

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

**A Capital Campaign for
Travellers Rest Historic House Museum**





Above: school group visiting Travellers Rest; Right: place setting in historic home; Below: Elizabeth Craig of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Tennessee (NSCDA-TN) with Mr. John Tilford of L&N Railroad in 1954 during transfer of ownership.



TRAVELLERS REST HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

Mission:

Travellers Rest Historic House Museum is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the Overton home and landscape and serving as a gateway for learners of all ages to explore and experience Nashville's historic past.



Clockwise from top: Officer Training Camp; portrait of Claiborne Hines; kiosk interpreting the site's archaeological history



We believe as an historic site we have an obligation to provide a space that welcomes and facilitates open dialogue. We are working every day to more accurately tell the stories of all former residents of Travellers Rest, including native communities who resided on this land prior to 1799, those enslaved here during the 18th and 19th centuries, and property owners and descendants. Learning from our collective history should lead to a better understanding of our present and allow for continued growth in understanding of our community, state, and country.



WELCOME TO TRAVELLERS REST

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	5
About Travellers Rest	6
The Need	10
Estimated Cost	14
A Special Challenge	15
How to Give	16
Board of Directors	18

TRAVELLERS REST HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM



225 YEARS

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE



Above: historic outbuildings; Left: current collections storage in basement of Visitor's Center; Below: original document from John Overton describing clothing for the enslaved

Oct. 20 - 1820 C-1-270
 Lilla the Deaver wishes to get a thick pair
 of shoes made - double soles, and lined through
 They must be made large, so as not to
 pinch the feet - Lilla is sickly and must
 have sent a pair of shoes to soon damp
 pointed - I will pay what is reasonable
 on her contract for such a pair
 Traveller, Putnam Co. 1820 J. M. Overton
 State of Tennessee, Putnam County, I hereby certify that the foregoing is the true and correct copy of the original document as it appears in the records of the County Clerk's Office.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose of the Campaign

Travellers Rest has launched a capital campaign to raise money for the following three projects. Each activity is foundational to providing history education for the adults and children who live in and visit the Nashville, Tennessee area.

- Stabilize and preserve the historic buildings on the property
- Improve space use for collection storage and staff offices
- Secure more permanent funding sources for educational staff

Amount Needed

The total goal for the campaign is \$3 million.

What Travellers Rest Provides to the Public

Cultural Impact. Travellers Rest provides educational programs about Tennessee and American history for the people of Tennessee and its visitors. Travellers Rest programs are distinct because they are personal experiences provided in small group guided tours, programs, and living history activities. People have lived on this land for approximately 1,000 years, and visitors learn about much of that history when visiting Travellers Rest.

Economic Impact. Travellers Rest engages more than 12,000 adults and children each year through guided tours, educational programming, and events. Approximately half are visitors from more than 50 miles away who spend at least half a day visiting Travellers Rest. Nashville tourism agencies estimate individual tourists spend \$286 per day, providing a way to estimate an economic impact of between \$850,000 to \$1,700,000 per year.

Preparation Towards Building a Foundation for the Future

- 1992 and 2015 Updated Historic Structures Report by Phillips and Opperman, Restoration Architects
- 2020 EMC Engineering and WASCO Engineering study of structural issues in the historic house
- 2021 study by Landmarks Facilities Group to study current condition based on year-long environmental readings from 2019 funded by National Endowment for the Humanities
- 2022 Adoption of a strategic plan to include the three projects described above
- 2022 Feasibility Study and plan for a capital campaign by Esler Consulting resulting from Board retreat
- 2023 Submission of requests to National Endowment for the Humanities for a Master Site Plan and to the State of Tennessee for structural work on the historic house

What will ensure that the Capital Campaign will be completed as planned?

Travellers Rest will seek support from local, state, and federal government agencies, private foundations, and individuals.

ABOUT TRAVELLERS REST



Travellers Rest is an historic site in Nashville where people have lived continuously for approximately 1,000 years. Through guided tours, educational programs, and events, visitors to Travellers Rest learn about the people who lived on this land, beginning with the first residents, prehistoric Mississippian-era Native Americans; followed by backcountry settlers during our early national period, including enslaved peoples; followed by people building the country through business and agriculture; and more recently, women who believe history is important to preserve and to share. Their stories are told through the archaeological, architectural, and other cultural resources preserved at this historic site.



PROFESSIONAL PRESERVATION



Steady progress has been made to preserve the cultural resources at Travellers Rest and to provide public access to these resources. Since the NSCDA-TN saved the historic house and property in 1954, they have restored the house, implemented a furnishing plan carefully researched by notable historian William Seale, constructed a building for educational purposes, and engaged tens of thousands of school children and adults in programs. Research and exhibitions serve the interests of visitors. Examples include research into the enslaved people who lived here, the Overton family, and the people who experienced the Civil War here. Also, archaeological research has recently progressed on the Native Americans from the Mississippian era. Archaeology is the way we learn most about these people. Archaeologists have conducted digs at the site, and recently new Ground Penetrating Radar technology was used to determine what subterranean resources may still be present and where they are located.



HISTORY EDUCATION AT ITS BEST



Captions: Clockwise from top left:
Junior Docent Camp in collections
storage; History's Mysteries Camp;
students with artisans in weaving
house; field trip; Archaeology Camp

YOUR SUPPORT IS A GIFT FOR SCHOOLS, VISITORS, AND THE COMMUNITY



Travellers Rest provides educational programs about Tennessee history for visitors. Travellers Rest programs are distinct because they are personal experiences. Small group guided tours and programs invite visitors to take time to observe, listen, question, and ponder the stories told here. Access to original spaces facilitated by skilled educators allow both children and adults alike to develop a deeper understanding. Also, living history programs teach by experience, showing people the differences between pre-industrial activities of everyday life and the ease with which we live today.

Travellers Rest engages more than 12,000 adults and children each year through guided tours, educational programming, and events.



THE NEED

To better serve the people of Tennessee and the nation as stewards of these historic resources, the Board of Directors and staff of Travellers Rest will complete these three major projects by the celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary in 2026.

1. Stabilize and preserve the historic buildings on the property
2. Improve space use for collection storage and staff offices
3. Secure more permanent funding sources for educational staff



The brick wall between the 1808 and 1828 building is separating and needs to be stabilized and reinstalled.

PRESERVE HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND UPGRADE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Maintaining historic structures requires unending care. According to historic preservationists, every 50 years historic structures need preservation work to ensure their continued existence. Travellers Rest is no exception. According to a report from WASCO Engineering, the exterior bricks require tuck pointing so that water will be prevented from infiltrating the very walls of the historic house. Also, the joists between the first and second floors need to be retied so that visitors can continue to safely tour the second floor.

The more modern barn, which supports historic preservation educational activities, is a bit less glamorous, but equally important. The roof needs to be replaced on the nearly thirty-year-old building. Technology and rest room and kitchen areas require upgrading both for educational uses and the occasional third-party use.



Various stages of the 2022
stabilization phase of smokehouse
preservation project

IMPROVE SPACE USE



In addition to the Visitors Center, staff offices are also in the historic house. This puts strain on the structure. To reduce stress on this important historic resource, the Board of Directors and staff will commission a master site plan to efficiently use its spaces without disturbing important historical resources above and below ground.



FUND EDUCATIONAL STAFF



Left: Officer Training Camp; Right: a staff member overseeing mock excavations at Archaeology camp

Essential to providing the experiential, effective educational work at Travellers Rest is the educational staff. The talented history educators who have filled these roles are skilled teachers, engaging speakers, and traditional craftspeople. Often these positions are funded by program fees supplemented by contributions from other sources, such as grants. In fact, Travellers Rest, as most museums, subsidize each child or adult who participates by \$25-\$50 per visit. This is not sustainable. Travellers Rest seeks to endow a permanent educational position through this campaign. These positions will ensure that the exceptional history education currently in practice at Travellers Rest will continue.

ESTIMATED COST

The goal is to have these projects completed by the 250th anniversary of our nation's history in 2026. Below is a chart listing cost estimates to achieve these strategic planning goals.

Building	Project	Estimated Cost
Historic House	Structural stabilization and repointing	\$1,000,000
Educational Barn	New roof, upgrades to kitchen, bathrooms, Wi-Fi and media systems	\$250,000
Improve Overall Space Use	Consult with professionals to develop a master site plan and begin implementation	\$250,000
Fund educational Staff positions	Create endowment to provide annual support	\$1,500,000

A SPECIAL CHALLENGE

If you believe history education is important, we have a challenge to offer you. We invite you to join in the vision to **Build a Foundation for the Future** by contributing to the capital campaign for Travellers Rest Historic House Museum. Your contribution will literally ensure the future foundation of the historic house by funding necessary structural work. Or, if you choose, your gift will assist with the development and implementation of a master site plan. Or, you could ensure that talented museum educators are hired and remain on staff to teach and facilitate learning for people of all ages well into the future.



HOW TO GIVE

There are many ways to give to **Building a Foundation for the Future: A Capital Campaign** for Travellers Rest Historic House Museum. A pledge form is included with this brochure. Simply complete the pledge form and mail it back to Travellers Rest, 636 Farrell Parkway, Nashville, TN 37220. You can include your first contribution with the pledge form or plan to send it later. You can also give by Venmo or Paypal by visiting the web site www.historictravellersrest.org.

Staff or Board members from Travellers Rest are happy to speak with you further about how you can assist with the campaign. Please call 615-832-8197 or email Katie O'Bryan, Ph.D., Executive Director at director@historictravellersrest.org or Jennifer Esler, Director of Development at Jenny@historictravellersrest.org.

Leadership Gifts:

\$100,000 to \$1,000,000

\$100,000
\$250,000
\$500,000
\$1,000,000

Major Gifts:

\$10,000 to \$99,999

\$10,000
\$25,000
\$50,000
\$75,000

Founding Gifts:

\$1,000 to \$9,999

\$1,000
\$2,500
\$5,000
\$7,500

Friend Gifts:

\$1 to \$999

All gifts are appreciated

Thank you for considering a gift to **Build a Foundation for the Future!**

IMAGINE

So much rests on your response to this challenge. Imagine a future Travellers Rest—a jewel of a place where you can walk amidst tall trees, hear birds chirp, and see squirrels scamper. Imagine the historic buildings beautifully preserved and enjoyed by people who by experiencing history in three dimensions gain a deeper understanding of life today. Imagine glimpsing nearly 1,000 years of human history through the lens of one place taught by engaging, trained educators and living history demonstrators. This future vision requires a new foundation for Travellers Rest—literally and financially. Won't you join us in making this vision a reality?



TRAVELLERS REST
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CONTACT US FOR FURTHER INQUIRIES

636 Farrell Parkway
Nashville, TN 37220

615-832-8197

www.historictravellersrest.org

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225 YEARS



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PLEDGE CARD

TRAVELLERS REST HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM



225 YEARS

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Building a Foundation for the Future A Capital Campaign for Travellers Rest

Yes, I want to contribute!

Name of Person Making Pledge _____

Amount of Pledge _____

My pledge will be paid in _____ installments over _____ years.

The first payment to begin _____ (month) _____ (year).

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Enclosed is my check for _____ (amount)

My payment is coming by Venmo in the amount of _____

THANK YOU very much for your support!

Historic Travellers Rest

@HistoricTravellersRest



venmo

Giving Levels

Leadership Gifts: \$100,000 – \$1,000,000

Major Gifts: \$10,000 – \$99,999

Founding Gifts: \$1,000 – \$9,999

All gifts are appreciated!

Please complete and return this form to
Katie O'Bryan, Executive Director
Travellers Rest Historic House Museum
636 Farrell Parkway, Nashville, TN 37220

Travellers Rest Historic House Museum is registered as a
501(c)(3) charitable organization in the state of Tennessee.