Newsletter of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians

Spring 2008
Vol. 25 No. 1

SESAH News

2007 SESAH AWARD WINNERS

The Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (SESAH) announced the **2007 SESAH Award Winners** at the 25th Annual SESAH Business Meeting held in Nashville, Tennessee, on October 26, 2007.

The **2007 Best Essay Award** was presented to **Robert M. Craig** for "Pilgrimage Route to Paradise: The Sacred and Profane along the Dixie Highway," in Claudette Stager and Martha Carver, eds., *Looking Beyond the Highway: Dixie Roads and Culture* (University of Tennessee Press, 2006). Craig is a professor of architecture at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

The **2007 Best Article Award** was presented to **Clifton Ellis** for "The Mansion House at Berry Hill Plantation: Architecture and the Changing Nature of Slavery in Antebellum Virginia," in *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* (Volume 13, No. 1, 2006). Ellis is Assistant Professor of Architectural History at Texas Tech University.

The **2007 Best Book Award** honored **Mary Hoffschwelle** for *The Rosenwald Schools of the American South* (University Press of Florida, 2006). Hoffschwelle is a Professor of History at Middle Tennessee State University.

The **2007 Best of the South: Preserving Southern Architecture** award went to **McMillan Smith & Partners Architects,** of Spartanburg, South Carolina, for the restoration of **Walker Hall** at the **South Carolina School for the Deaf & the Blind** located near Spartanburg, South Carolina. Architect Donnie Love accepted the award. The original 1859 section of Walker Hall, the centerpiece of the campus, was designed by architect Edward C. Jones of Charleston, South Carolina. It was expanded by architects Samuel Sloan (1884) of Philadelphia and Edwards & Sayward (1921) of Atlanta.

Built in stages from 1859 to 1921, the nearly 70,000-square foot Walker Hall recently underwent an exemplary $12.5 million restoration. Photo courtesy SCSDB.

SAVE THE DATE!

26th SESAH Annual Meeting
Greensboro, North Carolina
October 1-4, 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It was an honor to accept the trowel—emblem of the SESAH presidency—from David Gobel at our meeting in Nashville. SESAH is a uniquely wonderful organization, as you all know, and I'm delighted to serve as its president.

Every year I appreciate more strongly SESAH's special combination of stimulating intellectual collegiality with gracious friendliness, which makes each meeting not only a learning experience but an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

The year 2008 opens with an opportunity to thank some of those who have made important contributions, and with the prospect of exciting things to come.

We owe special thanks to three editors who have just completed highly productive terms. Anat Geva and Nancy Volkman of Texas A&M have ably edited our journal, *Arris*.

The journal is our chief scholarly publication, and its quality reflects its excellent editors - as well as the authors who submit fine work, and the generous support of the "anonymous donor" who has enabled us to publish a journal with such high production values.

We are also immensely grateful to newsletter editor Julia King, who has assembled a wealth of valuable information for the newsletter and, with the help of Pamela Simpson at Washington & Lee, produced it regularly and efficiently.

As many of us know first-hand, the SESAH meeting in Nashville—the celebration of our 25th annual meeting!—was simply fabulous. Thanks to Robbie Jones, T. K. Davis, and Tara Mielnik, and others, this was an extraordinary event made even more memorable by learning about this dynamic city through its civic leaders.

The only "complaints" came from future meeting hosts who don't want to have to live up to the Nashville example. Comfortingly, this was billed as a special 25th anniversary extravaganza.

We also have fine prospects. Robbie Jones has moved from conference coordinating to editing the *SESAH Newsletter*. Look forward to lots of news—and be sure to send him news as well. Robbie and our Vice President, Michael Fazio, will also be exploring new uses of the Internet in our communications.

Stephen James of the University of Houston, who has taken the helm as editor of *Arris*, reports that he has already received inquiries and submissions from interested authors. Thanks to Stephen and to the University of Houston for financial support of some of the production costs.

We are fortunate to have planning afoot for future SESAH meetings. During the first week of October 2008, Lisa Tolbert and her colleagues at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro will welcome you to the Carolina Piedmont. A call for papers appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

And in the meantime, SESAH members are planning meetings in Jackson, Mississippi (2009) and Chattanooga, Tennessee (2010), and there are good prospects for subsequent years.

Finally, an initiative for 2008, headed up by Rob Craig, will establish a special endowment to assure that SESAH can continue to publish *Arris* at its high standard, provide student scholarships, and undertake other works. Stay tuned for news on this endeavor.

I am looking forward to all these things, and especially to working with many of you, learning a lot, and making new friends. Keep in touch!

Catherine Bishir
Raleigh, North Carolina

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Ruth Little of Raleigh, North Carolina, received her master's degree in art history from Brown University, and her doctoral degree in art history and folklore from UNC-Chapel Hill. She has documented North Carolina architectural history since the 1970s for the NC-SHPO and as a private consultant. Since 1990 she has operated a private consulting firm, Longleaf Historic Resources. Dr. Little has taught at NC State University, Meredith College, and UNC-Greensboro. Her books include *Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers; Coastal Plain and Fancy: The Historic Architecture of Lenoir County and Kinston, North Carolina;* and *The Town and Gown Architecture of Chapel Hill, North Carolina.*

Gavin Townsend is a Professor of Art History at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. After receiving his BA from Hamilton College in Clinton, NY, he completed his graduate work at UC-Santa Barbara, where he earned both his MA and Ph.D. in architectural history. He has contributed essays in such journals as *Arris*, *Art Papers*, *The Winterthur Portfolio*, the *MacMillan Dictionary of Art*, and chapters in such volumes as *Long Island Estates and Their Architects* and *A History of Tennessee Arts: Creating Traditions, Expanding Horizons*. Dr. Townsend is former director of the Honors Program at UTC and current President of the Faculty Senate. He is a long-time member of the Tennessee State Review Board.

FROM THE EDITOR

It is a great honor to succeed Dr. Julia King as Editor of the *SESAH Newsletter*. Julia has done a remarkable job with the *Newsletter* and leaves me with big shoes to fill! As you've undoubtedly noticed, we are making minor format changes in the print newsletter and we will start adding additional information to the website. And, we hope to supplement the *Newsletter* with an E-News in the future. Please feel free to offer suggestions and send me news that you'd like to see included. Remember, it's your *Newsletter*, so let us know what you think!

Robbie D. Jones
Editor, *SESAH Newsletter*
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Nashville, TN 37138
robbiejones4@comcast.net

Send editorial correspondence and submissions for publication to the *SESAH Newsletter* editor. Deadline for submission of material for the Summer 2008 issue is April 15, 2008. Contact the editor about format preference.

The *SESAH Newsletter* has been published three times yearly since 1983. Visit www.sesah.org to upload recent issues of the *SESAH Newsletter*.

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SESAH OFFICERS

PRESIDENT (2009)
Catherine Bishir, NC State

PAST PRESIDENT (2008)
David Gobel, SCAD

VICE PRESIDENT (2009)
Michael Fazio, Mississippi State Univ.

SECRETARY (2008)
David Sachs, Kansas State Univ.

TREASURER (2008)
Robert M. Craig, Georgia Tech

NEWSLETTER EDITOR (2010)
Robbie Jones, The Hermitage, TN

WEB WEAVER (2008)
Mikesch Muecke, Iowa State Univ.

ARRIS EDITOR (2010)
Stephen James, Univ. of Houston

PROGRAM DIRECTOR (2008)
Lisa C. Tolbert, UNC-Greensboro

PRESERVATION OFFICER
Travis McDonald, Poplar Forest, VA

STATE REPRESENTATIVES:

Alabama (2008)
Philippe Oszuscik, U. of South Alabama

Arkansas (2008)
Kim Sexton, Univ. of Arkansas

Florida (2009)
Paul Sprague, Univ. of Florida

Georgia (2009)
Daves Rossell, SCAD

Kentucky (2009)
Julia Smyth-Pinney, Univ. of Kentucky

Louisiana (2010)
Ellen Weiss, Tulane University

Mississippi (2010)
David Lewis, Mississippi State Univ.

North Carolina (2010)
Ruth Little, Longleaf Historic Resources

South Carolina (2008)
Andrew W. Chandler, SC Archives

Tennessee (2008)
Gavin Townsend, UT-Chattanooga

Texas (2009)
Stephen James, Univ. of Houston

Virginia (2010)
Richard G. Wilson, Univ. of Virginia

At-Large (2009)
Sara Butler, Roger Williams Univ.

old south...

...new south

southeast chapter of the society of architectural historians annual meeting
greensboro, north carolina : 1-4 october 2008

The Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (SESAH) will hold its 26th Annual Meeting in Greensboro, NC during the first week in October 2008. Conference participants will explore landscapes and buildings that document the diverse history of the piedmont. Greensboro, North Carolina celebrates its bicentennial year in 2008.

Conference co-hosts
UNCG Department of History
UNCG Department of Interior Architecture
Preservation Greensboro, Inc.

Paper submission inquiries: Ruth Little, ruthlittle@mindspring.com
Questions about the annual meeting in Greensboro: Lisa Tolbert, lctolber@uncg.edu
Information on-line: www.uncg.edu/~pllucas/sesah.html

The 2008 SESAH host committee invites abstracts for individual papers or proposals for session panels consisting of three papers and a chair. Papers and sessions may focus on the general conference theme of Old South/New South. However, in keeping with SESAH tradition, paper abstracts and session proposals may address any aspect of the history of the built environment, as well as any geographical region, historical period, or international context.

Individual proposal requirements :
300-word abstract clearly labeled with the applicant's name, professional affiliation, contact information, and the title of the proposed paper; a brief c.v.

Session panel proposal requirements :
title of the session, 300-word abstracts of all three papers, the names, professional affiliations, brief c.v.'s, and contact information of all panel participants.

Send all materials as PDF or MS Word attachments by 1 April 2008 to : Ruth Little, Longleaf Historic Resources, 2312 Bedford Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27607, or ruthlittle@mindspring.com.

2008 SESAH Annual Meeting highlights : *plenary sessions by* ***Dr. Louis Nelson*** *(Associate Professor of architectural history, University of Virginia) and* ***Dr. Thomas Hanchett*** *(historian, Levine Museum of the New South, Charlotte); a business lunch meeting and awards ceremony; two Old South/New South receptions (at antebellum Historic Blandwood, designed by Alexander Jackson Davis, and at a mid-century modern house designed by Greensboro architect Edward Loewenstein); two Optional Study Tours on Saturday, 4 October, (Quaker Piedmont/mill villages or Caswell County tobacco plantation landscapes featuring architectural finish work of free black cabinetmaker Thomas Day).*

Digital presentations strongly encouraged.
Applicants will be notified of acceptance by 1 May 2008.
For accepted proposals, complete text due to session chair no later than 1 September 2008.
All presenters must be current SESAH members by the meeting date, must register for the conference, and must give their papers in person.
SESAH reserves the right to drop presenters who do not fulfill requirements and deadlines.

Discounts for students and for pre-registration by 2 September 2008.

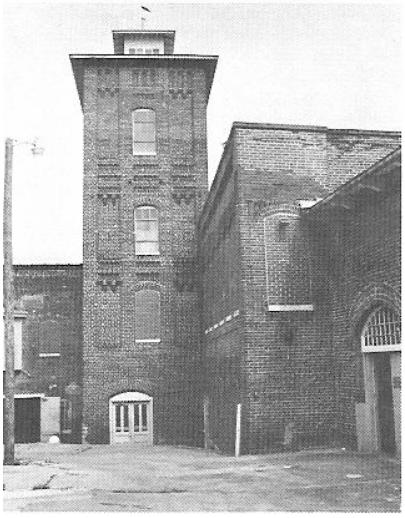
SESAH offers a limited number of travel grants to help graduate students attend the meeting to deliver papers. If you are a graduate student, identify yourself as such in your submission; you will be sent a travel grant application if your paper is selected.

Visit www.sesah.org for more information

26th SESAH Annual Meeting
Greensboro, North Carolina
"Old South….New South"
October 1-4, 2008

Blandwood (1795-1846), Greensboro.

Caswell County Courthouse (1859-1861), Yanceyville.



Oakdale Cotton Mill, Jamestown.

Edward Lowenstein House, Greensboro.

Sit-In: Woolworth lunch counter, 1960.

Photos courtesy UNC-Greensboro.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

2008 SESAH PUBLICATIONS

SESAH is seeking nominations for the 2008 Publication Awards. The three categories are books, journal articles, and essays published in book format. The copyright should be no earlier than 2006. The awards are for publications either on the topic of architecture in the South, or by authors who reside in the South (defined as SESAH member states).

An article or essay should be copied in triplicate and include complete bibliographic information. Book titles must include full bibliographical information.

Send submissions to Marilyn Casto, School of Architecture + Design, 201 Cowgill Hall (0205), Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061. Questions: (540) 231-3687 or mcasto@vt.edu. The deadline for submissions is **May 1, 2008**.

2008 BEST OF THE SOUTH
PRESERVING SOUTHERN ARCHITECTURE

SESAH seeks nominations for the **Best of the South: Preserving Southern Architecture Award**. This annual award honors a project that preserves or restores an historic building, or complex of buildings, in an outstanding manner and that demonstrates excellence in research, technique, and documentation. Projects in the twelve-state region of SESAH that were completed in 2006 or 2007 are eligible.

Nominations should consist of no more than two typed pages of description, and be accompanied by hard copy illustrations and any other supporting material. A cover letter should identify the owner of the project, the use of the building(s), and the names of all the major participants of the project.

Send four (4) copies to Jennifer Baughn, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 100 S. State Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Questions: 601-576-6940 or jbaughn@mdah.state.ms.us. The deadline for submissions is **June 30, 2008**.

Winners will be announced at the 26th SESAH Annual Meeting in Greensboro in October.

MEMBERS NEWS

Jennifer Baughn of Jackson, Mississippi, was promoted to Chief Architectural Historian at the Mississippi Department of Archives & History.

Catherine Bishir of Raleigh, North Carolina, has been designated an honorary member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) "in recognition of her distinguished service to the profession of architecture and the allied arts and sciences." Catherine is Curator in Architecture Special Collections at North Carolina State University. Honorary membership is one of the highest honors presented to non-architects by the AIA. This year, just seven individuals will be granted the title of Honorary AIA. The award will be presented in Boston on May 15, 2008.

Robbie D. Jones of Nashville, Tennessee, along with the Tennessee Department of Transportation received 2007 "History in the Media" awards from Knoxville's East Tennessee Historical Society for "Henley Street Bridge: History of an East Tennessee Landmark."

E.G. Daves Rossell of Savannah, Georgia, and Marisa C. Gomez, co-edited a 520-page guidebook for the 2007 VAF Conference held in Savannah with the theme of "Savannah and the Low Country." Daves was the conference chair and is director for The Savannah and the Lowcountry Initiative, which evolved from the conference planning. Contact Daves to purchase a copy of the guidebook.

Martha Carver and **Claudette Stager**, both of Nashville, Tennessee, won the 2007 Allen G. Noble Book Award from the Pioneer America Society for *Looking Beyond the Highway: Dixie Roads and Culture* (University of Tennessee Press, 2006). This award is for the best edited book in the field of North American material culture. Several SESAH members contributed articles in this book.

Send your Member News to the Editor.

2007 SESAH Student Travel Grant Winners

Jason T. Fox, University of Virginia
Julianne P. Sandlin, Florida State University
Daniel Vivian, Johns Hopkins University

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Organization of American Historians
2008 Annual Conference
New York, New York
March 28-31, 2008
www.oah.org

Congress for the New Urbanism XVI
Austin, Texas
April 4-6, 2008
www.cnu.org

National Council on Public History
2008 Annual Meeting
Louisville, Kentucky
April 10-12, 2008
www.ncph.org

3rd Annual Virginia Forum
University of Mary Washington
Fredericksburg, Virginia
April 11-12, 2008
www.virginiaforum.org

Society of Architectural Historians
61st Annual Meeting
Cincinnati, Ohio
April 23-27, 2008
www.sah.org

American Association of Museums
2008 Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo™
Denver, Colorado
April 27-May 1, 2008
www.aam-us.org

American Planning Association
2008 National Conference
Las Vegas, Nevada
April 27-May 1, 2008
www.planning.org

Vernacular Architecture Forum
Annual Meeting
Fresno, California
May 7-10, 2008
www.vernaculararchitectureforum.org

Send your Event Calendar announcements to:
Robbie D. Jones: robbiejones4@comcast.net

American Association for State & Local History
2008 Annual Meeting
Rochester, New York
September 8-11, 2008
www.aaslh.org

Society of Commercial Archeology
Conference
Albuquerque, New Mexico
September 11-14, 2008
www.sca-roadside.org

2008 Southeastern College Art Conference
New Orleans, Louisiana
September 24-27, 2008
www.unc.edu/~rfrew/SECAC/annual_conference.html

26th SESAH Annual Meeting
Greensboro, North Carolina
October 1-4, 2008
www.sesah.org

American Society of Landscape Architects
2008 Annual Meetings
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
October 3-7, 2008
www.asla.org

Pioneer America Society: Association for the Preservation of Artifacts & Landscapes
40th Annual Meeting
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
October 16-18, 2008
www.pioneeramerica.org

American Studies Association Meeting
2008 Annual Meeting
Albuquerque, New Mexico
October 16-19, 2008
www.theasa.net

National Preservation Conference 2008
Tulsa, Oklahoma
October 21-25, 2008
www.nationaltrust.org

12th Annual Salve Regina University Conference on Cultural & Historic Preservation
Newport, Rhode Island
October 23-25, 2008

NEW MEMBERS - 2007

Martha Akins, Castalian Springs, TN
Brian Beadles, Nashville, TN
Brian Bowen, Atlanta, GA
Hillary Bryon, Lexington, KY
Christina Carbone, Louisville, KY
Martha Carver, Nashville, TN
Sarah Meacham Clark, Richmond, VA
Rebecca Crew, Baltimore, MD
Patricia Deveau, Atlanta, GA
Jeffrey Dishner, Greenville, SC
John Dumsick, Washington, DC
Maria Emanuelli, Austin, TX
Jason T. Fox, Charlottesville, VA
Donald Friedman, New York, NY
Richard Funderburke, Decatur, GA
Michael Hagge, Memphis, TN
Jillian Kaup, Washington, DC
Patrick Keenoy, St. Louis, MO
Lannie E. Kittrell, Charleston, SC
Susan Knowles, Nashville, TN
Jim Lutz, Memphis, TN
Ely Merheb, Washington, DC
Naim Merheb, Austin, TX
Tara Mitchell Mielnik, Nashville, TN
Scarlett Miles, Nashville, TN
Dana Moody, Chattanooga, TN
Anne Leslie-Owens, Murfreesboro, TN
Sarah Pennock, Washington, DC
Judith Robinson, Washington, DC
Michael Robinson, Auburn, AL
Karen Rogers, Auburn, AL
Ben Ross, Lafayette, IN
Linda Cain Ruth, Auburn, AL
Julianne Sandlin, Tallahassee, FL
Blythe Semmer, Arlington, VA
Jonna Shaffor, TN
Leslie Sharp, Atlanta, GA
Susannah Shumate, Nashville, TN
Claudette Stager, Nashville, TN
Renee Tavares, Jackson, TN
Susan Tietz, Jackson, MS
Nathaniel Walker, Charlottesville, VA
Carroll Van West, Murfreesboro, TN
Catherine Wheeler, Coral Gables, FL

SESAH Plans Endowment Campaign

At October meeting in Nashville, the SESAH Board of Directors approved the establishment of a SESAH endowment, intended to provide for the long-term security of the society in fulfillment of its important mission in the region. As our Constitution states, SESAH is "dedicated to the promotion of scholarship on architecture and related subjects and to an interchange of ideas among architectural historians, architects, preservationists, and others involved in professions relating to the built environment."

The Board focused on two scholarly programs, whose costs will increase over time: the publication of *ARRIS* and the support of student travel grants for students giving papers at the Annual Meeting. Further information will be forthcoming, including how members and friends of SESAH may contribute to the endowment campaign. The decision to establish the endowment, on the occasion of our 25th anniversary, is something to celebrate.

The President appointed an endowment committee, comprising Rob Craig, Chair, Catherine Bishir, David Gobel, David Sachs, and two long-time members of the society, John Schnorrenberg and Julia Smyth-Pinney. This committee will develop goals and guidelines for the endowment.

The society welcomes donations at any time. SESAH is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. We encourage you to contact the Treasurer to make gifts at any time, large or small. Consult your tax advisers to learn how such gifts might affect your tax situation. Soon, you will hear more news about the new SESAH endowment, whose goal is to provide for key SESAH programs in perpetuity. And *that* is exciting news!

Robert M. Craig
Atlanta, Georgia

Special Thanks!

SESAH would like to recognize a special friend, who wishes to remain anonymous, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of his/her donations to the society.

Thanks to the donor's generosity and longtime support of the mission and goals of the society, SESAH has been aided substantially in three areas: the publication of our annual scholarly journal *Arris*, the publication of abstracts of our Annual Meeting papers, and the initiation of SESAH's annual program of Student Travel Grants supporting young scholars delivering papers at the Annual Meeting.

On October 24, 2007, the SESAH Board of Directors passed a Resolution wishing to "express the sincere gratitude of the society for the generosity of spirit, the intelligent quiet leadership, and the humility of its friend and anonymous benefactor."

25th SESAH ANNUAL MEETING
Nashville, Tennessee
October 24-27, 2007

For twenty four years SESAH has never had a disappointing annual meeting; so it might be unfair to claim that the silver anniversary meeting was the best. Even so, few would disagree that the Nashville meeting exceeded our expectations. The host committee of Robbie Jones, Tara Mielnik, and T.K. Davis and many volunteers must be commended for their dedication, tireless work, and ingenuity.

This annual meeting attracted a record number of 105 participants. Our group travelled from twenty states from Rhode Island to Texas and all points in between as well as Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico.

Our twenty-fifth meeting was a meeting of firsts. At the registration table we were given "goody bags" donated by HGTV, filled with souvenirs including a handsome anniversary coffee mug, SESAH's first official coffee mug (a few mugs are still available; contact Robbie Jones to order one).

At the opening plenary session, held in the downtown Public Library, we were warmly greeted by Karl Dean, Nashville's newly elected mayor; T.K. Davis gave us an excellent summary of the Civic Design Center's renowned "Plan of Nashville"; and then, to everyone's delight, we were treated to some live country music, an enjoyable "first."

This was also our first meeting to focus on a theme: "Urban Planning in the New South," a topic that was reinforced by the involvement of the Nashville Civic Design Center, by several of the paper sessions, tours, and the keynote address by Columbia University Professor Kenneth Jackson, entitled, "A Tale of Four Cities: New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville and Houston in the 20th Century."

The expert and gracious participation of community leaders such as Christine Kreyling, local architecture critic; Ann Roberts, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Historical Commission; and Marsha Mullin, VP of Museum Services at The Hermitage, added much to our experience.

At the business meeting we celebrated SESAH's own history and achievements. In the plenary and paper sessions we were challenged intellectually. On the tours we were allowed to feel the pulse of twenty-first century Nashville.

During all of this we enjoyed the fellowship and camaraderie that makes SESAH such a vigorous and gracious academic society.

David Gobel
Savannah, Georgia

SESAH group touring the Tennessee State Capitol.

Ben Ross, Catherine Bishir, David Gobel, and Rebecca Crew touring the Union Station Hotel.

2007 SESAH STUDY TOUR

Setting off for an early morning start, SESAH members enjoyed another wonderful conference tour. Robbie Jones and his band of helpers organized a day that took SESAH from downtown Nashville out to The Hermitage. The day began with a walking tour of downtown Nashville, taking in the recently restored 1930s Metro Courthouse and newly built Public Square, where Nashville architect Kem Hinton provided an inside discussion of the design process. Such commentaries by individuals directly involved with various projects are always one of the highlights of SESAH tours.

Continuing down historic 2nd Avenue and Lower Broadway, past such landmarks as Tootsie's Orchid Lounge and the Ryman Auditorium, the group absorbed information on issues related to the historic district and its place in Nashville history.

At the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum, architect Kem Hinton explained the architectural symbolism embodied in the building's design and then led the group inside, where SESAH enjoyed a special privilege of seeing the Hall of Fame as nonpaying customers.

After a stop to view the exterior of the new Schermerhorn Symphony Hall, the group proceeded to the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, an Art Deco 1930s post office converted to an art museum. In addition to the fascinating architecture of the building, the exhibit on *The Société Anonyme* provided the opportunity to enjoy a major American art exhibit. After consuming their box lunches, SESAH members dashed next door to the landmark Union Station Hotel, where a staff member explained the recent restoration and décor.

After climbing aboard the bus, the group proceeded to East Nashville for a walking tour of a residential historic district, where one of the residents happened upon us and enthusiastically commented on the pleasures of living in that area and the experiences of restoration. Later, at Five Points, individuals and small groups scattered to pursue caffeine and enjoy walking around the area and examining both modern and historic buildings, including the interior of the restored East Nashville Carnegie Library.

Back on the bus, Robbie provided a commentary on various sites, such as the Opryland Hotel, Grand Ole Opry, and Two Rivers Mansion, during the drive to The Hermitage. On arrival at the former home of Andrew Jackson the group divided in two for tours of the grounds and outbuildings and the interior of the complex and intriguing house.

One of the benefits of SESAH tours is that they are tailored to member's interests and go well beyond the usual tourist experience. Robbie's inside knowledge of the restoration process at The Hermitage ensured that SESAH enjoyed a special tour of this American landmark. Plus, we were allowed inside the rooms, a rare treat usually reserved for VIPs and donors.

A day filled with a diverse range of Nashville's buildings and sites and the pleasure of each other's company concluded at the Tulip Grove Mansion, built for Andrew Jackson's nephew in the 1830s. After exploring the Greek Revival-style interior, with its extensive graining and marbleizing of surfaces, SESAH enjoyed refreshments on the back porch overlooking the grounds.

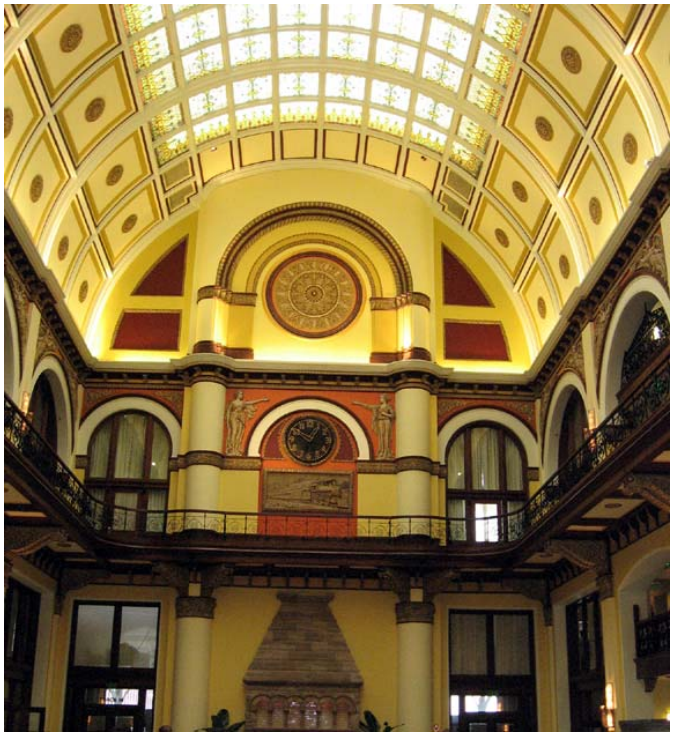
Marilyn Casto
Blacksburg, Virginia

SESAH group viewing the Williams House in East Nashville's Edgefield neighborhood; it was built in the 1880s and restored in the 1970s, leading to revitalization of this historic streetcar suburb.

See more photos at www.sesah.org.

2007 SESAH ANNUAL MEETING
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

SESAH members touring the new Founders' Building overlooking the reconstructed Public Square.



Nashville's Union Station (1900), now a hotel.

Unless noted, all photos are by Robbie Jones.

Lee Gray, Mark Reinberger & Richard Guy Wilson touring the interior of The Parthenon.

Dan Vivian, Ruth Little & Andy Chandler at The Parthenon, originally built in 1897.

Cody & Chance perform at the Opening Session.

2007 SESAH KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Dr. Kenneth Jackson

SESAH was fortunate to have many community partners in Nashville who assisted in hosting and sponsoring the 2007 SESAH Annual Meeting. One vital partner was Vanderbilt University, which hosted the SESAH Keynote Address as part of its prestigious Chancellor's Lecture Series, which brings national experts to Nashville and is free to the public.

Vanderbilt University bused all 105 SESAH members to campus from downtown, with a tour of the city-owned historic replica of The Parthenon and its interior statue of Athena on the way, and treated everyone to a reception at Ingram Hall.

This year's lecture was presented by Dr. Kenneth Jackson, professor of history and social sciences and Director of the Herbert H. Lehman Center for American History at Columbia University in New York City. Dr. Jackson's talk was entitled, "A Tale of Four Cities: New Orleans, Memphis, Nashville and Houston in the 20th Century."

Over 400 people in attendance enjoyed Dr. Jackson's discussion of the historic evolution of these four Southern cities, including a statistical comparison. Dr. Jackson explored how planning, race, and political and economic leadership have shaped these four Southern cities and how the cities' importance changed during the twentieth century. Dr. Jackson is a native of Memphis and has spent much time in the other cities as well.

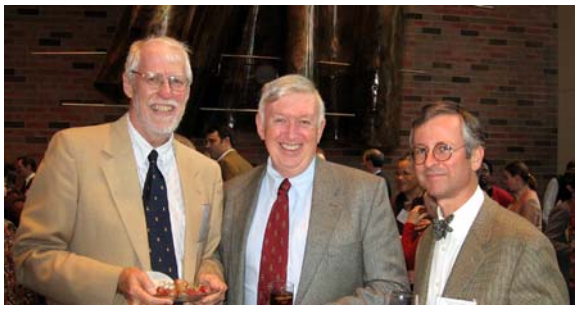
Dr. Jackson is one of America's preeminent urban historians, having published such landmark books as *The Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States* (1985) and *The Encyclopedia of New York City* (1995). He has taught at Columbia University since 1968.

A video of the keynote address can be viewed online by visiting www.sesah.org.

Robbie D. Jones
Nashville, Tennessee

SESAH thanks Vanderbilt University for hosting this very special 25th keynote address!

Dr. Kenneth Jackson gave the keynote address. Photo courtesy Vanderbilt University.



Rob Craig and David Gobel with Ken Jackson.

SESAH members Ethel Goodstein-Murphree & John Schnorrenberg at The Parthenon.

25th SESAH ANNUAL MEETING
Nashville, Tennessee

HOSTS

The Hermitage
Metropolitan Historical Commission

PARTNERS

Vanderbilt University
Nashville Civic Design Center

SPONSORS

Nashville Public Library
HGTV
Tennessee Historical Commission
The Parthenon
Nashville Convention & Visitors Bureau

DONORS

Anderson Design Group, Inc.
Phil Ponder Prints
Middle Tennessee State University
University of Tennessee Press
Arcadia Press
Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum

HOST COMMITTEE

Robbie D. Jones, Chair
Tara Mielnik, Co-Chair, Registration
T.K. Davis, Co-Chair, Papers

Jennie McClendon, Vanderbilt University
Ann Roberts, Metro Historical Comm.
Christine Kreyling, Architecture Critic
Claudette Stager, TN Historical Comm.
Stephanie Spallino, Nashville CVB

SESAH THANKS YOU!!

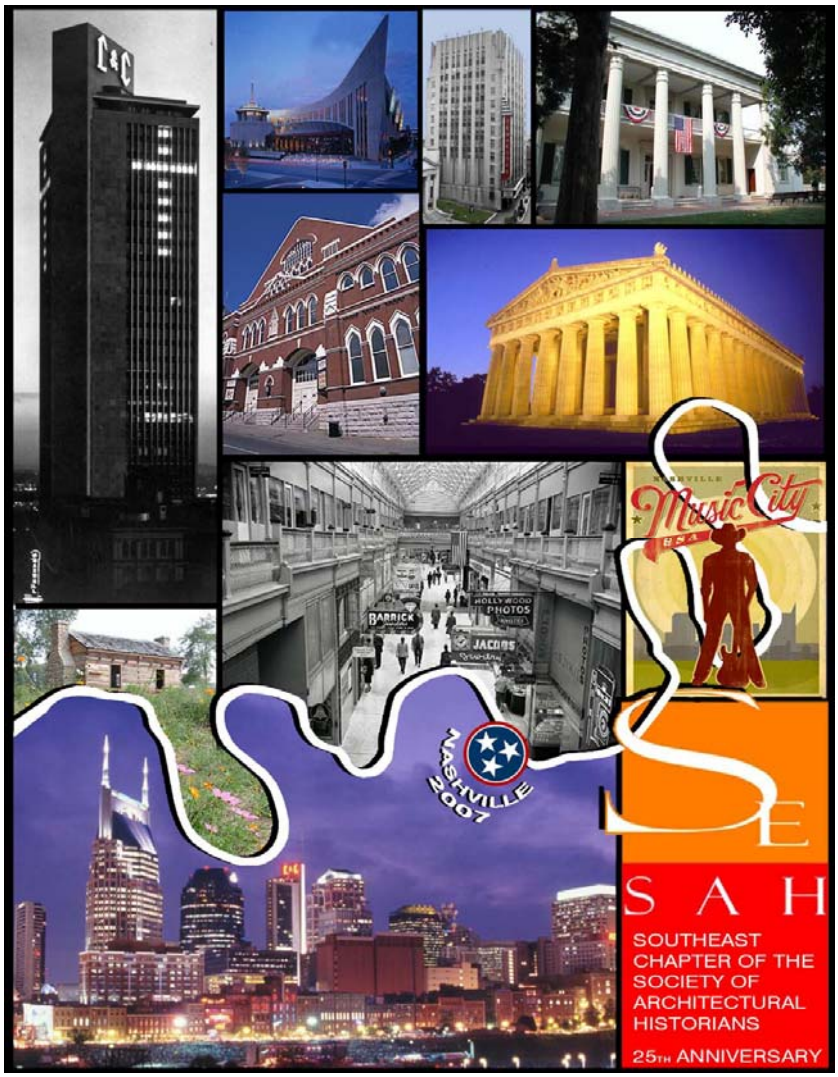
Future SESAH Annual Meeting Chairs
2009 – Jackson, Mississippi
Jennifer Baughn and Michael Fazio
2010 – Chattanooga, Tennessee
Gavin Townsend

SPECIAL TOUR GUIDES

Wesley Paine, The Parthenon
Jim Hoobler, Tennessee State Museum
Kem Hinton, Tuck-Hinton Architects
Marsha Mullin, The Hermitage

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

Matthew Schutz, Metro Historical Commission
Scarlett Miles, Metro Historical Commission
Yvonne Ogren, Metro Historical Commission
Shanon Wasielewsi, City of Franklin
Georgia Varble, Nashville Public Library
Cindy Newman, Doubletree Hotel
Jill Thompson, The Hermitage
Robert Craig, Georgia Tech
Lee Gray, UNC-Charlotte
David Gobel, SCAD
Mikesch Muecke, Iowa State University



FROM THE PRESERVATION OFFICER

The visual impact pains me twice on my way to and from work. Dark voids have appeared where half of the stained glass windows have been removed from the frame walls of the small well-kept church. Whether by nature or intent, a windowless building signals change, in this case the visual death knell of a building on its way out.

The building stood proudly on the $25 site that black families purchased on the edge of town in the 1870s and upgraded with a new façade by a noted local architect at the turn-of-the-century. It still stood proudly twenty feet from a major road as sprawl completely surrounded it.

The aging congregation of St. James C.M.E. Church, down to about 30 members, finally sold the now-valuable site to a developer. Unsuccessful efforts were made to convince the members to move the building nearby, to move it a distance in large pieces, or to incorporate most of the exposed historic fabric into a new building. The stained glass memorial windows and the altar rail will have to serve as the physical touchstones in a new setting, mute keepers of history, memory and witness.

Change, sprawl, demolition—nothing new here. What affects me more than the loss of a fine building is the fact that this landmark of local history could disappear with hardly a trace. Like many old buildings, it fell between the cracks of protection. The city required no mitigating documentation. The state required none. The most public concern has been from the developer who will demolish the building!

Having recently read Richard Louv's sad, but essential, book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, I see a parallel of local history deficit disorder. Similar to children who know of global warming and the rain forest crisis, but not about what is in their back yard or near-by park, the stories and landmarks of local place are replaced by a more abstract and removed history. When we don't know the history we don't value its heritage. Without values we care less about loss. With wholesale turnover of place we get our nationally generic sprawl.

As the historic preservation profession has grown and become bureaucratized, we seem to have lost our grassroots passion for recording local history. With more and more academically trained architectural historians, we seem to get less and less involved using that knowledge outside the workplace for the civic good.

My new year's wish is for local and state authorities to shift some priorities and find the funding to fully record historic resources so that they can become a part of the planning process—either for protection, and/or documentation. I wish that architectural historians and historic preservation graduates would put their training and experience to better use by engaging local issues and helping your community know its history.

You have a professional responsibility—use it. Historic memory loss, like personal, is tragic.

Travis McDonald
Poplar Forest, Virginia

SESAH members touring Nashville's legendary Ryman Auditorium (1892) – the "Carnegie Hall of the South" - now a NHL, but nearly demolished in the 1970s, leading to local grassroots activism.

2006 SESAH STUDY TOUR

Ellen Weiss's Tuskegee University Tour was a highlight of the 2006 SESAH meeting in Auburn. With the benefit of her considerable knowledge and her superb handout (chock-full of maps, historical photographs, and background information), two busloads of us had a memorable visit. It included an on-site discussion of the development of the campus, a self-guided tour with a chance to talk with knowledgeable

Tuskegee personnel and students, and a guided tour through Booker T. Washington's residence, The Oaks (1899; now a museum operated by the NPS).

Being in the midst of this handsome collection of buildings brought to life the strength of Washington's vision for the place. When he arrived in 1881, at the age of 25, to head the Tuskegee Normal School for colored teachers, the school had no land, no buildings, and only $2,000 for salaries.

The historic campus bears the fruits of his ability to engage supporters, raise funds, and attract African-American professionals to join him in his life's work here, among them Robert Taylor, the first professionally trained African-American architect, who graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1892 with a degree in architecture, and David A. Williston, one of the first black landscape architects in the United States.

During this visit (a return to the campus for me), I gained new appreciation for the extent of Robert Taylor's influence shaping the early campus and for the signature Tuskegee brick used in construction.

The architecture (mostly by Taylor) - built of bricks made on site by the students - established the identity and pride of the institution. Even though three of Taylor's major buildings have been lost (including the chapel, Paul Rudolph designed the replacement), some two dozen of the buildings remain.

To cap off a very special experience, we were able to visit the powerful, light-filled chapel, which Rudolph, an Auburn alum, designed.

The campus is a National Historic Site and a National Historic Landmark. National Park Service personnel operate The Oaks and the George Washington Carver Museum, which tells of the work of renowned botanist and long-time Tuskegee professor George Washington Carver.

Alice M. Bowsher
Birmingham, Alabama

SESAH members touring Tuskegee.

Paul Rudolph's Tuskegee Chapel.

Booker T. Washington's The Oaks.

See more photos at www.sesah.org.

ABOUT SESAH

The Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (SESAH) is a regional chapter of the national Society of Architectural Historians and includes twelve states - Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

The nonprofit organization holds an annual meeting, publishes a quarterly newsletter and an annual journal, *ARRIS*, and presents annual awards, including the "Best of the South" preservation award.

SESAH was founded in 1982 at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta to promote scholarship on architecture and related subjects and to serve as a forum for ideas among architectural historians, architects, preservationists, and others involved in professions related to the built environment. The annual meeting features scholarly paper sessions, business meeting, study tours, and a keynote lecture by a national leader in the field. SESAH members come from across the U.S. and Europe.

www.sesah.org

SAVE THE DATE!

26th SESAH Annual Meeting
Greensboro, North Carolina
October 1-4, 2008

The Hermitage
Home of President Andrew Jackson
4580 Rachel's Lane
Hermitage, TN 37076

Please notify the Treasurer of address changes.