



Metropolitan Historical Commission Meeting Agenda

October 16, 2023
12:00 p.m.

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

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Welcome** **Linda Wynn**
- II. Approval of September Minutes** **Linda Wynn**
- III. Public Comment** **Linda Wynn**

The Metropolitan Historical Commission holds a designated public comment period at the beginning of each meeting. Members of the public in attendance may provide comments to the Board or its Committees during this designated time. Anyone wishing to speak about an agenda item will be allotted two (2) minutes to make comments. No advance registration is required.
- IV. Executive Director Evaluation** **HR/Budget Committee**
- V. VOTE: Executive Director 3% Merit salary increase** **HR/Budget Committee**
 - **Amount (3% of salary as of 6/30/23 = \$3,926.77) and Effective Date of Increase (July 1, 2023)**
- VI. VOTE: Historical Markers** **Jessica Reeves**
 - **Sunnyside**
 - **Werthan Bag Company**
- VII. Davidson County’s Archaeological Resources** **Dr. Adam Fracchia**
- VIII. Director’s Report** **Tim Walker**
- IX. Historic Zoning Report** **Robin Zeigler**
- X. Other Business**
- XI. Announcements**
- XII. Adjourn**



Werthan Bag Company

Begun in 1871, the Tennessee Manufacturing Company was the largest nineteenth-century cotton mill in the area. The complex was purchased by Warioto Cotton Mills, then Morgan and Hamilton and finally by Werthan Bag Company in 1928. Employing thousands, Werthan Bag had a major impact on the development of north Nashville and the city's economy. Industrial use of the historic buildings continued until 1998 when Werthan Packaging sold this property for residential development.



Meier Werthan, born in 1843,
was a German immigrant who settled in Nashville.
He started his business as a rag dealer in 1868.
Over time, his business evolved and prospered.
By the time of Meier's death in 1914,
it was known as the Werthan Bag & Burlap Company.

Source:

The text for this historical marker was provided by Anthony L. Werthan.
The hand-drawn line art depiction of Meier Werthan
was contributed by William E. Kantz Jr. and is inspired by a portrait.

Sunnyside

Mary Childress, a cousin of Sarah Childress Polk, married Jesse Benton, brother of Thomas Hart Benton, in 1817. The Benton brothers fled Tennessee in 1813 due to a feud with Andrew Jackson, whom Jesse shot. After Jesse's death in 1843, Mary moved to Tennessee and in 1852 purchased 38 acres on the Middle Franklin Turnpike (now Granny White Pike). She lived in a c.1815 log cabin while this two-story Greek Revival house, called Sunnyside by her grandniece Mary Douglass, was built.

By 1860, 20 enslaved people labored on this land. At least two of the men—Mitchell and Horatio—were impressed by the Union Army to build Fort Negley in 1862. Others, like Julius, Kitty and Charlotte, labored on the farm and in the home of Mary Benton and her family, which included Mary Douglass and her husband T.F. Sevier. On Dec. 15-16, 1864, during the Battle of Nashville, the home was in the crossfire of the Union and Confederate Armies and was used as a field hospital.