

Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ▪ May 2012



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES UPDATE

New! State Review Board to Consider RCA Studio B

Tennessee's National Register State Review Board will consider one nomination from Davidson County for listing in the National Register of Historic Places when it meets on Wednesday, May 23rd.

RCA Studio B is located at 1611 Roy Acuff Place. The concrete block building was constructed in 1957 with ca. 1960 additions. The "Home of a Thousand Hits," is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its local and national significance in the areas of performing arts and entertainment/recreation.

The State Review Board will meet at 11:30 a.m. at the Tennessee Historical Commission, Clover Bottom Mansion, 2941 Lebanon Pike. The meeting is open to the public.

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. Additionally, the Commission will present the Achievement Award to Ann Roberts and the Commissioners' Award to the Downtown Presbyterian Church.

The 37th Annual Event will be held at 4:30 p.m. at the Tennessee State Museum, 505 Deaderick Street. The Tennessee Preservation Trust and Historic Nashville, Inc. will host a reception immediately following the awards ceremony. Be sure to visit the exhibit *Becoming the Volunteer State: Tennessee in the War of 1812* while you're there!

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. Visit www.tnmuseum.org for information about the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. 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.

Just a reminder! 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! Spring Happenings at the Historic Buchanan Log House 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.

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.

14th Annual Dulcimer Day Picnic

Sunday, May 20—noon to 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy the music on stage and around the grounds. Bring your stringed instruments to join in the jam. Feel free to bring a picnic or purchase lunch during your visit.

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).*

Tickets On Sale NOW!

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!

New! Fort Negley Memorial Day Observance

Saturday, May 26th—11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Fort Negley

1100 Fort Negley Boulevard

Visit Fort Negley this Memorial Day weekend and honor all American service members and those who died building and garrisoning Fort Negley and Nashville's Fortifications. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 862-8470 or visit www.nashville.gov/parks/historic/fortnegley.

New!

2012 Memorial Day Dash for Nashville City Cemetery

Memorial Day, May 28th—8:00 a.m.

Greer Stadium

534 Chestnut Street

Looking for a little adventure this Memorial Day? Register for the 13th Annual Memorial Day Dash 5K Run/Walk! The race starts in Greer Stadium, winds around the stadium, through Fort Negley, past the Adventure Science Center, and finishes in the City Cemetery. 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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