

Metropolitan Historical Commission
Street Name Change Report for Metropolitan Council

December 8, 2017

Re: ORDINANCE NO. BL2017-1001

An ordinance to amend the Geographic Information Systems Street and Alley Centerline Layer for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, by changing the name of a portion of Cheron Road to “Creative Way” (Proposal Number 2017M-012SR-001).

The subject road currently known as Cheron Road appears on maps by 1903. On the 1903 United States Geological Survey’s map of Nashville, the road appears near the place name “Ekin” (Figure 1).¹ This map identifies only the major roads, Dickerson and Gallatin pikes.

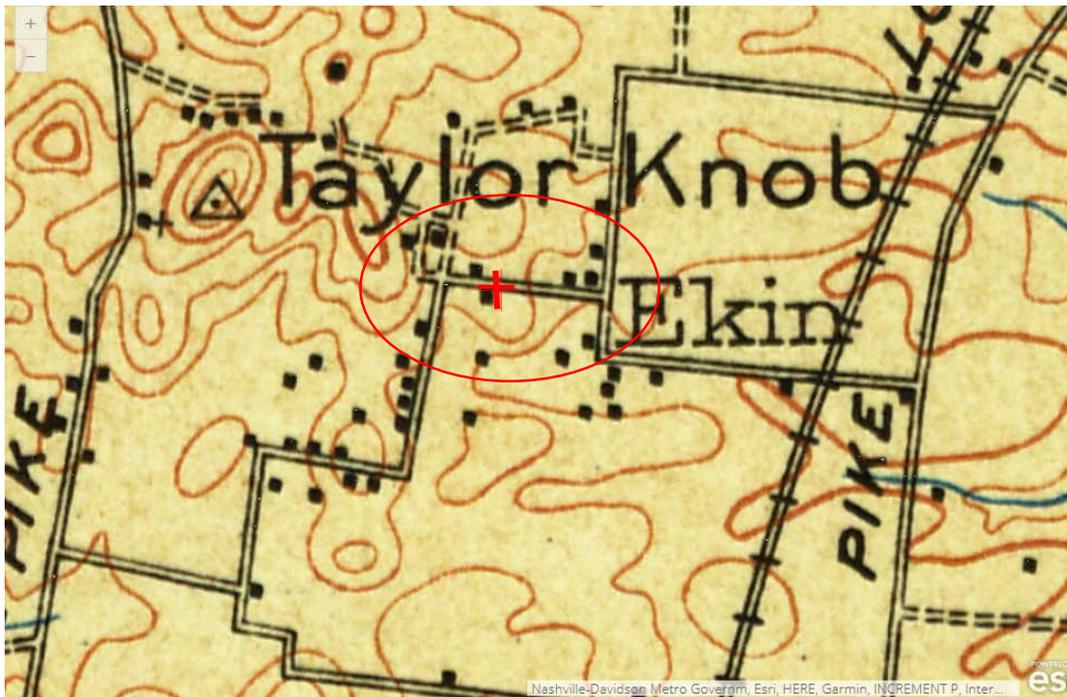


Figure 1: Nashville, 1903. The red “+” marks the 2017 location of 611 Cheron Road.

The same unnamed road also appears on the 1907 *Map of Subdivision of Thadeus Love’s Heirs Lands in the Above Styled Cause (George Love vs Robert Love et als – rule no 25365)* as recorded in the Chancery Court’s Plan Book 2, Page 106. The decree, issued by the Honorable John Allison, Judge of the Chancery Court of Davidson County, on February 27, 1907, and recorded in Minute Book 72, Page 429, refers to the map as “Exhibit A.” In this case, court-appointed commissioners reviewed the distribution of Thadeus Love’s land amongst his heirs.

¹ United States Geological Survey, Nashville [map], 1:125000, Topographic Quadrangle Map, Reston, VA: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1903. Accessed 5 December 2017 <<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs>>.

Thadeus Love acquired the subject property, which contained about 30 acres, from N. O. Love in October 1888 per Deed Book 115, Page 496, RODC. When the Commissioners visited the premises, they found that “the land had been sub-divided in five lots or shares, each share fenced and dwelling thereon and the heirs occupying their respective parts as given by their father ... In this allotment we arrived at the conclusion that we could not make a more equitable or just subdivision than their father had done relatively considered.”² The decree, which confirmed the Commissioners’ report, includes a written description of the subdivided property to accompany the map, but does not specifically name any of the “country roads” which border the property. Although the roads on the map are unnamed, there are indications that the road which served as the north boundary for the property is the subject road currently known as Cheron Road. First, several properties along Cheron Road trace back to the Thadeus Love plan. Additionally, the 1907 map shows a half-acre “Missionary Baptist Church Lot” in the northwest corner of the subject property. Trustees of the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, originally known as the Briarville Baptist colored Church (Deed Book 7383, Page 689, RODC and Deed Book 367, Page 63, RODC), continue to own this property at 611 Cheron Road.

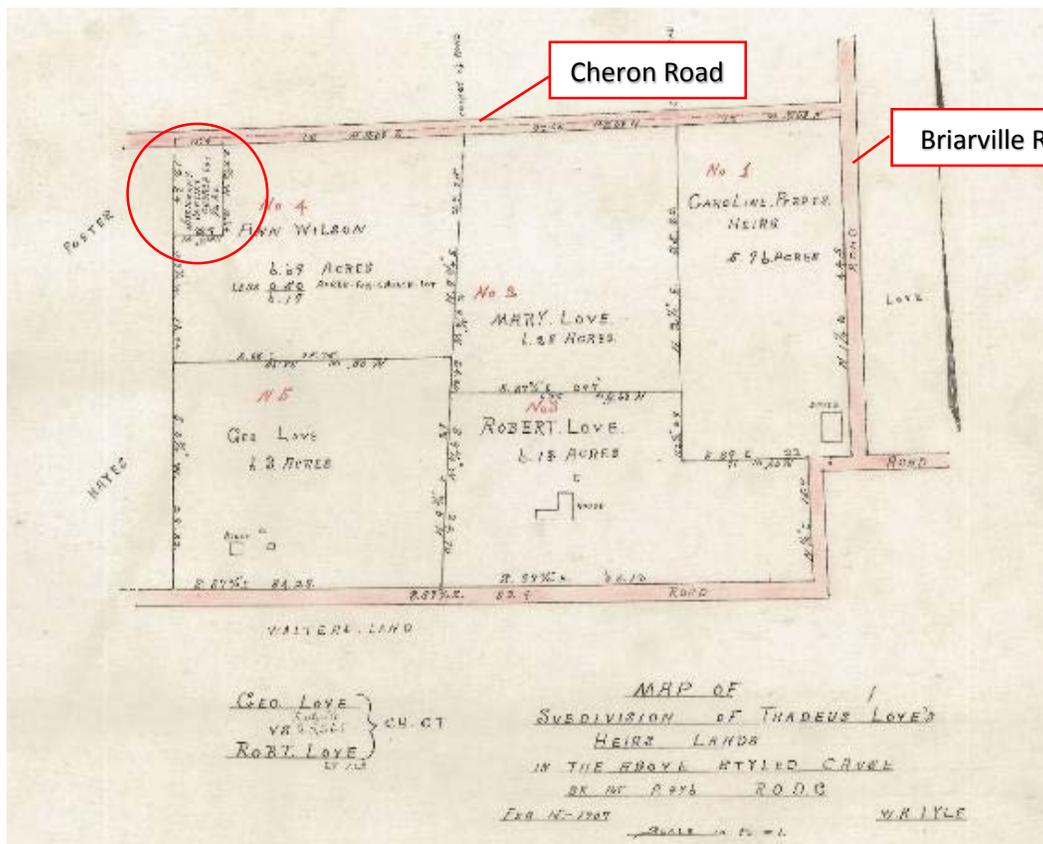


Figure 2: Subdivision of Thadeus Love's Heirs Lands, Chancery Court Plan Book 2, Page 106. The circle marks the location of the Missionary Baptist Church.

² W.H. Lyle, Commissioner and Surveyor, and Willis Lee and Alex. Pettis, Commissioners, submitted the report dated February 16, 1907. Lot 1 was left to Caroline Perry’s heirs, subject to the courtesy of Martin Perry: Moses White, Claude White, Fred White, Thadeus White, Florence Perry, Alfred Perry, and Price Perry (Minute Book 72, Pages 429-430). The remaining lots were left to the individuals noted on the map.

By 1932, the place name “Loveville” replaced the name Ekin on USGS maps. Love’s Branch is visible slightly to the south.

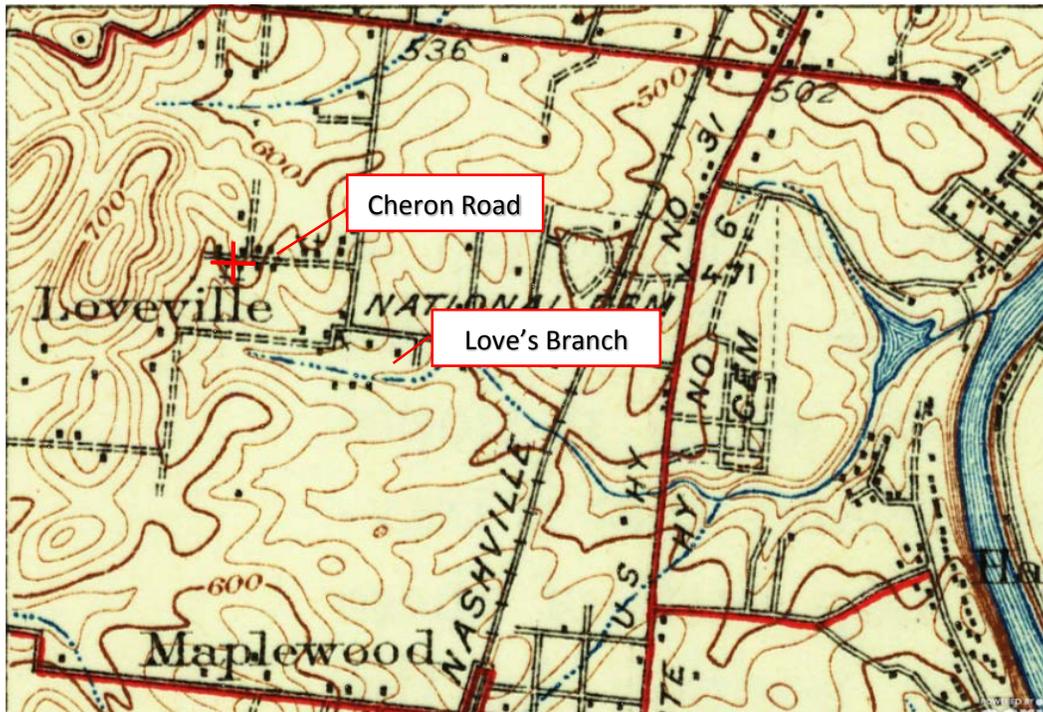


Figure 3: Hermitage, 1932. The red “+” marks the 2017 location of 611 Cheron Road. United States Geological Survey, Hermitage [map], 1:62500, Topographic Quadrangle Map, Reston, VA: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1932. Accessed 5 December 2017 <<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs>>

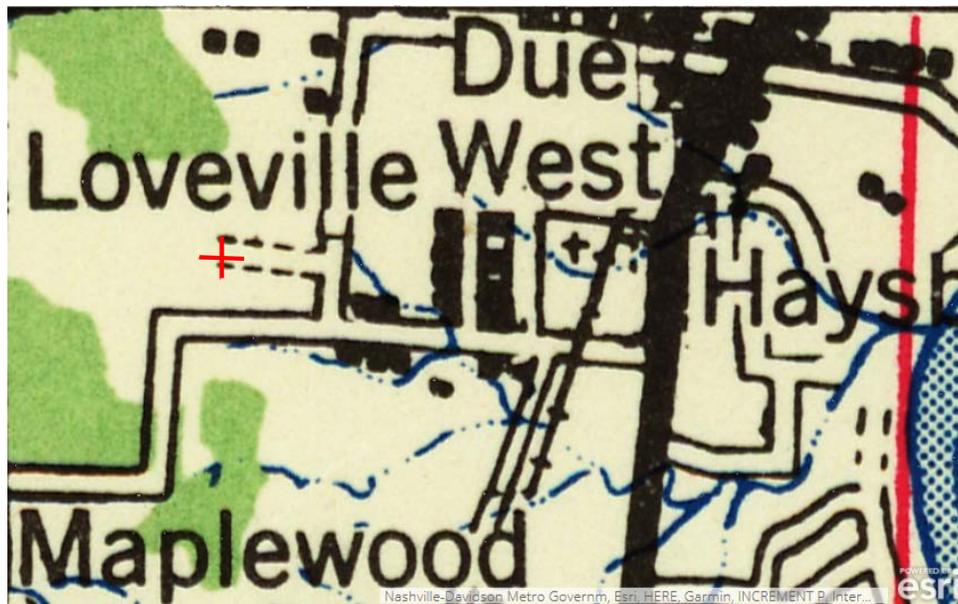


Figure 4: Lebanon, 1942. The red “+” marks the 2017 location of 611 Cheron Road. United States Geological Survey, Lebanon [map], 1:10000, Topographic Quadrangle Map, Reston, VA: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1944. Accessed 5 December 2017 <<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs>>



Figure 5: Nashville East, 1952. The red "+" marks the 2017 location of 611 Cheron Road. United States Geological Survey, Nashville East [map], 1:24000, Topographic Quadrangle Map, Reston, VA: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1954. Accessed 5 December 2017 <<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs>>

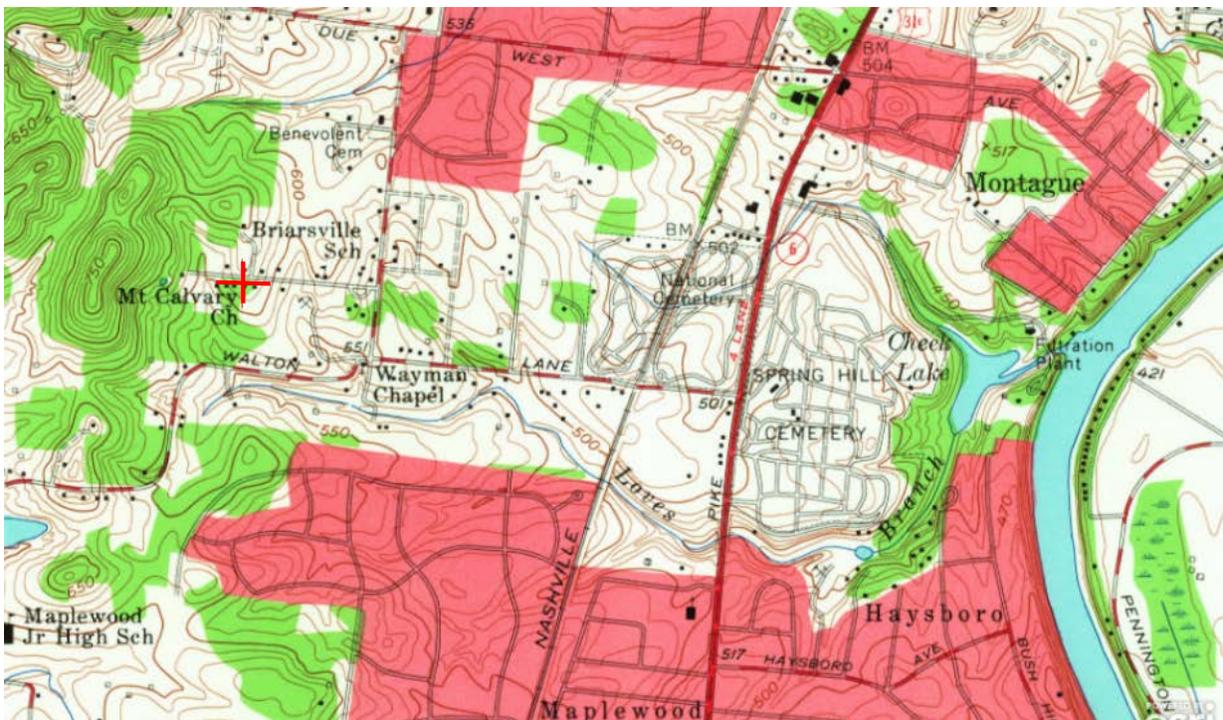


Figure 6: Nashville East, 1957. The red "+" marks the 2017 location of 611 Cheron Road. United States Geological Survey, Nashville East [map], 1:24000, Topographic Quadrangle Map, Reston, VA: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1967. Accessed 5 December 2017 <<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs>>

During its January Term, 1939, the Quarterly County Court of Davidson County accepted Briarville Road, from Walton Lane to Due West Avenue, a distance of about 3420 feet, for placement on the District Road System per plans set out by the Davidson County Highway Commission. The acceptance is recorded in the Quarterly Minutes of the Davidson County Court, Book Y, Pages 280-281.

The Quarterly County Court accepted Cheron Road “for maintenance only,” from Briarville Road westerly, a distance of about 1804 feet, during its July Term, 1950. The acceptance is recorded in the Quarterly Minutes of the Davidson County Court, Book Z, Page 330. In the 1957 Nashville City Directory, Cheron Road is listed as “Cheron Avenue (Maplewood) – from Briarville rd ext west to dead end.” This description matches the many maps drawn for the area since the early 1900s.

Several deeds for property located along Cheron Road, from 1963, 1966, and 1975, refer to Childress Road or “the southerly margin of Childress Road, now Cheron Road.”³ We are unable to confirm through any other sources that the road currently known as Cheron Road was once known as Childress Road. Searches in city directories, deeds, and historical newspapers have not yielded any information about the source of the name “Cheron.” The area appears as “Loveville” and occasionally “Loverville” as well as “Briarville,” “Briarsville,” and “Brierville” throughout the historical record.

³ “Childress Road” in Deed Book 4077, Page 97, RODC (recorded in 1966) and also Deed Book 3673, Page 21, RODC (recorded in 1963). “Childress Road, now Cheron Road” in Deed Book 4900, Page 198, RODC, (recorded March 31, 1975, granting land on Walton Lane, from Sam Sims to John L. Jenkins, being parts of lots Nos. 4 and 5 on the *Plan of the Subdivision of the Thadeus Love Tract*).