

# Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ▪ August 2014



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Historic Zoning District Expansions,  
NashvilleNext Meeting to Go: Preservation in Nashville,  
Created Equal: America's Struggle for Civil Rights,  
Encyclopedia of Nashville and Davidson County,  
2014 Nashville Nine,  
and more...***

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## What's New with the MHC and MHZC?

### **New!** Historic Zoning District Expansions Continue

As of July 25, 2014, the Hillsboro-West End and the Lockeland Springs-East End Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlay Districts now include approximately 45 additional acres, combined.

Additionally, the Metropolitan Council is currently considering a proposed expansion of the Broadway Historic Preservation Zoning Overlay District.

Visit the [Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission website](#) to view the **new boundaries**, revisit the design guidelines, download applications, and learn more about the permitting process.

### **New!** Help Make Preservation a Priority in the New Nashville General Plan

*Monday, August 18—5:30 p.m.*

*Sonny West Conference Center*

*700 Second Avenue North*

Assure that preservation is a key component of Metro Nashville's comprehensive, countywide plan. Join the Tennessee Preservation Trust, Historic Nashville, Inc., and the Metropolitan Historical Commission for a NashvilleNext "Meeting to Go" on August 18, 5:30 p.m., Sonny West Conference Center, 700 Second Avenue North. A [Meeting to Go](#) is a focused, small-group discussion of NashvilleNext issues, organized and led by community volunteers. The volunteers will compile comments from the group and report back to the NashvilleNext team. Additionally, individual participants will be able to provide input on how Nashville grows in the future.

**Preservation is economically, environmentally and socially/culturally sustainable. Let's let make sure that it is a strong part of planning our future.**

***So, what IS NashvilleNext, anyway?*** It's the new Nashville General Plan which will

provide a vision for our city's future over the next 25 years, along with guidance for growth and development in Davidson County and much of Middle Tennessee. This is an ongoing, integrated plan for Nashville's future - and information about the plan is 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 more information.

Want a little extra credit? Study for the Meeting to Go by reviewing the [Historic Preservation Background Report](#) and the [Historic Preservation Fact Sheet](#).

**New! Created Equal – Film Screening and Discussion Series**

*“The Loving Story”*

*Saturday, August 16 through Friday, August 22*

*Various dates and times*

*Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park*

*1100 Fort Negley Blvd.*

The Metropolitan Historical Commission in partnership with the Fort Negley Visitors' Center is delighted to be one of the recipients of a two-year grant program called *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle*.

[Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle](#) is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities that uses the power of documentary films to encourage community discussion of America's civil rights history. NEH has partnered with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to develop programmatic and support materials for the sites.

The MHC & Fort Negley are part of the 473 institutions across the country awarded a set of four films chronicling the history of the civil rights movement. The powerful documentaries, *The Abolitionists*, *Slavery by Another Name*, *Freedom Riders*, and *The Loving Story*, include dramatic scenes of incidents in the 150-year effort to achieve equal rights for all. Each of the films was produced with NEH support, and each tells remarkable stories of individuals who challenged the social and legal status quo of deeply rooted institutions, from slavery to segregation. *Created Equal* programs bring communities together to revisit our shared history and help bridge deep racial and cultural divides in American civic life.

“The Loving Story” will be screened at the Fort Negley Visitors Center on August 16 and 19-21, and a community discussion will take place on Friday, August 22 at 10:00 a.m.

Visit our website and Facebook page for [screening and discussion dates and times!](#)

**Ongoing!**

**Love Research, Writing, and Nashville History? If so, Nashville Needs YOU!**

The Metropolitan Historical Commission and Davidson County Historian, Dr. Carole Bucy, are teaming up with other Metro departments including the Mayor's Office, Information Technology Services, Metro Government Archives, and the Nashville Public Library to embark upon a comprehensive on-line *Encyclopedia of Nashville and Davidson County*. We need your help! If you are interested in researching and

writing one or more articles of approximately 500 words pertaining to people, places, or events significant in Nashville history, sign up to become a writer! Check out <http://writers.nashville.gov> for more information and the “Guidelines for Writers” -- then email [encyclopedia@nashville.gov](mailto:encyclopedia@nashville.gov) to sign up!

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## IN THE NEWS

### **Nominations Due! 2014 Nashville Nine**

[Historic Nashville, Inc.](#), is now accepting nominations for the 2014 Nashville Nine, Historic Nashville’s annual list of the most endangered historic properties, including landmarks, bridges, signs, and whole blocks or neighborhoods, in Nashville and Davidson County. The Nashville Nine list has been one of the organization’s most effective tools for saving the places that are unique to Nashville. HNI is giving the citizens of Davidson County and surrounding areas an opportunity to nominate the most endangered places in Nashville.

2014 will be the sixth year that HNI has solicited input from the public for the Nashville Nine program. The list includes nine historic properties nominated by the public that are threatened by demolition, neglect or development. Over the years, Historic Nashville has successfully advocated for the preservation of landmarks that are “unmistakably Nashville” such as the Ryman Auditorium, Union Station and the Hermitage Hotel. The work HNI does is vital to preserving the history and vitality of Nashville and is an essential part of the community.

“Community involvement is essential for preservation success,” said Melissa Wyllie, president of Historic Nashville. “You can start by joining Historic Nashville. We are Nashville’s only non-profit organization dedicated to preservation, with a focus on advocacy and education. Take a look around your neighborhood and the places you pass on the way to work. Is there a place you love or a building you are afraid is in danger of being destroyed? Nominate the property and help preserve our city – and its historic past – one building at a time.”

HNI has experienced both success and loss since the inception of the Nashville Nine. Despite the challenges associated with historic preservation, the organization is determined to save the properties that are embedded in the cultural and historic past of the city. One such success story is the Geist Blacksmith Shop that has been purchased by the prominent redevelopment group 311 Forge LLC. The group has plans to redevelop the two historic buildings on the property, including the blacksmith shop and the two-story brick house. The Geist property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and has been on HNI’s Nashville Nine list more times than any other property.

For more information and to nominate a historic property, visit [the HNI website](#). **The deadline for nominations is August 15, 2014.** The 2014 Nashville Nine will be announced in September.

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## AROUND TOWN

**New! First Tuesday at the Metro Archives**

*Tuesday, August 5—2:30 to 3:30 p.m.*

*Metro Archives*

*NEW LOCATION – Nashville Public Library*

*615 Church Street*

Join Friends of Metro Archives for the first “First Tuesday” event at the new Metro Archives location in the Main Library downtown. Author Gordon T. Belt will talk about and sign copies of his new book, *John Sevier: Tennessee's First Hero*. The program is free and open to the public.

**New! The Sultana Tragedy**

*Sunday, August 12—3:00 p.m.*

*Franklin Civil War Round Table*

*Franklin Police Headquarters*

*Community Room*

*900 Columbia Avenue*

Join the Franklin Civil War Round Table for a presentation by Memphis attorney and historian Jerry O. Potter. Potter will discuss *The Sultana Tragedy*, based on his 1992 book of the same name. The Sultana was a Mississippi River side-wheel steamboat that exploded on April 17, 1865 in the greatest maritime disaster in United States history. An estimated 1,900 of her almost 2,500 passengers were killed when three of the boat's four boilers exploded near Memphis. Many of the victims were Union veterans heading home as the Civil War neared an end, including many who saw action at Franklin. Survivors were badly burned and endured the bitter cold and current of the Mississippi River. Hundreds had been prisoners of war at Confederate prisons such as Andersonville and Cahaba (near Selma, Alabama). Because of President Lincoln's assassination the day before, the Sultana disaster was pushed out of the headlines. Even to this day, most Americans are not familiar with incredible loss of life.

Potter, a 1973 graduate of UT Martin and the University of Memphis Law School in 1975, has spoken and written extensively on the Sultana as well as Nathan Bedford Forrest in publications like the *Blue and Gray Magazine* and the *American History* magazine. He continues to conduct research into the many stories related to this tragedy and promises to be one of our most informative presentations!

Don't miss our first presentation of the Sultana disaster at the Franklin Police Headquarters' Community Room, 900 Columbia Avenue on Sunday, August 12th. The program begins at 3:00 PM. The public is invited.

The Franklin Civil War Round Table is an educational program of Franklin's Charge and meets each month at the Franklin Police Headquarters' Community Room at 900 Columbia Avenue. For more information, email [fcwrt@yahoo.com](mailto:fcwrt@yahoo.com), or visit <http://www.franklinscharge.com/round-table>.

**Ongoing! Historic Tours of Two Rivers Mansion**

*Fridays through August 29—1:00 to 4:00 p.m.*

*Two Rivers Mansion*

*3130 McGavock Pike*

Each Friday afternoon through August 29, visitors will have the opportunity to tour Two Rivers Mansion. \$5 for adults, \$2 for children, free for members of the Friends of Two Rivers Mansion. Proceeds support [The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion](#).

**New! Music at the Mansion**

*Saturday, August 16—7:00 p.m.*

*Two Rivers Mansion*

*3130 McGavock Pike*

Mark your calendar and make plans to join the Friends of Two Rivers Mansion for the popular “Music at the Mansion” summer music series on the grounds of Two Rivers Mansion. The series of live outdoor concerts concludes on August 16<sup>th</sup> with a performance by The Nashville Blues Society, featuring Eight O’Five Jive and Markey Blue.

Admission for the event is \$5.00 per person or \$20 per family or car load. Admission is always free for members of the Friends of Two Rivers Mansion. Gates open at 6:00 p.m., perfect for finding a good spot and settling in before the music starts at 7:00 p.m. Rose Mary Lane’s Catering will be on site so guests can purchase summertime refreshments. Guests are also welcome to bring picnic baskets.

For more information for upcoming events and membership visit the website at [www.friendsoftworiversmansion.org](http://www.friendsoftworiversmansion.org). All events are supported by Metro Parks & Recreation.

**New! A Death in the Family**

*Saturday, August 16—10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

*Middle TN Genealogical Society*

*FiftyForward Knowles/Patricia Hart Building (across from the State Fairgrounds)*

*174 Rains Avenue*

Nationally recognized genealogist, J. Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA, will discuss *A Death in the Family*. Discover a myriad of documents uncovered through the death of an individual in TN. The \$40.00 cost includes lunch and handouts. To register with credit card, call 615-743-3400 or mail a check to FiftyForward at the address above. For more information visit [www.mtgs.org](http://www.mtgs.org).

**New! Lotz House Private Cellar Tours**

*Selected Saturdays by Appointment*

*The Lotz House*

*1111 Columbia Avenue*

*Franklin, TN*

Be one of the first to experience The Lotz House Cellar Tour, a unique showcase of historian John Marler's two year archeological excavation. The project, completed in November 2013, uncovered approximately 900 Civil War relics and items connected with civilian life from the mid to late 1800s.

Private tours will take place on the third Saturday of each month from March through October in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Franklin.

Highlights of this exclusive experience include:

- A review of the excavation process
- A first-hand look at the relics uncovered
- A description of the significance of the findings
- An interpretation of how these findings relate to a better understanding of the happenings inside the Lotz House following the historic battle

Contact J.T. Thompson at [jtt@lotzhouse.com](mailto:jtt@lotzhouse.com) or call 615-790-7190 to reserve your place on one of the following tour dates:

**August 16 | September 20 | October 18**

All tours will be held from 10 a.m. – noon. The cost is \$30 per person. This is a limited tour, first-come-first-served. The guided tour of the Lotz House is \$10 and is a separate ticket.

For more information about the Lotz House, visit [www.lotzhouse.com](http://www.lotzhouse.com).

**Save the Date! Tennessee Ancestry Library Event**

*Saturday, September 20—9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

*Sheraton Hotel*

*623 Union Street*

The Tennessee State Library & Archives and Tennessee State Library & Archives Friends are co-sponsoring the [Tennessee Ancestry Library Event](#) with Ancestry.com. Join the Ancestry team and experts from the Tennessee Library & Archives for a day of learning and discovery. For more information, please visit [www.mtgs.org](http://www.mtgs.org), the [event registration page](#), and the [event FAQ page](#).

Many helpful sessions will be held in the days leading up to the [Tennessee Ancestry Library Event \(TALE\)](#) (September 16-19). These [pre-event lectures](#) will take place in the Tennessee State Library & Archives Auditorium. The lectures at TSLA are free but seating is limited, so [register ASAP](#). All events will be open to the public. For questions about the pre-event lectures, contact the Tennessee State Library & Archives at [reference.tsla@tn.gov](mailto:reference.tsla@tn.gov) or 615-741-2764.

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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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