

# Sulphur Dell

BASEBALL'S MOST  
HISTORIC PARK  
SINCE 1870

48TH ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS  
METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MAY 6, 2024 - 4:30 PM

# **48th Annual Preservation Awards**

**Monday, May 6, 2024**

**4:30 p.m.**

**Nashville Public Library**

## **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Linda Wynn

Chair, Metropolitan Historical Commission

W. Tim Walker

Executive Director, Metropolitan Historical Commission

Mayor Freddie O'Connell

Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County

## **ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS**

**FLETCH COKE AWARD**

**ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**COMMISSIONERS' AWARD**

**PRESERVATION LEADERSHIP AWARD**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**RECEPTION**

The Athenaeum, HASTINGS, 225 Polk Avenue

# NOMINATIONS

## **Residential**

212 Fairfax Avenue  
407 Lockland Drive  
822 Fatherland Street  
912 South Douglas Avenue  
915 Gilmore Avenue  
925 Halcyon Avenue  
1002 Paris Avenue  
1004 Montrose Avenue  
1402 Linden Avenue  
1502 Cedar Lane  
1627 Fatherland Street  
1902 Sweetbriar Avenue  
1907 Holly Street  
2000 20th Avenue South  
2509 Oakland Avenue  
2518 Blair Boulevard  
3700 Brush Hill Road  
3702 Granny White Pike  
3801 Richland Avenue  
3804 Brush Hill Road  
4501 Nebraska Avenue

## **Commercial**

606 and 700 Eighth Avenue South

### *Neighborlily*

606 Monroe Street

### *Ten21 at Five Points*

1021 Russell Street

## **Infill**

912 Jackson Street  
1511 16th Avenue South  
1812 Holly Street  
1919 Holly Street

## **Educational/Institutional**

*Smokehouse at Historic Travellers Rest*  
636 Farrell Parkway

### *Boyd House, Fisk University*

1601 Meharry Boulevard

### *Kirkland Hall, Vanderbilt University*

2201 West End Avenue

## **Industrial/Engineering**

*Tennessee Central Railway Museum*  
220 Willow Street

### *Neuhoff Boiler Building & Engine Room*

1312 Adams Street

## **Religious**

### *Cathedral of the Incarnation*

2015 West End Avenue

### *West End Synagogue*

3810 West End Avenue

### *El Shaddai Christian Church*

10604 Concord Road

## TOM VICKSTROM FLETCH COKE AWARD

Tom Vickstrom worked in financial management for a large hotelier for twenty years and in six cities before joining the Hermitage Hotel team in 2003. While he serves as Director of Finance and is part of the management leadership team for the award-winning hotel, many community members know him through his role as hotel historian. Since 2011, he has meticulously researched and published a quarterly newsletter for The Hermitage Hotel called *Reflections from the Past*, which features vintage photographs, old menus, and images of memorabilia alongside forgotten tales of hotel guests (famous and infamous), family recollections, highlights of former employees, and fascinating tidbits of history. He has uncovered countless stories, enriching the recorded history of the iconic hotel.

Vickstrom initiated the inquiries and contributed to the efforts that resulted in The Hermitage Hotel being named a National Historic Landmark in 2020, coinciding with the centennial celebration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. To help commemorate the hotel's role in this significant event, Vickstrom assembled a display of The Hermitage Hotel's private collection of memorabilia dating from the summer of 1920, when both pro- and anti-suffrage leaders were headquartered in the hotel. His wife, Wanda, assisted as art director. He also offered hotel tours highlighting the events of those critical six weeks. As an authority on the hotel's history, Vickstrom is often quoted in the media and has been featured on shows ranging from *Tennessee Crossroads* to *PBS Newshour*. In 2021, Historic Hotels of America named Vickstrom as Hotel Historian of the Year, recognizing his passion for preserving, displaying, and interpreting the history of The Hermitage Hotel and distinguishing him as a true ambassador of the past.

Vickstrom also frequently speaks to groups such as the Friends of Metro Archives, Nashville History Club, and Vanderbilt Woman's Club, and is a longtime contributor and friend of *The Nashville Retrospect*. As a member of Tennessee Trails Association, he leads urban Nashville history hikes for the group. Passionate about the history of the city he has called home since 1992, Vickstrom also currently serves on the boards of the MHC Foundation and Historic Nashville, Inc., where he coordinates events for the organization.

## **SKIP NIPPER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Skip Nipper was born in Nashville and grew up playing and watching baseball, learning about the nuances of the game and the excitement of play from his father's countless stories. As a baseball scholar, his passion for the sport is grounded in the stories of on-field plays and the players, teams, and ballparks that serve as characters and settings for his research.

Nipper is the author of *Baseball in Nashville* and is a member and a past president of the Nashville Old Timers Baseball Association. He is a member of the Society of American Baseball Research (SABR), founder of SABR's Grantland Rice-Fred Russell chapter for Nashville, and a contributing writer to SABR's Biography Project, which chronicles the biographies of those who played or managed in the major leagues, or otherwise made a significant contribution to the sport. Nipper is a highly regarded authority on Sulphur Dell history and the players and teams who played in the famed ballpark, including Nashville's Negro Leagues teams. In this spirit, he assisted Nashville Sounds staff with historical information and images for interpretive signage at First Tennessee Park when baseball returned to the area in 2015. Additionally, he is the baseball historian for the Nashville Stars, an effort to bring major league baseball to Nashville.

Nipper was keynote speaker at the 2014 Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference at Middle Tennessee State University and presented his knowledge of Sulphur Dell at the SABR 40 convention in Atlanta in 2010. He has presented at the Negro Southern League and Southern Association conferences at Rickwood Field in Birmingham on numerous occasions, including a 2018 presentation about Vols, Inc., the corporation formed in 1958 to save Nashville professional baseball from extinction. Nipper has participated in panel discussions about Nashville's baseball past at the Nashville Public Library and Metropolitan Government Archives and has spoken to numerous civic groups throughout Davidson and Wilson counties. Additionally, he is featured in NPT's documentary *Memories of Sulphur Dell* and is frequently quoted in the media.

Nipper shares Nashville's baseball history on his website *BaseballinNashville.com* and through *Skip's Corner: Nashville Baseball Podcast*, where the weekly episodes often focus on the intersection of baseball and American history.

# **NASHVILLE OLD TIMERS BASEBALL ASSOCIATION COMMISSIONERS' AWARD**

Nashville Old Timers Baseball Association began as a “hot stove” gathering organized in the winter of 1938 by Harry “War Horse” Rogers, a city employee and highly successful sandlot manager. Over eighty baseball enthusiasts joined together at Shacklett’s Cafeteria, eager to talk baseball in the off-season. After sharing stories, the group decided to make it official, electing officers (with Rogers as President) and planning a banquet for the following year. In 1984, the Nashville Old Timers Baseball Association formally adopted its creed, “To enjoy fellowship with baseball enthusiasts and to honor and support the great game of baseball at all levels.”

Since the early 1950s, the annual banquet has featured a keynote address by a noteworthy current or former player, coach, manager, or scout. Hometown talents Sonny Gray and R.A. Dickey have spoken to the group as well as Baseball Hall of Famers Bob Feller, Whitey Ford, and Tommy Lasorda, among others. The association also maintains its own Hall of Fame, recognizing standouts in Amateur Baseball, Fast Pitch Softball, and Umpires.

Additionally, the association awards college scholarships, over 350 since 1999, and often assists amateur leagues and ballparks with funding. The association also maintains a unique connection with Shelby Park through the Old Timers Baseball Facility. The baseball field was first built in 1914 and was known for many years simply as Shelby #1. Home plate is still within six feet of its original location. The Nashville Old Timers Baseball Association assumed operation of the field in 1990 and has made substantial improvements, addressing everything from in-ground sprinklers and scoreboards to dugouts and winged foul poles, as well as adding a second field in partnership with Metro Parks. The “Junie McBride Hall of Fame Room” on the upper floor of the clubhouse displays historic photos and memorabilia and recognizes members of the Old Timers Hall of Fame along with Nashville major leaguers, Old Timers past presidents, and other honored baseball players.

Eighty-five years after its inaugural meeting, the Nashville Old Timers Baseball Association remains one of the rare organizations of its kind in the United States. It is significant for its work to promote Nashville’s baseball history and its support for ongoing development of the sport.

## **MAYOR JOHN COOPER PRESERVATION LEADERSHIP AWARD**

John Cooper was born in Nashville and raised in Shelbyville. After establishing a successful career in the banking, real estate, and retail business, Cooper turned his focus to public service and politics, winning an At-Large seat on the Metropolitan Council in 2015. After a single term on the council, Cooper was elected ninth mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County in 2019.

As council member and mayor, John Cooper was known for his strong preservation ethic and a deep awareness of preservation's importance to our city's quality of life, notably as a champion of Fort Negley. In 2023, the American Battlefield Trust awarded Mayor Cooper its prestigious Preservation Legacy Award in recognition of his stalwart commitment to the site's integrity, citing his opposition to development plans at the site and his leadership in proposing a budget (later approved by Metro Council) that included \$17 million for Fort Negley. These funds were allocated to repair the fort's deteriorating stone walls, implement Phase One of a master plan, and, alongside allies, acquire additional historic properties to add to the park property.

Additionally, Cooper has been a tremendous supporter of the Metropolitan Historical and Historic Zoning Commissions. Recognizing that the city's historic preservation department must lead by example, the Cooper administration ensured that long-awaited capital improvement funds were budgeted to finance the greatly needed rehabilitation of the department's office in historic Sunnyside in Sevier Park. After nearly two years of construction, staff will return to the office this summer. Additionally, the staff roster now includes an Archaeologist and a Nashville City Cemetery Site Manager (along with increased funding for repairs at City Cemetery), meeting critical needs for the city's historic and cultural resources. Furthermore, his administration's support was paramount in the recovery after the tornado and bombing of 2020.

Under the Cooper administration, Metro purchased 88 Hermitage Avenue, the former site of the African American department of the Tennessee School for the Blind, saving it from an uncertain future by private developers. The administration also saw the establishment of Nashville's first public-private partnership with Fisk University, which includes the rehabilitation of Burrus Hall, a formerly endangered campus property.

## JUDGES

**Amy Hardin** is an Architect and Project Manager in the Life and Work Places Studio at Gresham Smith. She has extensive experience developing work plans, and organizing, tracking, and monitoring the various project components to ultimately fulfill the client's expectations. With over a decade in the industry, Hardin loves unique design challenges. She has worked on everything from renovations to new construction, from large scale multi-family buildings to small scale hospitality buildouts. Hardin is a 2024 *Nashville Business Journal* "40 Under 40" and a 2022 Nashville Emerging Leader in Architecture and Engineering. She volunteers time with AIA Middle Tennessee Chapter as the Government Relations Committee Liaison and Secretary on the Executive Board.

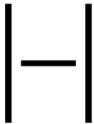
**Kate Hatfield** is a native Nashvillian who received her graduate degree from Middle Tennessee State University's Public History Program. As a graduate assistant at Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Historic Preservation, she completed projects across the South, from updating the National Register nomination for Nashville's Travellers Rest to writing a history of the construction of the Rhea County Courthouse (site of the infamous Scopes Monkey Trial). While writing her thesis, "How the Music City is Losing Its Soul: Gentrification in Nashville and How Historic Preservation Could Hinder the Process," she worked extensively in Nashville's Edgehill neighborhood, assisting with the neighborhood's then-proposed overlay and researching its history.

**Paul Hoffman** is an architectural historian on the Cultural Resources team at Rummel, Klepper, and Kahl (RK&K) Engineering Services, specializing in Section 106 compliance projects. Hoffman's experience includes historical research, fieldwork, historic architectural resources surveys, completing SHPO survey forms, and preparing historic contexts for projects in Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Iowa, and Maine. He is a former Historic Preservationist with the Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission. Hoffman learned the hands-on skills of historic preservation on projects including the Tennessee State Capitol, Belmont Mansion, Ryman Auditorium, and the Francis Rogan House at the Ulster-American Folk Park in Omagh, Northern Ireland.

## LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION

In celebration of Preservation Month, the Jefferson Street Historical Society will be honored with the Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission's Leadership Recognition on May 15, 2:00 pm at the Sonny West Conference Center. The recognition honors a neighborhood association, merchants association or individual that has, through their leadership, made outstanding contributions to their community and worked towards preservation and education regarding the history of their neighborhood/district. The winners of this recognition inspire others to take action in their communities.

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**METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF  
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY**

Sunnyside in Sevier Park  
1113 Kirkwood Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37204  
615.862.7970

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