

**PRESERVATION NEEDS
AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES
FOR
CANNONSBURGH VILLAGE
MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE**

Updated 2024 Report



November 2024

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Introduction

In September 2024, five graduate students in Dr. Stacey Graham's Historic Preservation course at MTSU were assigned as contributors to an updated report on the condition and usage of buildings at Cannonsburgh Village in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The original 2010 report, which was also produced by the Center for Historic Preservation, was used to measure the degree to which certain buildings have been improved and what work still remains to be done.

Liz Abrams, Rhyder Cowart, Josie Teague, Logan Williamson, and Ken Mosier conducted on-site recordation activities from September to November 2024. Buildings and structures along the main Cannonsburgh Walking Tour were photographed and examined for signs of deterioration.

Following this introductory section, the body of the report includes architectural descriptions and recommendations for each building or structure, an evaluation of current historical interpretations and use of space, and recommendations on how to improve those interpretations and uses. The final component of the report is a series of site maps, including an interactive GIS map that consolidates the observations and recommendations contained elsewhere in the report into a single digital space.

Responsibilities

Liz Abram: Visitor Center, University House, Grist Mill House, Schoolhouse, proofreading

Rhyder Cowart: Williamson Chapel, Loom House, Significance and Use of Space Links

Josei Teague: Leeman House, Town Hall, Use of Space

Logan Williamson: Caboose, Windmill/Well, Pavilion, Interpretation of Space

Ken Mosier: Introduction, General Store, Doctor's Office, Site Maps, Bibliography, Appendix A, final document formatting

Architectural Descriptions & Recommendations

General Store



North Elevation

Location: The General Store is located southeast of Williamson Chapel / Loom House and adjacent to the Doctor's Office near the entrance of Cannonsburgh village.

Historical Context: Originally located twelve miles due southwest of Murfreesboro in the small community of Link, the General Store represents a style typical of general stores in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Carrying a broad array of goods, including fresh produce, clothing, hardware, and medicine, general stores also provided a vital social function, serving as both post offices and important meeting places for community members.

Overall Structure: The General Store is a one-story wood frame structure with horizontal lap siding, a steeply pitched, open gabled roof, and covered porches with shed roofs supported by square wooden posts in the front and rear. Both the main and porch roofs are metal with gutters and downspouts. A brick chimney with metal flashing protrudes from the rear of the roof. Double doors open on the front (north elevation) façade, and a single door opens on the rear

(south elevation) façade. The front façade also features two single-hung, four-over-four sash windows, one on either side of the door. The main structure rests on a brick foundation, while the porch is supported by both wood and brick piers. The rear façade also features a wooden ADA ramp running west to east that leads to the small rear porch.

Preservation and Restoration: Compared with the 2010 report, the condition of the General Store is much improved. The metal roof has been replaced, metal flashing has been added around the chimney, and gutters now run along the east by southeast and west by northwest elevations as well as around both porches. Downspouts have been added, and wooden cornices/siding have been repaired. New paint has been added around entire exterior. Deteriorated beams underneath the front porch, however, pose a potential issue, as does the continued lack of a moisture barrier beneath the structure and porches.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Replace/repair beams supporting porch.
- Add moisture barrier beneath structure.
- Repair remaining holes in wood siding



East Elevation



South Elevation



West Elevation



Brick Foundation Along East by Southeast Elevation



Lack of Moisture Barrier Beneath General Store



Rotted Beams for Front Porch Roof

Doctor's Office



North Elevation

Location: Adjacent to the General Store and southwest of Williamson Chapel and the Loom House, the Doctor's Office is near the entrance to Cannonsburgh village.

Historical Context: Originally located in south Murfreesboro, the Doctor's Office represents the type of small establishment maintained by doctors who also performed a substantial number of house calls.

Overall Structure: The Doctor's Office is a one-story wood frame structure with horizontal lap siding, a steeply pitched, open gabled roof, and an offset covered front porch to the right side of the façade. A concrete step provides access to the interior. Both the main and porch roofs are metal, and the main roof features new gutters and downspouts. The structure rests on concrete blocks.

Preservation and Restoration: Compared to the 2010 report, the condition of the Doctor's Office is much improved. Damaged/moldy siding has been cleaned and repaired. New paint has been applied to all exterior walls. New gutters and downspouts help mitigate the water damage that plagued the building previously. Some siding panels, however, still have visible holes and there is still no moisture barrier beneath the structure.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Add moisture barrier beneath structure.
- Repair remaining holes in wood siding



West Elevation



Lack of Moisture Barrier Beneath Structure



East Elevation



Hole in Siding



South Elevation

Windmill and Well



Windmill West Elevation

Location: Old windmill and dug well located between the General Store and Doctor's Office southeast, the Williamson Chapel northwest, and Loom House on its west.

Historical Context: The hand-dug well is the oldest well at Cannonsburgh and dates back to the 19th century when the site was residential.

Overall Structure: The windmill is a multi-story structure, consisting of a tall tower and a windmill head at the top. The tower is constructed of metal, likely steel, and has a triangular cross-section. The tower is supported by diagonal braces that form a triangular lattice pattern, adding to its structural integrity. It appears to be around 40-50 feet tall. The windmill head is made of metal and features four vanes or sails that would have been used to capture wind energy. At the base of the windmill, there is a well pump connected to the windmill's mechanism. The dug well is rectangular in shape. It appears to be constructed primarily of stone, likely a type of limestone or sandstone, given its rough texture and color. The well is approximately 3 feet tall.

Preservation and Restoration: The windmill's metal components show signs of rust. This is common with old metal structures exposed to the elements. The well appears to be in good condition. It has a sturdy stone wall and a metal grate covering the opening, preventing people

from falling in. The water level seems to be high, and the water itself looks clear, suggesting that the well is still functioning.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Windmill:

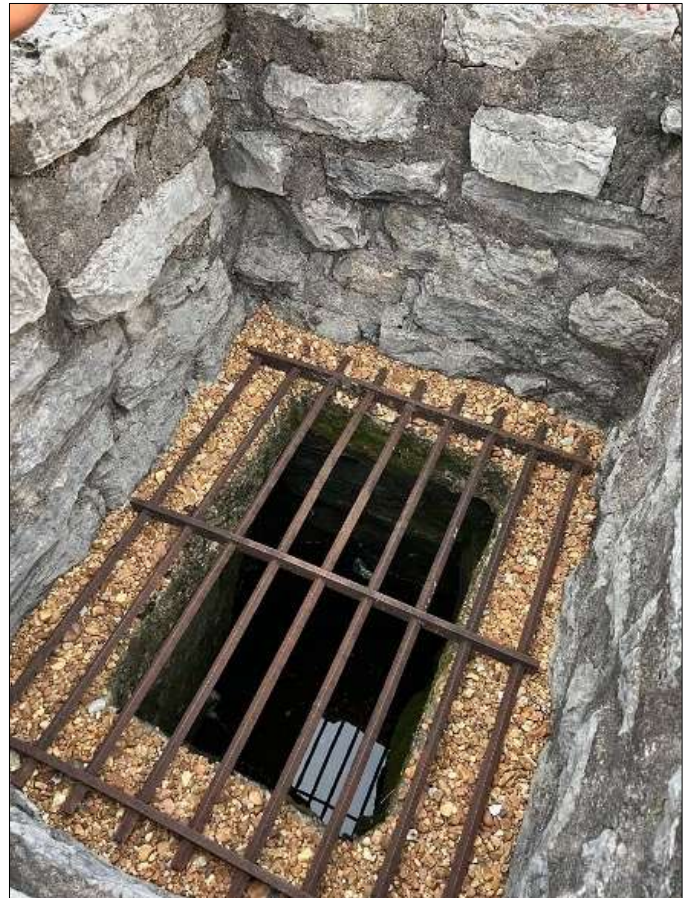
- Clean the metal, remove loose rust, and apply a rust-inhibiting primer and protective paint to prevent further deterioration.
- Clean and lubricate moving parts to ensure smooth operation and prevent wear.
- Mitigating the impact of weather and pests by using protective coatings or treatments.

Well:

- Continue cleaning of debris and vegetation, and any damaged stones or mortar may have been repaired or replaced with materials that match the original style.
- Continue to treat to prevent the growth of algae or other harmful organisms.



Well Northwest Elevation



Grate Covering Well Opening

Loom House



East Elevation

Location: The Loom House is located south of the Williamson Chapel and caboose near the center of the Cannonsburgh Village.

Historical Context: The Loom House was originally built in the 1800s. This log building exemplifies the homes of that era in Middle Tennessee. Today, it houses a hand loom from the same period, which remains fully functional. Weavers regularly demonstrate the garment-making process to visitors, offering a fascinating glimpse into historical craftsmanship.

Overall Structure: The Loom House is a one-story, single-room log structure with a steeply pitched gabled roof. The roof is covered with wooden shingles. Its construction features hand-hewn logs, which are meticulously notched and interlocked at the corners using traditional dovetail joinery. The walls of the cabin are constructed from durable, locally sourced timber and have weathered over time. It has double hung six-over-six sash windows on the North Elevation with a single board wooden door on East Elevation. The house's foundation is bricks.

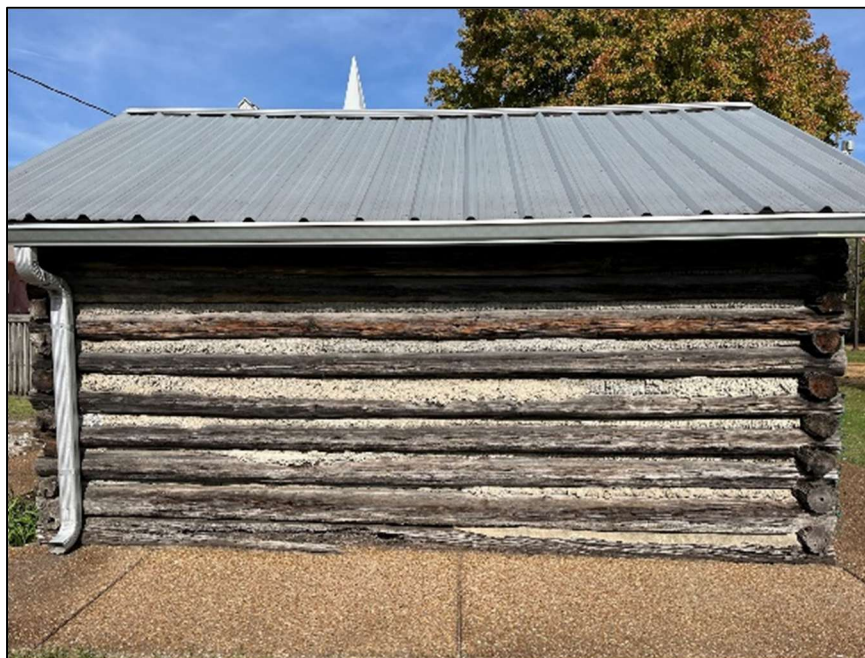
Preservation and Restoration: Roof has been replaced per 2010 recommendations. Recommendations from the 2010 report to remove mold from foundation logs on North and South Elevation were not addressed and both logs have deteriorated significantly. Foundation logs need replacing or the integrity of the structure will become compromised. Several bricks in the foundation along the West Elevation lack mortar between them and have eroded away in places. Some of the bricks appear to have been fixed with cement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Remove mold from foundation logs.
- Replace rotted foundation logs.
- Replace mortar on brick foundation.



North Elevation



South Elevation



West Elevation



Degraded Logs South Elevation



Degraded chinking and daubing West Elevation



Degraded logs North Elevation



Brick Foundation with Missing Mortar West Elevation

Williamson Chapel



North by Northeast Elevation

Location: The Williamson Chapel is located adjacent to the Village Loom House, gazebo, and caboose.

Historical Context: Williamson Chapel originally functioned as a schoolhouse in northern Rutherford County. The Cannonsburgh Commission decided to relocate this historical building to Cannonsburgh Village, reinterpreting it as a classic Southern church. To incorporate modern elements, a steeple was added. Now, Williamson Chapel's charming altar has become a popular destination for weddings, with 2,800 couples having celebrated their nuptials here since it began operating as a wedding venue.^[1]

Overall Structure: The Williamson Chapel is a one-story, single room balloon-framed building. The chapel features a steeply pitched gabled roof, covered with shingles. The Gothic pointed-arch stained glass windows on the south, east and west sides of the building allow natural light to filter inside the building. The chapel includes a small, bricked front stoop with simple wooden

posts on the North elevation, complete with wrought iron handrails on either side. Double wooden doors with pediment on North Elevation.

Preservation and Restoration: The chapel is in excellent condition, thanks to ongoing preservation efforts. The roof was replaced following recommendations made in 2010[1]. The roof and flashing on the West by Northwest elevation awning have also been replaced. However, the flashing around the steeple is currently absent and needs attention. Additionally, the sealant on the double Gothic stained glass window on the South elevation is coming off and requires replacement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Replace the sealant on the double Gothic stained glass window.
- Installation of chimney flashing.



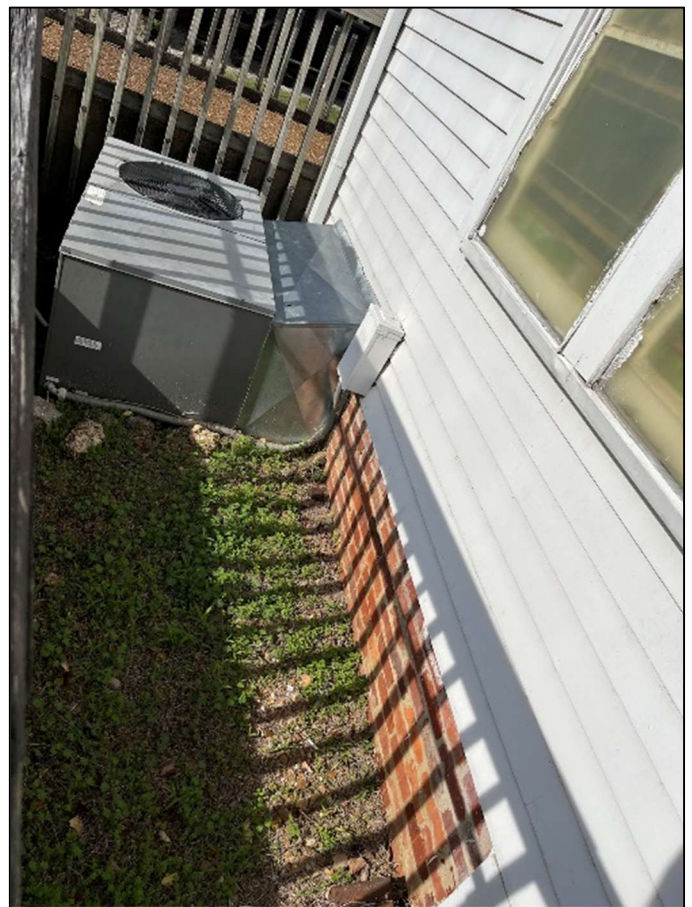
East by Southeast Elevation



West by Northwest Elevation



South Elevation



HVAC South Elevation



ADA ramp South Elevation



Tombstones East by Southeast Elevation



Windows in Disrepair South Elevation

L&N Train Caboose



East Elevation

Location: L&N Caboose No. 121 located between the C.N. Haynes Museum and Williamson Chapel.

Historical Context: Constructed in 1960s-70s, this bay window caboose was built by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad (L&N) in their South Louisville Shops, showcasing the craftsmanship and industrial capabilities of the era. The caboose served primarily with the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, playing a crucial role in their operations. The L&N built cabooses were often referred to as “Shorty” cabooses because of their short length. Measuring in at just 32 feet 7 inches, where most steel cabooses of the time were closer to 38 feet. Recalls days of the Iron Horse and the expansion of commerce and lifestyles that came about when the railroads were the dominant overland transportation.

Overall Structure: Featuring a bay window design, the L&N 121 offers a unique architectural aspect compared to traditional cabooses. This design was instrumental in providing enhanced visibility for the crew, especially important for monitoring the train while in motion.

Preservation and Restoration: The caboose appears to be in relatively good condition, with the exterior paint and lettering still visible. The windows and doors seem intact. There is some rust and weathering, which is expected for a vehicle of this age.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The exterior paint may need touch-ups or a complete repaint to protect the metal and preserve the original color scheme.

- The interior of the caboose could be restored to its original appearance, including the sleeping compartments, kitchen area, and other amenities. This might involve replacing worn or damaged furnishings and appliances.



West Elevation



Interior of Caboose

Cotton Warehouse



Cotton Warehouse North Elevation

Location: The Cotton Warehouse is located at the west border of the Cannonsburgh Village along the Lytle Creek.

Historical Context: The Cotton Warehouse was built in the 1870s. It served as a storage facility for cotton bales before they were shipped to textile mills. It illustrates the economic importance of the cotton industry in Tennessee during the 19th century. Innovations in agricultural storage and transportation were important for the success of the cotton trade. Today, the warehouse serves as a historical exhibit within the Cannonsburgh Village. (Source: <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=90668>)

Overall Structure: The Cotton Warehouse at Cannonsburgh Village is primarily constructed of wood beams and planks, with a stone. The building has a gabled roof with corrugated metal sheets. It has large, multi-paned windows on the sides to allow natural light to enter the interior space and the doors are solid wood. The interior of the warehouse is an open floor plan, with minimal interior walls to maximize storage space. The roof is supported by wood columns and beams. There is a covered porch on the north side of the building. The porch is supported by simple wooden posts.

Preservation and Restoration: The Warehouse is not in great shape. The roof is in bad shape and the flashing is missing from the awning on the north elevation. On all sides of the building there are missing and/or damaged bricks. The porch needs to be restored as some of the boards are rotting and have mold on them. There is also mold growing on the foundation that needs to be removed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Replace the missing and damaged bricks.
- Replace the roof.
- Remove the wrought iron fencing that is leaning against the north elevation.
- Remove mold.
- Fix or replace the wood porch and ADA accessible ramp.
- Replace flashing on the awning.



Roof on North Elevation



Porch on North Elevation



Roof East Elevation (No Gutters), Damaged Bricks, Damaged Roof Line



South Elevation



West Elevation: Mold on Foundation, Worn Stairs, Missing Gutters on Roof



West Elevation Roof line



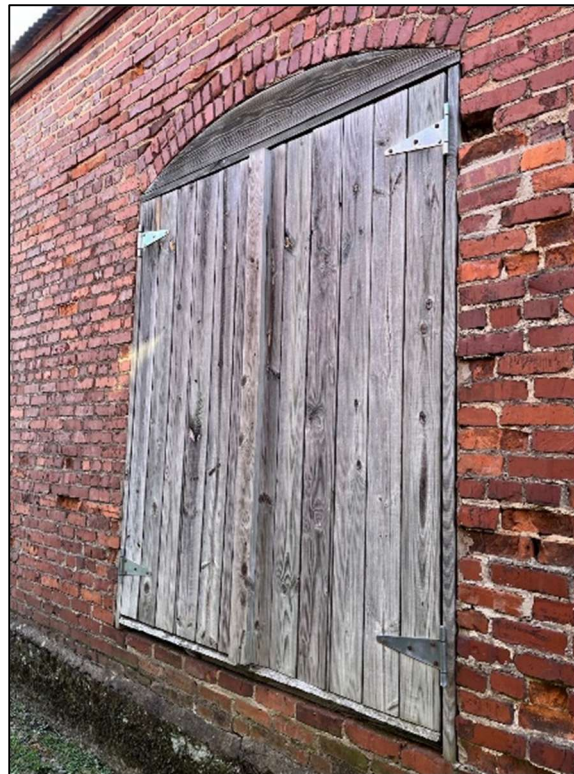
West Elevation: Unsafe Wrought Iron Fencing



East Elevation Roof (No Gutter)



West Elevation ADA Ramp



East Elevation Wood Doors

Leeman House



South Elevation

Location: The Leeman House, 1820s Residence. It is located between the art center and town hall. It also sits along Town Creek.

Historical Context: The Leeman House is from Eastern Rutherford County. The front section of the house is from the 1820s and was made from cedar trees constructed together by notching. The back section of the house was added in the 1870s. The upstairs in the front of the house was used as a bedroom for the girls and not connected to the back upstairs section where the boys slept. (source: Walking Tour pamphlet)

Overall Structure: Two-story hall-and-parlor log house with a rear kitchen wing. There is a dogtrot that separates the living and kitchen areas. Dogtrots had a private living space and then a separate area for cooking and dining. The building has an ADA compliant ramp located on the left side of the building. There is also a chimney located on the right side of the building. Inside the building, visitors will see newspapers that are being used as insulation and wallpaper. There is also half dovetail notching that holds the building together.

Preservation and Restoration: Compared to the 2010 report (p. 23), the overall condition of the building has not greatly improved. In 2010, the building did not have a rain gutter system, but that has since been added to the structure. The roof is free from rust and seems to be in good condition. However, they have not removed the window-mounted AC units. Instead of window units, they need to install an HVAC system. Furthermore, there is still an exposed Romex wiring on the exterior of the building. The building has also sustained more damage than reported in the

2010 report. There are holes and gaps in the wood, which would allow creatures to enter the structure.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Remove window-mounted AC units.
- Cover exposed Romex wiring.
- Repair holes and gaps in logs.



Exposed Romex Wiring Southeast Elevation



Half Dovetail Notching with Holes Southeast Elevation



Window AC Units Southwest Elevation

Pavilion



North by Northeast Elevation

Location: The gazebo is located in the center of Cannonsburgh Village.

Historical Context: N/A

Overall Structure: The gazebo is a single-story, hexagonal structure. It is approximately 15 feet in diameter and 10 feet tall at its highest point. The gazebo is made of wood, with a dark brown or stained finish. The floor of the gazebo is an elevated, flat concrete platform. The roof is galvanized metal, possibly aluminum or steel, and is pitched to allow for water runoff. Six wooden posts support the roof. It is electrified with ceiling light fixtures and powered via exposed Romex wiring. The gazebo has a simple, open design with no walls, allowing for a view of the surrounding area.

Preservation and Restoration: The gazebo appears to be in relatively good shape. The structure seems sound, with no visible signs of major deterioration or damage. The roof was replaced with galvanized sheet metal following recommendations made in 2010 (p. 32). However, there is still an exposed Romex wiring on the exterior of the building.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Cover exposed Romex wiring.



Gazebo on South-East Elevation.



ADA Compliant Ramp on North-West Elevation.



Interior of the Gazebo on Northern Elevation.

Town Hall



South Elevation

Location: Town Hall is located near the Leeman Residence and is along Town Creek.

Historical Context: Town Halls became important as communities grew. The Town Hall used to be a one-room cabin and then a kitchen. (source: Walking Tour pamphlet)

Overall Structure: The Town Hall is a single pen log building with a chimney located at the back of the structure. The building has side doors and half-dovetail notching that holds the building together.

Preservation and Restoration: Compared to the 2010 report (p. 22) the building has had some minor improvements, but there is still much to do. Rutherford County Recreation has added a rain gutter system to the building to help improve drainage. However, the town hall still has side doors, which should change into windows or be removed. Furthermore, there is an exposed Romex wiring on the exterior of the building. There are also gaps in the foundation, which could potentially allow for creatures to enter the building. There are also pieces of wood missing from the logs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Replace side doors.
- Cover Romex wiring.
- Repair gaps in the foundation.
- Replace missing logs.



Side Door, Exposed Wiring, and Rain Gutter System East Elevation



Gaps Between Wood and Foundation West Elevation



Wood Damage West Elevation

University House



University House South Elevation

Location: The University House is located between the Town Hall and the Telephone Building on the east edge of the Cannonsburgh Village along the Town Creek.

Historical Context: The University House originally stood on the current site of Middle Tennessee State University's campus and dates back to the mid-1800's. The dogtrot was a popular architectural style in the South from 1780 to 1830. This vernacular style grew in popularity due to the challenges of connecting log structures. If a family needed more space they would often build a second room a few feet away from the first and then connect them with a continuous roof. The brick chimneys are located on the exterior to prevent overheating the house while cooking during warmer months. During the hot summer, cooking and other family activities were conducted outside in the dogtrot. (Source: Walking Tour pamphlet, website)

Overall Structure: The University House at Cannonsburgh Village is an 1800's dogtrot residence. It is an example of a vernacular architectural style that was prevalent in the Southern United States during the 18th and 19th centuries. The defining feature of this log structure is its dogtrot design, which includes two separate log rooms connected by an open breezeway. The house is constructed from hand-hewn logs. The logs are notched and fitted together without the use of nails, relying on traditional joinery techniques like half-dovetail notch. The two-pen log structure features a continuous side-gabled roof that covers both rooms and the central dogtrot. The two log rooms have an exterior brick chimney. The interior of the house is simple and functional, with exposed log walls and wooden floors. The dogtrot design is emblematic of Southern rural architecture, reflecting the practical and communal living arrangements of early settlers.

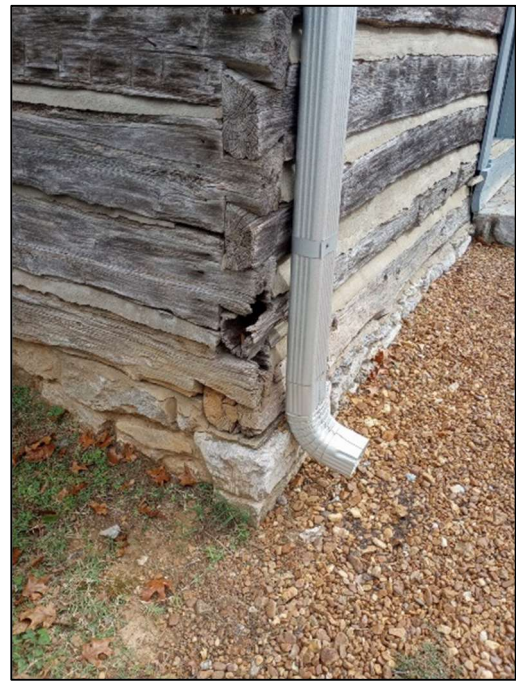
Preservation and Restoration: Compared to the 2010 report, the condition of the University House seems to have improved over the last fourteen years. The horizontal gable siding on both the east and west side of the building have been replaced and look to be holding up well. The chimney's both have new flashing and new black chimney caps to prevent rain and debris from entering the chimney. The porch floor is in good condition. Additionally, new downspouts and rain gutters were added to the structure to control rainwater and drain away from the building. However, the chinking and daubing is missing on the west side of the building and in need of repair on the north, south, and east sides. There are gaps in the wood logs that can be an entrance point for birds and other animals to enter the building. The wood logs need to be treated as they are discolored from weather. The brick chimney on the west side of the structure has missing and broken bricks.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

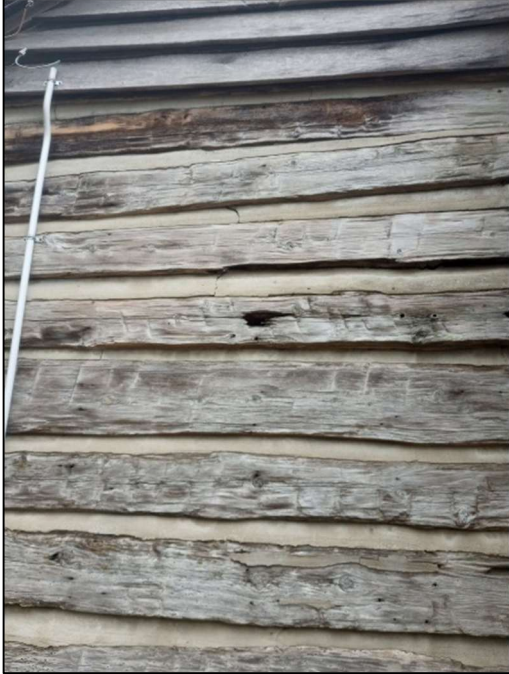
- Replace the rotted logs.
- Repair or replace the chinking and daubing.
- Repair or replace bricks on the west chimney.



North Elevation: Rotted Logs



East Elevation: Chinking and Daubing Damage



West Elevation: Damaged Siding



West Elevation: Damaged Chimney



Chinking and Daubing Damage

Telephone Building



Telephone Building South Elevation

Location: The Early 1900's Telephone Building is located next to the One-Room Schoolhouse on the east edge of the Cannonsburgh village along the Town Creek.

Historical Context: By the early 1900's, telephones had become a common feature in many rural homes. All calls were connected by an operator at a switchboard, much like the one at the Cannonsburgh Telephone Exchange Company. Since the operator needed to be available at all hours, the switchboard building also served as a residence for the employee. The switchboard in this building was originally from the Rockville Home Mutual Telephone in southern Rutherford County. (Source: Walking Tour pamphlet, website)

Overall Structure: The early 1900's Telephone Building at Cannonsburgh Village is another example of functional architecture from Tennessee's history. The building is a single level, wood frame structure with a traditional gabled roof. The exterior has clapboard siding, a common feature in rural buildings of the time. This siding provides weather resistance and adds to the building's rustic charm. A small front porch with a shed roof provides a sheltered entryway. The porch is supported by simple wooden posts. The main entrance is centrally located on the front facade, which gives the building a symmetrical appearance. There is a second entrance on the west side of the building. Inside, the building is organized to accommodate both the operational needs of the switchboard job and the living quarters for the operator.

Preservation and Restoration: Compared to the 2010 report, the condition of the Telephone Building seems to be better. The downspouts and rain gutters appear to be in good repair. The siding is free from holes and cracks and the clapboard is in good condition. Some of the paint is peeling and flaking off. The floorboards on the east side of the front porch are damaged and broken and should be repaired and/or replaced. On the north side of the building, there is a wood foundation block that is deteriorating and should be replaced.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Replace the rotted and broken floorboards on the front porch.
- Repair or replace the wood foundation footing.



South Elevation: Damaged Front Porch



Damaged Wood Foundation Block



West Elevation: Peeling and Chipping Paint

One-Room Schoolhouse



Schoolhouse South by Southwest Elevation

Location: The one-room schoolhouse is located next to the gristmill at the northeast corner of the Cannonsburgh village along the Town Creek.

Historical Context: The one-room schoolhouse was included in the village to show the 19th-century settlers' determination to provide their children with a basic education. A community pooled their money and would hire a teacher for the community children. As it was not possible to find an existing schoolhouse, when the village was created they constructed a model using logs from a large corn crib located in southern Rutherford County. (Source: Walking Tour pamphlet, website)

Overall Structure: The one-room schoolhouse at Cannonsburgh Village is representative of 19th-century rural education architecture. The structure is constructed from logs, which shows the rustic and practical building techniques used by early settlers. The logs being sourced from Rutherford County adds authenticity and historical value to the structure. The structure is a single floor log building with a gabled roof which allows for effective drainage. The double doors open to allow natural light into the room. Inside, the schoolhouse is simple and functional, with wooden desks arranged in rows and a single blackboard at the front. The interior design reflects the minimalist approach of early rural education, focusing on utility and practicality.

Preservation and Restoration: Compared to the 2010 report, the condition of the One-Room Schoolhouse seems to be about the same. The vines and overhanging branches have been removed and the structure is free of debris, however some of the logs are rotting and/or growing moss. The beam on the north west corner is rotted and looks to be deteriorating in the center. The

chinking and daubing is cracked, or in the case on the south side it is missing. Also, it looks like the chinking was replaced with a different material than the rest of the structure. The foundation footings on the west side looks like it is missing a log. The rear sill looks like it has been replaced since 2010 and it looks good. The low spot under the building is deep and may cause water to pool.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

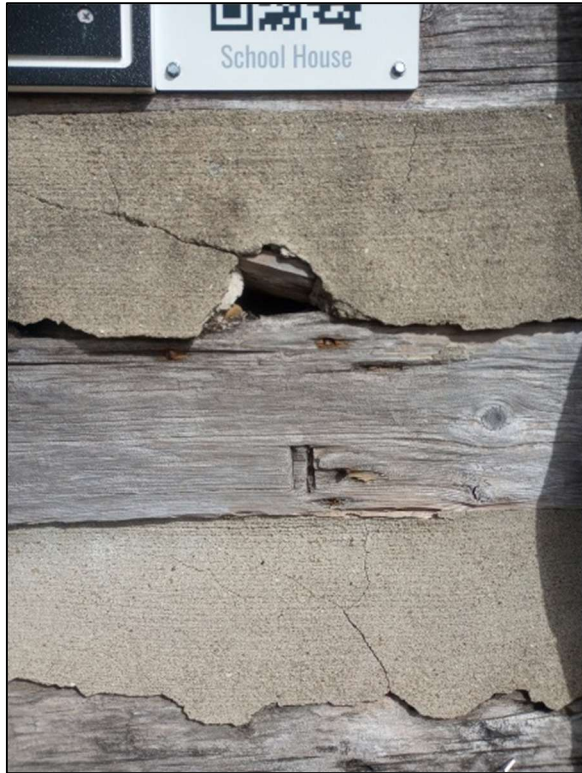
- Remove the mold and moss from logs.
- Improve the drainage beneath the building.
- Replace the rotted, ill-fitted, and mismatched logs.
- Repair or replace the chinking and daubing.



West Elevation: Chinking and Daubing Damage



East Elevation: Drainage Issue Under Building



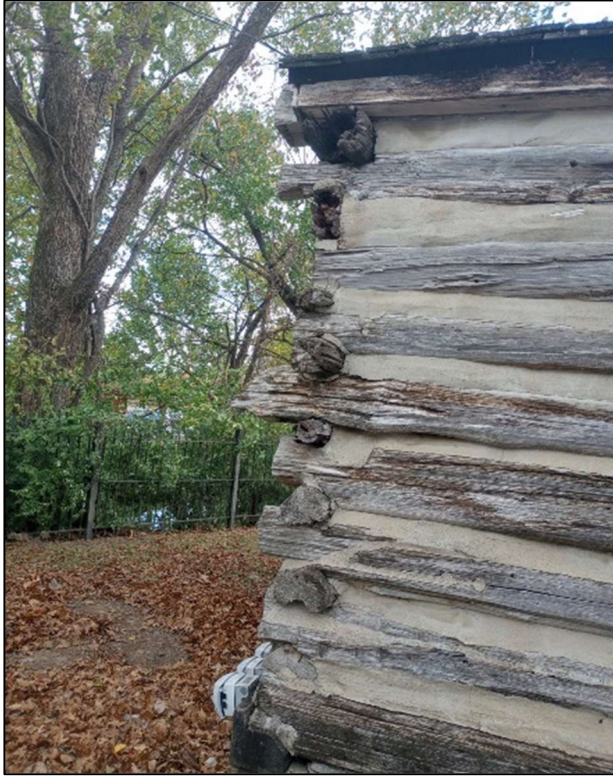
Southwest Elevation: Chinking Damage



Southwest Elevation: Rotted Logs



Southwest Elevation: Rotted Logs



Northwest Elevation: Rotted Logs



***Northwest Elevation: Rotted
Logs***

Gristmill



Gristmill South by Southwest Elevation

Location: The Gristmill is located at the northeast corner of the Cannonsburgh village along the Town Creek nearest to the bridge.

Historical Context: The Gristmill is part of Cannonsburgh Village, an open-air museum that represents life in Tennessee from the 1830s to the 1930s. The mill serves as an educational tool, demonstrating the process of grinding grain and the importance of mills in early American communities. The mill in the village is a scaled-down reproduction of a 19th-century mill, based on Elam's Mill which once stood by the nearby Stones River. The 150-year-old machinery, sourced from an abandoned mill in northern Alabama, includes an overshot wheel that uses water flowing over its top to generate motion. A deep well, still located behind the blacksmith shop, provides the water that powers the mill today. When the mill is in operation a noticeable sulfur odor from the underground water permeates the air. The mill includes the original grindstones, which are preserved in the building. (Source: Walking Tour pamphlet, website)

Overall Structure: The Gristmill is a single gable, two-story structure with a covered front porch. It has wood siding and shutters. Typical of early American gristmills, the mill is equipped with an overshot water wheel. Water from the nearby well flows over the top of the wheel, causing it to turn and generate power to operate the mill's machinery. Housed inside the mill is

the machinery, which includes grindstones and other equipment used for grinding grain into flour. The window's wood shutters can be closed to protect the interior from harsh weather or opened to let in fresh air and light.

Preservation and Restoration: Compared to the 2010 report (see Appendix A), the condition of the Gristmill has improved. In 2010 the building had mold growing on the porch roof and in 2024 the roof appears to be free of mold. Erosion on the north side of the mill, along the Town Creek, is still a concern. On the back of the building (north side) the top window is missing one of its shutters. There is a little bit of moss growing on the southwest side of the building. The siding is damaged and there are visible holes and gaps in the siding that can be an entrance point for birds and other animals to enter the building. The wood siding needs to be treated as it is discolored from time and weather.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

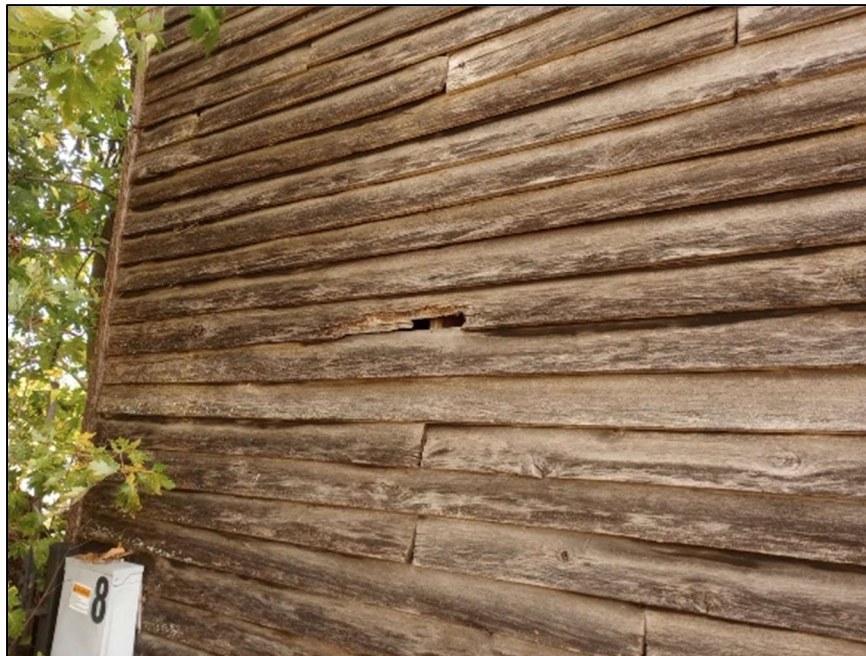
- Replace missing window shutter.
- Fix the holes and spaces in the wood siding.



North Elevation: Missing Window Shutter



East Elevation: Damaged Siding



West Elevation: Damaged Siding



East Elevation: Mold Growth



West Elevation: Damaged Siding

Visitor Center & Gift Shop



Visitor Center & Gift Shop Northeast Elevation

Location: The Visitor Center & Gift Shop is located outside the fenced village at the main entrance to the Cannonsburgh village.

Historical Context: The Visitor Center & Gift Shop is part of Cannonsburgh Village, an open-air museum that represents life in Tennessee from the 1830s to the 1930s. This log structure is typical in that it has a long front porch and a bathhouse at the rear. The building was transported to Cannonsburgh Village in 1975, where it served as the home of the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce until early 1997. In 1998, it was converted into the Cannonsburgh Village Visitor Center and Gift Shop. (Source: Walking Tour pamphlet, website)

Overall Structure: The Visitor's Center and Gift Shop at Cannonsburgh Village is a building constructed from hand-hewn logs, showcasing the traditional craftsmanship of early 19th-century settlers. This historic hall-and-parlor log building used logs that were fitted together using half dovetail joints, which provides both durability and historical accuracy. The long front porch spans the width of the building and serves as a welcoming space for visitors. The porch is supported by sturdy wood posts and features a simple, functional design. The building is a two story structure with a side gabled roof. The structure has an exterior chimney made of stone located on the south side of the building. Inside, the building maintains its historical ambiance with exposed log walls and wooden floors. At the rear of the building, there is a bathhouse. While the building retains its historical integrity, it has been adapted to serve contemporary

purposes as evidenced by the HVAC system and the wheelchair ramp seen at the rear of the building.

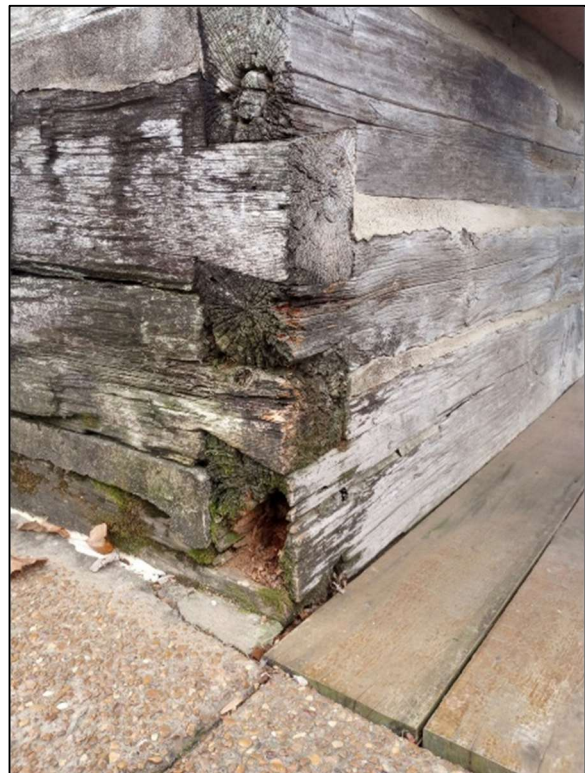
Preservation and Restoration: Compared to the 2010 report, the condition of the Visitor Center & Gift Shop has improved. The building has a new metal roof with downspouts and rain gutters to control the rain water. The chinking and daubing is in need of repair on the west side near the wheelchair ramp. The plastic vents and the circular vent on the roof have been removed, but the report suggested a screen or vent to cover the HVAC system and that does not appear to have been completed. Some of the logs have moss growing on them and are rotting on the southwest corner and the northwest corner.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Cover HVAC system with screen or vent.
- Repair or replace the chinking and daubing.
- Remove moss and mold from logs.



Southwest Elevation: HVAC System Visible



Northwest Elevation: Rotted Logs with Mold and Moss Growth



Northwest Elevation: Chinking and Daubing Damage

Interpretation of Space

Cannonsburgh Village exemplifies the charm and history of 19th-century rural life in the American South. As a curated experience that recreates a historical setting, the village attracts visitors keen on learning about the past. A notable feature of the village is its interpretative markers—plaques affixed to various structures and buildings. While these markers are intended to provide context and information about the historical significance of the structures, they can also pose significant challenges in the field of historic preservation. This section will explore how such interpretative markers can be detrimental to the preservation of historic integrity and authenticity while proposing sustainable alternatives that respect both the structures and the context in which they exist.

One of the primary concerns regarding interpretative markers at Cannonsburgh Village is their potential physical impact on the historic buildings that inhabit the site. The common practice of affixing plaques to the walls, particularly those constructed from aged wood, raises serious concerns about structural integrity. The act of screwing these markers into surfaces can lead to long-term damage, as the delicate nature of older materials makes them particularly susceptible to injury. This process can result in unsightly holes that mar the visual appeal of the heritage structures, compromising the aesthetic integrity that is often a crucial aspect of a historic site. Moreover, the act of attachment can weaken key load-bearing elements, increasing the risk of structural failure over time. With prolonged exposure to the elements, these interpretative markers may further catalyze chemical reactions with the original materials, accelerating weathering and deterioration. As a result, the longevity and preservation of these invaluable sites may be jeopardized, raising essential questions about the balance between education and preservation in historical contexts.



Interpretative marker at the Leeman House, screwed onto the wooden exterior

Interpretative markers often aim for brevity and simplicity to convey complex histories efficiently. However, this can lead to oversimplification or misinterpretation of crucial historical facts. Nuanced stories regarding social, economic, and cultural aspects are frequently lost in the quest for quick comprehension. For example, the marker for the Windlass Well provides a physical description and its family-centered use but does not explain what a “windlass” well is. Visitors may leave with a misinterpreted understanding of history, which can perpetuate incomplete narratives about the Cannonsburgh’s past.



1 Interpretative marker at the Windlass Well.

Considering the possible adverse effects of interpretative markers on heritage sites, it becomes crucial to explore sustainable alternatives. These alternatives should not only prioritize the preservation of historic values but also enhance the educational experiences available to visitors. By focusing on solutions that respect and protect the integrity of historical landmarks, we can ensure that the stories and significance of these sites are communicated effectively without compromising their authenticity. Emphasizing eco-friendly and culturally sensitive methods can provide richer educational opportunities while fostering a deeper appreciation for history among visitors.

One of the most effective and innovative alternatives for enhancing visitor engagement is using digital interpretative tools, particularly mobile applications. Imagine visitors arriving at a historical site and being able to download an app specifically designed for that location. This app could harness the power of Quick

Response (QR) code technology, allowing users to scan codes placed discreetly near various structures to access a wealth of information. These QR codes could serve as gateways to an interactive experience beyond traditional signage. When scanned, they could provide detailed historical narratives, architectural insights, or even personal anecdotes from individuals who lived in a given era. This would enrich the visitor's understanding and foster a more personal connection to the site. The app could utilize augmented reality features, overlaying historical images, descriptions, or animations onto the real-world views of the buildings as seen through the device's camera. For instance, visitors could point their smartphones at a crumbling wall and see what it looked like decades ago, complete with corresponding historical events in that spot. Cannonsburgh Village has employed QR codes already. However, to fully realize the potential of this technology, it is crucial to ensure that the QR codes are functional and easily scannable. Unfortunately, not all QR codes at historical sites are functional.

Rather than attaching plaques directly to the historic buildings, the village could opt for elegantly designed free-standing interpretation panels placed thoughtfully at key locations throughout Cannonsburgh Village. These panels would be curated to blend seamlessly with the village's charming aesthetic, showcasing beautifully crafted designs that echo the area's architectural style. Each panel would offer in-depth educational content, providing visitors rich historical context and engaging narratives about the village's heritage. By keeping these informative displays separate from the historic structures, this strategy minimizes the risk of physical damage to these treasured edifices. It enhances the overall visual harmony of Cannonsburgh Village as a cohesive historical site.

Pannier Graphics, a leading manufacturer of outdoor signs, panels, exhibit bases, and frames, is well-equipped to produce the high-quality, durable free-standing interpretation panels needed for

Cannonsburgh Village. With a proven track record of creating stunning signage solutions for outdoor environments, such as their work for South Cumberland State Park and Oak Ridge, Pannier Graphics can design and fabricate panels that perfectly complement the village's historical character.

Use of Space

The pea gravel that Cannonsburgh uses to fill the center of the site is hard to walk on. Gravel is not stable or slip-resistant, so people with disabilities and the older population may have difficulty walking on it. Instead, Cannonsburgh should use alternative means in that area. For example, Cannonsburgh could install grass or artificial turf. Artificial turf is durable, low maintenance, and can be maintained without irrigation. The turf would allow visitors to walk around the site comfortably. However, driving on artificial grass for long periods is not recommended. However, occasional car use should be okay. Natural grass would also allow visitors to walk throughout the site comfortably.

Throughout the years, Cannonsburgh has hosted many events at the site. In October, the site hosts a Harvest Day event.¹ They have handmade crafts, hayrides, music, dancing, food trucks, and blacksmith demonstrations at this event.¹ They host a drive-through Christmas lights event in November and December. However, Cannonsburgh could expand the drive-through idea to include more opportunities. Like Harvest Day, they could have vendors, food trucks, and music. They could also do pictures with Santa and other Christmas characters like the Grinch. Back home, in Western Kentucky, the local park offers an experience like the one above. The event is called Deck the Park. Deck the Park is free, and it decorates the entire park with lights, fair rides, various food trucks, and guests like Santa and the Grinch.

Cannonsburgh could also do more to highlight the African American history in Tennessee and Rutherford County. In February, the art center in the village could highlight local black artists and have them showcase their work or teach a class. Furthermore, throughout the years, the site has often participated in an event, "Movie Under the Stars," in the summer.² Cannonsburgh could implement a night where they show films directed and starred in by African Americans. Furthermore, in 2022, Cannonsburgh had Story Time and Coloring and Story Time and Scavenger Hunt events.³ In order to incorporate black history, the site could tell the stories of prominent black leaders or historical figures and then have coloring sheets about that person. For the scavenger hunt, the site could relate an event to someone and have people find the items. For example, Ruby Bridges was the first black student to integrate into all-white schools. The item to find could be a pencil, backpack, or notebook.

¹ "Cannonsburgh Village," Murfreesboro Parks & Recreation, accessed 18 November 2024, <https://www.murfreesborotn.gov/164/Cannonsburgh-Village>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

In 2021, Cannonsburgh hosted a Living History Day. They allowed children access to the Leeman house, where they dressed up and learned what it was like to live there.⁴ Children could explore the house and learn about the items in the collection. Cannonsburgh also has blacksmith demonstrations due to a partnership with the Rutherford County Blacksmith Association. The site could make these days of living history more available and have the staff dressed in fashion from the 1800s. For example, in 1995, they hosted a Pioneer Day event in which there were grist-milling, soap making, clothes washing, weaving, and yarn-spinning demonstrations with workers dressed in period costumes.⁵ Furthermore, Cannonsburgh could have more hands-on demonstrations or workshops. In the past, they had workshops where visitors learned how to make bird feeders, four patch quilts, and hosted knitting and crocheting events.⁶ By having more of these demonstrations and workshops on a weekly or monthly basis, Cannonsburgh could have new or old visitors stop in more. These events would also create a sense of community and introduce people in the city to each other.

Lastly, Cannonsburgh could host historical lectures, and the museum could be where the lecture is housed. Cannonsburgh could invite local professors or graduate students to lecture on the history of Rutherford County, Tennessee history, or American history. Giving a lecture would allow graduate students to work on their presentation skills, and presenting would be a good resume builder. Cannonsburgh could email MTSU's history department about receiving submissions for presentations, or they could update their website and have potential lecturers submit a proposal online to publicize the opportunity of hosting lectures. Cannonsburgh can update its website and make social media posts to market the event. Due to the museum being on the smaller side, Cannonsburgh could have visitors RSVP to the event. The site could also divide off a section of the museum to be a designated lecture spot.

Significance and Use of Space Links

The patron and his/her observations and involvements with the past demonstrated by Cannonsburgh Village are vital for the survival of the park. Functionality and the presentation of history influence guest experiences and revenue opportunities. The version of history chosen for display by Murfreesboro Parks & Recreation plays a significant role in Cannonsburgh's community engagement. For example, digital visitors are unable to experience the entirety of the park. Cannonsburgh Village's website features a link to a detailed description of the World's Largest Cedar Bucket. However, a complete narrative of other structures remains absent from this webpage.⁷ While many park-goers may wish to visit Cannonsburgh solely to marvel at the World's Largest Cedar Bucket, others may wish to experience the historical representation of 19th century Middle Tennessee. Guests from other states or countries looking for an adventure in

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Jennifer Goode, "Pioneer Days Bring Back the Past," *The Tennessean*, April 26, 1995, <https://www.proquest.com/historical-newspapers/april-26-1995-page-84-138/docview/1912557908/se-2>.

⁶ Cannonsburgh Village," Murfreesboro Parks & Recreation, accessed 18 November 2024, https://www.murfreesborotn.gov/164/Cannonsburgh-Village_

⁷ Ibid.

Middle Tennessee will be unable to gauge the true nature of Cannonsburgh's historical interpretations with the current webpage layout. By adding links to each of the other structures with photographs and simple descriptions, Murfreesboro Parks & Recreation can increase website traffic which can lead to an increase in physical movement throughout the park.

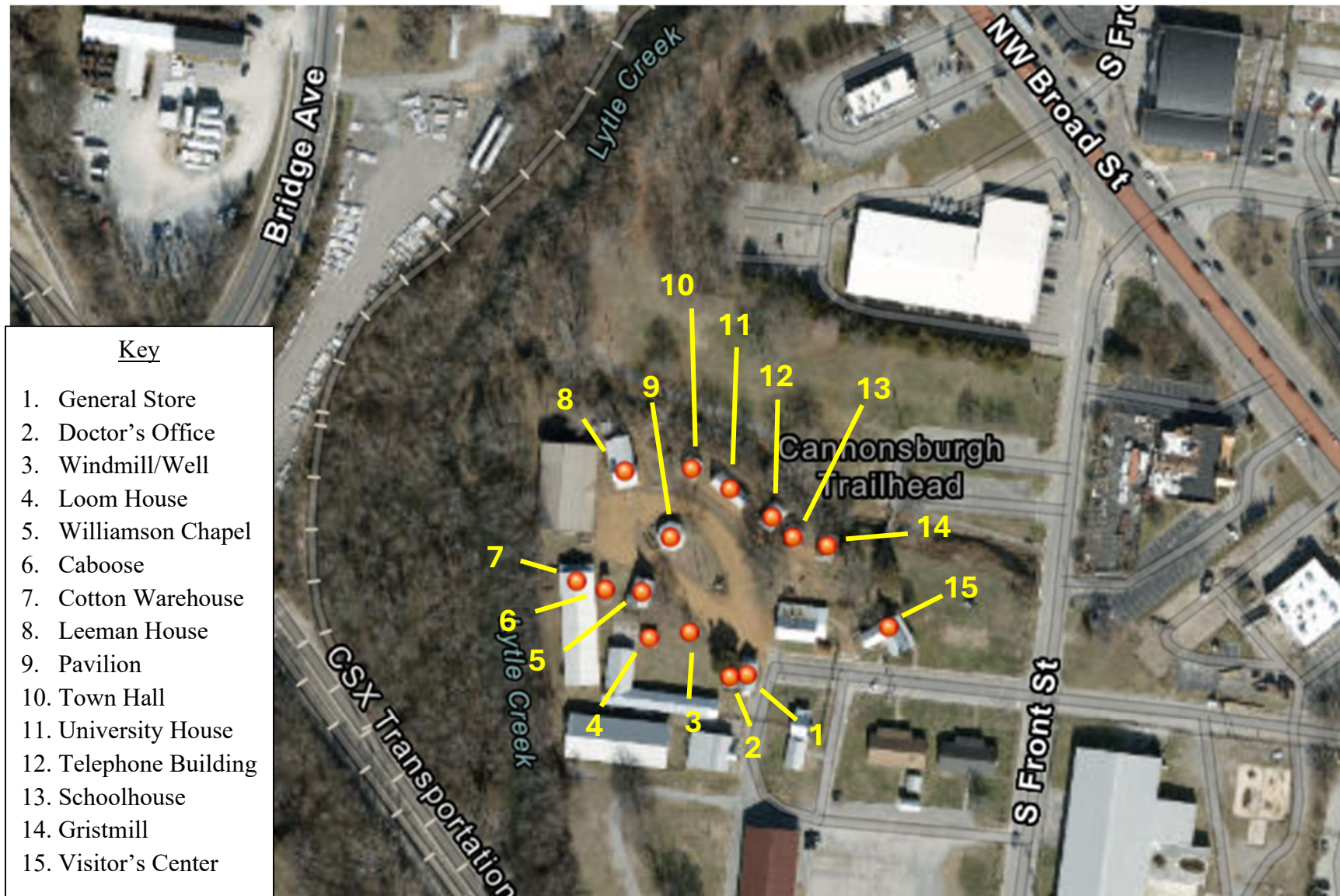
Although the presentation of history affects participation, the most influential factor that can impact the way visitors learn history on-site has to do with the way they move through the park and whether they can access buildings, spaces, and the stories presented. Currently, Cannonsburgh is arranged in an asymmetrical loop with prominent buildings along the outside edge of the loop's bend (apart from the pavilion which is situated at its center). Since no path exists to encourage visitation of all structures, patrons must travel either clockwise from the McKnight Building along the pea-gravel walkway of the loop and end at the Blacksmith's Shop or counterclockwise the opposite direction. Unfortunately, this path excludes the Tractor Barn, outhouse and smokehouse behind Leeman House, and the World's Largest Cedar Bucket. If patrons leave the graveled loop to view other areas of the park, they must backtrack to experience everything offered or they may opt to miss it entirely as nothing exists to keep their attention along the path. To combat this issue, Murfreesboro Parks & Recreation can opt to add only one entrance into the park and erect directional signs instructing patrons on which direction to travel. The current "walking tour" pamphlet given to patrons provides a subtle guided route in a counterclockwise direction along the loop. However, it is not advertised effectively, nor does it capture every structure Cannonsburgh has to offer. The entrance beside the McKnight Building does not follow the same route as the pamphlet but makes more sense. Patrons can travel around the McKnight Building to visit the Doctor's Office, General Store, Garage, and Tractor Barn but then come back to interact with Village Loom House and Williamson Chapel before proceeding into C.N. Hayes Museum and continuing along the route. By placing interpretive wayside panels along this route, it would allow engagement with the landscape between structures and ensure patrons follow the designated path and make backtracking more sensible. Panels may dig deeper into the interpretation of the landscape such as vegetation, the creek, etc. Another alternative, however, would be to relocate Village Loom House and Williamson Chapel along the line of structures (rather than in front of several of them). This way, the experience of moving through the space would be enhanced for all patrons as backtracking or exclusion would be avoidable.

The last area of concern for Cannonsburgh Village is accessibility. The pea-gravel walkway within the center of the loop poses serious ADA concerns and hinders flow throughout the park. Patrons with limited mobility, such as the elderly or vision impaired, may slip on the loose gravel underfoot. Wheelchairs may also experience increased difficulty traveling throughout the park as paved walkways are quite narrow and maneuvering the gravel can be extremely strenuous and challenging. Only four structures, the General Store, Williamson Chapel, the Pavilion, and C.N. Hayes Museum, contain ADA accessible ramps (one of which is in serious disrepair). This severely limits patron engagement with the entirety of the park as most buildings require ascending steps to view their interior displays. Other structures inaccessible to patrons with mobility difficulties include the outhouse and smokehouse behind Leeman House. The terrain leading to both structures is uneven and can cause slips and falls. By adding more ADA accessibility, Murfreesboro Parks & Recreation can expand their guest experience as Cannonsburgh Village becomes a more inclusive space.

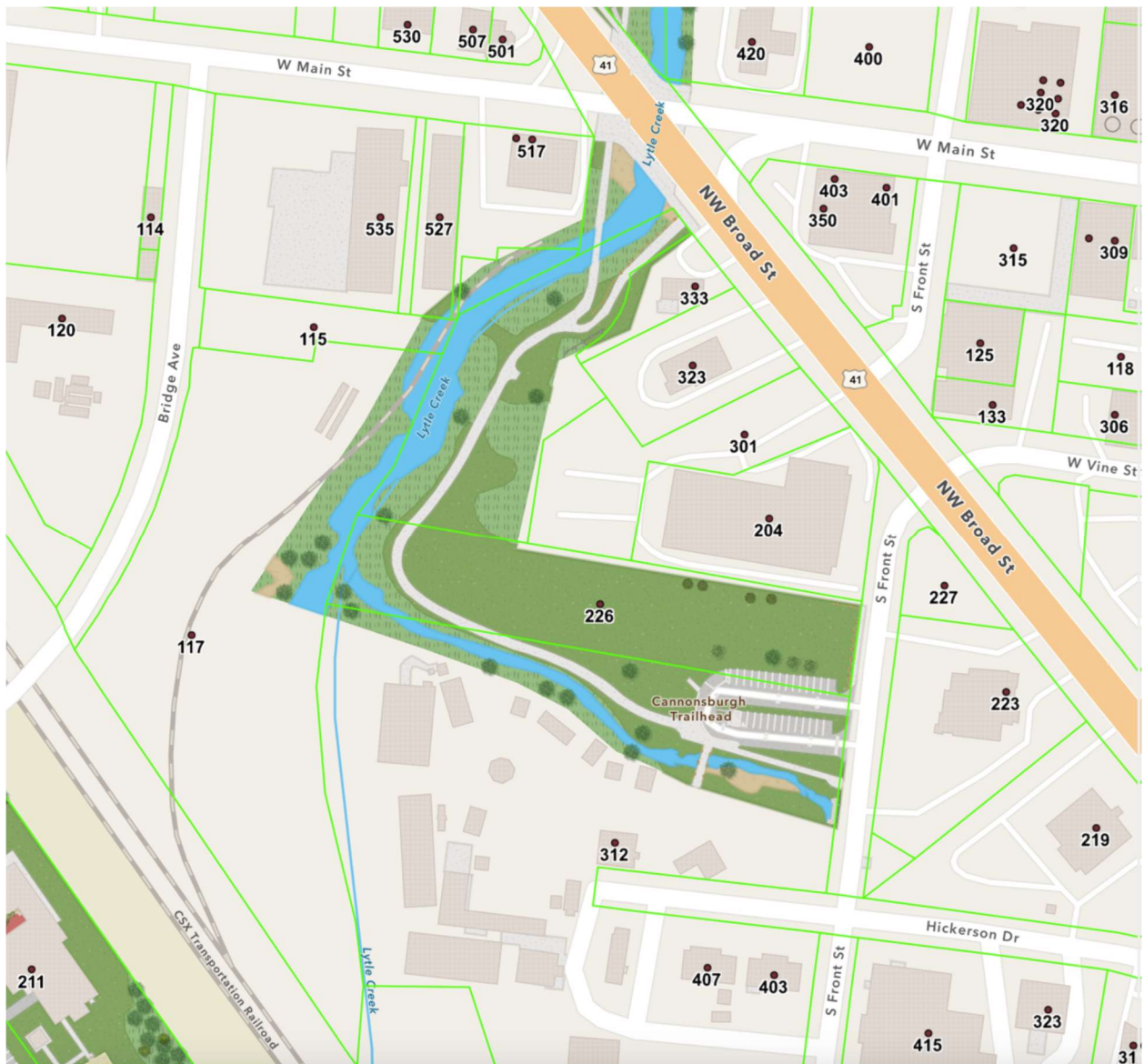
Unfortunately, the current topography of Cannonsburgh Village hinders adequate and inclusive patron participation. If relocation of specific buildings seems unrealistic, adding ADA

ramps for several structures and replacing the pea-gravel with a material less dangerous can aid in inclusion. For functionality purposes, patrons would benefit from a structured route where interaction with all buildings and structures were possible.

Site Map



Rutherford County Property Assessor Map



Interactive Map URL: <https://arcg.is/00Omrbv0>

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Appendix A

Surrounding Development Opportunities and Threats



Keystone Project Rendering, *BoroPulse.com*

Thanks to Murfreesboro's status as one of the fastest growing cities in the country, future developments near Cannonsburgh offer significant opportunities and threats.⁸ The Keystone and Town Creek Daylighting projects promise greater foot traffic to the area immediately adjacent to Cannonsburgh. Proposed by Brentwood-based developer HRP Residential, the Keystone project will update the physical infrastructure along Broad Street from Church Street to Vine Street. The project will add 100 condominiums, 238 apartments,

40,000 square feet of retail space, a 150-room boutique hotel, and an additional 715 parking spaces.⁹ Most importantly for Cannonsburgh, a pedestrian bridge will link the downtown area to the southwest side of Broad Street and the newly daylighted Town Creek. Walking and biking trails along the creek will link Cannonsburgh and the Greenway Trail System with the Discovery Center and Murphree Spring.¹⁰ Though Keystone does raise concerns with some locals regarding property costs and traffic, the overall effect for Cannonsburgh will be increased visibility, increased foot traffic, and greater integration into the downtown area.

A less beneficial project would have been the professional baseball field proposed earlier in 2024. The field would have significantly intruded on the look and feel of Cannonsburgh, required the removal/relocation of several adjacent structures, such as the McKnight House and sheds containing historic farming equipment, and dominated the sightline looking southeast from the Pavilion. Funding for the proposed field fell through in November 2024 when Mayor Shane McFarland indicated that the \$25-40 million needed to



⁸ "Murfreesboro One of the Top 20 Fastest Growing Cities in the Country," Rutherford County Source, accessed December 3, 2024, <https://rutherfordsource.com/murfreesboro-one-of-top-20-fastest-growing-cities-in-the-country/>.

⁹ "Project Keystone Prepares to Break Ground in Downtown Murfreesboro Among Mixed Reviews From Public," Murfreesboro Pulse, accessed December 3, 2024, <https://boropulse.com/2024/03/project-keystone-prepares-to-break-ground-in-downtown-murfreesboro-among-mixed-reviews-from-public/>.

¹⁰ "Town Creek Project," City of Murfreesboro Tennessee, accessed December 3, 2024, <https://www.murfreesborotn.gov/2608/Town-Creek-Project>.

construct the park would be more properly allocated to other immediate needs, such as road improvement, public safety, public parks, and solid waste systems.¹¹

¹¹ “Baseball to Murfreesboro strikes out, city focusing funds on improvement projects,” FOX 17 WZTV Nashville, updated November 21, 2024, accessed December 3, 2024, https://fox17.com/news/local/baseball-to-the-boro-strikes-out-city-focusing-funds-on-improvement-projects?fbclid=IwY2xjawGxbWVleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHcxa7haKsp8CZhQZ3TELMpoWAN_YMsdNkBkLNOqfHtSqEOPrJ0qP6sMpmQ_aem_BXiDk5hOIsD5Us2SXRgCRA.

Appendix B

2010 Preservation Needs Report

**PRESERVATION NEEDS
AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES
FOR
CANNONBURGH VILLAGE
MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE**



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