

Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ▪ April 2012



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MHC/MHZC UPDATES

Marker Update:

New! Stop by 10 Music Square East to see our new historical marker:

BMI Broadcast Music, Inc.

BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc.), an organization that collects performance royalties for songwriters and music publishers in all genres of music, opened its doors in New York in 1940. BMI was the first performance rights organization to represent what was then commonly referred to as rural and race music in the forms of country, gospel, blues, and jazz. In 1958, BMI established a permanent Nashville office and hired Frances Williams Preston as manager. BMI constructed the first wing of this building in 1964 and expanded it in 1995. This office represents songwriters and music publishers in Memphis, Atlanta, New Orleans, Muscle Shoals and Austin, and played a key role in developing Nashville as Music City, U.S.A.

Moved! Moved from 205 23rd Ave N (erected there in 1976), to 3301 West End Avenue, the new location of the Nashville Academy of Medicine:

Nashville Academy of Medicine

The Nashville Medical Society, the first medical association in Tennessee, was founded March 5, 1821, by 7 physicians in the log courthouse on the Public Square. Pres. Was Dr. Felix Robertson, first white child born in Nashville. Chartered Sept. 4, 1906, by State as Nashville Academy of Medicine & Davidson County Medical Society.

New! Fort Nashborough Day

Saturday, April 14—9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fort Nashborough

First Avenue North/Riverfront Park

Step back in time and experience the early days of Fort Nashborough! On April 14, join the Metropolitan Historical Commission in celebrating the fort's history and importance to our community. Members of 2nd Company North Carolina Militia, a Tennessee-based 18th century reenactment group, will demonstrate daily life at Fort

Nashborough. Meet the fort's founders and learn about frontier life in the 18th century. This exciting living history event will include demonstrations of cooking, cleaning, hunting, tanning, trapping, spinning, surveying, and weaving.

Fort Nashborough served as the main defense and fortification for settlers in Middle Tennessee; its first settlers arrived in the winter of 1779. Through the efforts of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Fort Nashborough was reconstructed in the 1930s in honor of the families who settled Middle Tennessee. Fort Nashborough was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in July 2011.

The event is jointly sponsored by the 2nd Company North Carolina Militia, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Metropolitan Historical Commission, and the Metropolitan Board of Parks and Recreation.

The family-friendly event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call the Historical Commission at (615) 862-7970.

PRESERVATION AWARDS

New! 2012 Preservation Awards

Mark your calendar for the 37th Annual Preservation Awards program on Thursday, May 31, 2012. We'll celebrate National Preservation Month and help kick off the Tennessee Preservation Trust's Statewide Preservation Conference. The theme for Preservation Month 2012 is "*Discover America's Hidden Gems!*" We look forward to showcasing Nashville's treasures in the categories of Residential, Commercial, Educational and Institutional, and Infill architecture.

To learn more about the awards program, please visit the Preservation Awards page of our website: www.nashville.gov/mhc.

For more information about National Preservation Month, please visit the National Trust for Historic Preservation website: www.preservationnation.org.

To learn more about the Statewide Preservation Conference...keep reading!

IN THE NEWS

New! The Baptist Church and Graveyard at Mill Creek

Submitted by Dr. Albert W. Wardin, Jr.

The old Mill Creek Baptist Church and its graveyard was situated on Mill Creek, now in the Woodbine area of Nashville on Old Glenrose Avenue off Thompson Lane. James Whitsitt, a pioneer settler, founded the church in 1797, the third Baptist church in the Nashville area, all rural congregations. It first met in a long structure, but in 1810 constructed a brick building, sixty by forty feet with four windows on each side, two front doors, and galleries for the slaves.

The church became a leading church for Baptists. It was the mother church of First Baptist Church of Nashville, founded in 1820, and was host of the first Tennessee

Baptist Convention when it was formed in 1833. Before the Civil War the church reported 112 white members and 174 Negro members. In 1908 the Mill Creek Church ceased, superseded by the new Grandview Baptist Church a mile away, and its building was dismantled. Nick Fielder and Don Merritt of the Archaeological Department of the State of Tennessee discovered remains of the building in two digs. In October 1994 they found its front steps and in May 1995 its four corners.

The graveyard of the church remained but no one was responsible for it. It held the graves of early pioneers, at least two Revolutionary War veterans, probably soldiers of the Civil War as at the time the building was used as a hospital, and an estimated fifty graves of African Americans in unmarked graves but marked by a single monument. In 1929 Edythe Rucker Whitley, a genealogist, assisted by her husband, Albert Boyd Whitley, surveyed the graveyard, recording over one hundred inscriptions on the gravestones. She wrote that the graveyard should be preserved, but noted "the condition is so near in ruins it is most too late at this day to begin any preservation which would be a shrine in future years to many."

Fortunately, sixty-four years later on June 14, 1993, a group, led by Amelia Whitsitt Edwards, formed on June 23, 1993, in the Grandview Baptist Church the Friends of Mill Creek Baptist Church Graveyard. It established a board, solicited members, issued a newsletter, and established two endowment funds. The Friends of the Graveyard has maintained the graveyard by cleaning it, removing damage from storms, cutting the grass, lighting it at night to protect it from marauders, and repairing gravestones.

In 1999 the Friends incorporated to gain property rights of the graveyard and to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After a boundary survey, gaining a resolution from the Concord-Grandview Baptist Church of granting ownership of the graveyard to the Friends, and the legal services donated by Lucian Dale, the Friends reported that finally in 2006 it attained legal ownership. Its major project today is to raise at least \$7,000 for a fence to replace a hedge better to protect the graveyard. The sum is large for a small organization, but with members and friends it hopes to reach the goal.

Friends of Mill Creek Baptist Church Graveyard will meet at First Baptist Church, 7th and Broadway, room 150, on Saturday, May 19, at 10 AM. The program includes a power point presentation of the past, present, and future needs of the Mill Creek Baptist Church Graveyard. The **public is invited** and refreshments will be served. Free parking is available behind the church.

CONFERENCES, EXHIBITS AND EVENTS

**New! 2012 Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event:
"Invasions by Rail and River: The Battle of Shiloh"**

April 4-5, 2012

Pickwick Landing State Park

Pickwick Dam, Tennessee

Join the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission in April at Pickwick Landing State Park as presenters discuss the battles, events and stories of the Civil War. The symposium will be jointly sponsored by the Tennessee Civil War

Sesquicentennial Commission, Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and Tennessee Historical Society.

April 6-7, 2012

Shiloh National Military Park

Commemorate the 150th Anniversary of The Battle of Shiloh, one of the Civil War's most bloody battles, with Special Extended Tours and the Grand Illumination of Shiloh National Battlefield. For details, visit www.nps.gov/shil/.

All events are free and open to the public, but seating is limited. For hotel information, event agenda, or to register, visit www.tncivilwar150.com.

New! Beyond the Mansion:

Digitizing Thirty Years of Archaeological Research on Slavery at The Hermitage

Thursday, April 12—7:00 p.m.

The Hermitage: Home of President Andrew Jackson

4580 Rachel's Lane

The Hermitage is pleased to announce a major milestone in the history of our archaeology program. **On Thursday, April 12th at 7 p.m.**, Dr. Jillian Galle of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello will reveal the results of important research into the Hermitage archaeology collection. Focusing on the story our archaeological artifacts tell about slavery at the Hermitage and how that compares to slavery sites along the East Coast and in the Caribbean, Dr. Galle's presentation will be held in the Andrew Jackson Visitor Center Auditorium at The Hermitage: Home of President Andrew Jackson.

Begun in the 1970s, the Hermitage archaeology program recently completed this important cataloging, conservation, and analysis phase by archaeological experts at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Led by Dr. Jillian Gale, the staff with the Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (DAACS) spent the last three years examining and conducting research into the collection for the website found at www.daacs.org.

DAACS is designed to foster comparative archeological research on slavery throughout the Chesapeake, the Carolinas and the Caribbean with a goal of helping the public to understand the slave-based society that evolved in the Atlantic World during the colonial and ante-bellum periods.

Currently, complete archaeological data from forty domestic sites of slavery in Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Jamaica, Nevis, and St. Kitts are available to scholars and the public for free through the DAACS website. In June 2012, data from nine slave houses excavated at The Hermitage between 1974 and 2005 will join these sites on the DAACS website. **On April 12th, Dr. Galle will give us an early look at the results of this significant research before it goes live to the public in June! Join us as we celebrate this milestone and learn more about the story of the enslaved community at The Hermitage.**

For more information, contact Kelly Wilkerson: kwilkerson@thehermitage.com or 615-889-2941 ext. 211.

New! Spring Happenings at the Historic Buchanan Log House

Lecture Series:

Onward Southern Soldiers: Religion and the Army of Tennessee in the Civil War

Sunday, April 15—2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

2910 Elm Hill Pike (near the Airport)

Local historians Gordon T. Belt & Traci Nichols Belt will discuss their book *Onward Southern Soldiers: Religion and the Army of Tennessee in the Civil War*. Using material such as diaries, letters, journals and sermons of the Army of Tennessee, Traci Nichols Belt, along with Gordon T. Belt, present the history of the vital role of the army's religious practices.

For both sides, the Civil War was hard-fought and bloody. How did these soldiers keep up their morale? For the Army of Tennessee, it was religion. This book explores the significant impact of religion on every rank, from generals to chaplains to common soldiers. It took faith to endure overwhelming trials. Religion unified troops, informing both why and how they fought and providing the rationale for enduring great hardship for the Confederate cause.

Refreshments will be furnished and a door prize will go to a lucky winner. Sponsors for the series are Ellendale's and Archive Lookup. The event is free and open to the public.

Save the Date! Fish Fry & Silent Auction

Friday, May 18—4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar and plan to visit the Historic Buchanan Log House for its annual Fish Fry & Silent Auction! All proceeds support the maintenance of the historic home.

Save the Date! Antique Appraisal Fair

Saturday, May 19—10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For a cost of \$10 per item or \$15 for two items, well-known local certified appraisers and specialty dealers will evaluate your treasured heirlooms and favorite collectibles. No fine jewelry, coins, stamps or weapons will be evaluated.

For more information about these and other events at the Buchanan Log House, call 615-871-4524 or email loghouse@buchananloghouse.com. *The Buchanan Log House, a Chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities (APTA).*

Save the Date!

The Brick & Mortar Bash: A Benefit for Historic Nashville, Inc.

Friday, May 25, 2012

6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Union Station Hotel
1001 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203

Historic Nashville, Inc. invites you to join in the celebration of Preservation Month.

Visit www.historicnashvilleinc.org to purchase your tickets!

Save the Date!

2012 Memorial Day Dash for Nashville City Cemetery

Memorial Day, May 28th -- 8:00 a.m.

*Greer Stadium
534 Chestnut Street*

Lace up your sneakers and start training now for this annual event! All proceeds benefit the restoration of the Nashville City Cemetery. Visit www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org to learn more.

Register Now! Old House Fair & Statewide Conference Focus on Sustainability
May 31 through June 2, 2012

Since 2000, the Tennessee Preservation Trust (TPT), our statewide non-profit preservation organization, has hosted the Statewide Preservation Conference. It brings together heritage supporters from across the state for educational sessions, tours and networking opportunities. The annual conference travels around the state and showcases the historic character of a different community each year.

This year, Nashville is pleased to show-off its preservation pride, May 31-June 2, at the Hotel Indigo on Union Street for *Smart Preservation: Livable & Sustainable*. In addition to educational sessions, tours and networking, the conference committee will be organizing an **Old House Fair on June 2, from 9am to 3pm at Eastwood Christian Church, 1601 Eastland Avenue**. The Old House Fair will be **open to everyone, not just conference attendees, for a small fee** and will be essentially a mini-trade show with a neighborhood focus. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and talk with local suppliers and crafts persons who are experts in historic preservation.

In addition to the trade show component, **Bob Yapp** will be presenting on three topics: How to Hire & Work with a Contractor, Old Windows Aren't a Pane—They're a Goldmine and Energy Efficiency for Old Houses and Buildings. Yapp is perhaps best known for his 1990s national weekly PBS program, *About Your House with Bob Yapp* and his syndicated radio show *The House Doctor*.

Another new component of the conference this year will be a day-long session specifically for realtors, although anyone is welcome to attend. **"Preservation 101 for TN Realtors," on Friday, June 1, is certified by the Tennessee Real Estate Commission and offers 6 hours of credit.** Why is preservation an important topic for realtors? It has been estimated that the restoration's market share growth will exceed 80 percent of the entire U.S. construction economy in the near future. As the country begins to explore sustainability, both in terms of the economy and the environment, buying and selling existing buildings, rather than developable lots, will increasingly become any realtor's main bread-and-butter.

Registration for the Statewide Preservation Conference and Preservation 101 for TN Realtors is now available on TPT's website at www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org. There will be a small charge for entrance to the Old House Fair at the door on Saturday.

SAVE THE DATE:
MAY 31-JUNE 2, 2012

NASHVILLE, TN

TENNESSEE PRESERVATION TRUST
STATEWIDE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

‘SMART PRESERVATION: LIVABLE & SUSTAINABLE’

Join the Tennessee Preservation Trust and its statewide partners for Commission Assistance & Mentoring Program (CAMP), educational sessions, hands-on workshops, tours, networking, and a tradeshow featuring Bob Yapp, former host of the PBS series 'About Your House'

For more information, contact: Cathleen Collett 615.963.1255 or tnprestr@yahoo.com.
www.TennesseePreservationTrust.org
[Facebook.com/TNPresTR](https://www.facebook.com/TNPresTR)

The Metropolitan Historical Commission publishes this monthly newsletter to keep you informed on events and happenings at the MHC. If you have questions, comments, or news to pass along, please email scarlett.miles@nashville.gov, with E-NEWS in the subject line.

Metropolitan Historical Commission
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