including a successful set of college and community forums on civic engagement with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, prestigious awards, new battlefield land saved and interpretation installed at the Civil War Franklin battlefield park, an important symposium on the Massacre of 1866 in Memphis, new permanent exhibits at historic African American schools in Alabama and Tennessee, successful primary-source-centered teacher workshops statewide, cemetery-preservation workshops for students and the public, and significant new findings along the Cherokee Trail of Tears in Alabama and Missouri.

We traveled, a lot, but we learned so much from the communities of our region that the travel rarely seemed a burden but a joy to reach out, touch the actual physical past, and engage students with issues that shaped our nation. Thank you for the privilege of working with you on your needs and goals in history and historic preservation.

Sincerely,

Carroll Van West
Director



Graduate students learn about RCA Studio A in Nashville as part of a class project.



Left to right, Marquita Reed, Tiffany Momon, Torren Gatson, Dr. Van West, and Annabeth Hayes at Colonial Williamsburg.



Group tour in Selma as part of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Forum.

Cover photos clockwise from top left:

Cover of the newly released Restoration Guide for Historic Masonry Buildings on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

The Heritage Area's Emancipation and Reconstruction traveling exhibit on view at the Polk-Clark Enrichment Center in Milan, TN.

Opening of the CHP-designed exhibits at the Shiloh Rosenwald School in Macon County, AL.

CHP Graduate Research Assistant Aleia Brown, left, moderated the "No Voice, No Choice: The Voting Rights Act at 50" panel featuring the Reverend C.T. Vivian, center, and the Reverend James M. Lawson, right. Photo by J. Intintoli, MTSU Creative and Visual Services.

Our Programs

Field Study in American History is our primary tool of engagement with a cross-section of American communities on their needs in history, historic preservation, and heritage development. We launched four new permanent exhibits at historic sites in Tennessee and Alabama. We carried out property research and field investigations from Virginia to Montana. We prepared historic preservation plans, sustainability studies, and National Register nominations as tools for teaching our next generation of graduate students.



Cemetery restoration workshop for graduate students at the Old City Cemetery in Murfreesboro, TN.

The **Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA)** tells the whole story of America's greatest challenge, 1860-1875. Through Professional Services and Outreach, the Heritage Area provides leadership and support to organizations across Tennessee, creating

opportunities for education, interpretation, preservation, and economic development. Through Collaborative Partnerships, organizations, local governments, and non-profits can apply for 50/50 matching funds for all sorts of historic preservation and public programming projects. Our key local venue, the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, promotes best practices in historic preservation and heritage development and serves as the TCWNHA headquarters.

Teaching with Primary Sources – Middle Tennessee State University (TPS-MTSU) is a program of the Library of Congress that is administered for Tennessee educators by the CHP. Through its Web site and professional development events, TPS-MTSU provides high-quality, user-friendly materials that connect teachers to primary sources and outline specifically how to use these sources to move students towards higher-order thinking skills while fulfilling state curriculum standards.

Highlighting its commitment to community, scholarship, and outreach, the CHP continues to expand its **Digital Humanities** presence, while also training graduate students in new media tools for history. Digital humanities emphasize the approach and design of using interactive technologies to expand participation, access, and

dissemination of scholarship. The CHP's collaborative projects include *Shades of Gray and Blue*, *Southern Places*, and *Trials and Triumphs*.

The **Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Field Study Project** provides technical assistance, research, and interpretation for significant historic resources and landscapes along a national trail that connects North Carolina to Oklahoma. We partner with the National Trails Intermountain Region of the National Park Service, Tennessee State Parks, the Trail of Tears Association, and the Native History Association on many of these projects.

The **American Democracy Project (ADP)** at MTSU is the university's program in support of national higher education objectives to increase civic learning and civic education across all disciplines. Institutions of higher learning are explicitly charged with teaching for curriculum and careers, but also for citizenship, to prepare the next generation of citizens for their critical roles in our participatory democracy. In the truest spirit of historic preservation, ADP works to sustain and advance the historic founding principles of our American democracy.

The **Tennessee Century Farms** program, created in 1975 by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture as part of the Bicentennial, has been assisted by the CHP since 1985. This documentary program collects and interprets Tennessee's agrarian history, honoring the dedication of families who have farmed the same land for at least 100 years.



Rockdale Plantation in Georgia, a certified site along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

State and National Leadership

CHP director Dr. Carroll Van West received multiple honors, especially as the first historian to receive the MTSU Foundation's Career Achievement Award. As the honoree, West addressed MTSU's first-ever commencement



CHP director Dr. Carroll Van West, joined by Kathy Jones of the MTSU Foundation and university president Sidney A. McPhee, received MTSU's Career Achievement Award in 2015 and acknowledged the tremendous support his nomination received from his current and former students.

ceremony for graduate students in May 2016. Earlier that month, West received the Metro Historical Commission's 2016 Achievement Award for outstanding and multi-faceted accomplishments contributing to Metropolitan Nashville's history and preservation. In June, he was awarded the Outstanding Individual Achievement Award for excellence in historic preservation from the Montana Preservation Alliance at a ceremony in Red Lodge, Montana. In the fall, the University of Tennessee Press published his latest book,



Nashville Architecture, a comprehensive look at the historic buildings of Tennessee's capital city. Together with Amy Kostine, West later in the year published the

Restoration Guide for Historic Masonry Buildings on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail for the National Park Service.

Under the auspices of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges program, Dr. Mary Evins's American Democracy Project convened workshops in July 2015 and 2016 in which scholars of history, philosophy, ethics, literature,

and religion guided community college faculty from throughout Tennessee in the benefits of including religious pluralism in diverse curricula for their students.

In September 2015, Trail of Tears project coordinator Amy Kostine published her final report, entitled *Reconnaissance, Documentation, and Assessments of Historic Buildings/Structures Associated with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail*, for the National Park Service.

Another 2015 event, sponsored by the American Democracy Project, brought Rev. James Lawson and Rev. C.T. Vivian to campus for Constitution Day to charge students to continue the work of building the beloved community for all in America. CHP doctoral graduate assistant Aleia Brown moderated the conversation between the two civil rights icons.

The Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center in Murfreesboro gave achievement awards to former assistant director Caneta Hankins and director Van West for their contributions to the museum over the years.

TPS-MTSU education specialist Kira Duke received recognition from the National Park Service for the workshop "Remembering the Memphis Massacre: Teaching Reconstruction's History with Primary Sources," a partnership with the University of Memphis and the National Civil Rights Museum.



Graduate research assistants Taylor Stewart (second from right) and Sherry Teal (second from left) were honored at the MTSU College of Liberal Arts Awards Reception. Taylor received the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Tennessee scholarship from Ann Kelly of the Colonial Dames, and Sherry received the Dorothy Williams Potter scholarship in historic preservation, sponsored by the Tennessee Society of the Colonial Dames XVII Century, from Dorothy Potter of the Colonial Dames.

New Staff and New Initiatives

We welcomed two new colleagues: Fieldwork Coordinator Ashley Brown and Programs Manager Lydia Simpson.

Ashley came from the National Park Service's Grand Portage National Monument on the international border



Lydia Simpson (left) and Ashley Brown (right) joined the Center for Historic Preservation in 2015-2016.

between Minnesota and Ontario, where she completed a National Register of Historic Places Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) nomination on the Ojibwe's use of Isle Royale, Michigan. She brings expertise in documenting and public programming

for traditional cultural properties, as well as superb skills in electronic data bases. She has launched CHP accounts on Twitter, @MTSU_CHP, and Instagram, MTSU_CHP.

Lydia, who is a Ph.D. candidate in Public History at MTSU, like Ashley works with a wide range of projects, from those of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area to properties of recent historical significance. Lydia brings prior experience from Stones River National Battlefield as well as the development of GIS data bases to her work. Her pending dissertation addresses the rayon company mill town of Riverside near Rome, Georgia.

The Center's TCWNHA program introduced more media presentations into its public programming. Highlighting that effort was a partnership with Nashville Public Television to develop and produce a 30-minute documentary *First Black Statesmen: Tennessee's Self-Made Men*, which considered key issues coming out of the Civil War and Reconstruction period, especially the meaning of citizenship.

The Center's TPS-MTSU program emphasized similar themes with a summer teacher institute on citizenship in the post-Civil War period and the long history of the civil rights movement. In June 2016, "Tennessee in the New South: Politics and Progressivism" explored issues of industrialization, agricultural innovations, and new opportunities and realities for Tennesseans in the late nineteenth century.

The Northeast Nashville History Project, a partnership between the CHP, First Baptist Church East Nashville (FBCEN), and Nashville Public Library Special Collections, was launched in 2015 when CHP director Van West was invited to assist the Metropolitan Nashville Historical Commission in assessing historic properties north of East Nashville's fast-developing Main Street corridor. Dr. West and CHP graduate assistant Denise Gallagher Fisher created a driving tour brochure, *Places, Spaces, and Voices*, to capture important community landmarks. Community members Sam McCullough and Leslie Boone worked with Gallagher Fisher to organize a series of history days to capture images and stories from community elders. The project has received a \$2500 grant from the National Humanities Alliance to extend the work.

Trials and Triumphs: Tennesseans Search for Citizenship, Community, and Opportunity is being expanded into *Trials, Triumphs, and Transformations*, in partnership with the James E. Walker Library's Digital Initiatives program. Materials related to immigration, agriculture, industry, and the impact of federal programs will be added, as will new lesson plans.

Under the leadership of Dr. Stacey Graham and in partnership with the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, we hosted cemetery-conservation workshops for the first time. Students learned the basics of cemetery conservation and then assisted the Tennessee communities of Murfreesboro, Columbia, and Alexandria in cleaning gravestones.



The team working on the Northeast Nashville History Project.

Outreach by the CHP

The partnership between the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area in support of the Tennessee Civil War Trails program concluded another successful year. The Heritage Area team wrote text for additional markers across the state in this community-based program, for a total of 350 markers in 84 of Tennessee's 95 counties.



Heritage Area staff contributed to the expansion of the Civil War Trails program across Tennessee.

We began an ongoing partnership with the Metro Nashville Parks & Recreation Department on a heritage development plan for the Moore Farm at the future Southeast Park in Antioch. Staff and graduate students have spent many hours at this intact twentieth-century farm in Antioch, assessing preservation needs, surveying the buildings (including the 1930s farmhouse, 1950s ranch house, and outbuildings), inventorying the furnishings and other objects in the houses, researching the history of the farm and its owners, and documenting the cultural landscape that spans from the early nineteenth century to today.

We worked with several communities on new interpretive and heritage tourism materials. *Communities and Legacies: Maury County's African American History, A Driving Tour* resulted from a partnership with the African American Heritage Society of Maury County. Staff and graduate students researched churches, schools, businesses, lodges, and cemeteries with community members.

We completed a heritage tourism assessment for Owingsville, Kentucky, and created two bannerstand exhibits about this early transportation crossroads and seat of government for Bath County. Mayor Gary Hunt asked the CHP for guidance, so staff and graduate students worked with the community to create a marketing plan and new interpretive materials.

Preserving African American Historic Places: Suggestions and Sources, available on the CHP's Web site, provides readers with a myriad of resources useful for the preservation and interpretation of historic places. The guide also features contextual essays for these places, with sections on cemeteries, churches, schools, businesses, lodges, farms, houses, and neighborhoods. With links to digital

resources, *Preserving African American Historic Places* covers such topics as heritage tourism, collections care, fundraising, and museum management.

We also completed *Historic African American Schools of West Tennessee: A Driving Tour*. The brochure provides short histories and photographs of eight schools that served black students during the twentieth century and remain on the landscape today.

Outreach to rural areas continued apace. We worked with community members in Athens, TN, and the Southeast Tennessee Development District to develop a preservation plan for the historic African American Beth Salem Presbyterian Church and Cemetery. The TCWNHA partnered with the Battle of Parkers Crossroads Association to create "The Effect of the American Civil War in Henderson County," an expansion of the visitor center's panel-based exhibit to include artifacts. TPS-MTSU partnered with the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Tennessee Technological University, Alvin C. York State Historic Site, and the Sergeant York Patriotic Foundation for a World War I Teacher Institute that paired local history with primary sources. Also, during the 2016 fiscal year, the CHP certified a total of 40 new Century Farms across the state.



One of the new exhibit panels created in partnership with the city of Owingsville, KY.

The American Democracy Project and Tennessee community colleges partnered throughout the academic year to co-facilitate faculty learning communities to enhance curricula to not only teach for diversity but assist students in engaging directly in relational learning for diversity.

The Metropolitan Historical Commission and the CHP are working on a National Register of Historic Places nomination to document the history of the Smith-Carter Home in Madison, TN. This project continues our effort to document Nashville's rich musical heritage.

Our Students

On Constitution Day 2015, graduate research assistant **Aleia Brown** served as moderator of the “No Voice, No Choice: The Voter Registration Act at 50” panel featuring the legendary civil rights leaders James M. Lawson and C.T. Vivian.

Graduate research assistants **Jenna Stout** and **Sherry Teal** helped create seven new exhibit panels for Red



Sherry Teal, right, and Kate Sproul assess buildings on the Moore Farm in Nashville.

Clay State Historic Park in Cleveland, TN. The exhibit panels focus on Cherokee government and removal, and feature titles written in Cherokee

syllabary. The panels were installed in time for a historic Tri-Council meeting held at the park for all three federally recognized Cherokee tribes.

Ethan Morris, TPS-MTSU graduate research assistant for Fall 2015, presented his lesson plan, “Fights, Freedom, and Fraud: Voting Rights in the Reconstruction Era,” at the Tennessee History for Kids Tent Revival. This lesson plan analyzes the complicated history of voting rights during Reconstruction and includes a close reading of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Torren Gatson and **Marquita Reed** worked with the McLemore House Museum in Franklin to research, write, and fabricate an 8-panel pop-up exhibit documenting Harvey McLemore and his family’s journey from slavery to freedom, as well as the history of the Reconstruction-era Hardbargain neighborhood.

Denise Gallagher Fisher and **Sherry Teal** worked with Northeast Nashville neighborhood leaders to organize a community history digitizing project. Digital humanities fellow Susan Knowles and graduate student volunteers welcomed participants to share historic materials in digital form.

Graduate student **Annabeth Hayes** completed the Rosenwald School collection for the *Southern Places* digital collection, while undergraduate volunteer **Kim Cherry** wrote architectural descriptions for African American schools and churches in Nashville, Memphis, and Chattanooga.

Taylor Stewart returned to her Alabama roots to research Crumptonia, a historic house in Dallas County, for nomination to both the state and national registers. She discovered that the property was, at one time, home to Washington B. Crumpton (1842-1926), an influential preacher and member of the Alabama Baptist Convention.

For the Tennessee State Museum, CHP graduate assistant **Noel Harris** created a Web version of the exhibition *I Have a Voice: Tennessee’s African American Musical Heritage*, created in partnership with the Tennessee Performing Arts Center.

Jenny Andrews wrote a *Southern Rambles* blog post about the many paper treasures she has found while serving as the graduate research assistant for the Moore Farm project, and she acted as the CHP’s representative during a clean-up day at the farm by the accounting firm Deloitte.

As the 2015-2016 graduate research assistant for the American Democracy Project, **Grace Allen** contributed to the success of Constitution Day, an annual celebration at MTSU that involves readings of the Constitution across campus and public programming.

Working on heritage development projects with the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, **Ginna Foster Cannon** attended the Appalachian Gateway Communities Regional Workshop offered by the Conservation Fund in partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and South Arts, Inc. in Berea, Kentucky.

In helping advance the CHP’s involvement with international historic preservation, **Michael Fletcher** served as a teaching assistant for Dr. Stacey Graham’s study abroad class in Scotland.



Graduate research assistant Ethan Morris presents at a TPS-MTSU teacher workshop in Murfreesboro, TN.

CHP Staff

Carroll Van West (PhD, College of William and Mary, 1982) is the Center's Director and a Professor of History at MTSU. He was appointed Tennessee State Historian by Governor Bill Haslam in 2013.



Dr. Van West, center, with community members after he spoke at the unveiling of the new historic marker commemorating the 1946 Columbia Race Riot.

Antoinette G. van Zelm (PhD, College of William and Mary, 1998) is the Center's Assistant Director. She coordinates projects and programs and edits publications and exhibits.

Stacey Graham (PhD, University of California, Los Angeles, 2005) is a Research Associate Professor in the CHP and the Department of History and is also the program coordinator for Teaching with Primary Sources-MTSU.

Mary A. Evins (PhD, University of Chicago, 1998) is a Research Associate Professor in the CHP and the Department of History and directs the American Democracy Project at MTSU.

Lydia Simpson (MA, MTSU, 2011) is the CHP's Programs Manager. She manages the collaborative partnerships of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and is soon to complete the PhD in Public History at MTSU.

Kira Duke (MA, University of Tennessee, 2005) is the Education Specialist for Teaching with Primary Sources-MTSU. She facilitates teacher workshops across the state and co-manages the Teaching with Primary Sources-MTSU Web site.

Ashley Brown (MA, MTSU, 2012) is the CHP's Fieldwork Coordinator and works with graduate students and staff on architectural surveys, nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, historic structure reports, heritage development plans, and cultural resource surveys.

Amy M. Kostine (MA, MTSU, 2012) is the Trail of Tears Project Coordinator/Historian at the CHP. She oversees all partnership projects with the National Trails Intermountain Region of the National Park Service and other organizations aimed at the preservation and interpretation of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Susan W. Knowles (PhD, MTSU, 2011) is the Digital Humanities Research Fellow at the CHP. She has co-directed two online thematic research collections, *Shades of Gray & Blue: Reflections of Life in Civil War Tennessee* (2011) and *Trials and Triumphs: Tennesseans Search for Citizenship, Community, and Opportunity* (2014).

Laura S. Holder (MA, MTSU, 2005) is the Federal Liaison for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, coordinating collaborative efforts with the National Park Service.

In addition, Executive Aide **Cindy Duke** oversees office operations.



Dr. Mary Evins, second from right in back row, and the faculty learning community at Cleveland State Community College.

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