



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

Metropolitan Historical Commission
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission
Sunnyside in Sevier Park
3000 Granny White Pike
Nashville, Tennessee 37204
Telephone: (615) 862-7970

Metropolitan Historical Commission
May 20, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

Howard Office Building, Sonny West Conference Center
700 President Ronald Reagan Way

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Welcome Linda Wynn, Chair
- II. VOTE: April Minutes Linda Wynn
- III. Public Comment Linda Wynn
The MHC holds a designated public comment period at the beginning of each meeting. Members of the public in attendance may provide comments to the Board or its Committees during this designated time. Anyone wishing to speak about an agenda item will be allotted two (2) minutes to make comments.
- IV. VOTE: Historical Markers Jessica Reeves
 - John Wesley Frierson
 - Grassmere
 - US Colored Troops at Peach Orchard Hill
- V. "Jefferson Street Historical Society" Monchiere' Holmes-Jones
- VI. Director's Report Tim Walker
- VII. Historic Zoning Report Robin Zeigler
- VIII. Other Business
- IX. Announcements
- X. Adjourn

Metropolitan Historical Commission
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ADA NOTICE: If any accommodations are needed for individuals with disabilities who wish to be present at this meeting, please request the accommodation through hubNashville at <https://nashville.gov/hub-ADA-boards> or by calling (615) 862-5000. Requests should be made as soon as possible, but 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting is recommended.

Historical Markers, May 2024

John Wesley Frierson 1880-1965

J.W. Frierson moved to Nashville around 1900. A noted entrepreneur and one of the first African American millionaires in Nashville, he founded a real estate company and owned rental properties across the city. He also founded the Frierson Foundation, which established over 80 churches. As stipulated in his will, the Nashville branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has been located in the Frierson Building (1940) since his death.

474 characters and spaces

Grassmere

Michael Dunn built a still-standing brick house c. 1810. By 1839, the family enslaved at least 14 people here. The house was renovated post-Civil War and named Grassmere by Dunn's grandson, William Dickson Shute. Shute's granddaughters Margaret and Elise Croft were the last private owners. Animal and nature lovers, they left the house and land as a "nature study center" for future generations. Fulfilling the sisters' wishes, Nashville Zoo began managing the property in 1997.

479 characters and spaces

US Colored Troops at Peach Orchard Hill

Peach Orchard Hill, also called Overton Hill, was the site of significant fighting during the second day of the Battle of Nashville on December 16, 1864. The majority of fighters were from the 12th, 13th and 100th United States Colored Troops (USCT) within the 2nd Colored Brigade, commanded by Maj. Gen. James Steedman. They had little to no combat experience. Almost 40% of the 13th regiment were wounded or killed as they fought to reach the Confederate line, including 5 color bearers.

489 characters and spaces

Due to continued pressure by the USCT regiments, the Confederates were forced to send two brigades from the left flank to reinforce troops at Peach Orchard Hill. This maneuver resulted in thinning the Confederate line, the fall of Shy's Hill, and Confederate defeat. Both U.S. and Confederate leaders heralded the bravery of the USCT. As U.S. Gen. George Thomas inspected the battlefield, he told his staff, "gentlemen this settles it, the Negro will fight!"

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