

Robert Kurtz

Murfreesboro, TN 37130

robertkkurtz023@gmail.com

701-306-4141

EDUCATION

Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Ph.D. Public History (Historic Preservation)

Expected Dec 2023

North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota

Bachelor of Science: History/ Anthropology Minor

August 2009

Master of Science: History

December 2018

Thesis: Construction, Adaptation, and Preservation of Earth Homes on the Northern Plains

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Center for Historic Preservation

Graduate Research Assistant/PhD Candidate

August 2019-present

Performs field and scholarly research on historic buildings and sites. Provides preservation recommendations specific to building styles and their maintenance needs. Conducts tours of downtown Murfreesboro and guides visitors to historic sites.

Each of the following projects resulted deliverables such as a full assessment, documentation, and recommendations for care of artifacts; structural assessment and recommendations for future maintenance and repair needs; fundraising strategy; suggestions for potential productive uses of historic buildings; complete chain of title; and biographical research on past occupants.

- T.S. Stribling House, Clifton, TN
- Thomas Amis Farm, Rogersville, TN
- Immanuel Episcopal Church, La Grange, TN
- Davies Manor, Bartlett, TN
- Grange Hall, Warren County, TN
- Hutmacher Farm, Dickenson, ND

Other student projects included:

- "Hidden Town 3D": For the Christian David slave dwelling in Old Salem (a non-extant structure), conducted research to locate building plans and identify historic materials and methods of construction; utilized this information to create a 3D rendering of the building.
- "Baker Farm": Currently conducting research to gather information about a prominent progressive farmer and documenting the site using drone aerial photography and video of the site and buildings for use in National Registry nomination.

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Lowe's Home Improvement, Fargo, ND

Millwork/Pro Sales Specialist/Student

March 2013-August 2018

Informed customers on windows that would best suit their needs. Set up appointments to meet with installers. Explained contracts to customers and ordered windows according to installer's measurements. Ensured quality control of windows through inspections upon arrival and reordered if specifications were not met. Follow through with order and installation of products to ensure customer was satisfied with product and process. Worked with professional contractors on projects. Estimated and ordered materials according to blueprints and/or contractor's needs. Loaded materials and ensured shelves were full using forklift and/or reach truck.

Carpenter/Kurtz Construction, Fort Collins, Co/Fergus Falls, MN/Fargo, ND

Owner/General Contractor/Student

May 1994–January 2009

Managed a residential construction company working in Colorado and Minnesota. Hired, managed, and ensured quality workmanship by subcontractors. Worked with clients, architects, and local building officials to ensure that residential plans could be constructed to meet local building codes, as well as project budgets and schedules. Managed projects and change orders as requested by clients and inspectors to conform to specifications and/or updated code requirements or client demands. Managed multiple projects simultaneously in a fast-paced environment.

United States Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton, California

Corporal/0311

July 1988-August 1992

Honorable discharge; Navy Commendation Medal (with combat "V"), Rifle Expert Badge (3rd award), Certificate of Appreciation, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (w/2 Stars), Meritorious Mast, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal (w/3 stars), Kuwait Liberation Medal.

Served as a grunt and fireteam leader. Coordinated and organized team in combat scenarios according to military specifications. Driver for executive officer (last six months of tour). Organized gear and coordinated executive officer's training itinerary as ordered.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- "Among the Stone and Clay: The Hutmacher Experience," Rural Studies section of the Western Social Science Association Conference, Houston, Texas, DATE
- "Sod and Stone: Earthen Homes on the Northern Plains," Poster presentation for the Western Social Science Association Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, DATE
- "Architecture on the Northern Great Plains: A Study in Earthen Homes," Rural Studies section of the Western Social Science Association Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, DATE

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- “Prairie Earth, Prairie Homes: The Field School Experience,” Preservation North Dakota Conference, Dickinson, North Dakota, DATE

SKILLS

- Basic knowledge of ArcGIS mapping and Microsoft Excel.
- Licensed drone operator.
- Experienced in reading blueprints, managing crews, and organizing multiple projects.