

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



Metropolitan Historical Commission
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission
Sunnyside in Sevier Park
1113 Kirkwood Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37204
Telephone: (615) 862-7970

Metropolitan Historical Commission
January 27, 2025, 12:00 p.m.

Howard Office Building, Sonny West Conference Center
700 President Ronald Reagan Way

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Welcome Linda Wynn, Chair
- II. Approval of December Minutes Linda Wynn
- III. Public Comment Linda Wynn
The MHC holds a designated public comment period at each meeting. Members of the public in attendance may provide comments to the Board or its Committees during this designated time. Anyone wishing to speak about an agenda item will be allotted two (2) minutes to make comments.
- IV. Guest Speakers: Preservation Partner – Nashville Historical Foundation (NHF)
President Jill Meese, Past President Ann Roberts & Projects Director Dr. Mary Ellen Pethel
- V. Historical Markers Jessica Reeves
 - Tennessee Tribune, 1501 Jefferson St. (privately funded)
 - Cumberland Heights, 8283 River Road Pike (privately funded)
 - Robert Churchwell Sr., 1625 Dr. DB Todd Jr. Blvd (privately funded)
- VI. Director's Report Tim Walker
- VII. Historic Zoning Report Robin Zeigler
- VIII. Other Business
- IX. Announcements
- X. Adjourn

Metropolitan Historical Commission
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The Metro Nashville Historical Commission does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or disability in access to, or operation of its programs, services, activities or in its hiring or employment practices. **ADA inquiries may be directed to:** ADA Compliance Coordinator, Metro Historical Commission, (615) 862-7970. **Title VI inquiries should be forwarded to:** Ms. Shirley Sims-Saldana, Title VI Coordinator, Human Relations, 800 2nd Avenue, South, 4th Floor, Nashville, TN 37210, (615) 880-3391. **Contact Department of Human Resources for all employment related inquiries** at (615) 862-6640. **ADA NOTICE:** If any accommodations are needed for individuals with disabilities who wish to be present at this meeting, please request the accommodation through hubNashville at <https://nashville.gov/hub-ADA-boards> or by calling (615) 862-5000. Requests should be made as soon as possible, but 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting is recommended.

Historical Markers, January 2025

Tennessee Tribune

[side 1]

In 1991, Rosetta Miller-Perry founded the *Tennessee Tribune*, carrying on the legacy of African American newspapers in Nashville such as the *Nashville Globe* and the *Colored Tennessean*. The paper focused on uplifting stories of African Americans in Nashville and across Tennessee, sharing positive stories about African American life. It was the only African American newspaper founded in Nashville by a woman and was also the only veteran-owned paper.
450 characters and spaces

[side 2]

In 1991, Miller-Perry also purchased the Universal Life Insurance Building at 1501 Jefferson Street. McKissack & McKissack, Tennessee's first professional African American architectural firm, designed the building in 1950. Universal Life was founded in Memphis, Tenn. in 1923 and was the second African American company in the United States to attain million-dollar-capital status. In this historic building, Miller-Perry and the *Tribune* achieved statewide distribution.
470 characters and spaces

Cumberland Heights

Founded by Robert M. Crichton, Sr. and Dr. Thomas F. Frist, Sr., Cumberland Heights opened on July 25, 1966, on a 177-acre River Road farm, admitting three men for addiction treatment. The facility expanded to treat women in 1975, families in 1978 and adolescents in 1985. Over the decades, Cumberland Heights has opened 19 more facilities across Tennessee, serving hundreds of thousands on their journey to recovery, including many in Nashville's music industry.
463 characters and spaces

Robert Churchwell Sr.
“The Jackie Robinson of Journalism”
1917-2009

[side 1]

Born in Clifton, Tenn., Robert Churchwell, Sr. graduated from Pearl High School, and then served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He married Mary E. Buckingham, with whom he had five children. A 1949 Fisk University graduate, Churchwell was a columnist for *The Commentator*, a weekly African American newspaper. In 1950, he became the first African American journalist to write full-time for a daily Southern newspaper when he joined the *Nashville Banner*.

459 characters and spaces

[side 2]

Enduring workplace racism, Churchwell persisted, against all odds, to enjoy a notable and distinguished career. To honor his contributions to journalism, Churchwell’s typewriter and other belongings are on display at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. In 2010, Metro Nashville Public Schools renamed Wharton Junior High School to honor Churchwell’s legacy and his impact on the Nashville community.

438 characters and spaces