Photos: (clockwise from top right) Graduate assistant Sara Beth Gideon assembles Murfreesboro postcard exhibit at Heritage Center; Center projects coordinator Elizabeth Humphreys and graduate assistant Cassie Bennett with community members at Creek Stand AME Zion Church Cemetery in Macon Co, Alabama; General Longstreet Museum in Hamblen Co; Tennessee Civil War Trails marker at Rippavilla in Maury Co; and Cassie Bennett, Center programs manager Anne-Leslie Owens, and graduate assistant Leigh Ann Gardner meet with community members at Ransom Cemetery in Carroll Co.
Origins and Background

The Center for Historic Preservation 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 Center 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 Center initiatives to substantially enhance the effectiveness of statewide Civil War preservation and heritage tourism 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.

Goals and Mission

The Center for Historic Preservation strives to be a national leader in heritage development--the identification, research, preservation, interpretation, and promotion--of our historic environment. To contribute to MTSU’s and TBR/THEC’s commitment to student learning, community engagement, and research excellence, the Center provides:

- Academic Leadership that is research-grounded and student-focused
- Heritage Projects that are partnership-based and community-centered
- Heritage Tourism opportunities at the local and state levels

Center projects coordinator Elizabeth Humphreys leads a graduate student team in fieldwork in Rosemark, TN (Shelby Co).
Academic Leadership

A leader in graduate education at MTSU for a generation, the Center for Historic Preservation provides critical infrastructure for the Ph.D. in Public History and the M.A. program.

- Resources and funding support 7-8 PhD students and 12-14 M.A. students.
- Faculty currently direct 11 PhD students as dissertation committee chair.
- Faculty currently direct 9 MA students as thesis committee chair.
- Faculty annually teach four graduate seminars plus specialized research projects.
- Center research and projects involve students at all levels.
- Center director taught University of Virginia’s Southern History and Material Culture graduate seminar at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts at Old Salem, NC, to extend Center’s professional networks and recruitment.
- Center professional network and staff directly assist recruitment, placement, and professional development of graduate students.

2011-12 Ph.D. Graduate Assistants and Fellows
Amber Clawson, College of Charleston
Jane Davis, University of Tennessee
Kristen Baldwin Deathridge, Redding University (UK)
Rebecca Duke, Jacksonville State University
Jessica French, Long Island University
Abby Gautreau, Oxford University (UK)
Katie O’Bryan, Middle Tennessee State University
Sade Turnipseed, Golden Gate University
Susan Knowles, Vanderbilt University, MTSU (Fellow)

2011-12 M.A. Graduate Assistants:
Ashley Armstrong, University of Alabama
Jessica Bandel, Austin Peay State University
Cassie Bennett, S.F. Austin State University
Leigh Ann Gardner, Mississippi Univ. for Women
Sara Beth Gideon, MTSU
Savannah Grandey, MTSU
Allison Hoskins, Trevecca University
Amy Kostine, LeMoyne University (NY)
Jeff McRiffey, MTSU
Katie Randall, Univ. of Alabama, Birmingham
David Sprouse, MTSU
Julie Warwick, Austin Peay State University
Jessica White, MTSU
The Center’s research culture is rich and varied. All faculty, staff, and graduate students are expected to be active scholars, both independently and collaboratively on multiple projects.

- Editorial team for *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*, an online publication of the University of Tennessee Press and the Tennessee Historical Society.

- *Tennessee and the Civil War: An Anthology* by Dr. Carroll Van West published by TN Historical Society

- *The Civil War in Appalachia: An Anthology* by Dr. Spurgeon King published by TN Historical Society

- Shades of Gray and Blue website (civilwarshades.org) goes public as a partnership with Vanderbilt University Libraries and the MTSU Walker Library.

- Dr. Antoinette van Zelm presented new research at the 9th Southern Conference on Women’s History in Fort Worth, TX, and at the Society of Civil War Historians conference, in Lexington, KY.

- Anne-Leslie Owens spoke on “Rosenwald Schools as Heritage Partnerships in Tennessee” at the National Rosenwald School Conference at Tuskegee University.

- Center faculty peer reviewed book manuscripts for possible publication for the university presses of Georgia Press, Kentucky, Kent State, and Tennessee.

- Dr. Stacey Graham published a chapter on “The Transmission of North African Texts to Europe” in the book *Medieval Manuscripts, Their Makers and Users*.

- Caneta Hankins presented research on the Rogan Family and House at the Ulster American Folk Park in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

A valuable partnership with the educational outreach program of the Library of Congress allows the Center to extend its research and education expertise to teachers across Tennessee. Teaching with Primary Sources Across Tennessee is an affiliate program of the Library of Congress led by Dr. Stacey Graham, education specialist Kira Duke, and Dr. Antoinette van Zelm who work with graduate assistant Ashley Armstrong to conduct multiple teacher workshops throughout the state, maintain a program website, publish teacher lesson plans and learning activities, and offer distance learning opportunities through MTSU’s webcast series. Dr. Van West serves on the Library of Congress’ program advisory board.

The Shades of Gray and Blue website explores the daily life of Civil War Tennessee.

Polk Clark High School Alumni Association (Gibson County) with Center programs manager Anne-Leslie Owens at National Rosenwald School Conference at Tuskegee University.

Teaching with Primary Sources Across Tennessee War of 1812 workshop, part of Tennessee War of 1812 Symposium events in Nashville.
Heritage Projects

The Center strives to assist property owners, groups and officials to identify and use their heritage assets for community and institutional development, often through the strategies of adaptive reuse and heritage tourism. Each project gives MTSU students practical on-the-job training and resume-building experiences.

- For the Tennessee Historical Commission, historic structure reports were prepared for Sabine Hill (Carter County), Tipton-Haynes House (Washington County), and Hawthorne Hill (Sumner County).

- For the Tennessee Preservation Trust and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Center’s Anne-Leslie Owens served as contract manager for a much-needed restoration of the Durham’s Chapel Rosenwald School (Sumner County) with $40,000 from the Lowe’s Charitable and Educational Foundation. Paul Hoffman, Center M.A. student, served as the project manager.

- Led by projects coordinator Elizabeth Humphreys working with property owners, the Center worked to nominate the Polk-Clark School (Gibson County), Oak Hill Farm (Tipton County), Washington-Miller House (Maury County), Allendale Farm (Montgomery County) and American Baptist College (Davidson County) to the National Register of Historic Places.

- For Alabama Historical Commission, the Center prepared the Skyline Farms (Jackson County) National Register of Historic Places multiple property nomination and listed the Five Points historic district and Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville to the National Register.

- The Tennessee Century Farms program, led by assistant director Caneta Hankins, now contains nearly 1500 certified Century Farms, with each of the 95 counties represented. The Center-supported Tennessee Farmland Legacy Partnership (TFLP) received the 2011 Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Award at ceremonies at the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

- Led by preservation specialist Michael T. Gavin and Drs. Van West and Spurgeon King, the Center’s Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area provided guidance and assistance to Civil War sites across Tennessee, such as the Eastern Flank Battlefield of Franklin (Williamson County), the Douglass-Clark House (Sumner County), the Doe Creek School (Henderson County), Port Royal State Park (Robertson County).

Sabine Hill (Carter Co), a state-owned historic site, was the focus of a historic structures report.

Walter L. and Sarah Jordan are owners of the Willow Run Century Farm (Williamson Co).

Heritage Area’s preservation specialist Michael Gavin advises on the restoration of Dunbar’s Keeton Store (Decatur Co).
Heritage Tourism

The Center for Historic Preservation works in close alliance with the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development and its Commissioner Susan Whitaker to assist statewide efforts of building and extending the state’s tourism industry.

The 2011-12 Tennessee Tourism Roadmap, produced by the Department of Tourist Development, acknowledges that the “unique partnership” between Tourist Development and the Center “continues to position Tennessee as a nationally recognized leader in cultural and historical travel.” As the report emphasizes, “Tennessee visitors are twice as likely than the U.S. average to visit a historic site during their trip.”

- The Center-managed Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area is a foundation for the state’s Civil War sesquicentennial programming and tourism efforts.
- The Heritage Area partnered with the Civil War 150th Commission, Tennessee Tourist Development and the National Park Service to produce the 150th Commemoration of the Battle of Shiloh at Pickwick Landing State Park in April 2012.
- Heritage Area preservation specialist Michael T. Gavin and Dr. West research, write, and support the individual markers for the Tennessee Civil War Trail program, which now numbers over 230 markers statewide.
- Dr. Van West has worked with Tourist Development and the State Building Commission to produce research and text for a series of permanent Civil War tourism exhibits at the state’s interstate welcome centers.
- Through its Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area program, the Center provides research and technical service to Tourist Development’s management of the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and its award-winning Trails and Byways program.

Tennessee Civil War mobile phone app.
• Tennessee Tourism Roundtable awarded Dr. Van West its Wiley Oakley Award for his support and achievement in Tennessee heritage tourism at the Governor’s Tourism Conference in Memphis.

• Three M.A. students, Layton Carr, David Calease, and Keith Schlummann, worked with Dr. West and MTSU Creative Services to produce the first statewide educational and tourism guide to Tennessee’s War of 1812 story, as part of the commemoration of the War of 1812 bicentennial.

• The Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, led by Heritage Area staff Jennifer Butt, continues as a key destination for heritage tourism in downtown Murfreesboro and developed a special exhibit on historic Murfreesboro postcards, from the W. Ridley Wills Collection, for the city’s bicentennial.

• For Montana Preservation Alliance, Dr. Van West undertook the first field study of the state’s heritage assets in almost 30 years, beginning with Southwest Montana.

Faculty and Staff of the Center for Historic Preservation, 2011-2012
Director: Dr. Carroll Van West
Assistant Director: Caneta S. Hankins
Research Professor: Dr. Stacey R. Graham
Heritage Area Associate Director: Dr. Spurgeon King
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
Education Specialist: Kira Duke
Executive Aide: Cindy Duke
Secretary: Ann Hendrix, Sarah Jane Murray

Center assistant director Caneta S. Hankins in Northern Ireland for her presentation about the Rogan House’s relocation from Sumner Co to the Ulster American Folk Park.
Benchmarks

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Books:

Chapters:

Articles:

Reviews:

Major Research Reports, National Register Nomination, Exhibits


West, Carroll Van, Elizabeth Humphreys and CHP Graduate Assistants. “Skyline Farms National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Nomination.” Alabama Historical Commission, Montgomery.


Professional Papers and Presentations


Teacher Curricula & Workshops


Professional Recognition

Butt, Jennifer

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

Gavin, Michael T.
Sumner County Mayor’s Office, Tennessee; Douglass-Clark House Advisory Committee Member.

Holder, Laura S.
Member, Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.
Humphreys, Elizabeth M.
Southeast Society of Architectural Historians: Best of the South Award Committee Member.

Hankins, Caneta S.
National Museums of Northern Ireland, Ulster-American Folk Park, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland: Rogana Project Advisor.
Tennessee’s Downtowns: Tennessee Main Street Program Application Reviewer.
Tennessee Farmland Legacy Partnership- the recipient of the Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Award, 2011; Center representative.

Owens, Anne-Leslie
National Trust for Historic Preservation/Tennessee Preservation Trust: Durham’s Chapel Rosenwald Project Advisor.
City of Murfreesboro Bicentennial Celebration: Steering Committee Member.

van Zelm, Antoinette G.
H-SAWH Reviews: Book Review Editor.
H-Net Reviews: Publications Committee Member.

West, Carroll Van
Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission: Co-Chair
National Trust for Historic Preservation: National Board of Advisors
Library of Congress: Teaching with Primary Sources National Advisory Board
Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska: Associate Fellow
Resident Scholar, Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts/ University of Virginia Summer Institute, Winston-Salem, NC