

# Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ▪ October 2012



***In This Issue:  
New Historical Markers,  
Nashville Nine,  
Cemetery Tours, Historic Neighborhood Tours,  
Shelby Park's Centennial Celebration,  
and more!***

---

## **MHC UPDATE**

September has seen a bumper crop of historical markers, beginning with the placement of the new historical marker at Scarritt-Bennett over Labor Day weekend.

### **Scarritt College for Christian Workers**

Established in Kansas City in 1892 by the Methodist Episcopal Church South and moved to Nashville in 1924, Scarritt trained laity in Christian education, music, and missions until it closed in 1988.

Much of the Collegiate Gothic campus architecture was designed by Nashville architect Henry C. Hibbs. The campus was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

A leader in racial integration in the South, Scarritt integrated its student population in 1952. The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke in Wightman Chapel to the Conference on Christian Faith and Human Relations on April 25, 1957. From its beginning, Scarritt had an international student population that reflected its commitment to a global understanding of racial justice and equality. Its mission and vision continue today through the Scarritt-Bennett Center.

THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF METROPOLITAN  
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

DONATED BY THE SCARRITT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NO. 145

ERECTED 2012

The "Mary Catherine Schweiss Strobel" marker was erected in celebration of what would have been Mrs. Strobel's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at her family home on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in Germantown. The marker was paid for by her grandchildren. Come see this marker when you visit Oktoberfest!

**Mary Catherine Schweiss Strobel  
(1912-1986)**

Nashville native Mary Catherine Strobel was the first female employee of the Nashville Fire Department, serving from 1948 to 1977. She also devoted her life to helping the poor. She lived in the family home, 1212 7th Avenue North, from 1938 to 1971. Mary Catherine was murdered in Nashville on Dec. 9, 1986 in a random act of violence. In 1987, the community established the Mary Catherine Strobel Volunteer Awards to foster her giving spirit and her legacy of community service.

DONATED BY THE GRANDCHILDREN OF MARY  
CATHERINE SCHWEISS STROBEL

THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF METROPOLITAN  
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

NO. 146

ERECTED 20

12

Later in the month, the "Meharry Medical College" historical marker was replaced with a new marker which corrected an outdated marker and provided more historical context for the medical school.

**Meharry Medical College**

The nation's largest, private, independent historically black academic health science center was established in 1876, as the medical department of Central Tennessee College. Founded through the generosity of Samuel Meharry and his brothers and the efforts of Drs. George W. Hubbard and William Sneed, Rev. John Braden and the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church (now the United Methodist Church), the school received its independent charter in 1915, training in medicine, dentistry, nursing and pharmacy. It moved from its original location in south Nashville to this location in 1923. Dr. Harold D. West became the school's first African American president in 1952. As of 2010, over 10,000 Meharry alumni have served as physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, researchers, and public health advocates.

THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF METROPOLITAN  
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

NO. 19

ERECTED 1969,

2012

Finally, at long last, the “Hill Forest” marker was erected on the site of the tract that is home to over 300 acres of protected old-growth forest, thanks to the Hill family and Friends of Warner Parks.

**Hill Forest**

In 1910, H.G. Hill, Sr. purchased this 324 acres including an old-growth forest west of downtown Nashville. He refused to allow the trees to be sold for timber, and fenced the forest to keep his cattle from damaging the centuries-old trees. Hill enjoyed its pristine beauty throughout his lifetime. In 2009, the Friends of Warner Parks purchased the land from the Hill family, ensuring that this ancient forest in an urban setting will continue to be preserved.

THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF METROPOLITAN  
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

NO. 138

ERECTED 2012

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONFERENCES, EXHIBITS AND EVENTS**

**New! 2012 Nashville Nine**

Historic Nashville, Inc. (HNI) announced the 2012 Nashville Nine, its annual list of the nine most endangered historic properties in Nashville and Davidson County, on Wednesday, September 26, 2012. The press conference, held at the Belcourt Theater, featured Mike Wolfe, from the History Channel’s *American Pickers* program and an experienced and committed preservationist. The 2012 list features nine historic properties, nominated by the public, that are threatened by demolition, neglect, or development. To find out if your nomination made the list, visit the HNI website: [www.historicnashvilleinc.org](http://www.historicnashvilleinc.org). For the latest in HNI happenings, look for HNI on Facebook.

**New! 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Historic Belmont-Hillsboro Home Tour**

*Saturday, October 6—11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Purchase tickets at 2700 Belmont Boulevard*

This year’s tour will feature ten historic and renovated private residences in a variety of settings and styles. Tickets are \$10 for adults and free for children under 12. All proceeds benefit Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors initiatives, including local scholarship foundations, community enhancement projects, and the ongoing restoration of the Belmont Mansion. For more information, find “Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors” on

Facebook.

**New! Nashville City Cemetery Living History Tour**

*Saturday, October 6—1:00 to 5:00 p.m.*

*Nashville City Cemetery*

*1001 Fourth Avenue South*

Each fall the Nashville City Cemetery Association (NCCA) welcomes the community to its annual Living History Tour, a delightful opportunity to watch the past come alive. Costumed reenactors step forward from the gravestones and tell stories of the people buried here. You may learn about the heroic deeds of a Civil War soldier, or you might meet a slave who bought her children's freedom – visitors are often surprised to learn that this cemetery was integrated from the moment of its creation in 1822. This year's Tour focuses on individuals who lived in Nashville during the Civil War.

Cost: Adults \$5, Families \$10. All proceeds support the preservation of the City Cemetery. For parking ease, park at Greer Stadium (534 Chestnut Street) and take the free shuttle to the cemetery.

Information about the tour is from "A Walk Through Our Past," found in the Fall/Winter 2012 issue of *Monuments and Milestones*, the newsletter of the NCCA. View the entire newsletter and learn more about activities at the City Cemetery by visiting [www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org](http://www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org).

**Ongoing! Nashville City Cemetery Work Days**

Interested in helping to clean up the City Cemetery? Please visit

[www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org](http://www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org) for the complete schedule of Hands On Nashville's Clean Up Days at the Nashville City Cemetery {usually the second or first Saturday of the month—9:00 to 11:00 a.m.}. The final work day for 2012 is October 13.

**New! MHC/MHZC Booth at Oktoberfest**

*Saturday, October 13, 2012*

*Historic Germantown, Nashville*

The Historical and Historic Zoning Commissions will have a booth at the 33rd Annual Oktoberfest. We do hope you'll stop by to say hello! For information about the street festival and the Historic Germantown neighborhood, visit

[www.historicgermantown.org](http://www.historicgermantown.org) and [www.nashvilleoktoberfest.com](http://www.nashvilleoktoberfest.com).

**New! Shelby Park Centennial Celebration**

*Saturday, October 13—10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*

*Shelby Park*

Join the Friends of Shelby Park for a celebratory event commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Shelby Park. This free event will observe the rich history, nature and beauty of the park. The celebration will include an art installation, music, art auction, dance, food, and history display. The event will be held throughout Shelby Park proper and will feature a variety of activities and live performances to entertain a diverse audience. Learn more at [www.Shelby100.com](http://www.Shelby100.com).

**New! Historic Old Hickory Village Home Tour**

*Saturday, October 13—11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*

*Purchase tickets at the Old Hickory Church of Christ*

*1000 Hadley Avenue*

Spend the day in Historic Old Hickory Village, just 20 minutes from Nashville. Explore historic and lakeside homes, local art, food and festivities. Built in 1918 by the DuPont Company, some say this factory town is Nashville's best kept secret—come see for yourself! Find “Historic Old Hickory Village Neighborhood Assoc. Home Tour” on Facebook or visit [www.OLDHICKORY.ORG](http://www.OLDHICKORY.ORG) for more information.

**Opening Soon! Commemorating the Cuban Missile Crisis**

*October 26 – November 16, 2012*

*Metropolitan Government Archives*

*3801 Green Hills Village Drive*

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, October 19-28, 1962. Stop by Metro Archives to view a new exhibit featuring President Kennedy's October 26th speech to the nation, plus see examples of the Civil Defense literature of the time as well as transcribed stories and anecdotes from Nashvillians who remember the event. The free exhibit is open during business hours, Monday-Friday.

**Save the Date! Nashville City Cemetery Civil War Tour with John Allyn:**

November 10 at 10:00 a.m.—Learn more about this free tour at

[www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org](http://www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org)

**Save the Date! Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture:**

February 8, 2013—Topics will include the Emancipation Proclamation, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Metropolitan Government, and more!

---

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](mailto:scarlett.miles@nashville.gov), with E-NEWS in the subject line.

Metropolitan Historical Commission

Sunnyside in Sevier Park • 3000 Granny White Pike • Nashville, Tennessee 37204 • Phone: 615.862.7970  
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County • Karl F. Dean, Mayor