



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission
Sunnyside in Sevier Park
3000 Granny White Pike
Nashville, Tennessee 37204
Telephone: (615) 862-7970
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STAFF RECOMMENDATION
1622 Fifth Avenue North and 1612 Fourth Avenue North
October 17, 2012

Application: Historic Landmark Overlay for Fehr Elementary School and the Warner House

Map and Parcel Numbers: 08205006000 and 08205010500

Council Districts: 19

Applicant: Council Member Erica Gilmore

Project Lead: Robin Zeigler, robin.zeigler@nashville.gov, 615-862-7970

<p>Description of Project: Councilmember Erica Gilmore is requesting that Fehr Elementary School and the Warner House be adopted as a Historic Preservation Landmark.</p> <p>Recommendation Summary: Staff suggests the Commission recommend to City Council that Fehr Elementary School and the Warner House be adopted as a Historic Landmark Overlay. Fehr Middle School meets standard 1 because of its association with Nashville's Civil Rights Movement. Both buildings meet standards 3 and 5 because of their architectural style and integrity and because they are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.</p>	<p>Attachments A: Photographs</p>
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Vicinity Maps



Aerials



Background:

Constructed in 1924 (addition 1949), and named for former school board representative Rudolph Fehr, Fehr School was one of the first six schools integrated in September 1957, when Nashville Public Schools began what was then called the “Stairstep Plan.” Four African-American children, two girls and two boys, attended class on September 9, 1957, amid white protestors. The African-American custodian was badly beaten by a white mob at the end of the school day, and crosses were burned in the yards of neighboring African-Americans that night. Rumors abounded that Fehr would be blown up by agitators (a dynamite explosion in the early morning hours of September 10 did damage nearby Hattie Cotton Elementary, another of the six desegregating schools).

In 2011, Historic Nashville, Inc. listed the property in the Nashville Nine Most Endangered list. The building is currently used as the Happy Head Start center and was home for the Metro Action Commission for years. Fehr School retains a great deal of architectural integrity, and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The designation includes The Warner House at 1612 4th Avenue North which is a part of the D.T.McGavock subdivision plat and located behind and across the street from Fehr School. J.H. Warner constructed a brick two-pen c. 1865 and a rear brick ell was added prior to 1914. Warner also owned Warner Iron Company located at the 23 Homestead Building as early 1898. James C. Warner, possibly Joseph’s father, started the company in 1880. J.H. Warner ran into money problems in 1894 and had to turn over to a trustee multiple properties to pay off his debt. He bought back this house at auction for \$545.00. (He originally purchased the property for \$1500.) In 1914, Joseph is listed as an owner of Warner & Lahart, a meat company. The property remained in the Warner family up until 1937, when it was sold to pay off a \$500 debt. Warner’s heirs used the house as rental property, at least part of the time. Carpenter Alex Meadows is listed in the city directory as residing there in 1931. It likely continued to serve as rental property until conveyed to the Metropolitan Government.

Applicable Ordinance:

Article III. Historic Overlay Districts

17.36.120 Historic Districts Defined. B. Historic Landmark. An historic landmark is defined as a building, structure, site or object, its appurtenances and the property it is located on, of high historical, cultural, architectural or archaeological importance; whose demolition or destruction would constitute an irreplaceable loss to the quality and character of Nashville and Davidson County; and that meets one or more of the following criteria:

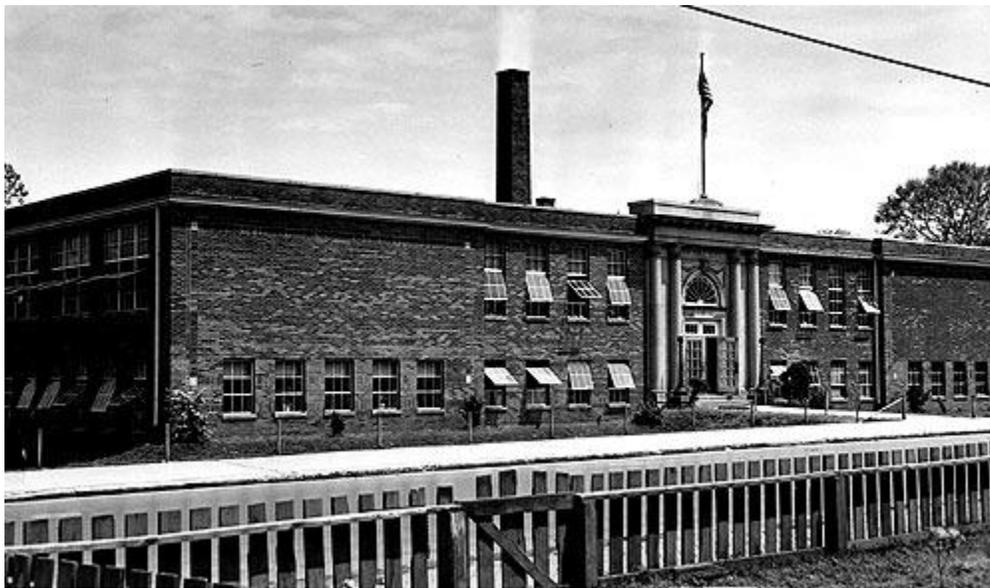
1. The historic landmark is associated with an event that has made a significant contribution to local, state or national history;
2. It is associated with the lives of persons significant in local, state or national history;

3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic value;
4. It has yielded or may be likely to yielded archaeological information important in history or prehistory; or
5. It is listed or is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Analysis and Findings:

Staff suggests the Commission recommend to City Council that Fehr School and the Warner House be adopted as a Historic Landmark Overlay. Fehr Middle School meets standard 1 because of its association with Nashville’s Civil Rights Movement. Both buildings meet standards 3 and 5 because, of their architectural style and integrity and because they are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Staff suggests the Commission recommend to City Council a Historic Landmark Overlay for Fehr School.





Segregationists exchange words with supporters of desegregation at Fehr Elementary School on September 9, 1957. Image courtesy of the Nashville Public Library.



2009



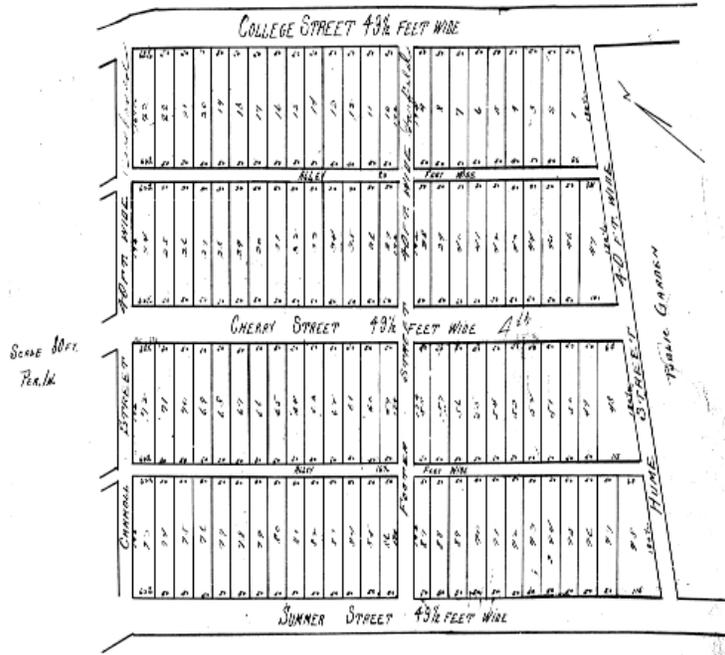
1612 4th Avenue North





D.T.M. GAVOCK
 ADDITION

LOVE RESIDENCE of HENRY H. GAVOCK



Noted April 20th 1855
 The above plan represents truly 33 lots laid out by me for D. S. M. GAVOCK
 on the 17th & 18th sections which are to be sold by G. W. G. GAVOCK
 Given under my hand
 Registered May 15th 1855
 G. W. GAVOCK

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with the largest assortment of imported perfumes and toilet articles, and fancy sundries of all kinds. Our assortment is the largest in the South.

¶ We always obtain everything new that comes out, both imported and American.

¶ We cordially invite the patrons of this publication to call and have our salesmen show you the many delightful perfumes and items.

¶ Send your mail orders, when in need of anything in our line.

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CORNER CHURCH AND CHERRY

Warner & Lahart

DEALERS IN

**FRESH
MEATS**

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Residence Phone Main 3364

Stall 7
City Market

1911 Milady in Brown, year book of Belmont College