



## Metropolitan Historical Commission Meeting Agenda

September 19, 2022  
12:00 p.m.

**Howard Office Building**  
Sonny West Conference Center  
700 President Ronald Reagan Way

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>I. Call to Order and Welcome</b>                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Lynn Maddox, Chair</b> |
| <b>II. Approval of August Minutes</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Lynn Maddox</b>        |
| <b>III. VOTE: Historical Markers Review</b>                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Scarlett Miles</b>     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Hank Snow's Rainbow Ranch</b></li><li>• <b>Merritt House</b></li><li>• <b>J.T. Patton/ Patton House</b></li><li>• <b>Washington Jr. High School</b></li></ul> |                           |
| <b>IV. Guest Speaker: New South Associates</b>                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Lydia Simpson</b>      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>TOPIC: Cemetery Preservation Plan Grant Project</b></li></ul>                                                                                                 |                           |
| <b>V. VOTE: Director's Pay Increase</b>                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Tim Walker</b>         |
| <b>VI. Director's Report</b>                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Tim Walker</b>         |
| <b>VII. Historic Zoning Report</b>                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Robin Zeigler</b>      |
| <b>VIII. Other Business</b>                                                                                                                                                                              |                           |
| <b>IX. Announcements</b>                                                                                                                                                                                 |                           |
| <b>X. Adjourn</b>                                                                                                                                                                                        |                           |

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### Hank Snow's Rainbow Ranch

Sponsor: MHC priority list

Location: 312 E Marthona Rd

Clarence Eugene "Hank" Snow (1914-1999) purchased this Madison home with his wife, Minnie, in 1950, shortly after his first appearance on the Grand Ole Opry. He was one of the first musicians in the United States to build and use a home studio. Snow's band, the Rainbow Ranch Boys, took its name from this three-acre property, also home to Snow's horse, Shawnee. Canadian born, Snow was elected to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1978 and the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1979.

### Merritt House

Sponsor: Core Fund

Location: 441 Humphreys St

Gibson Merritt (1800-1873) came to Nashville around 1815 from North Carolina and worked as a farmer and cabinetmaker. Merritt married Sarah Rains (1793-1861) in 1828, and by 1850 he owned forty-four acres and eleven enslaved persons. By 1880, this two-story Italianate house was home to their son, state senator Alfred Gowen Merritt (1832-1908), and his wife, Caroline Donelson (1841-1922). The rear portion is a log cabin that may date to the 1780s and the Rains family.

### John Thomas Patton 1884-1965

Sponsor: Jones Family

Location: 1024 28<sup>th</sup> Ave N

The son of enslaved parents, J.T. Patton founded Patton Brothers Funeral Home in 1908 in Franklin, Tenn. His brothers—Jasper, Daniel, and George—joined him in business, and they expanded to Nashville in 1921. By the mid-1950s, Patton Brothers was the largest Black-owned and -operated funeral business in Middle Tennessee. Patton and wife Alice Otey's older son Thomas, a Fisk graduate and Tuskegee airman, headed the Franklin branch, and younger son Edward ran the Nashville headquarters.

### Patton House (side 2)

In 1935 the Reverend John Thomas Patton (1884-1965) hired African American architects McKissack & McKissack to build this home. A community leader and well-respected businessman, Patton hosted meetings to gain equal access to civil and voting rights and education for African Americans. He served as president of the Nashville NAACP chapter (1937-41) and oversaw the move of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church from downtown to North Nashville during the 1950s Capitol Hill Redevelopment.

### Washington Junior High School

Sponsor: Vanderbilt University

Location: 24<sup>th</sup> Ave N and Morena St

Named for George E. Washington, former principal of Pearl Senior High School, this junior high school opened in 1928. Principals included J.A. Galloway, Braxton Murrell, Clarence Austin and Isaiah Suggs. Students enjoyed a broad curriculum and had student-teachers from Fisk and Tennessee A&I State Universities. The school was razed in the mid-1980s for Pearl-Cohn Entertainment Magnet School. Its alumni include many significant members of Nashville's African American community.