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COMMON BOND: A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2026

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Annual Report, 2025-2026

The Center for Historic Preservation
Middle Tennessee State University



Figure 1: Center Staff at Dr. Carroll Van West's Retirement Reception, June 2026. Courtesy of James Cessna, MTSU Creative and Visual Services.

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Annual Report

The Center has been full of activity this Fall with lots of new students and exciting projects. We take a moment to reflect on the previous year with our annual report for 2025-2026. Highlights include the excellent contributions of our graduate research assistants to a variety of projects, including a heritage development plan for Seay's Chapel School in Wilson County, a history and preservation assessment of the Lytle Cemetery in Rutherford County, and research for new interpretive signage related to the Trail of Tears at the Brainerd Mission Cemetery in Hamilton County and Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. The Teaching with Primary Sources Southern Region funded seventeen projects in seven states and held its first regional conference in Nashville. Several staff members took part in 250th commemoration activities throughout the state. Before retiring in June, Dr. Carroll Van West published two new books, one on the World War II home front and one on Tennessee's oldest Century Farms!

Please feel free to contact us at any time at histpres@mtsu.edu. And be sure to check out our Facebook and Instagram pages.

We will be back in touch in January with our Winter 2027 newsletter in the standard format, including our popular Formers' Corner video feature.

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