One of the Center’s largest projects addressed the historic events and figures in Tennessee and beyond. We share here several of our major accomplishments.

- The CHP answered requests from the City of Memphis, neighborhood associations, and heritage groups to develop interpretive projects for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. The Memphis Heritage Trail driving tour focuses on the city’s deep African American history from the Civil War to Civil Rights, and the Soulsville USA driving tour emphasizes education, faith, and business. Interpretive panels at the newly restored Universal Life Insurance Co. Building tell the story of one of the city’s most famous businesses.

- At Melrose High School, an exhibit highlights the school’s distinguished past and the history of its neighborhood, Orange Mound.

- Our new Professional Services Partnerships Program launched several projects, including documentation of three neglected African American cemeteries in Knoxville, creation of history exhibits at the West Beals Rosenwald School in Jackson, a walking and driving tour of Morristown, a historic resource study in Giles County, and a new exhibit for the Clay County Courthouse.

- The Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area has become a go-to institution for communities, nonprofit groups, government officials, and property owners who wish to tell the whole story of America’s greatest challenge. In the past year, we served Tennessee communities through 39 sites visits and planning meetings, 30 conference, event, and meeting presentations, and 9 heritage development, interpretive, and preservation plans. Here’s a sampling of our major projects.

- We continued a heritage development plan for the rural Salem Cemetery Battlefield outside Jackson. This often-neglected property is an important part of the West Tennessee Cavalry Raid of 1862, and we continue to work with the community to improve interpretation and access.

- The Heritage Area contributed to the ongoing effort to build a major battlefield park in Franklin. Providing research, preservation options, and educational opportunities, the Heritage Area worked with several partners to develop high-quality interpretive markers. These included new markers at Fort Granger, built in 1862 by Union troops and now a city park.

- Staff worked with Nashville Public Television to research and fund the third installment in the regional Emmy Award-winning documentary series The Citizenship Project: “A Time of Joining” focuses on the significance of African American fraternal lodges after the Civil War. Each documentary is distributed statewide and nationally.

- The CHP’s Susan Knowles discusses the Landscape of Liberation: The African American Geography of Civil War Tennessee interactive map at Vanderbilt University.

- We continued to partner with the Tennessee Departments of Tourist Development and Transportation to research and implement the statewide Tennessee Civil War Trails marker and signage program. More than 3 million copies of the Tennessee Civil War Trails map guide have been distributed.

- Our ongoing partnership with Main Street Murfreesboro/Rutherford County to manage the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County highlights the 1862 Battle of Murfreesboro. Free and open to the public, the Heritage Center served almost 5,000 visitors over the past year.

- In addition, our graduate assistants constructed the new exhibit marker and signage program. More than 3 million copies of the Tennessee Civil War Trails map guide have been distributed.

- Our new exhibit for the rural Salem Cemetery Battlefield outside Jackson.

- The CHP director, gave comments at a public symposium at the Museum of East Tennessee History in Knoxville featuring, a keynote by University of South Carolina professor Marjorie Spruill.

- New interpretive markers tell the story of the Carter Farm in Franklin.

- A new partnership with the Southern Places, a digital collection that documents the role of racial and class hatred and the sacrifices of local citizens in the fight to free and protect African Americans after the Civil War.

- For the sixth consecutive year, the National Park Service’s National Trails Intermountain Region has awarded a grant to the CHP. Students and staff worked on a project involving Trail of Tears and Santa Fe Trail resources, including a preservation plan for the James Brown House in Hamilton County, a historic structure report for the Newman-Dunning House in Caldwell County, Kentucky; National Register of Historic Places nominations for the Old Jefferson Road in Rutherford County and the State Road Hill Cemetery Segment in Caldwell County, Kentucky; outdoor exhibit panels for a new interpretive trail at the Hiwassee River Heritage Center in Charleston; a survey of historic buildings along the Santa Fe Trail in Missouri; a resource inventory and assessment of Rockdale Plantation in Gordon County, Georgia; and a cultural landscape inventory and assessment of the railroad corridor between Courtland and Leighton, Alabama.

- The CHP’s Susan Knowles discusses the Landscape of Liberation: The African American Geography of Civil War Tennessee interactive map at Vanderbilt University.

- Students and staff worked on new exhibit panels at the State of Tennessee Heritage, which coordinates resources available for teachers statewide.

- A new partnership with the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions resulted in the booklets Design Review with Limited Resources, which targets underserved localities and groups.

- Our new exhibit for the rural Salem Cemetery Battlefield outside Jackson.

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Faculty and Staff of the Center for Historic Preservation
Dr. Carroll Van West, Director
Dr. Antoinette van Zelm, Assistant Director
Dr. Stacey Graham, Research Professor
Dr. Lydia Simpson, Programs Manager
Kira Duke, Educational Specialist
Savannah Grandey, Fieldwork Coordinator
Amy Kostine, Trail of Tears Project Historian
Kelle Knight, Executive Aide
Alexandria McMahan, Secretary
Our Students, 2017–18
Ph.D. Graduate Assistants: Colbi Layne Hogan, Elizabeth Johnson, Tiffany Momon, Brandon Owens, Stephanie Danielle Shelton, and Lane Tillner
M.A. Graduate Assistants: Harris Abernathy, Kelli Gibson, Stefanie Haire, Kate Hatfield, Annabeth Hayes, Victoria Hensley, Ethan Holden, Typhanie Schafer, and Sherry Teal
Fellows: Jenny Andrews (Moore Farm and Southeast Park Heritage Development Report) and Virginia Foster Cannon (Tennessee’s Historic Hotels as Landscape Artifacts, Community Symbols, and Tools of Community Revitalization).

Congratulations to current and former assistants who received their degrees over the past year. Ph.D.: Virginia Foster Cannon, Torren Gatson, and Lydia Simpson. M.A.: Dakota Elliott, Annabeth Hayes, Kate Hatfield, Victoria Hensley, Ethan Holden, and Sherry Teal

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Cover photos (clockwise from top left):
The Stax Museum in Memphis is featured in the Soulsville USA driving tour.
Director Carroll Van West with state and local officials, including Gov. Bill Haslam and First Lady Crissy Haslam, at the Rhea County Courthouse.
West Main Street in Morristown
Participants in a Tennessee State Museum-sponsored bus tour visit the Heritage Center in Murfreesboro.
Amy Kostine (center), the CHP’s Trail of Tears project coordinator/historian, with Melissa Woody (l), vice president, Tourism Development, Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce, and Darlene Goins (r), facilities manager, Hiwassee River Heritage Center. Courtesy of the Southeast Tennessee 2018 Visitor Guide.
Center intern Tara Salvati works with Ida “Lucy” Smith to install a new panel exhibit at the Walter Brewer Bemis Community Center in Jackson.
MTSU graduate students at Sgt. Alvin C. York State Historic Park in Pall Mall
Laura Holder, the Heritage Area’s federal liaison, talks with Bill Radcliffe of the 13th United States Colored Troops Living History Association at Carter’s Hill in Franklin.
Salem Cemetery Battlefield, Madison County

Our 2017–18 graduate research assistants.