The Courier

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In This Issue: History of Barns in Tennessee, Certificate of Merit Awards Announced, 30 Years of the Tennessee Wars Commission

Barn-demonium! A Crash Course on Barns in Tennessee

By J. Ethan Holden, National Register Coordinator

This intricately detailed barn is located on the National Register-listed Haynes Haven Stock Farm in Maury County, Tennessee. Constructed in 1890, the interior of the barn features a central aisle flanked by drive-through side bays. The exterior is covered in wood weatherboard and lattice detailing, with bargeboard detailing adorning the barn roofline. This combination of function and detail makes for a striking barn. The nomination for the property was approved by the National Park Service on July 6, 2023. Photograph courtesy of Tegan Baiocchi, November 15, 2022.

There are few buildings more synonymous with Tennessee's agrarian history and rural past than the humble barn. Yet despite their popularity, it can be difficult to identify the many different types of barns in Tennessee. This article provides a crash course on Tennessee barns by examining their history and character defining features. A collection of National Register-listed Tennessee barns also demonstrates what a representative barn of each type may look like.

Before getting started, it is important to note that there are many more types of barns and outbuildings in Tennessee than those outlined in this brief article. If you do not see a particular outbuilding or barn type listed here, we encourage you to explore our National Register listings to see if you can find it. And if you do not see it in our listings? Stick around to the end for information on how to determine if an outbuilding or barn could be listed in the National Register!

Barns are generally organized by their construction method, overall design and spatial arrangement, and their roof type. The earliest barns in the state were simple buildings constructed of unchinked horizontal logs notched at the corner and capped with a gable roof. These versatile rectangular buildings were known as "cribs" or "pens" and could be modified to suit the individual farmer's needs. Many farmers attached a lightweight shed roof addition on one side to create a sheltered area for unloading corn or storing farm equipment. Others expanded their barns by building another crib nearby and connecting both under a single roof. Two of the most recognizable barn types in Tennessee, the Cantilever and Central Aisle Barns, evolved from the single crib barn.[1]

[1] Caneta Skelley Hankins and Michael Thomas Gavin, *Barns of Tennessee* (Virginia Beach: Donning Company Publishers, 2009) pgs 12-14; Caroll Van West, *Tennessee Agriculture: A Century Farms Perspective* (Nashville: Tennessee Department of Agriculture, 1986) pg. 136; Allen G. Noble, *Wood, Brick & Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape, Volume 2: Barns and Farm Structures* (Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1984), pg. 3.

Log barns were superseded in popularity by wood frame construction in the early-nineteenth century. Early wood frame barns were built using the post and beam framing process, a labor-intensive method that required a high level of wood-working and construction skill. However, the popularization of balloon framing in the 1830s dramatically simplified the barn building process.[2] Standardized boards and nails were used to create a lightweight frame upon which any exterior siding and roofing material could be applied. This opened a world of different design options for farmers, who consequently erected larger and more elaborate barns across Tennessee.[3]

The last major evolution in barn construction was the arrival of the pole barn in the mid-twentieth century. As agriculture gradually mechanized following the end of World War II, the need for a barn that could accommodate tractors and other machinery became apparent. In response, farmers started building a new type of barn to house their equipment. Large, rot-resistant poles were driven deep into the ground. Equally large roof trusses were placed on top of the poles. This building method eliminated the need for interior structural walls, making the pole barns large and spacious. The flexibility of the barn's interior spaces was perfect for storing equipment and could be quickly modified to fit a particular farm need. Pole barns were frequently covered in metal siding and had a simple dirt or poured concrete floor.[4]

With barn construction methods covered, we can now look at barn design. Though there are an almost limitless number of different barn designs, a few stand out for their historical significance and popularity. One of the most recognizable barns is the Cantilever, a barn type closely associated with Tennessee and Appalachia. A Cantilever barn generally consists of two log cribs sat upon a rock pier foundation with an extended loft overhanging all four sides, though single, four, and five crib examples also exist. Most examples were constructed between 1880-1900 and can be found in East Tennessee. Farmers stored hay in the loft, and the interior runway could shelter either livestock or wagons. A survey conducted in the 1980s revealed that Blount County alone was home to 126 double crib cantilever barns, including the National Register-listed Carl Trundle Barn in Wildwood.[5] It is currently unknown how many of these barns continue to survive to the present day.

The Carl Trundle Barn was constructed ca. 1900 by John Keller and listed in the National Register on July 25, 1989. It is a rectangular Cantilever barn with two log pens separated by a central runway. The logs are joined using half dovetail notching, and the interior bracing is mortise and tenon construction. Photograph courtesy of Philip Thomason, March 30, 1989.

The Zaugg Bank Barn was built in 1878 by Christian Zaugg, an immigrant from Switzerland. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 18, 1973. Photograph courtesy of Richard H. Hulan, December 28, 1972.

Another important barn type is the Bank Barn, also known as "raised" or "foundation" barns. Bank Barns were built perpendicular to the slope of a hill, creating a downhill first story accessed by a gable-end entrance and an uphill second story portion generally accessed by a ramp. Most examples are naturally located in Middle and East Tennessee, where hilly terrain is common. Animals were kept on the first floor because it was warm in the winter and cool during the summer. Wagons and other implements were located on the second floor. Examples like the Zaugg Bank Barn in Belvidere, Franklin County were built in the late-nineteenth century. Bank Barns are relatively rare in Tennessee but common in the Midwest.[6]

[2] Joseph C. Bigott, "Balloon Frame Construction," Encyclopedia of Chicago, 2005, http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/105.html#:~:text=Snow%2C%20invented%20the%20balloon%20frame,so%20without%20examining%20physical%20evidence.; Lyle, "Balloon Framing: Technology That Changed Chicago," Chicago Public Library, April 21, 2014, https://www.chipublib.org/blogs/post/technology-that-changed-chicago-balloon-framing/; Paul E. Sprague, "The Origin of Balloon Framing," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. 40, No. 4 (1981), 311-319.

[3] Hankins and Gavin, *Barns of Tennessee*, pgs. 18-20.

[4] Hankins and Gavin, *Barns of Tennessee*, pgs. 28-31.

[5] Hankins and Gavin, *Barns of Tennessee*, pgs. 40-41; Noble, *Wood Brick & Stone*, pg. 5; Philip Thomason, "Carl Trundle Barn," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1978).

[6] Hankins and Gavin, *Barns of Tennessee*, p. 36; Randy Leffingwell, Barns (St. Paul: MBI Publishing Company, 2001), pg. 26; Richard H. Hulan, "Zaugg Bank Barn," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1978).

The Craig Family Farm (National Register-listed May 15, 2006) barn is a good example of a Central Aisle Barn. Constructed by McDonald Craig in 1970, the barn housed livestock and the school bus Craig used to drive local African American students to school during segregation. The flexibility of these barn types ensured their continued use and preservation on the rural landscape. Photograph courtesy of Caneta Hankins, 2004.

The last major barn type based on overall design is the Central Aisle Barn, sometimes called the "transverse crib" or "transverse frame" barn. Identified by architectural historians Caneta Hankins and Michael Gavin as "Tennessee's greatest contribution to the built agricultural environment of the South," the Central Aisle Barn can be found in great numbers across the state and Southeast United States The barn owes its success to a simple design and flexible spatial arrangement. Key characteristics of the Central Aisle Barn include a large central runway with multiple stalls on each side and a loft located above. Farmers could use the spaces for feeding livestock, storing grain, or sheltering tractors and farm equipment.[7]

The Bradford Rymer barn is both an excellent example of a Gambrel roof and a rock barn. Built in 1930 by Bradford Rymer, it is a two-story Central Aisle Barn constructed entirely of stone and capped with a metal Gambrel Roof. At the time of survey, it was the only stone barn in Meigs County. The Bradford Rymer Barn was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 6, 1982. Photograph Courtesy of Stephen T. Rogers, November 26, 1980.

Finally, barns are also identified by their roof type. Besides the ubiquitous gable roof, barn enthusiasts have identified three major roof types: the Gambrel roof, Gothic roof, and Monitor roof. The Gambrel roof originated in Europe and arrived in America with various ethnic groups. Its name refers to the bent part of a horse leg, which the roof resembles. To form the roof, a full-length timber was replaced by two shorter rafters cut at a different pitch and joined together to form a new angle. This roof type was attractive to many farmers because it increased the total usable space in the barn loft. Gambrel roofs were incredibly popular during the twentieth century and became the default choice for many farmers building new Central Aisle Barns.[8]

This fine Gothic Roof barn is located on the National Register-listed Milky Way farm in Pulaski, Giles County. It is likely the barn was constructed in the 1930s. The gothic arch, windows, and entry speak to a high attention to detail. The farm was listed in the National Register on September 27, 1984. Photograph courtesy of Kim Chiles, May 1984.

The Gothic roof barn type was much less common than the Gambrel roof, though it was no less striking. It is believed that Gothic roof barns got their start in Michigan, where the first of their kind began emerging around 1885. Accomplishing the signature curve of a Gothic arch was an involved process. Carpenters would lay out the rafter patten on the floor of an unfinished barn, and then nail wood blocks on each side of the pattern to create a jig. Wood planks where then bolted together, soaked in water, and bent into the jigs until the wood permanently warped to achieve the signature Gothic arch. Companies like Sears and Roebuck sold Gothic arch trusses to make obtaining the signature roof style easier. Though elegant, the Gothic roof was more than just decoration. Its arch was the optimal design to maximize loft space in a barn.[9]

Finally, sitting somewhere between a gable and Gambrel roof was the Monitor roof, also known as a "clerestory" roof. It allowed for more loft space than the gable roof, though it was not as efficient as the Gambrel or Gothic roof type. However, the raised section of the Monitor roof provided opportunities for window openings, creating more light and better ventilation for those inside. This bonus made the barn a popular choice for housing livestock.[10]

There is a depth of significance and complexity to Tennessee barns that is not apparent at first glance. Ten Tennessee barns are individually listed in the National Register in recognition of this fact, with many more being listed as part of larger farms or districts. If you are interested in seeing if your barn could be added to this list, the best place to start is by completing an Information Packet, located on our National Register Listing Process webpage. This article is a great starting point for identifying and describing a barn you might want to list. Whether they keep a lonely vigil in an abandoned field or maintain pride of place on a Century Farm, Tennessee barns are a vital part of our rural landscape and history.

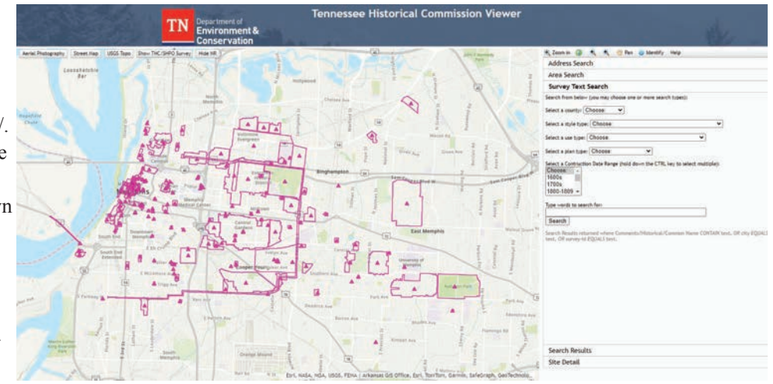
The Main Horse Stable at Harlinsdale Farm in Franklin, Williamson County is a great example of a monitor roof barn. Constructed in 1935, this barn was the centerpiece of the Harlinsdale Farm, a property nationally known for its superior Tennessee Walking Horses. The Farm was listed in the National Register on May 3rd, 2005. Photograph courtesy of Carroll Van West, 2005.

[7] Hankins and Gavin, *Barns of Tennessee*, pgs. 44-45; Howard Wight Marshall, *Barns of Missouri: Storehouses of History* (Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 2003), pgs. 87-90; Noble, *Wood, Brick & Stone*, pgs. 10-11;
[8] Hankins and Gavin, *Barns of Tennessee*, pg. 52-53; Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns & Other Farm Structures* (New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1995), pg. 35.
[9] Hankins and Gavin, *Barns of Tennessee*, pg. 56; Randy Leffingwell, *Barns*, pg. 75.
[10] Noble and Cleek, *The Old Barn Book*, pg. 39.

National Register GIS Map Update

By Rebecca Schmitt, National Register Coordinator

In March 2024, the National Register team made a major update to the National Register layer on the THC GIS viewer, which can be accessed at https://tnmap.tn.gov/historicalcommission/. The viewer is an online map that shows the location of historic properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places (shown by a pink triangle and/or polygon) and properties that have been recorded in the Historic Resource Survey (shown by a yellow circle). The update includes exact boundaries for 90% of Tennessee's 2,200+ National Register listed properties, including all residential and commercial historic districts. Knowing the exact boundaries is important for understanding which resources are included in the listing and therefore may be eligible for funding programs or consideration in federal planning processes. Determining the physical extent of a listing used to be a multistep process, but the Viewer update has turned that into a one step process of searching by address or zooming into a particular area. Clicking on a National Register pink triangle or polygon triggers a pop-up box containing basic information about the listing and a link to related documentation.



The process to map National Register listings began around 2019 in partnership with the Fullerton Laboratory for Spatial Technology at Middle Tennessee State University. The first National Register layer, published in July 2022, had a triangle for every listing and exact boundaries for 32% of the listings. In the all of 2022, National Register staff assumed full responsibility for maintaining and updating the layer. The ongoing boundary mapping process involves interpreting National Register documentation and plotting the boundaries while ensuring as much accuracy as possible. Along the way, National Register staff have corrected errors in nominations and are working to clarify the boundaries of properties listed in the 1970s before federal regulations required exact boundaries. As of May 2024, staff have corrected or clarified more than 100 nominations. The boundary clarification project is a unique initiative among State Historic Preservation Offices, and the National Park Service has recognized its importance by touting the THC's project as a model for other states to follow.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NEWS

By J. Ethan Holden, National Register Coordinator

Six Tennessee Properties Added to National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. It is part of a nationwide program that coordinates and supports efforts to identify, evaluate and protect historic resources. The State Historic Preservation Office administers the program in Tennessee. The state's new listings are:

Esso Filling Station

Listed March 14, 2024
(Brownsville - Haywood County)

The Esso Filling Station was listed in the National Register for its commercial and architectural significance. C.T. Hooper, Jr. built the Filling Station in 1937 at the corner of Franklin Street and North Washington Avenue in Brownsville, Haywood County. The station was a popular stop along the Memphis-Bristol Highway. Under the Hooper family, the station became known for its full-service approach to automotive care, providing such products as gasoline, tires, batteries, lubrication services, and oil additives. and was a popular stop on the highway. The Esso Filling Station is also an important local example of the Art Deco and Streamline Moderne architectural styles. Important features include its stepped parapet, smooth wall surfaces, belt courses, and curved canopy. The family sold the building in 1996 to Lawrence Baxter. Baxter Graphics now calls the Esso Filling Station home, and the current owners continue to preserve and respect the property's long history.

Photograph Courtesy of Bill Yerian, 2023.

Woodlawn Baptist Church

Listed March 15, 2024
(Nutbush – Haywood County)

Woodlawn Baptist Church, located in Nutbush, Haywood County, was listed in the National Register for its local architectural significance. Nutbush is one of the oldest communities in Haywood County, and the Woodlawn Baptist Church congregation has played a vital role in the community since it was founded in 1846. The nominated church was built in 1916 on land donated by the Solomon family after the previous church building burned in 1915. It was constructed in the Gothic Revival style, as demonstrated by its pointed arch windows. However, what separates the hurch from other local examples is its unique Akron Plan arrangement. This plan featured rooms along the sanctuary equipped with moveable doors and walls to create smaller spaces for religious or educational meetings. Woodlawn uses tri-fold doors on the interior to accomplish the Akron Plan. Other important features of the church include wood ceilings, wainscoting, and wood floors. The congregation continues to use the church and maintain it much as their forebears did in years past.

Photograph Courtesy of Thomas Skehan, 2023

Cherokee Arms

Listed March 6, 2024
(Memphis - Shelby County)

Charokee Arms: Photograph Courtesy of Bill Yerian, 2023.

The Cherokee Arms is located in Memphis, Shelby County and was listed in the National Register for its local significance in architecture and community planning. William E. Barnes, a local real estate speculator, acquired land from Mary T. Sullivan in April of 1921. Barnes hired G. Lloyd Preacher, a prestigious architect from Atlanta, Georgia, and local architect Charles Deas to design an apartment building for the newly acquired lot. Gude and Company, also of Atlanta, were hired to build the apartments, which were finished in 1923. Upon its completion, the Cherokee Arms became a locally important example of the Italian Renaissance style as expressed in a Block Type apartment building. Important characteristics of the style include its terra cotta inlays and coping, brickwork, fenestration patterns, compact massing, and central interior hallway. The Cherokee Arms was also significant as one several apartment complexes built to house the burgeoning middle-class arriving in the city during the early twentieth century. The current owners pursued National Register listing to assist with preserving the building and to recognize its beauty.

Fort Armistead

Listed December 11, 2023
(Monroe County)

Located in Monroe County, Fort Armistead was listed as a National Historic Landmark for its association with events that have made a significant impact on United States history. In 1830, President Andrew Jackson introduced the Indian Removal Act. This act resulted in the forcible removal of the southeastern Indigenous people from their ancestral homes to lands out west. The Cherokee nation was one of the groups affected by the passage of the Act. When the elected leaders of the Cherokee refused to negotiate a removal treaty and comply with the act, the United States government opened negotiations with the minority of Cherokee in favor of removal. Major Ridge and his son John Ridge, the leaders of this faction, signed the Treaty of New Echota in December of 1835. This treaty ceded all Cherokee lands east of the Mississippi and consigned the Cherokee peoples to be relocated to "Arkansas County," thus beginning the Trail of Tears. Fort Armistead was one of the federal military installations that facilitated Cherokee removal out west. Today, Fort Armistead is the only military post associated with the Trail of Tears that contains substantial archaeological integrity, including subsurface elements of buildings present during removal and artifact deposits. It is because of this potential to recover the stories and experiences of those during the Trail of Tears that Fort Armistead was declared a National Historic Landmark.

Photograph Courtesy of Brett Riggs, 2010.

Scattersville Public School

Listed February 7, 2024
(Portland - Sumner County)

Photograph Courtesy of Rebecca Schmitt, 2023.

Located in the community of Scattersville in Sumner County, the Scattersville Public School was listed in the National Register for its educational significance. The school was constructed in 1928 on land donated by Henry Seten Bell and his wife Sarah Bell. It was a one room schoolhouse and housed grades one through twelve. At the time of its construction, it was the only school available for African American children in the Scattersville, Mitchelville, and Corntown communities. Students were offered courses in reading, writing, mathematics, industrial training, home economics, and physical education. Students also had access to a well-maintained library of over 225 books. The school closed in 1962, at which point students were bused to Union High School, an African American school in Gallatin. Sumner County fully desegregated eight years later. Since then, the Scattersville Public School has served as a community center. Softball games, fish fries, and even funerals were held on the property. Community members continue to preserve and maintain the property for future generations to enjoy.

Townsend School

Listed April 23, 2024
(Winchester - Franklin County)

Townsend School is located on South Shepard Street in Winchester, Franklin County. The school was listed in the National Register for its role in the educational, social, and cultural history of the surrounding community. In May of 1933, the Franklin County board of education appointed a committee to build a school for local African American students after the previous school burned down. The Townsend School was finished later that year. Despite being completed after the Rosenwald building program ended, the Townsend School shares many design similarities with Rosenwald Fund school plans. The school building was improved in 1949, 1954, and 1962 by the county in an attempt to "equalize" schools and avoid integration. Throughout its history, the Townsend School served as the center of a vibrant and close knit African American community. In addition to offering a quality education, the school also hosted community events such as fish fries, plays, musicals, and patriotic events during World War II. Franklin County desegregated in 1964, and Townsend closed two years after. Today the school is known as the Townsend Center. It houses the Townsend Cultural Center and a museum with interpretive panels and artifacts. The community continues to use the building as a vehicle for positive community outreach and change.

Photograph Courtesy of Sarah Elizabeth Hickman-McLeod, February 16, 2024.

State Historic Site Spotlight: *Rock Castle State Historic Site*

After serving in the Revolutionary War, Daniel Smith moved to what is now Sumner County, Tennessee. Smith began construction of Rock Castle, his majestic two-story limestone Federal style home, in 1784. The constructed was completed in three sections over the course of twelve years. Daniel Smith was a well-known surveyor and United States Senator. He is noted for creating the earliest map of Tennessee and a member of the convention that wrote the Tennessee State Constitution of 1796. The State of Tennessee and Tennessee Historical Commission acquired the property in 1969 and on July 8th, 1970, Rock Castle State Historic Site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Breaking Ground

The Tennessee Historical Commission broke ground on the largest capital project in the history of the State Historic Sites Program on May 31, 2024. The ceremony was well attended by government officials and members of the public. Improvements to the site include a new visitor center and museum attached to a large event center for programs and interpretation, the restoration of the Smith family cemetery, and needed historic preservation and restoration work to the Rock Castle structure.

Located in Hendersonville, Rock Castle State Historic Site is operated by the Friends of Rock Castle and is open to the public. The site offers several special events throughout the year, check out their website for operating hours and current events offered!

Images courtesy of TN Photographic Services.

Digital Version of the State Historic Sites Brochure Released

The Tennessee Historical Commission is pleased to announce the release of a digital version of the State Historic Sites brochure! Travel through Tennessee history with this interactive guide to our State Historic Sites Program.

THC Staff Member Honored with STAR Award

Each year, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, which the Tennessee Historical Commission is administratively attached to, presents the Commission's STAR Award to its employees. Those that consistently demonstrate high integrity, exceeds their performance goals, and make those they serve their highest priority are honored with this award each year.

The Tennessee Historical Commission is pleased to announce that our own Peggy Nickell was a 2024 STAR Award recipient. Peggy joined our staff in 2012 to work with our National Register of Historic Places program. Currently, she works as the Survey and GIS Coordinator. During her tenure, Peggy has inventoried and documented Tennessee's vast historical and architectural resources and works to make them accessible to the public through digitalization. Congratulations Peggy on a much-deserved award!

Peggy Nickell presented with STAR Award from TDEC Commissioner, David Salyers and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Holly Barnett.

2024 Certificate of Merit Awards Announced

By Caty Dirksen, Outreach Coordinator

The Tennessee Historical Commission celebrates National Preservation Month each May by presenting Certificate of Merit Awards in recognition of exemplary work by individuals, groups, organizations, corporations, or governmental entities that further promote historic preservation or the study of history in Tennessee. Since 1975, THC's Certificate of Merit Program has solicited Merit Award nominations from the public. All nominations are judged by category.

The **Historic Preservation category** recognizes excellence in the preservation, restoration, or rehabilitation of a historic or archaeological site, preservation leadership, preservation planning, publications related to historic preservation, public programming, or research.

The 2024 awards in this category goes to:

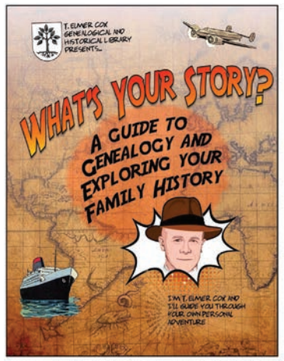
David Britton for the completed restoration work of the 1859 Masonic Lodge and General Store at Port Royal State Historic Park.

Mary Watkins for the Evergreen Cemetery Section M project. The Evergreen Cemetery in Murfreesboro was established in 1872 as a public cemetery.

Sharon Hayes for her work to erect a memorial for unmarked graves at the Haywood County Farm. This multi-year project provides a better understanding of the 156-year-old farm.

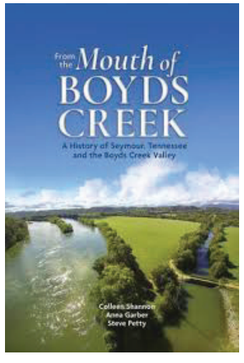
The **Book or Public Programming category** recognizes notable achievements toward advancing the study of Tennessee history through certain types of books or public programming.

The 2024 awards in this category goes to:



Christopher Gose for his creation of the "What's Your Story" program at the Elmer Cox Genealogical Library in Greeneville.

Frederick Murphy for his ongoing work with the nonprofit History Before Us.



From the Mouth of Boyds Creek, a book that provides an extensive history of two rural communities in Sevier County.

Do you know of an individual or group working on a project to promote historic preservation in 2024? Submit an application for the 2025 Certificate of Merit Awards, available on our website. Deadline for submissions will be December 31, 2024.

Thirty Years in the Making: The Story of the Wars Commission and the Role of its Directors

By Nina Scall and Fred Prouty, Current and Former TWC Program Directors

In early 1980, following a short tenure as a private archaeology contractor at Carnton Plantation in Franklin, Tennessee. Fred Prouty accepted a position with the Tennessee Division of Archaeology (DoA) to begin a statewide Civil War site survey. Later, during his employment with the DoA, he was asked to investigate possible battlefield burials at the now state-owned Parkers Crossroads Battlefield. There, both a friendship and partnership developed, founded on mutual respect and passion for battlefield preservation, with then-Representative Steve McDaniel.

In 1994, with the leadership of Representative Steve McDaniel, Senator Douglas Henry, and the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) Director, Herbert Harper, the Wars Commission (TWC) was formed by the Tennessee General Assembly. For purposes of efficiency, the board of the THC was established in the enabling legislation as also serving as the board of the TWC. The TWC was developed out of necessity, to address the fast-disappearing Civil War battlefields and related sites, and sites connected to the French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and the Mexican-American War. The Wars Commission was given the authority and responsibility to coordinate the planning, preservation, and promotion of these sites and battlefields in Tennessee. With the establishment of this new commission, leadership asked Fred if he would spearhead the new program as the Director of Programs.

After the first month, Fred realized that his program of one would need additional support to achieve the Wars Commission's mission and as a result, the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCWPA), a 501(c)3, was formed with a mission statement to "...protect Tennessee's surviving battlefields and contributing landscapes for the benefit of present and future generations." Decades later, the relationship between TCWPA and the Wars Commission is thriving, and this partnership continues to aid in safeguarding our military heritage. In 2023, thanks to a grant award from the Wars Commission Grant Fund (WCGF), TCWPA produced a statewide battlefield preservation plan that compiled battlefield site data, identified preservation opportunities, priorities, and strategies.

The Wars Commission has always approached battlefield preservation with the mindset "it takes a village," and through the years, TWC has leveraged funding between state and federal agencies, non-profits, and communities to successfully preserve numerous Civil War sites, including Davis Bridge, Shiloh, Fort Donelson, Chattanooga and Wauhatchie, Parkers Crossroads, and Stones River Battlefields. In fiscal year 2024, the Civil War Sites Preservation Fund (CWSPF) awarded $7.3M, the largest in the program's history, for the total acquisition of 187 acres of battlefield ground in four counties, including Williamson. Thanks to grant funds from this year and from years past, and the tireless work of preservation partners and TWC staff, the final few parcels located at the epicenter of the Franklin battlefield have been reclaimed and will be restored to the natural 1860s landscape, adding the Battle of Franklin to our preserved list.

As we reflect on the last thirty years, we take great pride in some of the overarching program accomplishments including:

- The transfer of the 800 acre Davis Bridge property from state to federal ownership for inclusion in the Shiloh National Military Park, a National Park Service (NPS) unit, marking the conclusion of a 35-year project, dating back to Fred's first battlefield preservation attempt.

- Recording over 500 Civil War-era military sites in Tennessee and surveying over 125 sites related to the American Revolution and 101 potential sites for the War of 1812.

- The assignment of the Fallen Timber tracts from state to federal ownership for inclusion in the Shiloh National Military Park concludes a ten-year project. Expanding the NPS footprint and providing for new visitation and interpretation opportunities.

- The TWC continues the stewardship of over 600 acres of state-owned property and monitors approximately 1,200 acres of conservation easements, with that number anticipated to grow due to the recent launch of the TWC conservation easement program.

Looking to the future, current Director, Nina Scall, is working on several preservation projects including the implementation of the new conservation easement program. The program's purview has expanded and will accept easements on properties related to the French and Indian War through the Civil War and the Underground Railroad. The easement program contains a volunteer component, allowing the public to take an active role in battlefield preservation in their area. Working in conjunction with the TWC, volunteers will learn how to perform easement monitoring visits, helping to ensure our hallowed ground remains protected.

Director Scall is thrilled to announce the revival of the 2011, Fort Redmond Historic Site project located in Adams, Tennessee. She is working on securing protections for the portion of the site that is not under state ownership. Long term plans are to partner with the Port Royal State Park to stabilize, preserve, and interpret the site. Fort Redmond was a Civil War-era fortification constructed to protect the Edgefield and Kentucky Railroad supply lines and was manned by members of the U.S. Colored Troops (USCT).

The state has recently accepted ownership of the 120-acre Yarbro Tract at the Jackson Salem Cemetery. TWC has been collaborating with county officials and the local friends group to begin the planning process for the Salem Cemetery battlefield park. An undertaking of this magnitude will be an ongoing, long term project and we are excited to kick off the planning process.

The staff of THC and TWC, along with all the citizens of Tennessee are deeply indebted to our state officials and legislative partners and the Tennessee Division of Archaeology who have all contributed time, energy, and funding in the effort to save thousands of acres of endangered battlefield property for generations to come. Steve McDaniel once said that during Fred Prouty's 26 years with the state, "he had done more battlefield preservation that any individual in Tennessee." In truth, without Steve's dedication and assistance the Wars Commission would not have been so successful.

After thirty years, now more than ever we need to continue to fight for battlefield preservation. With open spaces dwindling rapidly, the cost of land dramatically rising, mammoth development throughout the state, and issues with zoning, Tennessee is facing historic land loss at an unprecedented rate. TWC will continue to strengthen our relationship with our various preservation partners and continue to collaborate with federal, state, and local governments. Active involvement from our community, collaboration with a robust organizations that are plugged in on local and state preservation issues are imperative. Without support and advocacy from concerned citizens and groups like these we would soon be asking "Where did all our battlefields go?"

TWC Grant Fund Applications Open in Summer 2024!

TWC is pleased to offer two unique grant fund opportunities to further Tennessee's military history. Visit our website to learn more about the grants and to apply!

- Civil War Sites Preservation Fund accepting applicatings August 12, 2024 through November 1, 2024
- Tennessee Wars Commission Grant Fund accepting applications September 2, 2024 through November 15, 2024.

Historical Markers

At its meeting on February 16, 2024, the Tennessee Historical Commission approved eight historical markers: ***Callie Guy House,*** Davidson County; ***The Chattanooga Rotary Club and Georgetown,*** Hamilton County; ***Haywood County Farm and Cemetery,*** Haywood County; ***Rose Hill Cemetery and Culleoke Institute,*** Maury County; ***First Baptist Church,*** Rutherford County; and ***Cloyd's Cumberland Presbyterian Church*** Wilson County. Those interested in submitting proposed texts for markers should contact Linda T. Wynn at the Tennessee Historical Commission, 2941 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442, or call (615) 770-1093.

Tennessee Historical Commission
Calendar of Events
Summer 2024

Celebrate the Summer with our State Historic Sites, check out their events on our website's calendar!

- **Hawthorn Hill State Historic Site Tour**
  June 29, 2024 at 4:30 pm CDT
- **Summer Songwriter Series at Rock Castle State Historic Site**
  July 13, 2024 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm CDT
- **Old-Fashioned Independence Day at Rocky Mount State Historic Site**
  July 10, 2024 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm EDT

SCAN FOR MORE EVENTS

Walking in Memphis...With the National Park Service

By Lane Tillner, Technical Preservation Coordinator

Unlike the pouring rain in the lyrics of the famous song, staff members of the Tennessee Historical Commission and the National Park Service saw only blue skies and sunshine over the course of two beautiful spring days in March. Federal Programs staff members Holly Barnett (Deputy SHPO & Assistant Director of Federal Programs), Justin Heskew (Historic Preservation Supervisor and Historic Tax Credit Reviewer), and Lane Tillner (Technical Preservation Coordinator) met with Jennifer Balson-Alvarez (National Park Service - Technical Preservation Services) to conduct site visits at buildings in Memphis that are undergoing rehabilitation and participating in the Federal Historic Tax Credit incentives program. Meeting the owners, architects, interested parties, and developers for each building, the site visits allowed the SHPO and NPS staff the opportunity to experience the building first-hand, which aids in the review processes later on. Not limited to just one building type, the group visited five buildings that represent a range of architectural styles, original functions, historical significance, and character.

Justin Heskew, of the Tennessee Historical Commission, and Jennifer Balson-Alvarez, of the National Park Service, examine one-over-one windows with the owner and architect of the Dermon Building.

This whirlwind trip began in Downtown Memphis with the Sterick Building, a twenty-nine-story skyscraper. Built in 1929, this Commercial Gothic style office building was once deemed as one of the "Seven Wonders of Memphis," as it stood for decades as Memphis's tallest building. Its strong vertical emphasis, massive scale, ornamentation, and tiered setbacks provide the building with a commanding presence. The building played host to a number of enterprises over the years including various medical, legal, and dental practices, offices for federal government organizations, and general business practices.

From there, the group made their way to the Lowenstein House on Jefferson Avenue. Neighboring the nearby National Register-listed Victorian Village Historic District, the 1890 Lowenstein House is individually listed on the National Register and is a Victorian styling residence that features a mixture of Queen Anne and Italian Villa styles. In addition to the residence's architectural significance, the Lowenstein House is historically significant because of its connection to prominent Memphis entrepreneur, Elias Lowenstein (the house's namesake), and its use as a home for young professional women after World War II, as more young, unmarried women entered the workforce and needed accommodations.

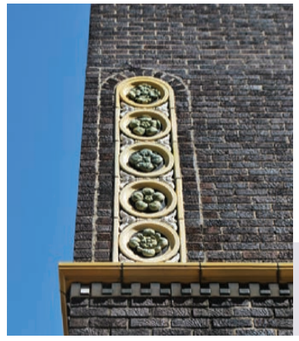
Side elevation view of the Lowenstein House.

The first day of site visits concluded with the beautiful Clayborn Temple. With a cornerstone dated 1891, the Romanesque Revival church is best known for its role in Memphis's Civil Rights activities in the 1960s, specifically in 1968 when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered the first speech of the Sanitation Workers' Strike. The church's construction from limestone blocks ensured that the building is easily distinguished from other nineteenth-century churches in Memphis. The strikingly unique nave of Clayborn Temple features eight vaults radiating from a small central dome of the suspended ceiling. Clayborn Temple stands as a rare example of the Romanesque Revival style not just in Memphis but across the state in general.

Day two of site visits began with the thirty-eight-story 100 North Main Building. The International style building was completed in 1964 and captured the title of Memphis's tallest building, which was previously held by the Sterick Building. Clad in vertical tiers of cast concrete, the building provided commercial storefronts, office and tenant spaces, and exclusive spa and club spaces on the upper floors. Some members of the group climbed all thirty-eight stories to one of the building's most significant features: a formerly rotating, rooftop restaurant and lounge.

Exerior view of Clayborn Temple.

Parial view of the nave and historic Wurlitzer Organ.



Glazed architectural terra cotta ornamentation on the Dermon Building.

The Memphis site visit ended with the ten-story, 1925 Dermon Building. Constructed of a cast-in-place, steel reinforced concrete frame, the commercial building features brown brick and multi-colored glazed architectural terra cotta exterior and interior ornamentation. Listed individually in the National Register, in addition to its architectural significance, the Dermon Building is also significant for its association with prominent Memphis builder Dave Dermon, with the building serving as the offices for the Dermon Company.

The two-day trip packed in many buildings, many flights of stairs, and an exploration of the varied architectural styles of Memphis. Our office looks forward to seeing each of these rehabilitations successfully coming to fruition.

To find out more about the Federal Historic Tax Credit Program, go to: https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/historicalcommission/federal-programs/federal-historic-tax-credit-program.html/.

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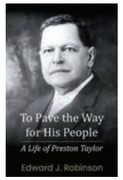
Public Comment Solicited

As the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Tennessee Historical Commission is soliciting public comment and advice on its administration of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Especially, we are seeking input on such matters as geographic areas or classes of properties which may be a priority for survey and/or registration efforts, criteria and priorities which should be established for Historic Preservation Fund(HPF) grants, and ways and means through which local efforts at preservation of historic properties can be most effectively assisted. The HPF is the federal fund appropriated under the authority of the NHPA to assist states in carrying out the purposes of the NHPA. Comments and advice on other areas and issues of a more general nature are also encouraged. Activities carried out by SHPO under the mandate of the NHPA include efforts to survey and inventory historic properties across the state and to nominate the most significant of them the National Register of Historic Places. Other activities involve programs to protect and preserve properties once they are identified by reviewing Federal projects to determine if they will adversely affect historic properties; administering the federal historic tax credit program; awarding and administering HPF grants; and providing technical assistance and advice to local governments which are attempting to establish local programs and ordinances to protect historic properties. The comments received will be used to structure the SHPO's annual application to the National Park Service for these funds. The public input and advice which we are soliciting now will help to set both general office objectives and to establish priorities and criteria for the review of grant applications. Comments are accepted throughout the year and should be addressed to Holly Barnett, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission, 2941 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37214. This program receives Federal funds from the National Park Service. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127 Tennessee Historical Commission, Authorization Number 327324, 4,888 copies promulgated at a cost of $1.19 per copy, 6/11/24.

PUBLICATIONS TO NOTE

By Linda T. Wynn, Assistant Director for State Programs & Publications Editor

Christian Board of Publication, Saint Louis, Missouri published Edward J. Robinson's ***To Pave the Way for His People: A Life of Preston Taylor***. Robinson, an Associate Professor of History and Religious at Texas College has written several books including *Hard-Fighting Soldiers: A History of African American Churches of Christ* and *Show Us How You Do It: Marshall Keeble and the Rise of the Black Churches of Christ in the United States, 1914-1968*, has written the first religious biography of Preston Taylor, an African-American businessman, minister and philanthropist, who is considered one of the most influential leaders of Nashville, Tennessee's African American community. Robinson informs the reader how Preston Taylor emerged as one of the most influential and prevailing African Leaders in Middle Tennessee. According to the April 16, 1931, edition of the *Nashville Banner*, Taylor was owned by the family of Zed Taylor, a brother of former President Zachariah Taylor. The Banner falsely attributed Taylor's service in the Civil War as being a drummer boy for the Confederate Army. Actually, he was a drummer boy in the Union Army during the siege of Richmond, Virgina. Taylor's work covered racial uplift, social reform, civil rights, and organizational leadership for African American Disciples of Christ. He established Greenwood Cemetery, Nashville's second oldest cemetery for African Americans; Greenwood Recreational Park for African Americans; in 1888, he founded Taylor Funeral Company at 449 North Cherry Street (now Fourth Avenue), among other business ventures including the One Cent (now Citizens Savings Bank and Trust) Savings and Trust Company Bank. Preston Taylor set the stage and standard for church leaders in the African American community. His vision and the narrative of his life story should remind the reader of the interconnectedness of the rich heritage and perseverance necessary among all to succeed. Robinson's biography gives the reader a contextualized and profoundly human Preston Taylor, exposing both his accomplishments and dilemmas. **Paperback $25.00**.

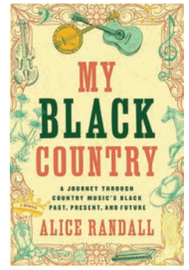


Deathcat Media, LLC, Nashville, Tennessee published Scott Faragher's ***Glenn Ferguson: A Life of Public Service***. Faragher, the author of such books as *The Peabody Hotel*; *The Pigeon Drop*, a work of science fiction; and *The Arlington Resort Hotel and Spa*. Faragher book discusses Glen Ferguson, who rose to heights in Nashville government. In 1959, when Nashville and Davidson County operated under separate governments, Glen Ferguson entered the political arena, when he challenged Frank Melfi, and incumbent. The race between Melfi and Ferguson was one of the most hotly contested and hard-fought elections. Ferguson ultimately won the councilmanic race and became entrenched if Nashville's political scene. During his tenure as a council person and subsequently as Metropolitan Trustee, Ferguson was one of the main proponents behind the Country Music Hall of Fame and a strong advocate for the formation of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson. Faragher knew Glenn Ferguson well through their mutual association with country singer Johnny Paycheck and watched his rise from obscurity to power in both pre-Metro and afterwards. This work gives the reader an insight into Glenn Ferguson and his rise from obscurity to one of the main actors in Metro Government. **Paper $21.95**.

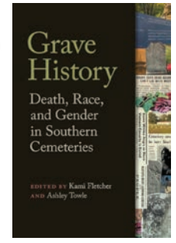
Oxford University Press, United Kingdom brought forth John Cullen Gruesser's ***Literary Life of Sutton E. Griggs: The Man on the Firing Line***. The son of American Baptist Theological Seminary (now American Baptist College), Dr. Allen R. Griggs, was one of the seminary's founders. Later, his son, Sutton E. Griggs served as the institution's first president. The first biography of Sutton E. Griggs draws on wide-ranging research in primary materials and late 20th century periodicals, local and national African American and white sources. Among the most productive African American writers at the turn of the 20th century, the younger Griggs, in contrast to his northern contemporaries, as Dr. W. E. B. DuBois noted, "spoke primarily to the Negro race," and used his own Nashville-based Orion Publishing Company to produce four of his novels including Imperium in *Imperio* (1899): *Overshadowed* (1901), *Unfettered* (1902); and *The Hindered Hand; or, the Reign of the Repressionist* (1905), written in response to Thomas Dixon's first published novel of his Reconstruction trilogies, *The Leopard's Spots. A Romance of the White Man's Burden—1865–1900*, followed by *The Clansman: A Historical Romance of the Ku Klux Klan* (1905), and *The Traitor: A Story of the Fall of the Invisible Empire* (1907). Alongside Du Bois and Booker T. Washington, Griggs was a key political and literary voice for African American education and political rights and against Jim Crow. The Orin Publishing Company like the R. H. Boyd Publishing Company (formerly known as the National Baptist Publishing Board) the National Baptist Sunday School Publishing Board, U. S. A., Incorporated provided printed materials to African Americans in Nashville and across the country. Gruesser's work on Sutton E. Griggs defies present-day notions about the distribution of materials to those civically engaged with African American fiction and changes the perception about African American literature and print culture of the late 19th and early 20th centuries print culture of the period. **Hardback, $84.00**

Alice Randall's ***My Black Country: A Journey Through Country Music's Black Past, Present, and Future*** **was** published in early April by **Atria/Black Privilege Publishing, a division of Simon and Schuster, New York, New York.**

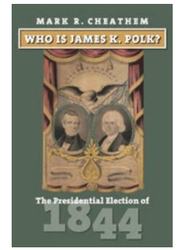
Alice Randall's My Black Country is a celebration of one of the most American music genres and at the same time, the deep-seated pride and joyfulness in realizing the power of the African American impact on American culture. Her book's publication coming out approximately two weeks after Beyonce Knowles-Carter's Cowboy Carter illustrates the impact of African Americans on Country Music. Randall's book is a starting point for honest and plain-spoken conversations that those in the genre's mainstream must encounter. The first the first African American woman to cowrite a number one country hit, Trisha Yearwood's "XXX's and OOO's," harkens back to African Americans who made earlier forays into country music. Individuals like DeFord Bailey, Lil Hardin, Ray Charles, and Charley Pride among others, who comprised a community of African American country musicians and artists. ***My Black Country*** interweaves Randall's memoir with the genre's historical narrative and the influence of African American artists in the genre. Alice Randall is an award-winning songwriter and professor of African American and Diaspora Studies and writer-in-residence at Vanderbilt University. A *New York Times* bestselling novelist, she is widely recognized as one of the most significant voices in modern African American fiction. **Hardback, $28.99**.



University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA published ***Grave History: Death, Race, and Gender in Southern Cemeteries*** edited by Kami Fletcher and Ashley Towle. This work is the first volume to use southern cemeteries to investigate and probe southern society and the structure of racial and gendered hierarchies prior to the American Civil War through the dismantling of the Jim Crow era. ***Grave History*** draws upon an interdisciplinary assemblage of eleven scholars that includes historians (including Tennessee's State Historian Dr. C. V. West), archaeologists, and social-justice activists to examine the chronicle of racial segregation or exclusion in southern cemeteries and what it can tell the reader how ideas, class, and gender informed and were reinforced in cemeteries. Editors Kami Fletcher is an associate professor of history at Albright College in Redding, Pennsylvania, and Ashley Towle is an assistant professor of history at the University of Southern Maine, with campuses in Portland, Gorham and Lewiston, Maine. ***Grave History*** illustrates the importance of using cemeteries as analytical tools for examining power relations, community formation, and historical memory. This tome is a must read for anyone interested in the wealth of information that can be ascertain from the era in which cemeteries were created. **Paper. $32.95**



A finalist for the 2024 Book Award given by the Tennessee Historical Commission and the Tennessee Historical Society, Mark R. Cheathem's ***Who Is James K. Polk: The Presidential Election of 1844*** was published by the **University Press of Kansas**. Just as presidential elections matter today, they also mattered in 1844, when a relatively unknown Tennessean ran for the nation's highest political office. The question Americans asked that year was, "Who the hell is James K. Polk?" He, of course, was not unknown, but was considered an unlikely candidate given the others who also ran during the 1844 election. Cheatham, a professor of history and project director of the Papers of Martin Van Buren at Cumberland University, gives the reader insight into Polk, how he won the nation's highest office, and why it matters today. William K. Bolt, a professor of history at Francis Marion University and former assistant editor of the James K. Polk Papers Project, notes that Cheathem give the readers a behind-the-scenes look at the inner works of all the 1844 campaigns. Polk's elevation to the nation's highest office and his policies aided in putting the country on the glide path to its internal or sectional strife over the issue of chattel enslavement, ultimately leading to the American Civil War. ***Who Is James K. Polk*** helps today's electorate fully comprehend that "Elections matter." Historiographically speaking, this is a must have book for historians and lay historians interested in presidential elections and their impact on public policy. **Hardcover, $44.95**.



THC Board To Be Vacated and Reconstituted

Legislation passed by the Tennessee General Assembly this Spring and signed into law by Gov. Bill Lee in May will vacate and reconstitute the present board of the Tennessee Historical Commission on June 30, 2024. The current board consists of 29 members, 24 of whom are appointed by the Governor for five year terms, along with five ex officio positions. The new board will consist of 20 members, including five appointed by the Governor, five by the Lt. Governor, and five by the Speaker of the House, and will serve staggered terms. The five ex officio members on the current board will be included on the new board as well, but will no longer have voting rights. The new board is expected to be in place by the October meeting. The law does not make any changes to the professional staff of the Commission.

STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214

THE COURIER

ON THE COVER: Haynes Haven Stock Farm in Maury County. Photograph courtesy of Tegan Baiocchi, November 15, 2022.