MTSU graduate students who worked on the Center’s events at the National Preservation Conference meet with Rep. John Lewis after his closing address at the Downtown Presbyterian Church in Nashville.
INTRODUCTION, ROLE, SCOPE, AND MISSION

The Center for Historic Preservation (CHP) at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) was established in 1984 as the university’s first Center of Excellence and one of the nine original centers at the Tennessee Board of Regents universities. In 1989, the CHP received accomplished center status and in 1991 it became a full-time research and public service institute while continuing to shape MTSU academic programs by supporting and directing undergraduate and graduate students in research and experiential learning opportunities. In 2001, it became the administrator of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (Heritage Area), a partnership unit of the National Park Service. Heritage Area staff and projects work seamlessly with proven CHP initiatives to substantially enhance the effectiveness of statewide Civil War preservation programs. In 2008, the Center took on the Tennessee administration of Teaching with Primary Sources, a program of the Library of Congress, which has impacted K-12, college, and museum educators.

The Center meets its goals and objectives through projects and programs that focus on the heritage development—the identification, research, preservation, interpretation, and promotion—of our historic environment. Through its varied resources, and its partnerships at local, state, and national levels, the Center responds to the requests, needs, and concerns of communities, individuals, agencies, and organizations, both governmental and not-for-profit, working towards historic preservation goals.

Working within state, regional, and national partnerships, the Center for Historic Preservation focuses its efforts on heritage area development, rural preservation, heritage education, heritage tourism, ethnic diversity, and internet-based databases. Consistent with the MTSU Academic Master Plan to enhance research and public service, the Center supports efforts to improve the education and quality of life for all Tennesseans. The CHP enhances our citizens’ sense of place, pride, and identity through the interpretation and preservation of the historic sites, landscapes, and historical narratives that comprise the Tennessee experience.

To complement the MTSU Academic Master Plan’s goal of creating experiential learning, the Center for Historic Preservation uses multiple field projects to teach selected courses in the History Department. Faculty and staff provide crucial infrastructure for the Ph.D. in Public History, financially supporting 7 doctoral students as graduate assistants in 2009-10 while teaching 3 doctoral-level courses. The Center remains the primary conduit for professional training and placement of M.A. students in public history and plays a significant role in directing M.A. theses in that graduate program. By offering graduate assistantships in
addition to internships and other opportunities for both undergraduates and graduates at its offices, the CHP provides interdisciplinary and applied working experiences and fosters a research culture for faculty, staff, and students. The Center’s training expertise was showcased to national audiences through its major sponsorship in the National Preservation Conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, held in Nashville in October 2009 and its field session sponsorship at the International Heritage Development Conference held in Charleston, S.C. in June 2010.

The programs and projects of the CHP reflect and strongly support the general legislative mandates implemented by TBR/THEC when the Centers of Excellence were created in 1984. These are: (1) utilize present educational resources more effectively to achieve a genuine excellence in a specific field; (2) support the economic development of the state; (3) enhance the intellectual, cultural, and social climate of Tennessee citizens; (4) improve the research base of the state; and, (5) encourage institutions to increase support for educational and research activities from external sources.

EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS, 2009-10

In its seventh year as a CHP initiative, Building Local Capacity continues to benefit the historic preservation, heritage tourism, and heritage development needs of towns and institutions across Tennessee. Its goal is to assist groups and officials to identify and use their heritage assets for sustainable community and institutional development, often through the strategies of adaptive reuse and sustainable tourism. MTSU students, under the supervision of CHP faculty and staff, are provided with practical on-the-job training and resume-building experiences. In the past year graduate students worked with CHP staff and faculty to redesign and install new exhibits at the Buford Pusser House and Museum in McNairy County. Through its Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area program, the CHP also worked with the Casey Jones Museum in Jackson to install a new exhibit about the Civil War and West Tennessee railroads. The Center also partnered with MTSU public history faculty and students to develop an exhibit about World War II for the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County. Student teams also researched and prepared heritage development reports for the towns of Elkton and Prospect in Giles County, the Cannonsburgh Village in Rutherford County, and the Big Black Creek Historical Society in Madison County.

Tennessee Tourism Commissioner Susan Whitaker at the unveiling of the new Civil War exhibit at the Casey Jones Museum in Jackson
The CHP continues to regularly address how the state’s heritage assets can be used to enhance the quality and quantity of life in Tennessee. Its strategy has been to make conservation goals and economic development needs work together. For example, CHP and Heritage Area staff and MTSU graduate students continued their cooperative efforts with the Commissioner of Tourist Development, the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a new sustainable tourism workshop in Gatlinburg, with others planned for Middle and West Tennessee in the fall of 2010. The Center also developed specialized heritage assets surveys for Dickson County, the North Edgefield neighborhood in Nashville, and the Veterans Administration Hospital campus in Murfreesboro. Center faculty also participated as part of the team that produced a new Master Plan for Centennial Park in Nashville. They also assisted Tennessee Tourism and individual communities with site research and writing for various segments of the new state scenic trails and byways program. Center staff produced new driving tours for historic places in Rutherford County and on the theme of women’s history in Rutherford County.

The largest heritage development plan, which involved sixteen MTSU graduate students, was the Glen Leven Historic Structure Report, produced for the Land Trust of Tennessee and its partners who are planning the future of this famous Franklin Pike farm in Davidson County. Through its website, Nashville Public Radio has made the plan available for public review.

In Tennessee, graduate students worked with Center staff and faculty to produce National Register nominations for the Trousdale-Baskerville House in Gallatin, the Strickland Place Farm in Robertson County and the Wilkinson-Martin House in Giles County. In May 2010 the Alabama Historical Commission approved the Center-prepared National Register Multiple Property Nomination for properties and sites associated with the nationally significant U.S. Public Health Service Syphilis Study in Macon County, Alabama. The National Park Service also approved the nomination and placed it on its National Register of Historic Places website as a valuable example of defining “property types” in this type of study. A related National Register nomination for the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church and Rosenwald School
in Macon County, Alabama, was also approved.

The early May 2010 floods in Tennessee brought new uses for the Center’s long-term engagement with Tennessee’s communities. The Center director prepared constant web-published reports on the damage sustained by the state’s heritage sites. Faculty and staff also carried out numerous on-site assessments for communities and property owners, and used this information to convey the seriousness of the damage to officials and larger regional audiences.

The **Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area** is the CHP’s largest statewide program. Strong reciprocal partnerships form the foundation of its success. Faculty and staff provided leadership and support to organizations across the state, creating community-based opportunities for education, resource conservation, and tourism. Heritage Area partnerships empower residents and communities to become effective stewards of their resources. Maximizing this year’s $465,000 in federal appropriations, the Heritage Area’s projects fulfilled education and interpretation goals, enhanced preservation efforts, and promoted economic development.

The Heritage Area is a primary partner in the Tennessee Civil War Trails program, which is funded by the Tennessee Department of Transportation and local matching grants and administered by the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. Heritage Area historians and MTSU graduate students help to research texts and find images for the markers, which will total 300 across the state once the program’s initial phase is completed in 2011. The contribution to the Civil War Trails program is part of the Heritage Area’s commitment to the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. Center director Carroll Van West is the co-chair of the commission and the Heritage Area provides leadership to this important state program.

The Heritage Area produced many important planning tools for Tennessee communities, including a battlefield park plan for Thompson’s Station and a heritage development plan for Battery Hill in Carthage as well as historic structures reports for the McCampbell House in Donelson, the Matt Gardner House in Elkton, a log structure at Fort Higley in Knoxville, and the Link House in Humphreys County. Through funding and advocacy, the Heritage Area has played significant roles in community efforts to create new battlefield parks in Franklin and Knoxville. It also is working closely with the Lakeway Civil War Preservation Association to open the Longstreet Headquarters site in Russellville.

Collaborative partnerships between the Heritage Area and communities yielded projects across the state, ranging from a revised edition of the widely popular Southeast Tennessee Civil War driving tour (encompassing a ten county area), to teacher “traveling trunks” for the Civil War.
War period from the Abraham Lincoln Museum at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, and onto a series of public programs held by the Tennessee Historical Society at historic Fort Negley in Nashville. A unique partnership involving different MTSU departments created the Battle of Parker’s Crossroads audio tour. Another university-centered partnership hosted the Stones River Symposium, “Why They Fought,” in Murfreesboro where 170 people heard lectures from three important historians at the Rutherford County Courthouse.

The Heritage Area also provided leadership in discussions that will create a six-part documentary series on Tennessee’s Civil War era, to be produced by Nashville Public Television and the Renaissance Center. To carry out background research and planning for this multi-media project, the Heritage Area has provided $80,000 in funding, approximately 20% of the total project costs, which are shared by the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, the State Department of Education, and other private and public partners.

Another video project, again involving the Renaissance Center, and organized by the Paris/Henry County Chamber of Commerce, produced a driving tour of Civil War properties along the Tennessee River in both West and Middle Tennessee.

Heritage education programming is another key part of the Heritage Area’s efforts. A special summer Civil War teacher institute was held in Nashville for Metro Nashville teachers, who also traveled to key battlefields throughout the state. Other teacher workshops took place at Belmont Mansion in Nashville and at Stones River National Battlefield. Classroom materials and field trips from local schools occurred at the Heritage Area’s The Heritage Center in Murfreesboro. One book group project with Linebaugh Public Library targeted adult learners.

The **Tennessee Century Farms Program** is the Center’s oldest statewide program. In the past year, 61 farms were added to the list of Century Farms. Of particular note, two African American farms, both located in Williamson County, were certified. The twice-yearly newsletter was mailed to 1600 and at least 500 copies of newsletters, applications, and other information were distributed at conferences and workshops. The Center also received nearly 100 requests for application packets and assisted in approximately 30 events honoring Century Farmers that took place across Tennessee. Center staff assisted by providing brochures and other display materials, contact information for farmers, photographs, and historical sketches of the farms.
Three Century Farm owners decided to become a part of the Land Trust for Tennessee, ensuring the preservation of their farm lands in perpetuity. The Strickland Place Farm in Robertson County was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and new National Register projects began at the Henry Farm in Blount County and Still Hollow Farm in Greene County.

As part of the Center’s heritage conservation efforts for Century Farms, it was one of the founding partners of the Tennessee Farmland Legacy Partnership, formally announced at a ceremony at the state capitol, hosted by Gov. Phil Bredesen. The partnership engages state agencies, organizations and non-profits to disseminate information and support farm families with workshops, a resource booklet and workbook, and conferences. The November 2010 conference in Pigeon Forge, for instance, will honor Century farmers involved in agritourism.

The second in a documentary film series, produced in cooperation with the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and MTSU Audio-Visual Services, featured the Conger Farm of Lincoln County which was established in 1808. The premier of this DVD was a part of the county’s bicentennial celebration; the farm predates the county’s founding by one year. CHP Assistant Director Caneta S. Hankins spoke at Century Farm programs in McMinn, Lincoln, Williamson, and Sullivan counties. She also provided national workshops at the Indiana State Historic Preservation Conference and the National Preservation Conference in Nashville.

Heritage Education is a key way for the Center to expand its impact on Tennessee communities. The CHP’s Teaching with Primary Sources program, funded at $600,000 for three years, is an important partnership with the Library of Congress. It emphasizes the development of critical thinking skills by using primary sources provided via the Internet from the vast collections of the Library of Congress. The program fits squarely into the CHP’s mission of encouraging education from a wide variety of sources, from music to art to architecture to letters to diaries to newspapers to film. The Center’s program has its own website (www.mtsu.edu/tps) and provides a monthly online newsletter for educators.

MTSU is a strong supporter of the Teaching with Primary Sources program. It provides a university-wide support committee of administrators and faculty. This year it also provided a new specialist position to better enable the program to meet the increasing demand from school districts and educational institutions. In the past year, for example, Center faculty and staff held workshops and sessions, serving teachers from all nine congressional districts, in Dayton, Memphis, Murfreesboro, Knoxville, Nashville, Jackson, Lebanon, and Franklin. Additional educators were reached through two webcasts produced by the MTSU Instructional Technology Support Center, and by a special presentation at the National History Day in Nashville.

Following MTSU’s Academic Master Plan, the CHP continues to provide student-centered, experience-based educational opportunities for undergraduate, masters, and Ph.D. candidates. Ph.D. students received research funds and extensive CHP instruction for their research projects, which included a study of Tennessee’s historic marble industry, the impact of geography and environment on the Civil War in Upper Tennessee, and the impact and prospects of sustainable tourism in Tennessee. The Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County—a partnership between the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, Main Street Murfreesboro, MTSU, the City of Murfreesboro, and Rutherford County Government—continues to be a key laboratory for heritage education training and programming. MTSU undergraduate and graduate students provide all sorts of interpretive and education experiences for residents, classrooms, and visitors. The Heritage Center’s Community Heritage Lecture Series gives graduate students a chance to educate and interact with local residents about their research projects.
The Center’s **Heritage Diversity** program looks for opportunities to bring neglected topics, stories, and places to greater attention. In its role as a major sponsor and key contributor to the planning of the National Preservation Conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Center took steps to ensure that diversity was an important theme.

The National Trust had not held its signature conference in Nashville for 50 years and all of the Center’s partners wanted to show the nation what Tennessee is really about. At the October 2009 meeting, which attracted 2,500, CHP Director Carroll Van West emphasized the reality of diversity in his opening conference remarks. Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, who had walked those same Nashville streets as a peaceful sit-in striker almost 50 years earlier, closed the conference with a stirring speech at the Downtown Presbyterian Church. In between, an MTSU public history doctoral student carried out a walking tour of Nashville’s civil rights history; CHP staff held a poster session on teaching Emancipation; and African-American Century Farm owner MacDonald Craig talked about his National Register-listed farm before performing traditional country music at the exhibit hall’s noon event. CHP staff arranged and led a tour of historic Rosenwald schools in Sumner County. A special tour for Board of Advisors members took place at Fisk University and was guided by Fisk’s Dr. Reavis Mitchell, an MTSU alumni. National Trust officials reported to the Center that the Nashville conference set a new, higher “bar” for future cities and states to meet, especially in how Nashville weaved themes of diversity throughout the entire conference experience.

The National Trust in 2010 partnered with the Center and the Tennessee Preservation Trust, awarding $40,000 from the Lowe’s Charitable and Education Foundation for the restoration of the Durham Chapel Rosenwald School in Sumner County. The CHP had earlier nominated the school to the National Register and then prepared a preservation needs report for the school, both of which helped to pave the way for the grant reward. Center Manager Anne-Leslie Owens is part of the restoration’s oversight committee and a recent CHP graduate assistant, Paul Hoffman, is doing much of the actual hands-on work.
Another hands-on experience for MTSU students and CHP staff took place at the Matt Gardner House in Elkton during the summer of 2010. This historic site, previously listed by the CHP in the National Register, is a key gateway heritage resource not only for Elkton but for the southern entrance of the Civil War Trail at the Tennessee/Alabama line.

Other Center projects involved graduate students preparing a National Register nomination and a preservation needs report for the First United Presbyterian Cemetery in Knoxville and a preservation needs report for the Asia School in Franklin County. A third report, “The Trail of Tears and Bradley County: New Visions, New Futures,” assessed the heritage assets of key Trail of Tears and Cherokee properties in the Cleveland area.

Creating and supporting Research Databases not only helps the Center meet its daily needs for research and information but it also supports the Center’s efforts in other project areas. New websites were launched in 2009-10 for the Center itself, the Tennessee Century Farms program, the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, and the Teaching with Primary Sources across Tennessee program. But in the forthcoming year, greater attention needs to be given to a major updating of the text and images of the Center’s signature partnership with the Tennessee Historical Society and the University of Tennessee Press, the online edition of the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*. This invaluable scholarly and education resource, with the Center Director serving as Editor-in-Chief, needs expansion and updating to ensure that it remains an authoritative source for the state’s past. Identifying key staff and resources for the upgrade is a major Center challenge for 2010-2011. Considering the demands on the Center Director for leadership in the state’s Civil War sesquicentennial program and in the university’s Ph.D. program, identifying set-aside time for needed editorial work will be crucial.

Keeping its commitment to student-centered learning, the Center maintains ties with a large, diverse, and accomplished network of alumni through a monthly electronic newsletter from the director, the Center’s twice-yearly electronic newsletter and MTSU receptions/events at the National Trust for Historic Preservation conference and the National Council of Public History. At the National Preservation Conference, approximately 200 people attended the event on historic 2nd Avenue North in Nashville while at the NCPH conference in Portland, Oregon, 20 MTSU students and alumni gathered at a historic downtown location. The Center also produces a print edition of the Tennessee Century Farm newsletter and the quarterly electronic edition of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area Newsletter.
In *Research and Publications*, the Center director Carroll Van West closed 18 years of service as the Senior Editor of the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* with the publication of the Summer 2010 issue. Dr. Antoinette van Zelm, the Heritage Area historian, continues editing publications and book reviews for the Southern Association of Women Historians. The Center’s record for articles and chapters published in peer-reviewed books and journals, as well as its number of papers and workshops at national professional meetings, contributes to the research culture at MTSU.

CHP graduate assistant Megan Akerstrom worked with Center faculty and staff to produce a history of the Murfreesboro Electric Department in celebration of the utility’s 70 years of service. The booklet, *Murfreesboro Electric Department: Powering the Progress of Murfreesboro for 70 Years*, spawned an accompanying exhibit, also curated by Akerstrom, which interpreted the utility’s history for the community. An exhibit on the Concert Scene of MTSU’s Murphy Center, curated by CHP doctoral assistant Brian Dempsey, was presented at The Heritage Center in Murfreesboro. It interpreted the community impact of the many music groups and performers at Murphy Center over the past 25 years.

The Center’s role in providing **Academic Support** to the goals of MTSU focuses on support for the university’s nationally recognized programs in historic preservation and public history. The CHP and its major nationally associated programs, the National Park Service’s Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and the Library of Congress’s Teaching with
Primary Sources, provide students with professional supervision and expert instruction, as well as resources including reference materials, computer equipment and software, and office space to enable them to successfully complete assigned projects and their own research efficiently and on schedule. The laboratory created by The Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County gives students opportunities to have “real-world” learning experiences in developing museum exhibit designs, exhibitions, interpretive tours, and heritage education materials.

The Center prides itself in creating a research culture that involves faculty, staff, undergraduates from multiple disciplines, and Master’s and Ph. D. students in public history, information technology, and recreation and leisure. The synergy between research, education, and public service equips students to compete well in positions across the nation. Center assistants from the past year have taken professional positions in Alaska, Colorado, and Knoxville and Nashville, Tennessee.

The Center director also directed to completion the Ph.D. degrees of Brian Dempsey, Heather Bailey, and Spurgeon King. The Center provided financial aid and research assistance to four additional Ph.D. students in the past year. The CHP director taught three graduate classes in the MTSU Public History Program: American Architectural Survey, Seminar in Historic Preservation, and the Essentials of Historic Preservation and Cultural Resource Management. He also served on multiple Ph.D. and M.A. committees.
Faculty and Staff of the Center for Historic Preservation, 2009-2010
Director: Dr. Carroll Van West
Assistant Director: Caneta S. Hankins
Research Professor: Dr. Stacey R. Graham
Programs Manager: Anne-Leslie Owens
Heritage Area Preservation Specialist: Michael T. Gavin
Projects Coordinator: Elizabeth H. Moore
Heritage Area Historian: Dr. Antoinette G. van Zelm
Heritage Center Program Assistant: Jennifer Butt
Heritage Area Federal Liaison: Laura S. Holder
Executive Aide: Cindy Duke
Secretary 2: Ann Hendrix

Ph. D. Graduate Assistants
Heather Bailey, Kevin Cason, Kristen Baldwin Deathridge, Brian Dempsey, Spurgeon King,
Susan Knowles, Katie Merzbacher, Sade Turnipseed

M.A. Graduate Assistants
Megan Akerstrom, Hallie Fieser, Catherine Hawkins, Cheri LaFlamme, Brian Manifold, Jason
McClanahan, Ashleigh Oatts, Lauren Pate, Katie Randall, Sara Rieger

Undergraduate Assistants/Volunteers
Rachael Finch, Lindsay Gates, Sara Beth Gideon, Sarah Primm, Jessica White
Center for Historic Preservation Benchmarks, 2009-10

Peer-Reviewed Books, Articles, Chapters


Major Research Reports, National Register Nominations, Exhibits

Butt, Jennifer, with Kevin Cason. “A Driving Tour: Place Names of Rutherford County. Publication prepared for The Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, September 2009.


Moore, Elizabeth, Elizabeth Smith, Katie Merzbacher, Carroll Van West. “Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church and Rosenwald School, Macon County, AL.” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Alabama Historical Commission, April 2010.


West, Carroll Van and Brian Dempsey. “Music at Murphy Center Exhibit.” The Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, October 2009-April 2010.


Published Book Reviews


**Professional Papers, Presentations, and Workshops**


Hankins, Caneta S. Agritourism and Century Farms, field session, National Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Conference, Nashville, October 2009.


**Teaching curricula and workshops**


Professional Recognition

Duke, Kira
Tennessee Council for History Education, Board Member.

Hankins, Caneta S.
Rogana Project Reviewer, National Trust of Northern Ireland, Ulster-American Folk Park, County Tyrone.
Tennessee Farmland Legacy Partnership, Representative.
Tennessee’s Downtowns, application reviewer for Tennessee Main Street Program.

Holder, Laura S.
Battle of Franklin Trust, Marketing Committee.
Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, Board Member.

Owens, Anne-Leslie
National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference, Nashville, 2009-2010: Tennessee Scholars Coordinator.

van Zelm, Antoinette G.
SAWH (Southern Association for Women Historians), Chair, Mentoring Committee
H-NET: H-SAWH Listserv: Book Review Editor and Publications Committee

West, Carroll Van.
Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission: Co-Chair
National Trust for Historic Preservation: Board of Advisors.
Library of Congress: Teaching with Primary Sources National Advisory Committee.
Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska: Associate Fellow
National Council for Public History: Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee Chair
National Endowment for the Humanities: Panelist
National Trust Nashville Conference Planning Committee: Co-Chair
Mississippi River Natural and Recreational Corridor: Board Member
Tennessee Historical Society: Senior Editor, *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*
University of Tennessee Press: Advisory Board Member
Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association: Advisory Board Member
FEDERAL and STATE APPROPRIATIONS, GIFTS, GRANTS, CONTRACT
AWARDS AND OTHER SUBSIDIES
JULY 1, 2009 TO JUNE 30, 2010

I. General Assembly Appropriation for Center of Excellence $188,200.00

II. Federal Appropriation

Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, National Park Service $465,000.00
Teaching with Primary Sources, Library of Congress $200,000.00

III. State and Local Grants, Contracts

Middle Tennessee Medical Center $ 21,000.00
Murfreesboro Electric Department $ 12,500.00
Dickson County Government $ 3,500.00

IV. Non-Profits, Business

National Trust for Historic Preservation $ 15,000.00
Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area $ 1,200.00
National Society of Colonial Dames XVII Century $ 200.00
Princess SEHOY Chapter – DAR $ 50.00

V. Private Gifts $ 385.00

VI. Travel, Publication Subsidies

Sumner County National Register Nomination $ 750.00
Big Black Creek $ 100.00

TOTAL $907,885.00