

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
May 19, 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 April 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. Nashville Sites: Dr. Mary Ellen Pethel, Nashville Historical Foundation
- V. Historical Markers Jessica Fitzpatrick
 - A. New Historical Markers
 - 1. Cumberland Park, location: Wedgewood/Rains Aves. (replacement—privately funded)
 - 2. Don Q. Pullen, location: Hadley Park (new—privately funded)
 - 3. Nashville Conservatory of Music, location: 2120 West End Ave (new--privately funded)
 - B. Review updates to MHC Marker Guidelines
- VI. Director's Annual Evaluation Linda Wynn
- VII. Director's Report Tim Walker
- VIII. Historic Zoning Report Robin Zeigler
- IX. Other Business
- X. Announcements
- XI. Adjourn

Metropolitan Historical Commission
www.nashville.gov/mhc
historicalcommission@nashville.gov



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, May 2025

Title: Nashville Conservatory of Music 2212 West End Avenue/ Gaetano Salvatore De Luca
1882-1936

Location: 2212 West End Avenue

Funding: private

Nashville Conservatory of Music 2122 West End Avenue

The Conservatory opened in 1928 in a house owned by railroad magnate W.R. Cole. Gaetano Salvatore De Luca was its director. The faculty included A.F. Henkel, the founder of Nashville's first symphony orchestra. During its initial year of operation, the school offered lessons in voice, dance, organ, cello and violin, and founded the Conservatory Orchestra. The school granted both two-year diplomas and four-year college degrees. In the depths of the Great Depression, it closed in 1935.

488 characters and spaces

Gaetano Salvatore De Luca 1882-1936

Born in Cosenza, Italy, De Luca came to Nashville in 1918 and became director of the Voice Department of Ward-Belmont School of Music. In 1927 he staged Nashville's first locally produced opera at the Ryman Auditorium. With the financial support of local business leaders, he went on to direct the Nashville Conservatory of Music in 1928. A distinguished singer himself, four of his students went on to sing at the Metropolitan Opera. Almost penniless, he died in 1936.

469 characters and spaces

Title: Don Q. Pullen 1912-1990

Location: 28th Ave N and Meharry Blvd (entrance to Hadley-Lillard Park)

Funding: private

Don Q. Pullen

1912-1990

A Pearl High School graduate, Don Q. Pullen received undergraduate and master's degrees from Tennessee State University and did further graduate study at the University of Denver and Julliard School of Music. A member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Pullen wrote the music and lyrics for the fraternity's "Sweetheart Song," adopted at the 1940 Nashville Grand Conclave. After serving as a Navy bandmaster in World War II, Pullen joined Washington Jr. High School's faculty in 1944.

484 characters and spaces

At Washington Jr. High, Pullen composed the school's alma mater and increased the school's instrumental music department to a 60-member concert band, a 24-member string ensemble and a 75-piece marching band complete with majorettes. In 1959 he began an annual summer concert series at Hadley Park that ran throughout the 1960s. Pullen emceed each event, which ranged from jazz to gospel to opera arias by Verdi. In 2017, the Metro Board of Parks named the park's bandshell in his honor.

487 characters and spaces

Title: Cumberland Park

Location: Wedgewood Ave. at Rains Ave. (entrance to Fairgrounds)

Funding: private (replacement)

Cumberland Park

Originally part of a 640-acre tract given to John Rains (1743-1834) following his service in the Revolutionary War, the Cumberland Fair and Racing Association bought this lot in 1891. That same year the group built a horse racing track called Cumberland Park and in October, Direct (Calif.) defeated Hal Pointer (Tenn.) in three heats in “the greatest race of the year.” Future Hall of Fame trotters Arion and Directum also raced here. The site became home to the Tennessee State Fair in 1906.

493 characters and spaces



This 1909 postcard shows the “picturesque” Cumberland Park racetrack. A 1965 fire destroyed the grandstands and Woman’s Building (both seen here) as well as the Administration Building, numerous restaurants and several rides in the Fair Park area.

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Historical Marker Program Guidelines

In 1967, the newly-formed Metropolitan Historical Commission of Nashville and Davidson County initiated a historical marker program to commemorate significant people, places, and events in the city's past. Marker Number One, "Heaton's Station," was erected at Lock One Road in 1968. The marker program is now one of the Historical Commission's longest-running and most successful programs. By the end of 2024, 285 historical markers have been erected across the county.

The following guidelines are designed to assist individuals and organizations who wish to sponsor a historical marker through the Metropolitan Historical Commission's historical marker program.

Significance

Every statement on a Metropolitan Historical Commission marker must satisfy two conditions:
Is it significant? Is it accurate?

The subject of any marker erected by the Metropolitan Historical Commission should be a person, place, structure, or event that has local importance and, wherever possible, significance in the broad pattern of Tennessee or national history. The event, person, structure, or place should have achieved historical significance fifty years or more ago. Exceptions may be made by the Metro Historical Commission if the sponsoring party can show that it is of exceptional importance.

Examples of markers that would not meet our criteria for significance:

- markers to specific land grants
- markers solely of genealogical or family interest
- markers to living persons
- unprotected archaeological sites

Historical Fact

Historical significance may be subjective, but factual accuracy may be proved, and documentation of every fact is required. A permanent file on each marker is kept at the Commission office so that answers may always be provided to anyone who asks for verification of a particular marker or for additional information on the subject. For your convenience, see page 4 of these guidelines for a sample documentation sheet, and a blank copy of the documentation sheet on page 5 that you may use to show the documentation of each statement in the marker text. Your text and documentation should acknowledge historically marginalized groups—such as Native Americans, enslaved persons, immigrant groups, etc.—as applicable.

Location

A suitable and safe location should be designated in the marker application. The same marker text cannot be approved to be placed at more than one (1) location. Generally, markers are placed within the public right-of-way. Exceptions may be made that allow a marker to be placed on private property. In all cases, the site must be adjacent to a public road or property to facilitate installation and maintenance. In the event that the proposed marker is to be located on private property, written consent of the owner must be filed with the Commission. If a historical marker needs to be moved to a new location, the Commission must give consent before the marker can be moved.

All Metropolitan Historical Commission markers are installed and maintained by Nashville Department of Transportation & Multimodal Infrastructure (NDOT).

Cost

Standard markers cost approximately \$3,500-\$4,000 and are generally funded by the applicant. Ask the Commission staff for specific marker costs.

Text specifications

Marker texts should be approximately 480 characters and spaces, cast in 1-inch letters. The same text will appear on both sides of the marker. If the text is shorter than this, staff may help revise to reach the maximum character count.

In some cases, it may be appropriate for a longer text to "wrap" the marker, with text continuing on the reverse side of the marker, or to have text on one side and a metal photograph on the other. These markers are more expensive than standard markers. Please indicate if you wish to pursue one of these options when you submit your application.

MHC staff will rely on the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style in editing the style, structure and grammar of the marker text.

Marker Approval

The Commission staff and the sponsoring party will work together to write a suitable marker text before it will be submitted to the Commission for approval. If the Commission staff feels that the submitted draft text is not compatible with the standards of the Metropolitan Historical Commission, the sponsoring party will be notified immediately. The staff will help with any corrections or improvements that can be made to revise the proposed text.

Once the staff and sponsoring party agree to a suitable marker text, it will go before the Marker Committee for approval. Once approved, the text will be presented to the Commission at their next regularly scheduled meeting. The Marker Committee meets monthly on the first Monday of the month. The Commission meets monthly on the third Monday of the month, with exceptions for holidays. Please check with MHC staff for exact meeting dates in a given month. After Commission approval, allow approximately eight to ten (8-10) manufacturing time for the casting, shipping, and erection of the marker.

Marker proposals must be submitted for consideration to the Metropolitan Historical Commission staff six (6) weeks before a regular meeting of the Commission, to allow time for staff review and revisions.

Metropolitan Historical Commission Historical Marker Application Process

Proposals should be submitted in the form of a letter to the Commission, and should include the following:

1. The name of the person, place, structure, or event for which the marker is to be erected and a statement of significance of the same;
2. A copy of the proposed marker text with documentation sheet for the information put forth in each sentence in the text as well as the accompanying source material (see documentation sheet sample below);
3. A proposed location for the marker, documented by photographs and/or maps and a letter of permission from the property owner;
4. The source of funding for the marker and written statement guaranteeing payment.

Markers are generally placed in the right-of-way rather than on private property, but a letter of permission from the property owner, indicating that they consent to a marker being placed in front of their property, is still required. The staff is available to work with individuals and organizations proposing historical markers to advise on the text, references, and placement of markers.

The staff **MUST** have a letter from an organization guaranteeing payment for the marker before a marker can be ordered. This letter should be on the organization's letterhead with a billing address clearly stated. A copy of this letter and the billing address of the individual or organization sponsoring the marker will be sent to the manufacturer. The manufacturer will bill the sponsoring organization directly. **DO NOT** make checks to the Metro Historical Commission.

For further information, call the Metro Historical Commission at 615-862-7970 or email jessica.fitzpatrick@nashville.gov.

SAMPLE Documentation Sheet

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Facts</u></p> <p><i>List each important fact that is relevant to this marker subject. All places, dates, sites, names of people involved, etc. must be documented.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sources</u></p> <p><i>Each fact must be verified with notation of the source material. <u>You must include a copy of the page from each document that was used.</u></i></p>
<p>Here, near the center of a 64-acre woodland park owned by the Nashville Railway & Light Co., the Glendale streetcar line turned back toward town.</p>	<p>USGS Map, Nashville Quadrangle, Edition of 1932.</p>
<p>The park opened in 1888 to attract passengers for the railway—originally steam, electric after 1893.</p>	<p>Arthur W. Crouch, <i>Glendale Park, Nashville, Tennessee</i>. 1969. Typescript deposited in Nashville Public Library.</p>
<p>A zoo was added in 1912.</p>	<p>“24 Years of Golden Eggs,” <i>Nashville Tennessean Magazine</i>, April 6, 1947.</p>
<p>The park closed in 1932, a casualty of automobiles and the Depression.</p>	<p>“Glendale Park, A Never Never Land That Once Was—Hop the Trolley, Go Again,” <i>Nashville Banner</i>, February 15, 1956, p. 7.</p>

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