



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

Metropolitan Historical Commission
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission
Sunnyside in Sevier Park
3000 Granny White Pike
Nashville, Tennessee 37204
Telephone: (615) 862-7970

To: Metropolitan Council
From: Metropolitan Historical Commission, Staff
Date: December 10, 2020
Re: BL2020-556

An ordinance to amend the Geographic Information Systems Street and Alley Centerline Layer for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, by renaming a portion of Clover Street off 44th Avenue North to “Community Court.” (Proposal Number 2020M-006SR-001). *Exhibit attached at end of report.

The subject portion of Clover Street is a right-of-way that has never been improved. It was first known as Meigs Street and was one of the original streets in the Town of Clifton, which was platted in 1858. The town was generally located between today’s 38th and 48th Avenues North, and Charlotte Pike and the Cumberland River. On the plat, Meigs Street ran westerly from Laughlin Street (44th Avenue North) to its terminus with Greene Street, the town’s western boundary along the lands of Dr. J. R. Hudson (Figure 1).¹ The town’s street names included Zollicoffer, Morgan, and Van Leer, all prominent surnames in Nashville at the time. According to historian Sarah Foster Kelly, Meigs Street was likely named for Return J. Meigs, an “outstanding Nashville attorney” who was “distinguished in political circles.”²

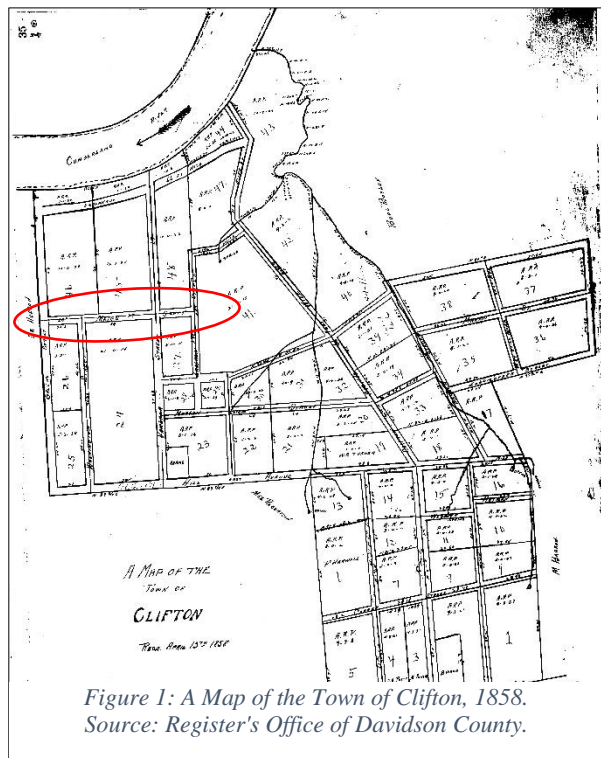


Figure 1: A Map of the Town of Clifton, 1858.
Source: Register's Office of Davidson County.

¹ A Map of the Town of Clifton, Plat Book 21, page 35, April 13, 1858.

² Sarah Foster Kelly, *West Nashville: Its People and Environs* (Nashville: self-pub., 1987), 165.

The intersection of Meigs and Laughlin streets appeared on L.H. Davis's 1889 subdivision of Lot No. 41 of the Clifton Plan, which subdivided land east of Laughlin Street.³ A later plat, recorded in April 1898, subdivided the Clifton Plan property surrounding Meigs Street (Figure 2).⁴ Here the plat shows the 50-ft wide Meigs Street running from Laughlin (44th Avenue North) westerly about 320 feet to a stone wall. Additionally, the plat shows the NC&StL railroad cutting through the southwest corner of the plan. The presence of the wall and the railroad could explain why the subject portion of Clover Street remains unbuilt.⁵

Plats recorded later in 1898 and 1899 focused on subdividing the land west of Laughlin Street. George T. Finegan's plan from August 1898 subdivided the land south of Meigs Street, between Laughlin Street and the railroad, while the W.H. Smithas plan from October 1899 subdivided the land north of Meigs Street, between Laughlin Street and Centennial Boulevard (Figure 3).⁶

By 1908, the length of Meigs was reduced to one block between Laughlin Street and Van Leer Street (45th Avenue North).⁷

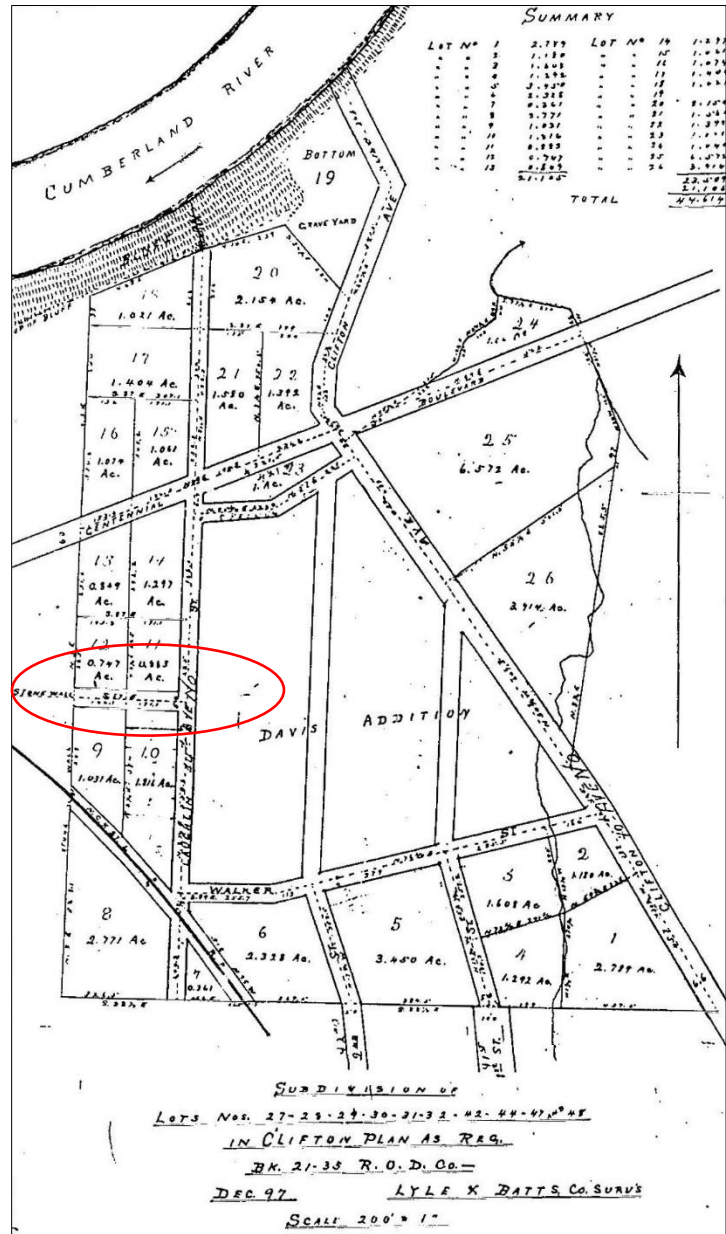


Figure 2: Subdivision of Lots 27-32, 42, 44, 47 and 48 in Clifton Plan, 1898. Source: Register's Office of Davidson County.

³ Map of L.H. Davis Subdivision of Lot No. 41 of Clifton Plan, Plat Book 57, page 100, April 13, 1889. Every street shown on the plat has changed names.

⁴ Subdivision of Lots 27-32, 42, 44, 47 and 48 in Clifton Plan, Plat Book 161, page 68, April 6, 1898.

⁵ According to Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Meigs/Clover Street was "not opened" in 1931-1932, 1951, and 1957 (vol. 5, sheet 546). Per Metro Public Works, the street remains unbuilt although the right-of-way exists.

⁶ George T. Finegan, Trustee, Subdivision of Lot No. 10 County Lands, As Reg. Bk 161-68, Plat Book 161, page 69, August 30, 1898. W.H. Smithas, Subdivision of Lot 11-12-13 & 14 in Plan of County Lands, As Reg. Bk 161-68, Plat Book 161, page 69, October 12, 1899. Both plats drawn in August 1898 by Lyle & Betts Co. Surveyors.

⁷ G.M. Hopkins & Co., Atlas of the City of Nashville, 1908

<<https://teva.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15138coll23/id/9790/rec/2>> accessed December 1, 2020.

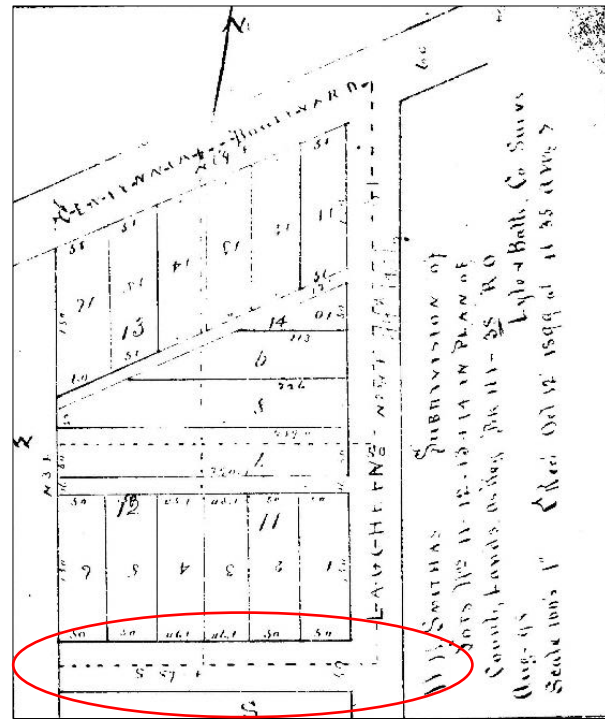
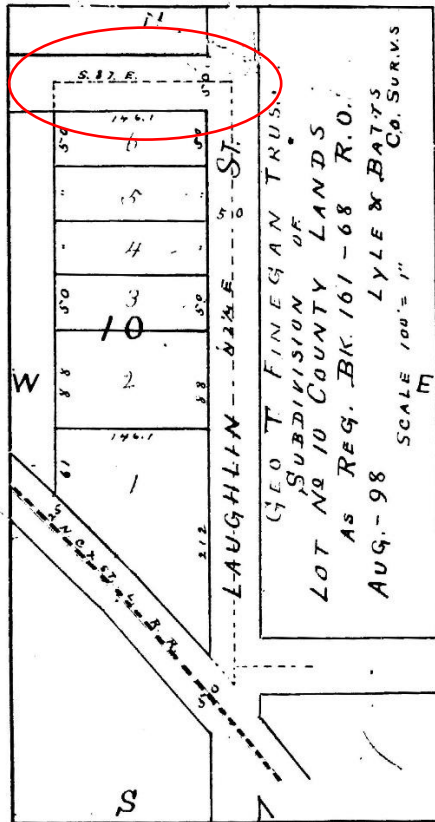
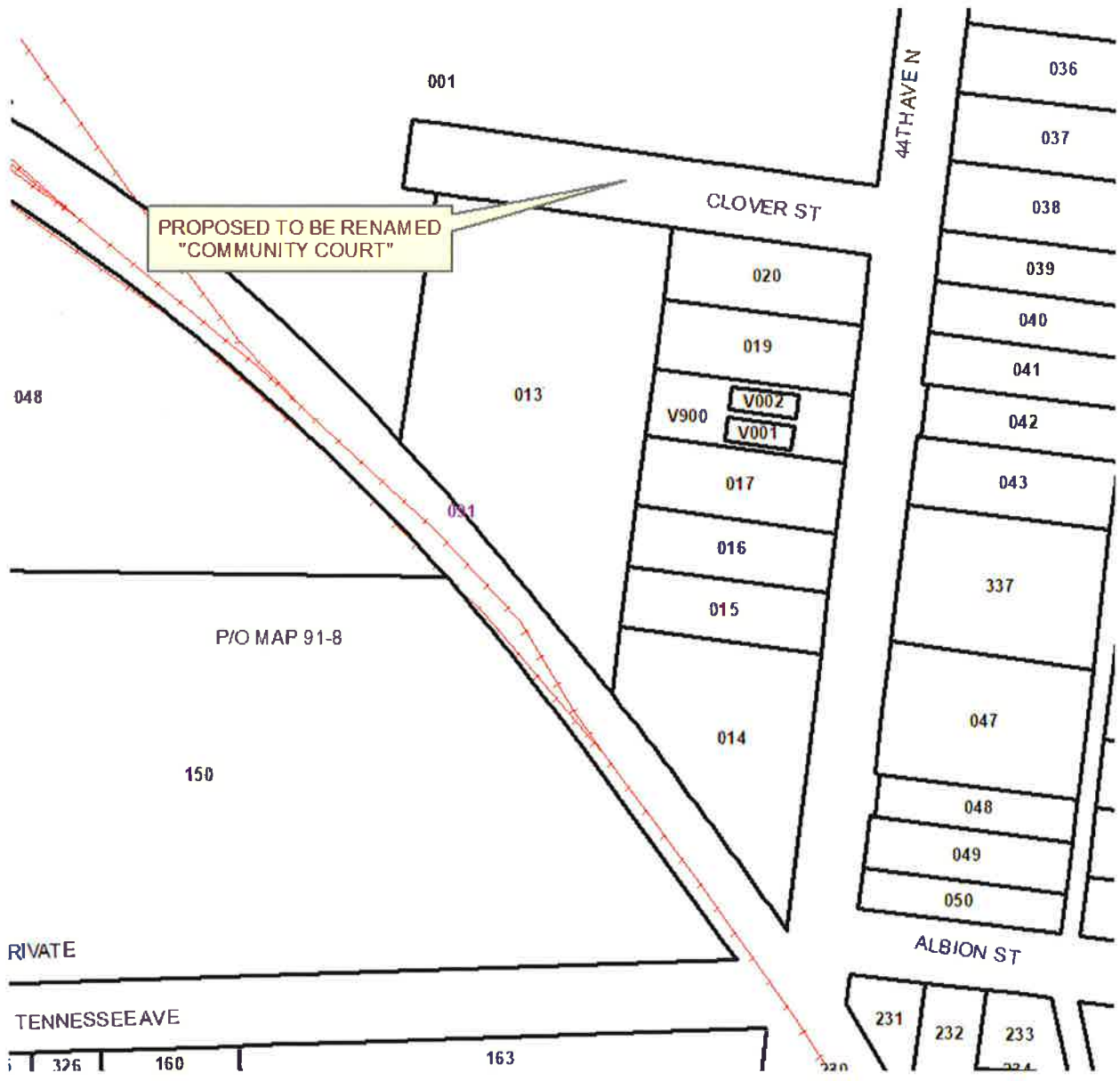


Figure 3: Finegan Subdivision, 1898 (left), and Smithas Subdivision, 1899 (right).
 Source: Register's Office of Davidson County.

In 1941, the City of Nashville renamed Meigs Street, from 44th Avenue North to 45th Avenue North (formerly Van Leer), to Clover Street.⁸ The new name “Clover” was likely intended to be a continuation of the Clover Street first platted by Midway, an unrecorded subdivision of land located less than a half-mile east of Meigs Street. The Midway plan was bounded by Bosley Road at the north and Zollicoffer Street (Batavia Street) at the south, and McLaughlin Avenue (28th Avenue North) at the east and Rose Street (39th Avenue North) at the west.⁹ On this plat, Clover Street runs westerly from India Street (32nd Avenue North) to an alley west of Olive Street (37th Avenue North). Originally platted with residential lots and marketed to African Americans by the Riverview Realty Company and Normalview Land Company, portions of the Clover Street right-of-way were closed in 1935 and 1966 to allow for the expansion of Tennessee State University.¹⁰ The only remaining segment of the originally platted Clover Street runs from 32nd Avenue North to 33rd Avenue North.

⁸ Ordinance No. 1526, Approved by Mayor Thomas L. Cummings, Sr., October 14, 1941. This legislation also changed Bradley and Cypress Streets to Clover Street. 45th Avenue closed by Ordinance No. 056-72, May 1, 1956.
⁹ A copy of the plat of *Midway* is filed in Misc. Plat Book 2, page 67. The date is not known, but a subdivision of the Midway property was recorded on November 1, 1889 (*Long and Ashworth's Subdivision of Block 24 and Parts of 33-40 & 41 Midway*, Plat Book 57, page 116), suggesting that Midway was platted before November 1889.
¹⁰ *Map of Midway*, Plat Book 421, page 11, May 13, 1912; *Normalview Land Company, Subdivision of Lots 33, 34, 39, 40, 50, 53, 54, 54 ½, 57, 62, 66, Midway (unrecorded)*, Plat Book 421, page 97, March 27, 1916. “Normalview” likely named for its proximity to Tennessee A & I State Normal School across Centennial Boulevard. Clover Street between 36th and 37th Avenues North closed by Ordinance. No. 0963, November 11, 1935. Clover Street between 33rd and 35th Avenues closed by Ordinance No. 65-493, August 30, 1966.



PROPOSED TO BE RENAMED
"COMMUNITY COURT"

001

CLOVER ST

44TH AVE N

036

037

038

039

040

041

042

043

337

047

048

049

050

ALBION ST

231

232

233

048

P/O MAP 91-8

150

RIVATE

TENNESSEE AVE

326 | 160 | 163

320