



**METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY**

Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission  
Sunnyside in Sevier Park  
3000 Granny White Pike  
Nashville, Tennessee 37204  
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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**3606 (3630) West End, Welch Library (Neal-Grizzard House)  
June 17, 2015**

**Application:** Historic Landmark Overlay for Welch Library (Neal-Grizzard House)

**Map and Parcel Numbers:** 104090140.00

**Council Districts:** 24

**Applicant:** Welch College and Sisco & Farris, LLC

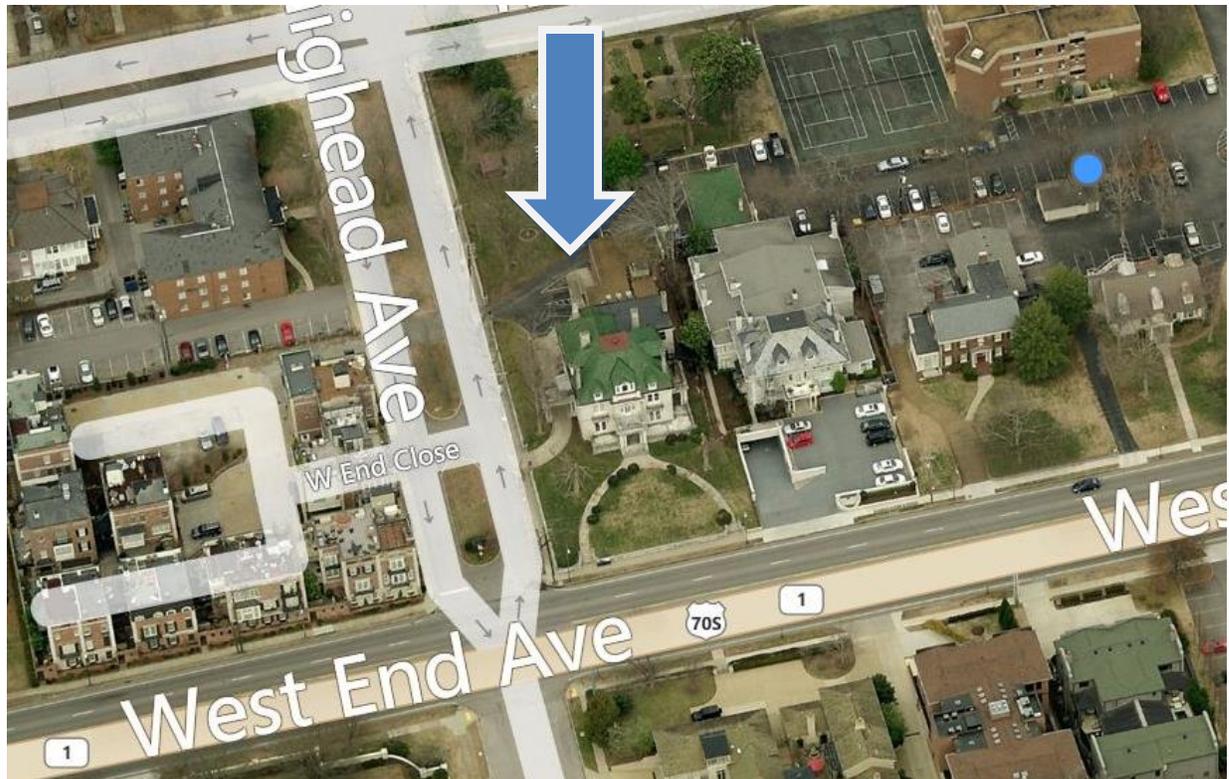
**Project Lead:** Robin Zeigler, [robin.zeigler@nashville.gov](mailto:robin.zeigler@nashville.gov), 615-862-7970

<p><b>Description of Project:</b> Welch College requests a Historic Landmark Overlay for the Welch Library.</p> <p><b>Recommendation Summary:</b> The Welch Library (Neal-Grizzard House) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion 3 as an excellent example of a French Eclectic style home from the turn-of-the-century and as an extension to the existing Richland-West End Avenue historic district. Staff suggests the Commission recommend to City Council a Historic Landmark Overlay for the Welch Library.</p>	<p><b>Attachments</b> <b>A:</b> Photographs</p>
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## Vicinity Map



## Aerial Map



**Background:** The Welch Library (Neal-Grizzard House), a French Eclectic style home, was not included in the National Register boundaries for the Richland-West End district because it faced West End Avenue, which had several intrusions. Nevertheless, the building contributes to the character and history of the district and was one of the first to be constructed in the area. The nomination describes the district as a “largely unaltered picture of the suburban building scene in Nashville during the first three decades of this century, ranging from the large comfortable homes of the upper middle class to the more modest bungalows.”

The Neal-Grizzard House has a long association with the medical community. Edward M. Neal, president of Spurlock-Neal Company constructed the home c. 1907 and lived there until 1911. Mr. Neal, originally from Lebanon, was one of the original owners of Spurlock-Neal Company, a “drug-house” formed in 1886. Prior to that, Mr. Neal ran a successful retail drug store, according to the 1903 Merck’s Report. The outbuilding, which was used as a carriage house and servant quarters, was likely constructed at the same time since it matches the home in materials.

Dr. Grizzard owned the home from the late 1920s to 1965. “Notable Men of Tennessee” describes him as “one of Nashville’s leading surgeons.” Dr. Grizzard was House Surgeon at Nashville General Hospital from 1906-1908. He was not only a graduate of Vanderbilt University, but also a member of the teaching and surgical staffs. At least as early as 1951, J. and Mildred Hardeman lived in the carriage house. Mr. Hardeman was a chauffeur and so may have worked as such for the Grizzard family. Free Will Baptist College purchased the home in 1965 as part of an expansion of the College that had been in the neighborhood since 1942. A newspaper report of the sale described the house as having 20 rooms and that the college planned to use the building for classrooms and teachers’ offices.

**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:**

The Welch Library (Neal-Grizzard House) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion 3 as an excellent example of a French Eclectic style home from the turn-of-the-century and as an extension to the existing Richland-West End Avenue historic district. Staff suggests the Commission recommend to City Council a Historic Landmark Overlay for the Welch Library.





c.1973 from the Nashville Public Library



