The project team for the Skyline Farms heritage development plan in Jackson County, Alabama. Front Row (L-R): Kelsey Fields, Hallie Fieser, Amy Kostine, Katie Randall, and CHP Projects Coordinator Elizabeth Humphreys. Rear Row: Lauren Pate, Garet Bledyynn, and CHP Preservation Specialist Michael Gavin.
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 seven doctoral students as graduate assistants and fellows in 2010-11 while teaching 3 doctoral-level courses. The Center is a 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 participation in an interpretation workshop for National Park Service employees and by multiple presentations at the Civil War Trust’s national teacher workshop in Nashville during the summer of 2011.

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, 2010-11**

In its ninth year as a CHP initiative, **Building Local Capacity** continues to benefit the needs of Tennessee towns and institutions for historic preservation, heritage tourism, and heritage development. 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 Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County. Through its Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area program, the CHP also worked with the Lakeway Civil War Preservation Association to develop and install period rooms and exhibits at the Longstreet Headquarters in Russellville (Hamblen County) while also participating with Memphis teacher Mark Scott and his students at Memphis East High School in the planning for the President’s Island School House project. Center staff also worked with Middle Tennessee Medical Center to develop a “history wall” exhibit for the new Murfreesboro hospital.

Student teams prepared heritage development reports for the Clay County Courthouse in Celina, Glen Leven Farm in Nashville, Buchanan Log House historic site in Donelson, and Cold Springs Farm/Camp Trousdale in Sumner County. Center staffers were part of the design team for the Centennial Park Master Plan (Nashville), which was released in November.

Cold Springs Farm is a historic family property in Sumner County and site of the Civil War Camp Trousdale. Staff and students prepared a heritage development plan for the property in 2011.
The Cold Springs Farm/Camp Trousdale project was one of several in Sumner County. Graduate students and Center staff also began the Hawthorne Hill historic structure report (request of Tennessee Historical Commission) and helped to supervise the restoration of the Durham Chapel Rosenwald School in Bethpage and the Douglass-Clark House, a new site along the county’s greenway. The CHP’s Mike Gavin spent long hours at the site ensuring that the project met high preservation standards as the county mayor wished.

Through these partnerships with local governments, state agencies, communities, and property owners, the Center 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, Dr. West 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 sustainable tourism workshops in Jackson, Knoxville, and Nashville in the fall of 2010. The Center also assisted Tennessee Tourism and individual communities with site research and writing for various segments of the new state scenic trails and byways program.

The Center continued its staff and student assistance to the restoration of Glen Leven Farm, a property of the Land Trust for Tennessee, located on Franklin Pike in Nashville. In 2010-11, Center staff and students, led by assistant director Caneta Hankins, prepared an interpretation and education plan for the property. Mike Gavin and Van West also assisted the Land Trust in developing restoration plans after a winter fire damaged the dwelling’s rear wing. Dr. West also worked with the Land Trust to coordinate the President’s Great America Outdoors listening session and luncheon at Glen Leven in August 2010. He gave a tour of the property to the assembled federal, state, and local decision makers and officials.

CHP graduate assistants have always benefited from projects placing properties and neighborhoods in the National Register of Historic Places. Nine projects were completed in 2010-11, including the WSM Radio Transmission Complex (for national significance) in Williamson County; the U.S. Navy Training Center (Shelby Park) and the Public Works Garage in Nashville; the Leming House in Coffee County, the Asia African-American School in Franklin County, the Tarpley Farm in Rutherford County, the Allen-Birdwell Farm in Greene
The Douglass-Clark House in Sumner County, and the Henry Farm in Blount County.

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 $448,000 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. He was one of the featured speakers at the November 2010 kickoff signature event for the Sesquicentennial at TPAC in Nashville. The Heritage Area also provided funding, research support, and script review for the first two documentaries in the Tennessee Civil War series produced by Nashville Public Television, along with funding for a documentary of the signature event given to Tennessee educators.

Tourism Commissioner Susan Whitaker, Rep. Steve McDaniel, Dr. West and community leaders at the Parkers Crossroads marker dedication.

The Heritage Area produced many important planning tools for Tennessee communities, including the Franklin Cemeteries Assessment and Preservation Plan; the National Register nominations for the Douglass-Clark House, the Tarpley Farm, the Henry Farm, and the Allen-Birdwell Farm; the Clay County Courthouse Heritage Development Plan;
and the Buchanan House (Donelson) Heritage Development Plan. Preservation specialist Mike Gavin also carried out assessments at Bleak House (Knoxville), the Enoch Brown Slave Cabins (Williamson County), and Doe Creek School (Henderson 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 in the fall of 2011.

Heritage education programming is another key part of the Heritage Area’s efforts. Teacher workshops took place with the Stones River National Battlefield. Classroom materials and field trips from local schools occurred at the Heritage Area’s The Heritage Center in Murfreesboro and at Glen Leven Farm in Nashville. One book group project with Linebaugh Public Library in Murfreesboro targeted adult learners and met at the Heritage Center, which is a key local partnership with the City of Murfreesboro, Main Street Murfreesboro, and the Rutherford County Government.

The Heritage Area regularly contributes to conferences, symposia, and public events about the Civil War across Tennessee. In May, the Heritage Area sponsored the Kentucky-Tennessee American Studies Association Conference, held at the Murfreesboro Heritage Center and the Rutherford County Courthouse. University professors, graduate students, and other interested individuals examined the Civil War through both historic accounts and contemporary expression. Following the conference theme, “Images, Sounds, and Meanings of the Civil War,” the multi-media sessions drew from a variety of sources including diaries, newspapers, literature, official reports, political cartoons, photography, paintings, music, commemorations, and emancipation celebrations. Nashville-based artist Dane Carder shared his "Ghosts and Hopes" series of Civil War-inspired paintings during the keynote address.

Nashville artist Dane Carder and attendees at his keynote event at the Rutherford County Courthouse during the 2011 KY-TN ASA Conference. The Rutherford County Government consistently supports the Center’s heritage programming in downtown Murfreesboro.
The **Tennessee Century Farms program**, the oldest of the Center’s statewide efforts, focused this year on the enhancement of various partnerships to promote the preservation of rural landscapes and family farms. The Tennessee Farmland Legacy Partnership is a consortium of twelve organizations including the Center. It provided workshops, training, and hosted a second Farmland Legacy Conference in November of 2011 (the first was in 2009) in Pigeon Forge. Assistant director Caneta Hankins worked primarily with Tennessee Department of Agriculture staff to plan the conference. At the closing event, sponsored by the Center, the featured keynote speaker was Blythe Semmer, a CHP alumnus and Sevier County Century Farm owner, who is a preservation planner with the President’s Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in D. C. The Tennessee Farmland Legacy Partnership received the Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Award in 2011.

Center staff and students prepared three nominations of Century Farms to the National Register of Historic Places: the Allen-Birdwell Farm (Greene County), the Henry Farm (Blount County), and the Tarpley Farm (Rutherford County).

The number of counties that held CHP-supported special events to honor Century Farmers numbered more than thirty this year. The Center produced a new Century Farms tabletop display for county fairs and other groups who are holding Century Farms events.

In cooperation with the Land Trust for Tennessee, Brown-Forman and Jack Daniel’s, and Mayfield Dairy, Caneta Hankins participated in planning and made presentations at two events in Lynchburg and Athens. Century Farm owners learned more about conservation easements. Four Century Farms entered agreements with land trusts this year that will protect these properties from development.

Seventy-two farms were certified this year. One African American property, the Matt Gardner Homestead, located in Giles County, was designated a Century Farm. Seven farms founded by African Americans are now documented and a new link takes web site visitors directly to the stories of these farms.

The CHP still produces a twice-yearly newsletter, which also appears in electronic form on the Century Farms web site. Caneta Hankins also made Century Farms presentations at a number of meetings, workshops, and conferences across Tennessee including the East Tennessee Preservation Alliance. In concert with Teaching with Primary Sources Across Tennessee, she developed an article and educational materials on agriculture and teaching with historic farms for the November 2010 newsletter.

**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 and helps it meet its statewide mission. In the past year, Center faculty and staff held workshops and sessions, serving teachers from all nine congressional districts, in Knoxville, Nashville, Murfreesboro, Franklin, Martin, Clarksville, Cookeville, Chattanooga, Memphis, Dyersburg, and Hendersonville.
Following MTSU’s Academic Master Plan, the CHP continues to provide student-centered, experience-based educational opportunities for undergraduate, masters, and Ph.D. students. MTSU students, as documented above, benefit significantly in both their stipends and the experiences they experience through the Center’s many field projects. The Center funded the assistantships and stipends for sixteen graduate students in 2010-11. Its management of the Murfreesboro Heritage Center, which is partnership between the Center, Main Street Murfreesboro, the City of Murfreesboro, and Rutherford County Government, provides a key laboratory for professional 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. Assistant director Caneta Hankins explored the story of Scots-Irish and Irish migration to Tennessee in the late eighteenth century through the study of the 1825 brick house of first generation American Francis Rogan. With CHP guidance and assistance, the house was moved to the Ulster-American Folk Park in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. Staff, students, and alumni were involved in the documentation, research, dismantling, reconstruction, and furnishing of the house, which is scheduled to open at the Folk Park in the late summer of 2011. Additionally, Center staff and students developed a website to tell the saga of the Rogan family and this international project.

Support and assistance to Rosenwald Schools continues to be a priority. The Center’s partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee Preservation Trust brought a much-needed award of $40,000 from the Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation for the restoration of the Durham’s Chapel Rosenwald School in Sumner County. That work is nearing completion with Anne-Leslie Owens, Center manager, serving on the oversight committee and Paul Hoffman, former Center graduate assistant, serving as the project manager. In the West Tennessee community of Milan, Dr. West, Elizabeth Humphreys, graduate assistant Leigh Ann Gardner, and Dr. Mary Hoffschwelle from the MTSU Department of History are working with members of the Polk-Clark Alumni Association to research and write a National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Milan’s historic Rosenwald School, the Polk-Clark School, along with other properties in the county.

Hair Conrad Cabin near Cleveland, one of the Trail of Tears project sites in 2011.

Leigh Ann Gardner and Elizabeth Humphreys work with the community at the Polk-Clark school.

Graduate assistant Amy Kostine spent the 2011 summer working with Dr. West and
state and federal officials on documenting and interpreting Trail of Tears properties throughout Tennessee. Kostine and West are working closely with Bradley County residents, Cherokees, and local officials on the creation of a Hiwassee River greenway and interpretive center.

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. Center websites include the Tennessee Century Farms program, the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, and the Teaching with Primary Sources across Tennessee program.

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. 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.

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.

An excellent example is the current exhibit, “Communities, Competitions, and the University Campus,” timed to coincide with the role of MTSU and Murfreesboro in hosting state championship tournaments in basketball and spring sports as well as the university’s own Centennial celebration in 2011. Sara Beth Gideon of Nashville curated the exhibit as her senior honors thesis, under the direction of Dr. West. The exhibit is the Heritage Center’s contribution to the MTSU Centennial. Center staffers also are involved in the planning committee for the Murfreesboro Bicentennial and the statewide committee planning for the War of 1812.
bicentennial.

The Center prides itself in creating a research culture that involves faculty, staff, undergraduates from multiple disciplines. 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 Knoxville, Nashville, and St. Louis.

The Center director also directed to completion the Ph.D. degree of Susan Knowles. The Center provided financial aid and research assistance to six 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 and directed four theses to completion.

Faculty and Staff of the Center for Historic Preservation, 2010-2011
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 Moore Humphreys
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 and Fellows
Jane Davis, Kristen Baldwin Deathridge, Abby Gautreau, Spurgeon King, Susan Knowles, Katie O’Bryan, Sade Turnipseed

M.A. Graduate Assistants
Jessica Bandel, Hallie Fieser, Leigh Ann Gardner, Catherine Hawkins, Amy Kostine, Cheri LaFlamme, Brian Manifold, Lauren Pate, Katie Randall, Sara Rieger, Jessica White

Undergraduate Assistant:
Sara Beth Gideon

In the spring, the Center began working with Memphis East High School teacher Mark Scott and his students on an exhibit about the President’s Island School House. Here is a great opportunity to link MTSU graduate students with the state’s high schools in a heritage project.
Center for Historic Preservation Benchmarks, 2010-11

Peer-Reviewed Books, Articles, Chapters


Major Research Reports, National Register Nominations, Exhibits


Gideon, Sara Beth, Carroll Van West, and Jennifer Butt. “Competitions at MTSU: A Community Legacy” Exhibit. The Heritage Center, Murfreesboro, TN.


Hankins, Caneta S., Sara Rieger, Katie Rosta, Mandi Pitt, Kristen O’Hare, and Brigitte Eubank, “Franklin Cemeteries Project and Preservation Plan: Old City Cemetery and Rest Haven.” Prepared for the City of Franklin, December 2010.


West, Carroll Van and Anne-Leslie Owens. “History Wall at Middle Tennessee Medical Center” Exhibit. October 2010.


Published Book Reviews


Professional Papers, Presentations, and Workshops


**Teaching curricula and workshops**

and Memphis, October 2010; Greeneville, November 2010; Dyersburg, January 2011; Nashville, April 2011.


**Professional Recognition**

**Duke, Kira**

Tennessee Council for History Education, Board Member.

**Hankins, Caneta S.**

National Trust of Northern Ireland, Ulster-American Folk Park, County Tyrone. Rogana project reviewer.
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**

American Studies Association, Kentucky-Tennessee Chapter, Program Chair and Vice President.
American Studies Association, Kentucky-Tennessee Chapter, President.

**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
Mississippi River Natural and Recreational Corridor: Board Member
Centennial Park Planning Committee, Nashville. Member and presenter at public meetings.
Tennessee Newspaper Digitalization Project. Advisory Committee Member.
University of Tennessee Press: Advisory Board Member
Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association: Advisory Board Member
FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS, GIFTS, GRANTS, CONTRACT AWARDS
AND OTHER SUBSIDIES
JULY 1, 2010 TO JUNE 30, 2011

I. State Appropriations
   General Assembly Appropriation $177,300.00

II. Federal Appropriations
   Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, National Park Service $448,000.00
   Teaching with Primary Sources, Library of Congress $200,000.00

III. Non-Profits, Business
   Gustafson, Guthrie, Nichol, Seattle $ 4,200.00
   Fort Donelson National Military Park $ 3,000.00

IV. Private Gifts $ 8,266.70

TOTAL $840,766.70