A tour of Jack Daniel’s Distillery was one of the activities on the mobile workshop to Lynchburg on Workshop Tuesday.

Nashville’s landmark Downtown Presbyterian Church was the site of the Opening Plenary Session of the 2005 International Heritage Development Conference. Photo by Ken Robinson, MTSU Photographic Services.

The Center for Historic Preservation (CHP) and its largest statewide program, the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, served as host to the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and 350 heritage professionals at the International Heritage Development Conference, held in Nashville and across middle Tennessee in June. Amid tours, educational sessions, mobile workshops, and evening events, the conference highlighted best practices in the heritage development field and demonstrated the diversity and quality of heritage and cultural activities throughout the region.

The opening plenary session at Nashville’s historic Egyptian Revival-style Downtown Presbyterian Church set the tone for the conference. Three speakers—Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell, National Trust for Historic Preservation Executive Vice President David J. Brown, and the chairman of the President’s Advisory Council on Historic Preservation John L. Nash, III—emphasized the value of public-private partnerships as they shared the benefits and successes of heritage development.

Evening events let key resources tell their own stories. The Sunday event at Belle Meade Plantation highlighted the antebellum mansion and featured southern music from acclaimed singer Kate Campbell. On Monday, Fisk University provided an excellent location for an evening of art, music, and history. Earlice Taylor of Memphis and Angela Stockdale of the Fisk Jubilee Singers provided the music. Next came memorable remarks on the theme of “Voices of Freedom” from Governor Phil Bredesen, Tennessee Tourism Commissioner Susan Whitaker, Fisk President Hazel O’Leary, and civil rights leader Diane Nash.

Another hallmark event was Workshop Tuesday, when the CHP’s many partners showcased their towns and created forums to explore the promise and challenge of heritage development in a rapidly growing region.

The conference closed with author Janisse Ray, who spoke to her strong sense of place and her deeply felt responsibility for protecting natural and historic environments, especially the long-leaf pine forests of her native Georgia.

IHDC 2005 highlighted the Best in Heritage Development
The Center for Historic Preservation, having supported graduate and undergraduate education through scores of student research appointments and thesis advisory committees, significantly enhanced its commitment to Middle Tennessee State University goals this semester. By collaborating with the Department of History, the center became a key institutional partner in a new program of study, the Ph.D. in Public History. As part of its commitment, the center has pledged to provide working labs and professional opportunities for students. Three Ph.D. students are working at the CHP this year: Kevin Cason, Brian Dempsey, and Steve Hoskins. In addition, the center staff will teach up to four courses a year. Dr. Leslie N. Sharp is offering a new course titled “Seminar in American Architectural History.”

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TSU and MHC Conference on African American History and Culture
25th Annual Conference
February 8, Wednesday
Tennessee State University, Nashville
Call (615) 862-7970 for more information.

Mark Your Calendar

Travel the Iron Furnace Trail
Three day-long bus tours will offer participants an unprecedented opportunity to view impressive remnants of Tennessee’s nineteenth century iron industry that operated along the western Highland Rim. With partial funding from the U.S. Forest Service, the Center is partnering with the Buffalo Duck River Resource and Conservation District to develop the tours, and provide brochures, a Web site, and video to support these historic places as a part of the multi-county region’s heritage tourism efforts. For more details, contact the CHP.

Tour # 1, Saturday, November 12
Begins and ends at Meriwether Lewis State Park
Highlights include the Napier Mines and Metal Ford on the Natchez Trace, Brownsport Furnace (Decatur County), and Cedar Grove Furnace (Perry County).

Tour # 2, Tuesday, November 15
Begins and ends in Dover.
Highlights include furnace stack sites in Stewart County, lime kilns in Erin, and Center Furnace in Land Between the Lakes.

Tour # 3, Thursday, December 1
Begins and ends at Montgomery Bell State Park.
Highlights include Rock Church at Belleview Furnace site, Promise Land School and Church, Charlotte, and Cumberland Furnace.

CHP Strengthens Support to Students

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Fall 2005 Students cont.

Erin Lobb (B.S. in psychology, University of Mississippi) is a graduate student in MTSU’s clinical psychology program. A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Lobb is interested in behavioral treatments of childhood developmental disorders, specifically autism. Lobb is working on the iron furnace trail and Century Farms projects.

Kristen Luetkemeier (B.A. in history, James Madison University) is a graduate student in public history and worked earlier with Stones River National Battlefield and the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in Washington, D.C. Her CHP assignments include a National Register multiple property nomination for Tennessee slave housing.

Rachel Martin (B.A. in writing and biblical literature, Taylor University; M.A. in history, MTSU) was a fellow at the National Center for Leadership in Washington, D.C., and is now a Historic Preservation Fellow at the CHP. She is also an adjunct professor at Volunteer State Community College and the conference coordinator for the upcoming Holocaust Studies Conference at MTSU.

Gary Meier is a senior from Cleveland, Ohio, who is pursuing a degree in computer information systems and works with the CHP’s computer support staff.

Elizabeth Moore (M.A. in architectural history, University of Virginia; B.A. in art history, Vanderbilt University) is one of the CHP’s Historic Preservation Fellows. A native of Clanton, Alabama, Moore is completing an architectural survey for the city of Franklin and developing a heritage development plan for Fentress County.

Linley Moreland is a junior from Nashville majoring in animal sciences who provides office administrative support at the CHP.

Sarah Jane Murray (B.A. in university studies, MTSU) is a graduate student in the public history program. A native of Murfreesboro, Murray is interested in rural landscapes and industrial architecture. She is completing a history and interior finish recommendations for the Federal Building in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Holly Nelson is a sophomore from Albuquerque, New Mexico, majoring in psychology. She provides office administrative support at the CHP.

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John Perkins (B.A. in history and theology, Lee University) is a graduate student in the public history program. He is a native of Westbrook, Connecticut, and is interested in American history and historic preservation. At the CHP, Perkins is working on a National Register nomination and other building technology projects.

Jake Potts, an East Tennessee native, is a senior majoring in industrial and organizational psychology. He serves as a member of the CHP’s computer support staff.

Emily Reid is a senior majoring in anthropology. She is a native of White House, Tennessee, and is interested in cemetery preservation and restoration. Reid is working on a National Register nomination for the DuVall House in Robernace County.

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Photos from IHDC Conference

Dr. Hannes Toivanen of Helsinki, Finland, speaks on the challenges of developing the cultural resources in the Võsu River Valley that spans the border between Finland and Russia. Photo by Ken Robinson, MTSU Photographic Services.

Commissioner Susan Whitsitt of Tourist Development, President Hazel O’Larry of Fisk University, and Governor Phil Bredesen enjoyed the Monday evening entertainment at Fisk University. Photo by Ken Robinson, MTSU Photographic Services.

Workshop Tuesday was an interactive conference experience, as shown here at the Discovery Center in Martha’s Vineyard. Photo by Ken Robinson, MTSU Photographic Services.

Staff of the Center for Historic Preservation hosted an orientation for new students on August 26. Pictured from left to right are Kristen Luetkemeier, Kevin Cason, Brian Dempsey, Lauren Nickas, and John Perkins.

Sarah Jane Murray welcomed attendees to the exhibit hall at the 2005 International Heritage Development Conference. Photo by Ken Robinson, MTSU Photographic Services.

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