METROPOLITAN GOVERNMEN



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: November 27, 2019

Re: BL2019-52

An ordinance to amend the Geographic Information Systems Street and Alley Centerline Layer for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, by changing the name of Spencer Avenue to "Foundry Drive." (Proposal Number 2019M-002SR-001).

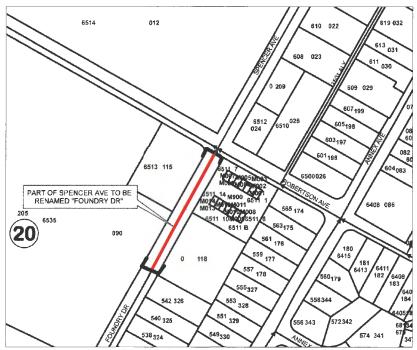


Figure 1: Spencer Avenue, subject segment noted in red.

Spencer Avenue appears on the 1906 plat for the *Plan of West Nashville Annex* (Figure 2).¹ Other street names on the plat include those streets running west-east: Frisco, Marshall, Robertson, Coleman, and Reeves, and those streets running north-south: Spencer, Annex, and James. Some streets appear to be named for prominent residents of the area (i.e., Robertson and Reeves), but the source for the name "Spencer" is not clear.

¹ West Nashville Annex, recorded in Plat Book 332, Page 11, on July 14, 1906, R.O.D.C.

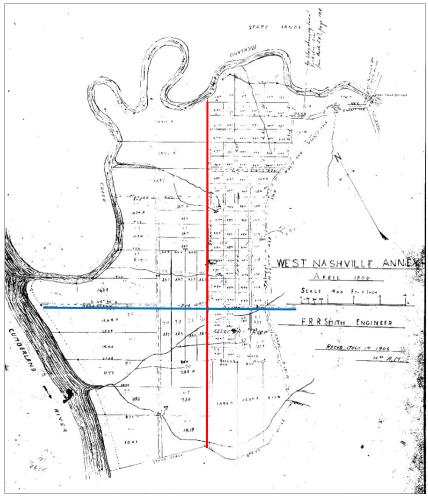


Figure 2: West Nashville Annex, 1906. Spencer Avenue in red, Robertson Avenue in blue.

Originally platted as a long roadway beginning at a point several acres south of Robertson Avenue and continuing north to a point near the Cumberland River, it appears that Spencer Avenue was never fully constructed south of Robertson Avenue. Rather, it appears that Foundry Drive was constructed on the Spencer Avenue roadway over the course of three residential developments platted between 1958 and 1965. The construction date for the subject segment of Spencer Avenue is unclear, and Metro Nashville Public Works does not have records of its official acceptance for maintenance.²

Foundry Drive, running from its intersection with Henry Ford Drive to a point just north of its intersection with Edsel Drive, appears on the 1958 plat for *Charlotte Park, Section IV.*³ Consolidated Developments, Inc., developed Charlotte Park over the course of about 22 sections, platted from 1957 to 1966. Most of the street names across Charlotte Park were inspired by the Ford Glass Plant, located on Centennial Boulevard in Cockrill Bend, where work "ignited" in

² Per email correspondence with Metro Nashville Public Works, 27 November 2019. The City of Nashville annexed this area in 1961, so it is possible that the road, if built, was accepted as part of that process.

³ Charlotte Park, Section IV, recorded in Plat Book 2663, Page 71, on September 5, 1958, R.O.D.C. The Davidson County Quarterly Court accepted this segment of Foundry Drive for maintenance at its April 1959 meeting, Minute Book C1, page 454.

November 1956 with a ceremonial lighting of the furnace burners.⁴ In addition to streets named for Henry Ford and Edsel Ford (son of Henry Ford and namesake of the infamous "Edsel"), several street names in Charlotte Park are patriotic and inspirational in tone, such as American, Achievement, and Freedom. More recognizable are the streets named for iconic automobiles, such as Continental, Galaxie, Thunderbird, Sunliner, and Ranchero, while others acknowledge places significant to the Ford Motor Company story, such as Grosse Point and River Rouge. "Foundry Drive" likely refers to the Dearborn Iron Foundry in the Ford River Rouge Complex, once the largest foundry of its kind in the world and which remains one of the largest production foundries in the United States.⁵

The next segment of Foundry Drive appears on the 1963 plat for *Foundry Heights, Section One*.⁶ On this plat, Foundry Drive runs from its previous terminus on the Charlotte Park plat to a new terminus about 474 feet northeast. The next segment of Foundry Drive appears on the 1965 plat for *Charlotte Park Annex*.⁷ On this plat, Foundry Drive continues northeast from Foundry Heights to a terminus with the subject segment of Spencer Avenue. Unlike the previously mentioned plats, the plat for *Charlotte Park Annex* references the original plats for *West Nashville Annex* (Figure 3). The right-of-way for Foundry Drive includes a parenthetical notation "Foundry Drive (formerly Spencer Street)" as well as the note "Foundry Dr Dedicated in Book 332, Page 24 and constructed for this plan." An additional plat note states, "This recording of this plan void, vacates, and supercedes that part of West Nashville Annex Recorded Book 332, Page 11, R.O.D.C.. As Shown hereon." In summary, Spencer Avenue was dedicated by early plats, but later built as Foundry Drive.

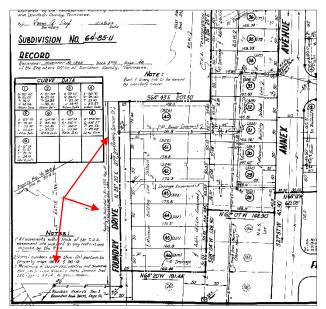


Figure 3: Cropped image of Charlotte Park Annex, showing Foundry Drive notations.

⁴ Ross Fitzgerald, "Torch Fires First Furnace at Ford Co. Glass Plant," *The Nashville Banner*, Monday, 26 November 1956, page 8.

⁵ "Ford River Rouge Plant," http://www.fordmotorhistory.com/factories/river_rouge/iron_foundry.php accessed 8 November 2019.

⁶ Foundry Heights, Section One, recorded in Plat Book 3600, Page 16, on July 24, 1964, R.O.D.C.

⁷ Charlotte Park Annex, recorded in Plat Book 3700, Page 49, on November 30, 1965, R.O.D.C.