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East Tennessee History Center
Knoxville, Tennessee
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E-mail nancyjane.baker@memphistn.org for more information.

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A new Century Farm Web site will be up and running soon. Kevin Cason, a Ph.D. student in Public History, is working his way through nearly 1,000 files representing all 95 counties. Cason is the Tennessee Century Farms intern, a position sponsored jointly by the CHP and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

Arts Center of Cannon County

Working with Evan Hatch, folklorist at the Arts Center of Cannon County, Ph.D. candidate Brian Dempsey developed and implemented an accession/registration program for a recently donated folk art collection. Brian also contributed original research pertaining to the collection. His “White Oak Basket-Making in Cannon County, Tenn. From Survival to Folk Artistry” will contribute to an upcoming basketry exhibit at the Arts Center.

African American History and Culture Conference

On February 8, the Center for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area joined with other organizations and individuals in celebrating 23 years of research, publishing, and learning through the Conference on African American History and Culture. This annual event is cosponsored by Tennessee State University and the Metropolitan Nashville Historical Commission. The CHP and the TCWNAH have been supporters and contributors for several years. Anne-Leslie Owens has served on the planning committee since 1999 and staff members Dr. Van West, Caneta Hankins, and Michael Gavin have all presented in past years.

This year’s anniversary edition of the conference featured three musical performances of jazz and song and three scholarly presentations. Dr. Leslie Sharp shared her research on artist and educator Frances E. Thompson. Anne-Leslie Owens along with assistants Lauren Grimaud and Liené Rozentale compiled the commemorative booklet which contains a short history of the conference and lists of supporters, planning committee members, profiles, and presentations from 1981 to 2006.

Franklin Survey Project

Working with the Franklin Planning Department and the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, CHP’s historic preservation fellow Elizabeth Moore is undertaking a survey of the city of Franklin and a project to revise and update the city’s historic district design guidelines. The survey results are being entered into Franklin’s Geographical Information System (GIS). Both the survey information and the design guidelines will be available to the public on the city’s Web site.

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The Center for Historic Preservation assigned graduate assistant Bud Alley to the Tennessee Preservation Trust to help with statewide preservation needs. Alley is working on the upcoming statewide conference and the development of a newsletter and Web site. He has 40 years of business experience as a founder of several packaging firms and has an M.B.A. from Augusta State in Augusta, Georgia.

Recent National Register Work

Center staff, working with and supervising graduate assistants and students, regularly prepare individual, district, and multiple property nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. The Tennessee State Review Board approved the following CHP-prepared nominations:

Approved September 2005
Barber Chapel, Henry County
Care Farm, Rutherford County
Church Temple AME Zion Church, Jefferson County
Craig Farm, Perry County
Durham’s Chapel Church, Cemetery, and School, Sumner County
Green McAdoo School, Anderson County
United Sons and Daughters of Charity Lodge Hall, Hardeman County

Approved January 2006
Bodenhain (Colored) School, Giles County
Bridgforth High School, Giles County
Harlinsdale Farm, Williamson County
Moore Family Farm, Hawkins County
Original Church of God, Giles County

New Year, New Offices

After 21 years, the Center for Historic Preservation has moved completely out of the Vaughn House. Staff of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNAH), a program of the CHP, moved next door into the Black House at 1417 East Main in early January. From 1997 to 1999 the Black House served as the editorial office for Dr. Van West, Dr. Connie Lester, Anne-Leslie Owens, and Margaret Binnicker while they worked on the Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture and carried out the Rural African American Church Project. The Black House will provide five TCWNAHA staff offices and work space for up to ten students and fellows. The Center for Historic Preservation offices will remain in the Harrison House at 1416 East Main.

Meet Our New Faces

Elizabeth Moore joined the staff of the Center for Historic Preservation in April as the coordinator of field projects. As a recent CHP fellow, she researched and wrote National Register of Historic Places nominations for five churches and schools in Giles County. In addition, she completed a Penton County survey and is currently completing design guidelines and a survey of several neighborhoods in Franklin.


Kevin Cason is the 2006 recipient of the Dorothy Williams Potter Exchange Scholarship for historic preservation. The Tennessee Society, Colonial Dames XVII, Century, established the DWPES grant in 1995 to preserve American heritage by supporting a student at the MTSU Center for Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture. Cason, a native of Tullahoma, is completing his first year in the MTSU Ph.D. in Public History program.

This spring, Ashley Tate joined us as a graduate assistant working for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. Tate has a B.A. in journalism and mass communication from the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill and is a graduate student in public history at MTSU. A native of Gastonia, N.C., she previously worked as a public relations manager for the Girl Scout Council of Cumberland Valley in Nashville.
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