

# Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ▪ December 2013



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## **MHC/MHZC UPDATE**

### **Marker News!**

Following the disappearance of the McConnell Field marker earlier this year, the West Nashville Founders Museum and the Metropolitan Historical Commission replaced the marker, with revised wording. The new McConnell Field marker was erected in late November 2013.

### **McCONNELL FIELD**

In 1927 the City of Nashville bought 131 acres from Warren Sloan and made this the city airport, named for Lieut. Brower McConnell, Tennessee National Guard pilot who died that year in an air crash. Aircraft outgrew the field in the 1930s and moved to Sky Harbor and Berry Field. The Works Progress Administration constructed the McCabe Golf Course, named for former Park Commission Chairman Charles McCabe, in 1939-1940.

THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON  
COUNTY

NO. 33

ERECTED 1970, 2013

The West Nashville Founders Museum also provided support for the placement of a marker for Richland Park, which was erected along Charlotte Avenue near the entrance to the Richland Park Branch Library, in late November 2013.

### **RICHLAND PARK**

Once a part of the Byrd Douglas plantation, the Nashville Land Improvement Company dedicated ten acres for a public park in 1887. After annexation, the park became a Nashville City Park in 1907, and the City added playground equipment. Richland Park hosted many community events such as ice cream socials, band concerts, outdoor movies, and sporting events. The community center opened in 1932, and was converted into the Richland Park Library in 1961-62.

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**Time to Shop! Ponder "Sunnyside Mansion" Ornaments Now Available**

Phil Ponder's print "Sunnyside Mansion" is now available as an ornament. Through the generosity of Mr. Ponder and Picture This gallery, sales will support the MHC Foundation. Ornaments are \$6 and are available at the MHC office (checks payable to MHC Foundation). Larger prints are available upon request. If we do say so ourselves, Sunnyside ornaments make great gifts--for you or the Nashville history lovers on your list!

**1898 Map of Davidson County**

Have you admired the large map in our conference room? The MHC Foundation is also selling high-quality copies of the 1898 Map of Davidson County.

**Save the Date! Lunch-and-Learn with Dr. Mark Cheatham**

*Tuesday, January 14, 2014 – Noon*

*Fort Negley Visitors Center*

*1100 Fort Negley Boulevard*

Mark your calendar and plan to join the Historical Commission and Fort Negley for a lunch-and-learn presentation on "Andrew Jackson, Southerner" by Dr. Mark Cheatham.

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

On February 14, 2014 join Tennessee State University's College of Arts and Sciences and the Metropolitan Historical Commission for a celebration of the contributions of African Americans to Nashville and Tennessee history. For over thirty years, this award-winning conference has brought together historians, students, educators, community leaders, and others interested in African-American history and culture. This year's conference will focus on the educational and musical legacies of Nashville's African-American community to our city and state.

Dr. Sonya Ramsey of the University of North Carolina-Charlotte will focus on the legacy of African-American schoolteachers in Nashville, the subject of her recent book, *Reading, Writing, and Segregation: A Century of Black Women Schoolteachers in Nashville*. Several of Ramsey's interviews come from our own Conference attendees! Ramsey's book has been called "groundbreaking" and "fascinating" by reviewers.

Dr. Don Cusic will speak on educator, poet, and activist James Weldon Johnson. Janet Walsh with the TSU Libraries and Beverly Robertson with the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis will highlight the research and interpretation of the African-American experience at their institutions. In commemoration of the Sesquicentennial year of the Battle of Nashville in the American Civil War, Norm Hill will join Dr. Tim Johnson to discuss the Civil War experiences of Nashville's African Americans during the Battle of Nashville.

Please make plans to join us for this exceptional program on Friday, February 14, 2014. The full program brochure will be available in late December 2013. Visit [Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture](#) for updates or find us

on Facebook!

**Save the Date! Third Annual Old House Fair**

The Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission and partners are pleased to announce the third annual [Old House Fair](#) on Saturday March 8, 2014, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at The Martin Center, 2400 Fairfax Avenue, Nashville.

The Old House Fair is a FREE day-long festival that introduces property owners to new ideas, practical advice, innovative materials, and quality services through exhibitors, presentations and hands-on demonstrations. The event includes door prizes and the opportunity for children to learn more about historic architecture through guided craft projects.

Lectures and hands-on demonstrations focus on enhancing energy efficiency, maintaining and restoring old houses, and appropriate design elements for the architectural styles and eras found here in Nashville. “We will have a full range of sessions,” said historic zoning administrator Robin Zeigler, “everything from how to make an old house more energy efficient, to how to navigate the Metro permitting process, to how to repair old windows or make a decision on replacement windows.” Even if you are not a DIYer, these sessions will help you know what to look for and what to ask for when planning projects for your old home. The entire schedule of lectures and hands-on demonstrations and exhibitor’s list will be available online at [www.oldhousefair.org](http://www.oldhousefair.org) after the first of the year.

Participants will have a chance to talk to exhibitors and get advice and information on their specific projects. Exhibitors include companies that specialize in old houses, and retailers and artists who cater to owners of Antebellum, Victorian, Bungalow, Tudor and Mid-century Modern homes.

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**2014 PRESERVATION AWARDS**

**New! Call for Nominations: 2014 Preservation Awards**

That’s right! We are now accepting nominations for the *2014* Preservation Awards. This is new for us, so please bear with us as we work out the details of a rolling nominations process. We’ll provide information about judging and the awards ceremony as it becomes available. In the meantime, feel free to nominate your favorite preservation project as soon as it is complete!

The deadline to submit nominations is **Friday, March 14, 2014**. This is earlier than in years past, so please take note. We will not extend the deadline for photographs or incomplete nomination packets.

To learn more about the awards program and to request a nomination form, please visit Preservation Awards or email [scarlett.miles@nashville.gov](mailto:scarlett.miles@nashville.gov).

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**IN THE NEWS**

**Ongoing! NashvilleNext.Net!**

Work continues on a new Nashville General Plan which will provide a vision for our city's future over the next 30 years, along with guidance for growth and development in Davidson County and much of Middle Tennessee. Called "NashvilleNext," this is an ongoing, integrated plan for Nashville's future - and information about the plan is now available on a constantly updated webpage which includes contact information, volunteer opportunities, details of the plan in progress, and video comments from some of the many community leaders who are already part of the NashvilleNext initiative. Visit [www.nashvillenext.net](http://www.nashvillenext.net) or find Nashville Next on Facebook for the "next" big news!

Concerned about what this means for Nashville's historic resources? Read the [Historic Preservation Background Report](#) and the [Historic Preservation Fact Sheet](#), and [share your comments](#) about the future of historic preservation in our city.

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### CONFERENCES, EXHIBITS AND EVENTS

**New! Civil War Events with Ed Bearss**  
***An Evening with Civil War Expert Ed Bearss***  
*Friday, December 6—6:00 to 9:00 p.m.*  
*The Elaine and Jim Kay Residence*

A United States veteran and author from Montana, Ed Bearss is known for his expertise on the American Civil War and WWII eras. He has served as Chief Historian of the National Park Service and is a popular tour guide of historic battlefields for the Smithsonian Associates. At 90, he still leads tours and travels throughout the United States sharing his passion and knowledge of the Civil War and WWII with the public. Join Historic Travellers Rest Plantation and Museum and the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society for cocktails, dinner, and a special evening with Bearss. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$175 per couple. For more information and reservations contact Cryssa Hulsey at 615-832-8197 or [rentals@travellersrestplantation.org](mailto:rentals@travellersrestplantation.org)

#### ***Battle of Nashville Bus Tour***

*Saturday, December 7—10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*  
The tour will begin at Travellers Rest Plantation. The tour will include over seven Battle of Nashville sites. Guides along the way will be Ed Bearss, a renowned Civil War expert and author, and Battle of Nashville Preservation Society board members Jim Kay and John Allyn. Sponsored by Historic Travellers Rest Plantation and Museum and the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society. Tickets are \$70 per person and include a boxed lunch. For more information and reservations contact Cryssa Hulsey at 615-832-8197 or [rentals@travellersrestplantation.org](mailto:rentals@travellersrestplantation.org)

#### **New! Commemoration of the Battle of Nashville**

*Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>—10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*  
*Fort Negley*  
*1100 Fort Negley Boulevard*  
Join [Fort Negley](#) in commemorating the 149<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Nashville. This year's event will feature living history encampments and the 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Troops. *The Battle for Nashville*, a 60-minute film by Backyard Productions will run throughout the day. The event is free and open to the public.

#### **New! All Through the House: 1820s Christmas with the Overton Family**

Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>—6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Travellers Rest

636 Farrell Parkway

Adults \$12, Children \$6, for more information call 615-832-8197 or visit [Travellers Rest Plantation](#).

**Ongoing! Raise the Roof: An Exhibit About Buildings**

September 14, 2013 to February 16, 2014

Adventure Science Center

800 Fort Negley Blvd.

Do you have a budding historic preservationist or architect in the family? Make sure to check out this great exhibit at the Adventure Science Center, where kids of all ages can learn about building construction, the cultural influences of building design, and yes, even building demolition.

If walls could talk, what sorts of secrets, surprises, or extraordinary engineering feats would they reveal? Discover the story behind the structures humans spend 90 percent of their lives within. The *Raise the Roof* exhibit will feature buildings and building science from around the world, including a "Collapsible Dome." Other components will include a table top activity where visitors can examine and work with a variety of hand-crafted wooden joints. For more information, visit the [Adventure Science Center website](#).

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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

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Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County • Karl F. Dean, Mayor