METROPOLITAN
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

To: Metropolitan Council
From: Metropolitan Historical Commission, Staff
Date: October 9, 2018
Re: BL2018-1333

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 Old Due West Avenue to "Skyline Ridge Drive" (Proposal Number 2018M-003SR-001).

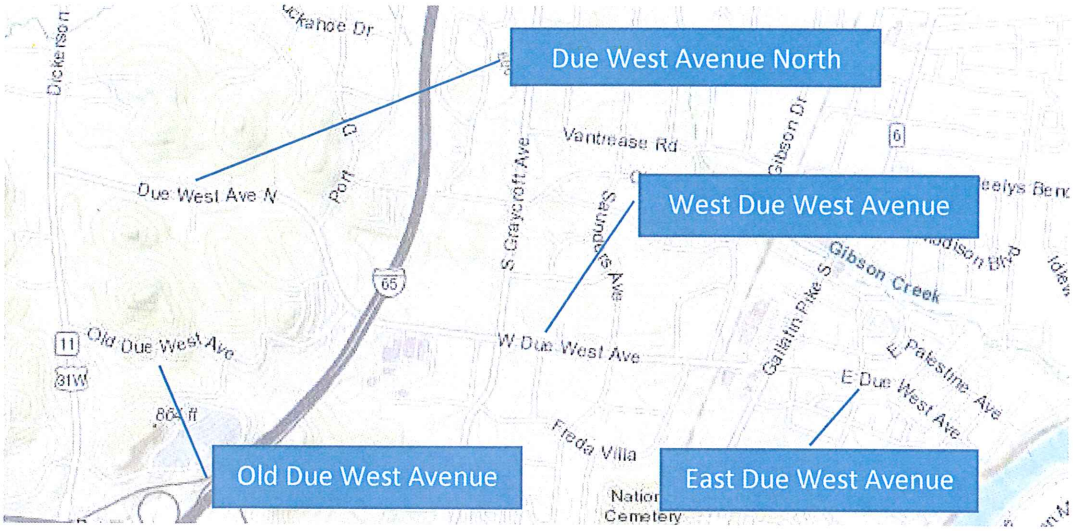

Figure 1: USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer, <http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/>, accessed 9 October 2018.

Background Information (Due West Avenue): The history of the subject road, Old Due West Avenue, begins with Due West Avenue, one of the earliest roads in the former 19th District of Davidson County. While today there is a Due West Avenue North, Old Due West Avenue, which runs south of Due West Avenue North, is the original path of the original Due West road [Figure 1]. Although often unlabeled, Due West Avenue appears on several historic maps, including well-known maps of Davidson County from 1871 [Figure 2], 1880, and 1900 [Figure 3].[1]

---

[1] "Map of Davidson County Tennessee, from actual surveys made by order of the county court of Davidson County," 1871, available online through the Library of Congress, accessed 30 May

According to Guy Alan Bockmon, author of *Madison Station*, the process of formally recording and maintaining public roads in the 19th District began no later than 1881 when "each County Court was directed to divide the county into road districts and to appoint road commissioners and overseers and to order crews of residents into involuntary servitude 'working the roads.'"[2] Around 1883, according to Bockman, the County Court named John Menees as Road Commissioner for the 19th District and appointed local citizens as district overseers. The court named David Rushton as "Overseer of the road leading from the Gallatin pike at Dr. Goodrich's to the Dickinson Pike near Mrs. Brace's."[3] The property of Dr. Goodrich is visible on Wilbur F. Foster's 1871 map, helping to identify this road as the future "Due West Avenue" [Figure 2]. The 1871 map does not show this road running completely through from Gallatin to Dickerson, perhaps because Foster apparently did not map "lanes" and this was considered a lane or lesser roadway, or perhaps because it was cut through after 1871.[4]

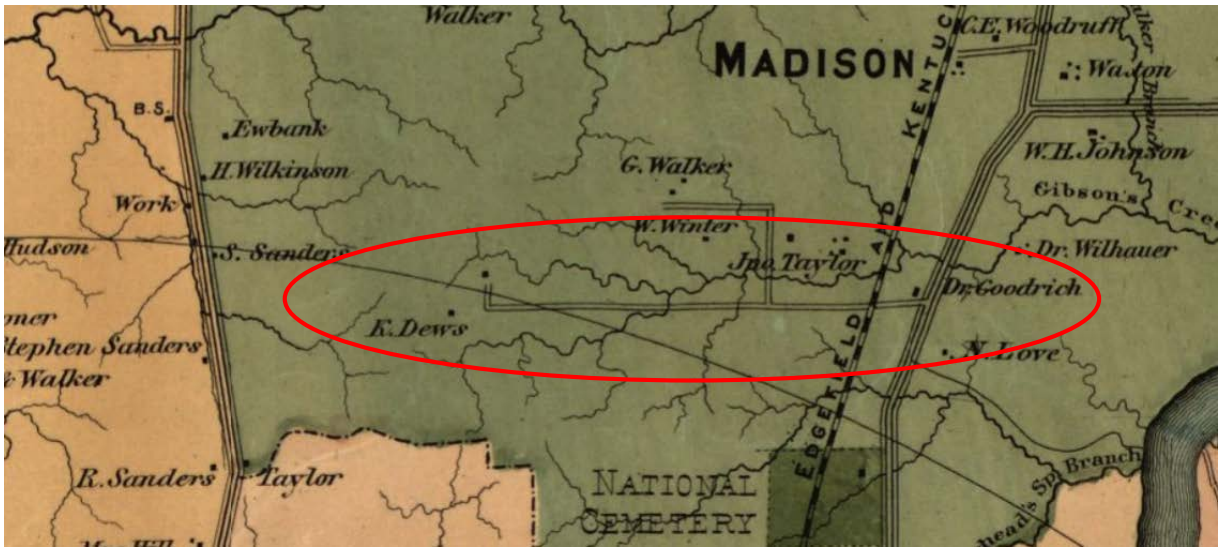

Figure 2: "Map of Davidson County Tennessee, from actual surveys made by order of the county court of Davidson County," 1871, Surveyed and Mapped by Wilbur F. Foster. Due West circled in red.

2017 <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3963d.la000870/>; "Map of Davidson County," 1880, W.W. Clayton, *History of Davidson County, Tennessee, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men and Pioneers* (Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co.: 1880; reprint, Nashville, TN: Charles Elder Bookseller, 1971), 9 (page citations are to the reprint edition); "Map of Davidson County, Tennessee," 1900, accessed 30 May 2017 <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3963d.la000871/>.

[2] Guy Alan Bockmon, *Madison Station* (Franklin, TN: Hillsboro Press 1997), 79. This directive came by the *Acts of the State of Tennessee passed by the Forty-Second General Assembly 1881* (Nashville: Tavel and Howell, Printers to the State, 1881), 37-48. Due to redistricting, this area was reassigned from the 19th district to the 11th district in 1907 according to A*cts of the State of Tennessee passed by the Fifty-Fourth General Assembly 1905* (Nashville: Brandon Printing Company, 1905), 243-246.

[3] Bockmon, 80, citing Davidson County Quarterly Court loose papers.

[4] Bockman, 81.

By 1889, Due West Avenue was known as the "Goodrich Road." That year, the Forty-Sixth General Assembly passed an act requiring County Courts to classify public roads in their counties into four classes and record them with the County Court Clerk.[5] In Davidson County, the Clerk recorded these items in a "Road Book." The road currently known as Due West Avenue was one of seven public roads in the 19th District noted in the Road Book:

> Road No. 4, now Due West Avenue, was the 'Goodrich Road, from Gallatin Pike south of Mrs. Goodrich to Dickerson Pike.' Its classification was 3, its length was 3 miles, and its width was eighteen feet. The overseer was J.T. Stratton, grandson of Madison and Mary Ann Snow Stratton. The Pro Rate for 1890 was $60. It is noted that part of this road from Harrison Murray's was fourth class [15 feet wide].[6]

Farms and residences "assigned" to this road included Love, Sharp, Goodrich, Stratton, Bate, Pettus, McCoy, Kelly, Dews, Murray, and many more. Again, the written record and historical maps are not in precise agreement, perhaps because of the "class" of a portion of the road or its construction status [Figure 3]. For example, the 1903 U.S. Geological Survey topographic map shows segments of the road, suggesting it was not yet a complete thoroughfare [Figure 4].

Figure 3: "Map of Davidson County, Tennessee," 1900, W.B. Southgate, W.W. Southgate & Son Engineers & Surveyors.

---

[5] *Acts of the State of Tennessee passed by the Forty-Sixth General Assembly 1889* (Nashville: Marshall & Bruce, Printers to the State, 1889), 99-106. The Forty-Second General Assembly of 1881 provided classifications for two road classes. A third class was added by the *Acts of the State of Tennessee passed by the Second Extraordinary Session of the Forty-Second General Assembly 1882* (Nashville: Albert B. Tavell, Printer to the State, 1882), 24-26.

[6] Bockmon, 80. Bockman notes that Foster did not map "lanes," so if the western portion was only 15 feet wide, that could explain the incomplete appearance of the road on the 1871 map, Bockman, 81.

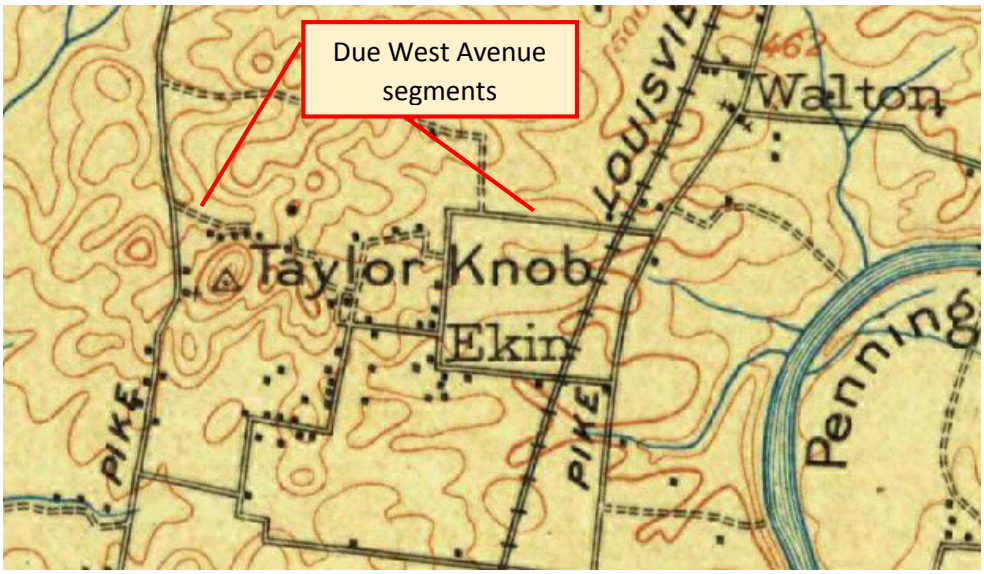

Figure 4: U.S. Geological Survey, Nashville [map], 1:125000, Topographic Quadrangle Map, Reston, VA, 1903.

The Historical Commission has not identified the exact date when Goodrich Road was renamed Due West Avenue. However, by the early 1910s, its role as a major thoroughfare for the area was growing. Advertisements for land sales on Due West Avenue appeared in local newspapers as early as 1913. These real estate notices extolled the convenience of the various properties to the Due West Station of the Nashville-Gallatin Interurban Railway (electric commuter rail), located approximately 6 miles from Nashville, offering the pleasantries of country life with the conveniences of the city.[7] In the 1915 listing for the auction of the Woodlawn Addition near Due West Avenue and Gallatin Pike, Due West Avenue itself was a selling point, "Due West Avenue now furnishes one of the best auto drives around the city, leading as it does, through to the Dickerson Pike."[8] By 1914, the road was labeled "Due West Avenue" on recorded plats. The *Subdivision of Lot No. 1, N.O. Love Estate*, recorded February 18, 1914, in Plat Book 421, Page 54, RODC, shows Due West Avenue running from the Louisville and Nashville Railroad westward about 3800 feet to an intersection with a "County Road" (assumed to be today's Briarville Road).[9] This segment of Due West Avenue was included in the portion renamed "West Due West Avenue" by Ordinance No. BL2017-717, enacted June 6, 2017.[10] Just a few

[7] "For Sale or Exchange [ad by N.D. Overall]" *Nashville Tennessean*, 27 November 1913, Thursday, page 10; "Auction Sale, Overall Farm, Due West Avenue," *Nashville Tennessean*, 3 June 1915, Thursday, page 10.
[8] "At Auction, Woodlawn Addition," *Nashville Tennessean*, 20 May 1915, Thursday, page 9.
[9] Years earlier, the road had appeared unnamed on the *Exhibit of the Survey and Partition of the N.O. Love Tract*, recorded January 31, 1903, County Court of Davidson County, Minute Book 7, Page 176.
[10] For more information on the renaming of Due West Avenue to West Due West Avenue, please review the report submitted by Metropolitan Historical Commission staff on May 30, 2017.

months later, a brief article in the April 30, 1914, issue of *The Nashville Tennessean* reported plans by the workhouse board of the county court to build a "boulevard" on Due West Avenue:

> At a meeting of the workhouse board of the county court, authority was given for the construction of a boulevard on Due West avenue from the Gallatin pike to the Dickerson road. This is a distance of about two miles. Work is to be started on the new boulevard by June 1. It is expected that the construction of the roadway will mean quite an advance in property values in this section.[11]

In 1919, the Quarterly Court of Davidson County adopted the "General Road Map, Davidson County, Tenn.," in accordance with Senate Bill No. 494 of the *Private Acts of the State of Tennessee passed by the Sixtieth General Assembly in 1917*. The act aimed "to provide for a system of good public roads in counties having a population of not less than 149,000, not more than 190,000 inhabitants by the Federal Census of 1910." It also included requirements for counties "to create a Board of Highway Commissioners, to have charge of the building and repairing of all the highways of said counties," and to designate, classify, and map public county highways and roads.[12] According to this map, which included all of the pikes and roads comprising the road system of Davidson County at the time of adoption in 1919, Due West Avenue officially ran from Dickerson Pike eastward to Gallatin Pike, including the subject portion of roadway proposed for renaming [Figure 5].

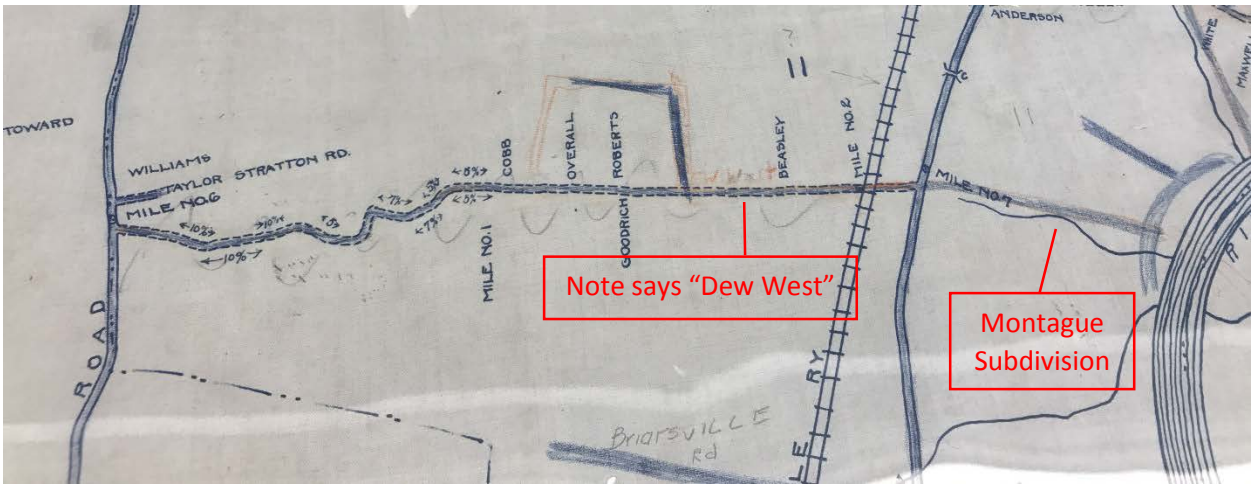

Figure 5: "General Road Map, Davidson County, Tenn.," 1919.

[11] "To Build Boulevard on Due West Avenue," *Nashville Tennessean*, 30 April 1914, Thursday, page 4.

[12] County Committee (Finley M. Dorris, Samuel G. Douglas, James R. Allen, and John Langham) and Engineers (Freeland, Roberts & Co.), *General Road Map, Davidson County, Tenn.* 1919. Metropolitan Government Archives. *Private Acts of the State of Tennessee passed by the Sixtieth General Assembly 1917* (McCowat-Mercer, Jackson, Tenn, 1917) 1375-1390.

The 1931 Code book of the Davidson County Highway Commission includes Due West Avenue among the list of District Roads in the Eleventh District. The book indicates that Due West Avenue, measuring 2.8 miles, now extended east of Gallatin Pike. It ran from Dickerson Pike, across Gallatin Pike, to Montague, a subdivision first platted in 1919.[13] The 1936 Code book of the Davidson County Highway Commission is more specific, indicating that Due West Avenue ran from Dickerson Pike east for 2.8 miles to its eastern terminus at Fernbank Avenue, located within the Montague subdivision [Figure 6].[14]

Figure 6: "Roads Streams and Towns of Davidson County, Tennessee," 1942, S.R. Sanford, Jr.

In 1947, a new northern branch of Due West Avenue was created. The Quarterly County Court of Davidson County accepted "Due West Avenue – From Dickerson Pike to the present location

[13] Davidson County Highway Commission, 1931 Code, 28. The 1931 Code book is the oldest within the collection at the Metropolitan Archives. The "List of pikes and roads comprising the road system of Davidson County as shown on road map adopted by County Court in 1919, and supplement road map adopted by County Court at its July Term, 1931," which begins on page 39, suggests that the 1931 Code contains the first set of official amendments to the 1919 map.
[14] Davidson County Highway Commission, 1936 Code, 40. The first portion of Montague was platted in 1919 (Plat Book 421, Page 129, RODC) with Belle Camp Highway as the continuation of Due West Avenue across Gallatin Pike. The Quarterly Court of Davidson County accepted Belle Camp Highway in January 1922, Minute Book N, Page 200, and later changed the road's name to Due West Avenue in July 1927, Minute Book P, Page 478. The 1940 Code book appears to be the first book (within the Metropolitan Archives collection) to include the notation that Belle Camp Highway was a former name for Due West Avenue.

of Due West" during its April Term, 1947, as recorded in Minute Book Y, Page 144.[15] This appears to coincide with the platting of Due West Valley Acres. Although officially "not of record," the Due West Valley Acres plat was recorded in a miscellaneous plat book and shows what is essentially a new northern branch of Due West Avenue intersecting "Due West Ave (Old Road)" [Figure 7].[16]

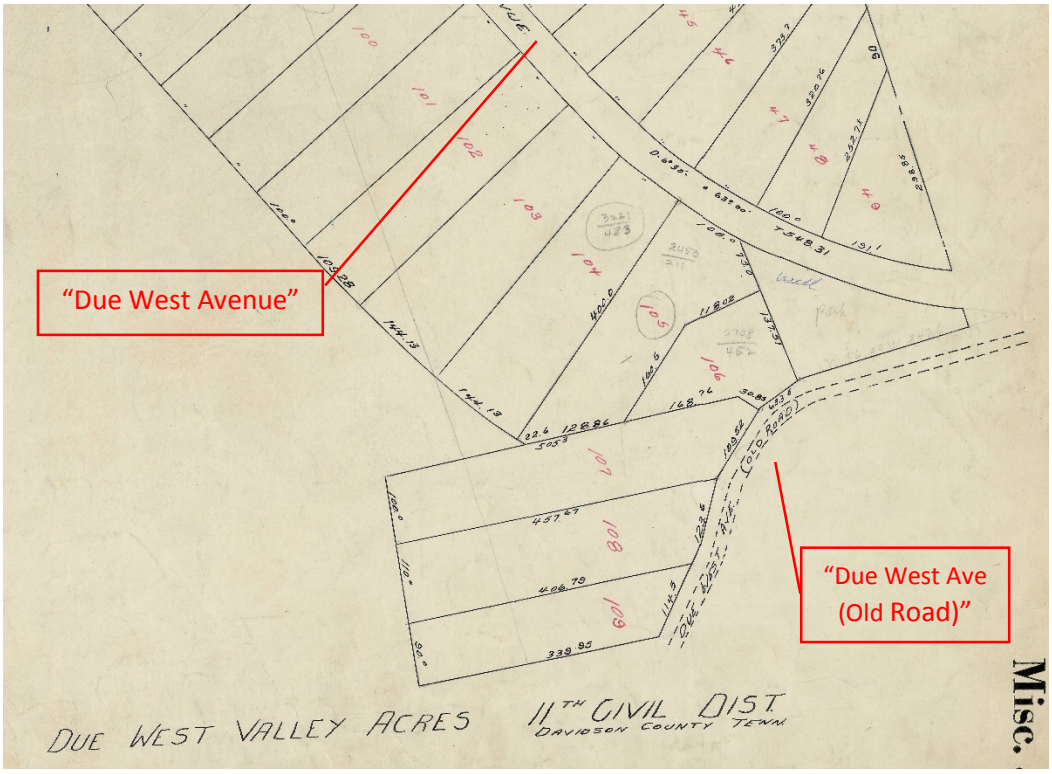

Figure 7: Due West Valley Acres, Misc. Plat Book 3, Page 181.

Understandably, the new road was initially referred to as "New Due West Avenue," as demonstrated by a May 1947 real estate listing for property in Due West Valley Acres directing

[15] Davidson County Highway Commission, 1943 Code, 39, per handwritten notes, which served as updates until the next code book publication.

[16] Misc. Plat Book 3, Pages 181-183, drawn by H.R. Swann, Jr., for M.M. Cuniff, owner, with a penciled notation of April 20, 1947, Metropolitan Planning Department digital collection. The Davidson County Planning Commission did not approve the preliminary subdivision plat for Due West Valley Acres Subdivision, "extending from Dickerson Pike eastward about a mile," in December 1946 due to a lack of public water supply. "Zoning Rules Revised for Old Hickory Boulevard," *Nashville Tennessean*, Thursday Morning, 12 December 1946, page 20.

potential buyers to travel "To Dickerson Pike to New Due West Avenue, turn right. . . ."[17] Eventually, the directional "North" was added to the street name. The Highway Commission's 1950 Code book shows this new branch as "Due West Avenue North" running for a total of 1.20 miles from Dickerson Pike to Due West Avenue.[18] Although the addition of "North" may have occurred prior, the new northern branch of Due West was officially known as "Due West Avenue North" at least by the Code's effective date of October 1, 1950.[19]

Current Information (Old Due West Avenue): The subject of the street renaming is the southern, original section of Due West Avenue, where it branches off just west of Interstate 65 and extends to Dickerson Road. The intersection of three Due West Avenues (Due West Avenue North, West Due West Avenue, and Old Due West Avenue) serves as the eastern terminus of the road currently identified as Old Due West Avenue [Figure 1]. Davidson County Highway Commission records are not clear on the official renaming of the subject portion of Due West Avenue to Old Due West Avenue. Whether reflecting a formal name change or not, "Old Due West" did appear in the local newspaper in the early 1950s, including an April 1952 real estate listing for a "dandy 4-room house" on Old Due West near Highway 31-W and a July 1953 article referencing the landfill on Old Due West.[20]

After the development of Due West Avenue North, the road known today as "Old Due West Avenue" appeared as "Due West Avenue" on maps or was simply unnamed, perhaps because it remained known as the continuation of the original Due West Avenue or because it became secondary to Due West Avenue North. A December 1948 report from J.C. Akers, County Highway Engineer, to the Davidson County Highway Commission, supports the secondary status theory, "The North fork, which is the relocation of Due West Avenue from the top of the hill East of the Dickerson Pike down to the Dickerson Pike, has been completed with the grading of the connection to Due West Avenue, and the remainder of the paving will be done at an early date."[21] Additionally, on the *1957 Sanborn Map*, which shows the road running westward from its eastern terminus with Fernbank Avenue, crossing Gallatin Pike, over the L&N Railroad, past intersections with Briarville Road (to the south) and Graycroft Avenue (to the north), to the

---

[17] "On Due West Valley Acres [ad by Home Realty Co.]," *Nashville Tennessean*, Sunday Morning, 4 May 1947, Page 9-C. In fact, "New Due West" appeared in newspaper sale and real estate listings as recently as 2009. Newspapers.com search executed 14 September 2018.
[18] Davidson County Highway Commission, 1950 Code, 60. The record is unclear as to how and when the change occurred. There is no reference to any action on this by the Quarterly Court.
[19] Davidson County Highway Commission, 1950 Code, cover.
[20] "Old Due West – Near Highway 31-W [ad by Gaston Realty Co.]," *Nashville Tennessean*, Saturday, 26 April 1952, page 19. "Health Problems: Health Officials Enforce Sanitation Laws on Varied Fronts Garbage, Sewage," *Nashville Tennessean*, Sunday Morning, 19 July 1953, page 12-C.
[21] "Report of J.C. Akers, County Highway Engineer, to Davidson County Highway Commission, filed December 201, 1948," Davidson County Court Loose Records, Departments and Commissions, Highway Commission, Box 25. Metropolitan Government Archives.

western terminus with the Dixie Highway (Dickerson Pike), the southern fork of the road is unlabeled, while the northern fork is labeled as Due West Avenue North [Figure 8].

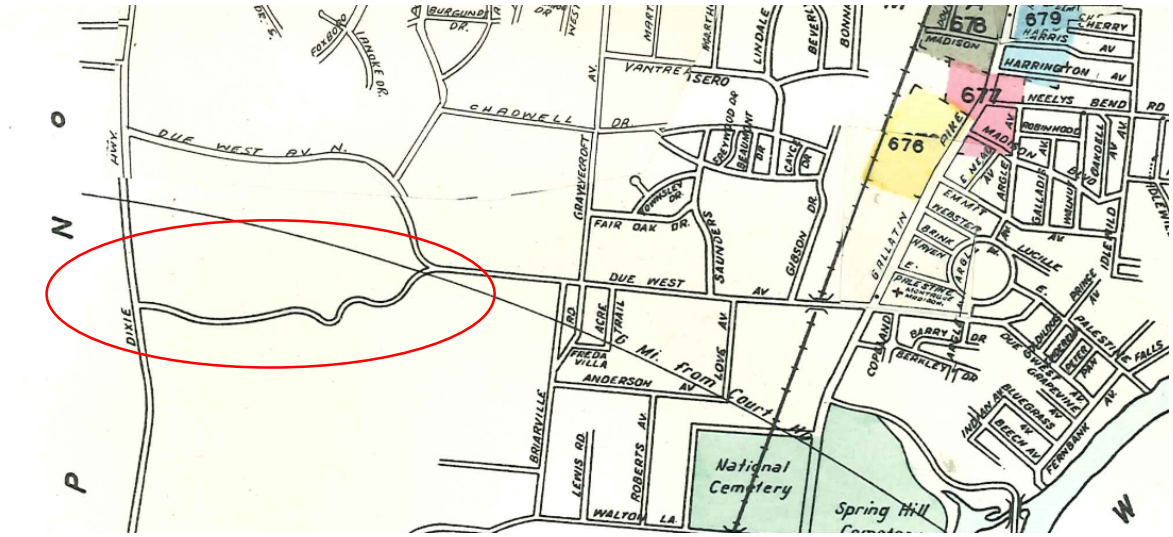

Figure 8: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1957, Volume 6, Site Map. "Old" Due West circled in red.

With the introduction of the "proposed interstate controlled-access highway" (I-65), the map submitted with the *1958 Major Thoroughfare Plan* more closely resembles the present-day road system [Figure 9].[22] The road is labeled as "Due West Avenue" from Fernbank westward to the anticipated I-65 overpass, where the road then forks. According to the map legend, Due West Avenue North is indicated as an "existing collector-feeder" with the 60' right of way typical of a rural road, while the southern branch, the subject road, is indicated as an "existing minor" road.[23] Dickerson Pike serves as the western terminus for both branches.[24]

[22] *Map No.1 Major Thoroughfare Plan for the City of Nashville and Davidson County Tennessee*, prepared by the Nashville City and Davidson County Planning Commissions, Recorded September 25, 1958, Plat Book 2663, Page 80, RODC (map section B, sheet 4 of 10).
[23] Ibid. As stated previously, the Quarterly Court accepted Due West Avenue North for maintenance in April 1947, per Minute Book Y, Page 144.
[24] *Map No.1 Major Thoroughfare Plan for the City of Nashville and Davidson County Tennessee*, prepared by the Nashville City and Davidson County Planning Commissions, Recorded September 25, 1958, Plat Book 2663, Page 81, RODC (map section A, sheet 3 of 10).

Figure 6: Map No. 1, Major Thoroughfare Plan for the City of Nashville and Davidson County Tennessee, Nashville City and Davidson County Planning Commissions – Recorded 9/25/1958, Book 2663, Page 80, RODC, Sheet 4 of 10. Old Due West Avenue circled in red.

Summary:

Old Due West Avenue appears to be an original portion of Due West Avenue, one of the earliest roads in the former District 19 of Davidson County. While today there is a Due West Avenue North, Old Due West follows the original path of the road. Although it is not clear when the subject road was officially renamed Old Due West Avenue, it is presumed to be shortly after the renaming of "new" Due West Avenue to Due West Avenue North around 1950.