

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

MHC Marker Committee Meeting Agenda

Monday, November 8, 2021

5:30 p.m.

Sunnyside in Sevier Park

3000 Granny White Pike, Nashville, TN 37204

(MASKS REQUIRED)

- I. New Business
 - a. Centennial Park Swimming Pool (privately funded)
 - b. Vine Hill/ Donau (privately funded)
- II. Adjourn

As a notice to the public, the purpose of the Marker Committee meeting is to select language for the proposed marker. Accordingly, there will be no public comment or participation at this committee meeting. The full Metro Historical Commission will meet on November 15, 2021, to determine whether to adopt the proposed marker. Options for public comment will be made available at the November 15, 2021 meeting.



The Metro Nashville Historical Commission does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or disability in access to, or operation of its programs, services, activities or in its hiring or employment practices. **ADA inquiries may be directed to:** ADA Compliance Coordinator, Metro Historical Commission, (615) 862-7970. **Title VI inquiries should be forwarded to:** Ms. Shirley Sims-Saldana, Title VI Coordinator, Human Relations, 800 2nd Avenue, South, 4th Floor, Nashville, TN 37210, (615) 880-3391. **Contact Department of Human Resources for all employment related inquiries** at (615) 862-6640.

VINE HILL
629 Benton Ave

William J. Gerst (of the Wm. Gerst Brewing Co.) purchased the Vine Hill estate in 1900 from Capt. John W. Morton for \$14,195. In 1905 Gerst built a three-story barn and started rearing thoroughbreds. The local brewer/turfman's prize horse, Donau, won the Kentucky Derby in 1910. The family sold the estate in 1941 to make way for Vultee Aircraft's employee housing. The home was used as a community center for soldiers during WWII and later razed for government housing.

Donated by the Mertie Family

DONAU



William Gerst purchased the young thoroughbred from a Lexington KY stud farm in 1908 for \$350 and named him Donau, after the Danube River. In 1910, jockey Fred Herbert rode Donau to victory at the Kentucky Derby. Gerst stated "Donau has the speed of a sprinter, the courage of a bulldog, and the gameness of a fighting cock!" Donau died in 1913 and was buried in an unmarked grave near the south side of the Vine Hill Farm.

Centennial Park Swimming Pool

Side 1- Built in 1932, this site served Nashville's white community as a premier swimming facility for nearly 30 years. City officials abruptly closed the pool in 1961 after two African American student civil rights activists, Kwame Lillard and Matthew Walker Jr., led an effort to integrate the pool. The city responded to this effort by closing all Nashville public pools, blaming the sweeping closures on budgetary concerns.

419 characters and spaces

Side 2- {photo} While many neighborhood swimming pools eventually reopened in 1963 under the newly consolidated metropolitan government, this facility sat vacant for 10 years—to some, a daily reminder of the city's racial divide. The pool's bathhouse was renovated and reopened as Centennial Art Center in 1972. The former deep end of the swimming pool is preserved as a sunken lawn in the rear portion of the building's courtyard.

415 characters and spaces