A HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE
NORTH EDGEFIELD
(CLEVELAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD),
TENNESSEE

By C. Sade Turnipseed

History 6994
Dr. C.V. West
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NORTH EDGEFIELD HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Across the Cumberland River, East Nashville AKA Wetmore’s Addition or the North Edgefield neighborhood are people who understand there is a history worth preserving underneath all the layers of revitalization and change currently underway in their community. In the North Edgefield neighborhood are several homes, churches and businesses reflective of a historic plantation laden with hidden surprises and an even deeper historical significance.

Although over 600 structures were destroyed in the great East Nashville Fire of 1916, and over 300 in the 1998 tornado there still exists a respectable mixture of historically contributing pre-civil war antebellum buildings; folk Victorian gable front and wing homes (dating anywhere from the early 1890s to the 1930s); minimal traditional; craftsman log-influenced bungalows (dating from the 1910-30s); traditional cottages (dating mid-century). Then come the patterns of change marked by several non-contributing homes (modern ranch styles and multi-family units), the majority of which were constructed in the late 1960s and 1970s. During the 1980s onward, this community saw the introduction of chain link fences, which speaks to the widening concern for privacy and security. The brick veneers and aluminum siding infills are unfortunate elements that have deteriorated the historic character of the neighborhood. North Edgefield is adjacent to one of only two "historic preservation districts," in Tennessee giving this neighborhood an opportunity to join the historic district movement and restore the timeless feel this community seems to enjoy.

In the Cleveland Park neighborhood, specifically, the historical information presented in this paper was extracted from literary research, oral history interviews, empirical surveys, mobile surveillance and online discussions had by residents, who not only grew up in North Edgefield, but whose families lived in the East side of the Cumberland for over one hundred years. From these discussions and observances, readers will glean a good idea of how this particular historic community has evolved from a post revolutionary war tract originally been granted to Evan Baker, August of 1786, into the eclectic 21st century neighborhood it is today.

David McGavock came to the Cumberland settlements in 1785, to find land for himself and for his father, James McGavock, Sr. He surveyed and drew a map, dated August of 1786, showing the location of several parcels where he had made claim. There were four tracts in all, two on the south side of the Cumberland River and two on the north side. He put his name on 640 acres on the North side of the Cumberland River. David's choice, square in shape and measuring one mile on each side, had two large springs, Fountain Blue and Luckhole spring. The south west corner of the tract began where the present

1 freepages.misc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nashvillearchives/house1.html
2 http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1422204369
3 The McGavock - Harris - Lindsley House North Edgefield, Davidson County
North First Street once intersected Foster Street, near the East side of the Jefferson Street Bridge.\(^4\)

It is not known just when David McGavock built the old brick residence on a slight elevation some distance from the Dickinson Road. The land on which this house stood was given after the death of James McGavock to his grandson John W. Bryan, heir of Margaret. The Bryan home was later purchased by, and became the residence of, the Reverend John B. McFerrin. This house stood on south side of Berry Street, near Meridian in the area of McFerrin Park.

The division of the property of James McGavock, was recorded in Circuit Court minute book O, page 270. Property listed in the division was described as follows: "We valued the Fountain Blue tract containing 352 acres to 22,500 and the undivided moiety of the Mill tract on White's Creek, and the 63 acres on the Clay lick fork of Whites Creek and 200 acres lying in the Western District in Gibson and Dyer County at $7500 dollars, making the whole value "thirty thousand dollars there being four heirs makes $7500 to each heir."\(^5\)

According to Tim Walker of the Metro Historical Commission, the current brick house, which has many Greek Revival features, was probably built no earlier than 1840.\(^6\) According to Debie Oester Cox, an employee at the Metro Nashville Archives, the front entrance of the house was originally on the south side toward the present Cleveland Street. An addition, made to the house about 1870, moved the entrance from the south side to the east side of the house. An upstairs porch was added to the new front, also facing east toward Meridian Street. The brick house was likely constructed by one of the surviving children of James McGavock, Sr. W. Clayton writes that David McGavock, "... never moved across the river to his own purchase, but built him a house at McGavock's spring, near the cotton factory of North Nashville, on the tract belonging to his father."\(^7\)

As the city grew three streets were opened through the front lawn of the old McGavock home, at that time the property of Dr. Gatewood. Meridian Street was extended to the rear, and it became necessary to front the residence on that street. The old house built on 640 acres of land seemed crowded with so many new homes around it, but merged into its new surroundings with dignity and is still an attractive place.

Edgefield was an incorporated city, in 1869. It remained so until it was annexed by the City of

\(^4\) ibid
\(^5\) Davidson County Register deed book 340, page 4
\(^6\) ibid
\(^7\) ibid
Nashville in 1880. The original boundaries of Edgefield were roughly, on the west the Cumberland River, on the East 10th Street, on the north Berry Street and on the south Shelby Ave. During the eleven years of existence as a city, five men served as mayor in Edgefield. The first mayor was William A. Glenn.

Originally called North Edgefield, this old community is the northern section of East Nashville. The southern boundary of the community was along the railroad tracks that pass through the natural gulch that divided historic Edgefield. This area, just north of Main Street was likely an early trail used by Bison to travel back and forth to the river. Lower than the surrounding ground and crossed by several spring branches the gulch would flood during a rainy season. The western border is the Cumberland River. North First Street runs near the river from Woodland Street out to Douglas Avenue where the street name changes to Dickerson Road. North First was originally the White's Creek Turnpike. Before consolidation of county and city governments in 1963, the city ended at Douglas Ave. and the area beyond was outside Nashville's limits. The historic east boundary was along the railroad lines near the present Ellington Parkway. Today the area covers the portions of East Nashville bounded by North 1st/Dickerson Pike, Trinity Lane, McFerrin Avenue and Woodland Street.

Most neighborhoods were considered self-contained, because so many people had to walk, or use streetcars or the city bus for transportation. Grocery stores, pharmacies, doctor’s offices, movie theaters, restaurants, barbers & beauty shops, gas stations, mechanical garages, photographers, florists were located on the nearest thruway, or by easy access to the railway station. Nashville gained rail access to the North through Kentucky. Louisville city subscriptions and Tennessee state aid financed the Louisville and Nashville (L&N), incorporated in Kentucky in 1850. Competitive subscriptions among local governments determined its Tennessee route. Completed in 1859, it hosted an excursion intended to preserve the Union. Several other Middle Tennessee railroads provided Nashville connections. The Nashville and Decatur (N&D) ran from Nashville through Columbia to Tennessee's southern border, where it connected with the M&C and an Alabama railroad to Decatur (it also extended from Columbia to Mt. Pleasant).
Edgefield and Kentucky (E&K), completed in 1860, ran from the Nashville suburb of Edgefield to Guthrie on the Kentucky boundary.

The railroad station was just North of what is now the Church St. viaduct, on the north side of the yards, i.e. right behind the Baptist Vatican. It was actually owned by the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad, forerunner of the NC & St.L, but was used by L&N, which at that time only had 1 or 2 trains each way between Louisville & Nashville, and by the Nashville & Northwestern, which operated between Nashville and Paris, TN. The Edgefield & Kentucky may have also used it. This station remained in use, until the new station was completed in 1900. About 1900, the Kayne Ave yards were assembled, which at that time, and for many more years, were strictly N.C. & St.L, with all L & N freights using Radnor, by way of the bypass through Shelby Park.8

East Nashville railroad gulch
Railroad Bridge across Cumberland at Shelby Park
Nashville Corrugated Box Co. on Foster at the railroad crossing.
Before Ellington Pkwy was built, you could cross the tracks here from Northeast Nashville over to East Nashville.

8 http://webcache.googleusercontent.com
NORTH EDGEFIELD AND CLEVELAND PARK BUSINESS COMMUNITY

A few of the current businesses in the N. Edgefield/Cleveland Park neighborhood are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hailey Salvage &amp; Building Material</td>
<td>1224 Dickerson Pike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Edgefield Organized Neighbors</td>
<td>Neon  914 Meridian St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Beginning Church</td>
<td>1003 Dickerson Pike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuttin It Close</td>
<td>1207 Dickerson Pike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldham Chemical Co</td>
<td>1206 Dickerson Pike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winfrey Barber &amp; Beauty Shop</td>
<td>401 Vernon Winfrey Ave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas Tax Table</td>
<td>1113 Dickerson Pike</td>
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However, a richer historical story of the businesses once in the neighborhood is not so far from the surface.

400 block of Main Street looking east, near 5th all of the buildings were demolished to make way for the interstate and Ellington Pkwy. The building in the background is the Genesco shoe factory.

In the early 70’s Bob’s Sporting Goods was located where Marche’s is now and between there and the library was a Sinclair gas station/auto garage. On the southwest corner of Main at 10th was United Curb Market and Mack Robinson’s garage was next door. Going back towards town on Main St. there were several body shops, mechanical garages and parts stores. There were taverns, restaurants, plumbers, building contractors and electricians.

On Woodland Street near the bridge was a row of buildings that contained the world famous Dusty Road Tavern, a barbershop and a drug store, across the street was the National Casket Company and E.B. Smith Chevrolet.
Past the interstate was a Genesco Commissary (a Genesco Factory was on Main at 5th) and across Woodland from St. Ann’s was an Esso station and Briggs Brothers paint was on the southeast corner of Woodland at 5th. Across 10th on Woodland was Crowder’s Esso (now Dollar General). Batter’d and Fried was the location of a coin laundry and Moss Bros. Barber Shop. Abe Carney’s Shoe Shop was in this block, as was Sarah Hamilton Interiors, Cumberland Hardware and the Corner Tavern, all on the south side of Woodland. Also Lehning Bros. Grocery was where for lunch you could order deli style sandwiches and miniature homemade pies.

This photo may have taken from the old Cleveland Street viaduct. The span crossed the railroad gulch just north of where Cleveland Street now crosses Ellington Pkwy. The view is looking north with Tennessee Lumber Company in the foreground and Carter Shoe factory in the background.

North First Street at Spring Street looking south. Street turning to the right is the approach to the Jefferson Street Bridge.

The Finn house on Main Street was built before 1855. The house burned a few years ago, and was heavily damaged, but was still standing in 2008. This was one of the oldest houses in East Nashville. It was an antique shop back in the early 1980s.
Chuck Byrn  The Finn House was a boarding house; it was also home, I think of a governor. It was copied from the hermitage. I think it may have been a brown family homestead.

Grimes Store and the Empress Theater, corner of Woodland and 12th.

Beverly Gallagher Stanley  I think I used to buy candy from this store if it was around in the 60's.

Bill Johnson  I think this was Nashville Photo Service by the 60's.

"Oeser Meats on the awning. My grandfather, Ernest Granville Oeser and my great uncle Charles Oeser were butchers and had stalls in the old market house.

This is a close up of a small part of a larger mural. One of my uncles just happened to see it years ago or I wouldn't know it was there."  Debie Oeser Cox
Woodland Street between 2nd and 3rd looking east. Ideal Laundry was at the corner of Woodland and 3rd. Shoney’s restaurant is located there now and 3rd has been renamed Interstate Drive.

Chuck Byrn There were several doctor’s offices in houses across from the new East Park center. First America Bank was on Woodland at 10th. In the Turnip Truck building was Tru-Value Motors used cars. Cox’s Body Shop was in that building for a few years in the 1970’s. He moved on, but the name stayed and Mr. Proctor had a body shop there after.

Sandra Ploucher My granddaddy was a city bus driver and I loved to visit him on the bus...so much fun!!!

In the next block on the east side was Chapman’s Gulf and Goodyear. Across on the west side of Gallatin was an A&P grocery, Hunter’s Custom Automotive, and Wayne’s Barber Shop. Next block was Miller Hospital and 15 or 20 doctors’ offices in the clinic building. There was a restaurant called Te-Ko next to Eastland Funeral Home that was a good meat and 3. H. G. Hill was across from the Neighborhood Wal-Mart, later moving to Gallatin at Eastland. Krispy-Kreme was also across from Wal-Mart.

Just off Woodland behind Lipstick Lounge was Eastland Florist. On Gallatin Road between Ordway and Calvin were Fluty’s Gas Station, Copley’s Barber Shop, J. P. Brown Drugs and Western Auto.
According to Debie Oeser Cox the East Nashville Lodge #560 used this building, but it was much later when the Red Men met there. This East Nashville Masonic Lodge #560 is still in existence, but at another location on Ewing Lane. Back when there many more fraternal organizations around they often shared lodge facilities. This building housed the Redmen's Lodge on the top floor and had retail space on the ground level. The 1892 Nashville City Directory shows Cherokee Tribe No 21, Cherokee Wigwam located at Foster corner of North Third. When this photo was taken, probably in 1961, the East Nashville Lodge sign was on the building. The building may also been used by the Improved Order of the Red Men organization.

"Jacob's Dry Goods," was run by Mr. Jacob, who was spotted a few years ago at Dillard's selling men's shoes. He supposedly looked exactly the same!

Laverna Escue Do you remember Mr. Eli Jacobs from Jacob's Store. Morris Jacobs, father of Eli moved to Northeast Nashville in the early 1900's and ran a dry goods store in the neighborhood. He was in several locations, finally opening the store at 307 Wilburn in 1941. I worked for Eli after school from 3-9 Mon.-Fri., and 9 to 9 on Saturday. I was
15 years old and made $.35 an hour. I loved Eli. He was the sweetest man to work for and always smiling and happy.

Ken Binkley I use to paint a few signs for him in exchange for Levi jeans. They were too expensive for me back then, they cost $4.11 with tax. Highway robbery!

Ken Binkley Believe it or not, I still remember the iceman.

Shelia Williams Allen We lived on Pennock Street for several years, and the coal truck would pull up and dump coal into our basement. I remember the ice cream trucks - you could get ice cream cones. And of course, the old Popsicle trucks. I also remember little the Popsicle carts that they pushed.

Wanda Gayden My first movie was here - Elvis Presley - Love Me Tender. Mid 50s - I was just a kid! My family later ran a little restaurant just around the corner of Wilburn and Meridian in the 60s.

Cheryl Williams Elliott I remember when the Roxy Theater was turned into a laundry and our family running the restaurant...good memories

Kath Cowan The Roxy Theater is where I would buy a "Sugar Daddy" and go to the Roxy on Saturday and stay there all day watching the westerns; the cartoons; the newsreels and my Sugar Daddy lasted the whole time. My grandparents lived directly across the Street from the Roxy Theater at 824 Meridian St. What sites we saw of different folks going into the show!
Wanda Gayden  There was a five and dime store in the front building for many years. The five and dime was there in the early days. It was called Caplan's. According to the city directories, Dixie 5 & 10 was in this building before they moved across Wilburn. That may have been when the theater moved their lobby from the Wilburn entrance to the corner. After the theater closed a church used the auditorium and a coin laundry was in the front building.

Tommy Frey  The Roxy was of course a requirement for Saturday, I was saddened to see it closed and boarded up.

Debie Oeser Cox  We went to Red Cross Drug Store. Every time I got a quarter I would head off to Red Cross drugstore they had a fountain where you could sit and drink your cherry coke. They had magazines you could thumb thru -- no telling how many germs I picked up licking my fingers to turn the pages, as did everyone else. At Christmas I would shop at Jacob's and at Dixie 5&10 for little gifts for my family. They always had something that I could afford with my meager savings.

Jerry G. Marable  The Red Shield was a very popular place to hang out and the park across the street from the Red Shield, (Can't remember the name). I spent many hours there as a very young boy. I can also remember buying a "super duper" banana split at the Red Cross pharmacy for .35. My cousin Jimmy Byram, who I hung out with, ate 3 of them all at once. We had wonderful times playing ball and just having fun being kids. Kids walked and played up and down the streets and all over the area without any fear of being bothered. You can't imagine that today but that was the way it was back in those days. We didn't even lock our doors at night. Oh, for those good ole days again!!

The names of the owners of Dixie 5&10 were Morris and Estelle Foneroff. They had their picture made on the front porch of my grandmother's home there at 824 Meridian St. right across the street from their store. Guess they have long since passed. They looked a 100 years old to me back then. My mother Mabel Bloodwoth Marable worked at Dixie 5&10, during the day, while she went to nursing school at night. After graduation, she worked at Vanderbilt Hospital as a nurse for 25 years.

Kath Cowan  Post Office on Wilburn St was right behind our house. We lived on Arrington Street. When the post office paved the back parking lot our back yard flooded. My dad made them dig up half of the pavement! I remember the first time I went to Hill's grocery story I could stand flat-footed and drink out of the water fountain. I thought I was grown. Drake's Hardware, Paul & Ray's Market (with curb service), Paul & Ray's charged more for a gallon of milk; but they would bring it to you. I thought that was wonderful. I remember Crook Brother's Grocery and Highland Heights Pharmacy being on Lischey/Lishey but we didn't go there.
Tori Gillum This is my uncle's family. It is possible that he is the little boy in the photo. I believe it was his father and uncle that started under the name Crook Brothers. When my uncle took over years later he changed the name to Bill Crook's Food Town. Then finally his son, Steve (my cousin) changed the name again to Steven's Fun Fresh Food Store. Dixie 5 & 10 was directly across the street and Jimmy's Sweet Shop was just up Wilburn. You could get a "double-decker" cone for 10 cents in those days. I worked there after school during my junior year at East High School for fifty cents an hour. I bought my high school jacket at Harvey's with the money I earned.
It's more than just a barbershop – Winfrey's Barber Shop is a meeting place for men & women in the community, a place in which friends and associates discuss ideas, debate issues and just enjoys the companionship of each other. By 11, the place is awash in conversation, with friends and neighbors popping in, smiling the moment they see the owner at his post—one of the three weathered faux—leather chairs closest to the window. The soft—spoken 75—year—old allows others hold court, but it's obvious who is king on Vernon Winfrey Ave. He listens more than he talks, and it's an honor to be addressed by him. It's a lively place with Winfrey waving his comb as he gestures his opinions and gives advice to the young men who seek his wisdom. Occasionally, the barber chatter has to pause when the tour buses pull up and Winfrey takes a break to greet the tourists and have his picture made with them. He also has the tourists reciprocate by signing his personal guest book.\(^9\)

Winfrey and his wife Barbara are intent on giving this “troubled” neighborhood a facelift. B&V Development was established in November 2007 to build a mixed—use property to the east of Ellington Parkway—an area where no major developer has set foot in decades. The Winfreys have been buying up property there since the 1960s, wants to see the neighborhood revived. The Winberry Place designed by Nashville’s Dryden Abernathy Architecture Design will include six single—family homes, three town homes and three apartments. The one—acre project at Lishey Avenue and Vernon Winfrey Avenue will be anchored, by the brand new Winfrey’s Barbershop and another retail space. Winfrey, appointed by Gov. Phil Bredesen, also serves on the Tennessee State Board of Barber Examiners.\(^10\)

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\(^9\) [http://businesstn.com/node/1048](http://businesstn.com/node/1048)

\(^10\) ibid
FIREHALL STATIONS

Firehall 400 block of Russell Street, no longer operational.

Engine Co. 3, North 3rd and Foster Streets
This building was a victim of urban renewal.

Engine Co. 4, 416 Woodland Street, across from Saint Ann’s.

Nashville Firehall No. 5
at Meridian and Cleveland streets in Northeast Nashville.
Holly Street Fire Hall, Engine Co. 14

Holly Street Fire Hall, Engine Co. 14.

Engine Co. 18, Gallatin Road

Engine Co. 18, Gallatin Road
NORTH EDGEFIELD CHURCHES

The tornado of 1998 ripped through this historic neighborhood destroying or damaging at least several hundred homes, but the neighborhood has rebounded with renovations, additions and new construction.

Debie Oeser Cox  The Saint Ann’s Episcopal Church was rebuilt on the site.

Chuck Byrn  My daughter was christened here in 1987; the new church is not the same. I miss that old building more than almost anything I miss about Nashville.

Sara Franklin Homer  This is where my grandmother went to church - Bettie Curd Orr Franklin. Her home was just up the street where the interstate overpass crosses Woodland Street. This church had a tiny elderly congregation when I was a child, but she took me there as long as she could drive.

Barbara Smith Brown  That tornado changed the face of the whole East End... this was a such a huge loss.

Reverend Randall B. Vandervall was the founder of First Baptist Church in East Nashville. The first public school established for the education of African American children in Northeast Nashville was called Vandervall School in his honor.
Swimming pool at McFerrin Park. Grace Avenue Church of Christ is in the background.

The historically significant churches in the Cleveland Park neighborhood included: North Edgefield Church, where Lyla Katheryne Aldridge Cowan has wonderful memories of, the "chalk talks" by Pastor Coolege. Others were: Cleveland Street Missionary; Ray of Hope Community Church; and the Primitive Baptist Church.

NORTH EDGEFIELD SCHOOLS

Northeast Nashville neighborhood surrounding the old Glenn School was also known as North Edgefield. Other schools attended by Northeast Nashville residents were Caldwell Elementary, Highland Heights Junior High School, Shwab, Tom Joy, Meigs School, East Nashville High School and Hume Fogg High School. Schools and Churches formed the nucleus of past Nashville neighborhoods and almost everyone who lived there had a connection to one or the other or both. Glenn School was a center point for the neighborhood.

Cheryl Williams Elliott This is the way I remember Glenn School. I have such fond memories of my school days there. I particularly remember the big hall where the steps went up on both sides and we all sat on them during at Christmas time singing Christmas Carols. And also the sad day we heard of President Kennedy being shot...

Glenn School in the early days. This photo was probably made soon after the school was built in 1903. Glenn School was named in honor of William A. Glenn. He was the first mayor of the City of Edgefield and served as the County Judge for Davidson County.
Mary Brent, longtime principal at Glenn School and Miss Bessie Mathews who taught many Northeast Nashville children at Glenn School. 1959

Ken Binkley She was the principal when I attended there from 1947-52

Cheryl Williams Elliott I remember Miss Mary--She was the principal when I attended there in 1962 -1966.

Jerry G. Marable I attended the Old Glenn School in the 1st grade in 1951. Still have my old report card signed by Mary Brent, Principal. Also attended Highland Heights Jr. High, Caldwell, and graduated from East Nashville High School in 1964. I was married in the old Meridian St. Methodist Church across from Glenn in 1967. I'm still married.
Martha Jane Morrisey Petty. Mrs. Petty taught first and second grade for many years at Glenn School. She later taught at Tom Joy Elementary.

Debie Oesser Cox My teachers at Glenn were Mrs. Petty, (who I loved and still do, she was also my neighbor) and Mrs. McGregor and Mrs. Rowell. I remember Mrs. McGregor reading the "Little House on the Prairie" books to us. Mrs. Rowell ate a candy bar every day. She was a wonderful woman and a good teacher.

Linda Smith I remember Mrs. Petty very well, 1st & 2nd grade at Glenn.

Barbara Smith Brown She and her family have continued to live in Nashville and very active in the community.

Cheryl Williams Elliott Mrs. Petty was my 1st and 2nd teacher! I loved her! In my first grade picture, my hair is fixed just like hers!

Shelia Williams Allen I attended Glenn school in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades. Loved this school! That great hall was beautiful and the food was great at this school!

Wanda Gayden The Bean sisters lived on Park Avenue, next to Cohn High School. When I went to Heights, Miss Wilma still had dark hair and Miss Lillian had a lot of gray. Guess that bunch from the sixties turned them to blue haired old ladies.

Shelia Williams Allen The Beans at Highland Heights -- Pinto and Lima -- actually taught my mother and my aunt. If you learned what Miss L. Bean taught you in the 7th grade and Mrs. P. Bean taught you in the 9th grade, you could coast through grammar classes through the rest of high school. It was so true.

Karen Goforth Everyone used to say boy I hope I don’t get one of the Bean sisters next year. People would say how strict they were. Then I got Lillian Bean and had the most amazing time in her class. She was one of the best teachers.
Glenn School, March 1963.
Patty Morris is sitting in front on left. Debbie Lohman is sitting in the back. Jesse Carter is the boy standing in the center white shirt. Debie Oeser is standing on the right. Stephen Stephens is standing behind Debie. Courtesy of Martha Morrisey Petty.

The first Meigs School building

**Christopher Who-Dat Lesley** The pediment at the top of the doorway has been incorporated into the front doorway of the "new" Meigs Junior High School.

**Tommy Franklin** This building was gone long before the 1998 tornado. Three parts of the old building were harvested and used in the current building. Whether those parts were on this older building, I don't know!

**Debie Oeser Cox** I don't think any of this old building was a part of the later Meigs building. And the school was not destroyed by the tornado in 1998. My daughter was a student at Meigs in 1998, and the building had minor damage. That building has since been torn down and replaced by a new school building.
Highland Heights Junior High School opened on Ligon Lane (now Douglas) in 1930, educating Northeast Nashville students in grades seven, eight and nine.

Karen Goforth My mom taught me to drive a stick shift in the parking lot.

Shelia Williams Allen My junior high years in the 64 - 66 were awesome at this school. Some of the best memories of my life were right here! Great junior high years for me.

Christopher Who-Dat Lesley Mrs. Samella went on to become Dr Samella Junior-Spence, Principal at East high from 1978 - 1986
Wanda Gayden the only one there in 1959-1962 was Mr. Lancaster. Did not know the others. Mr. Buchanan was the shop teacher in 59-62

Linda Sampson I was there in 1961-63 and remember Mrs. Kirkpatrick and Mr. Lancaster. The Music teacher I remember was Miss Douglas. Miss Wilma Bean and her sister Miss Lillian Bean taught for many years at Highland Heights. They were there in the 1930's when my daddy went to Heights and still was there when I left in 1967.

Karen Goforth Every body knew the bean sisters they both had blue hair. I had Lillian bean. What memories. Mr. Jones, Mrs. Kirkpatrick and Mr. Lancaster were on the faculty at Highland Heights when I attended there, 1964 - 1967. I don't remember Mrs. Junior.

Sharon Leonard Davis I had Ms. Lillian, what a great teacher and great memories at Highland Heights.

Linda Sampson When I was at Highland Heights they were called Misses Lima and White Bean. I had Miss Lillian when I was in the 7th grade. She was a remarkable teacher!

Cliff Bennett I attended Highland Heights from 1962 to 1965, with Mr. Howell the Principle, Mr. Locke the gym teacher, Mrs. Kemp the English teacher (OOoooooo0000000 la la), and the finest of all, Ms. Douglas Music, who knew how to shape young minds. Finally, I attended Nashville East from 1965 to graduation in 1968. All of this simply toped off a wonderful life.

Jerry G. Marable My first grade teacher at Glenn was Mrs. Thompson in 1951. We moved back to East Nashville where I attended Caldwell Elementary School. My 3rd grade teacher was Mrs. Edwards, 4th, Mrs. Wene, 5th, Mrs. Williams, 6th, James Parker, then to Highland Heights in the 7th grade, where my homeroom teacher was Sarah Griffin. My Band Director was Arthur Cline. The principal at that time was Robert L. Howell. Then I went on to East Jr. High School in the 8th and 9th grades and then to East Sr. High School for 10, 11, and 12th grades. Can't believe I still remember all my old teachers.

Looking south from Foster and Meridian at Caldwell School, 401 Meridian Street, Nashville, TN. This building was constructed in 1940. A front view Caldwell School, 401 Meridian Street, Nashville, TN. This building was constructed in 1940.
Girl in photo is Clara Farrell (Brooks). The photo was made at Caldwell School 1943 or 1944. It was South America day and Clara represented Argentina.

Eastland School
East Library, East Nashville High School and East Nashville Junior High

East Nashville High School

**Danny Proctor** It's a miracle that this building is still standing and in use; as well as, the Junior High School bldg next door. Beautiful structures.

**Joe T. Williams** You should see it since the renovations a few years ago. Alumni Board fought hard, got the buildings on the National Historic Register and really pushed to get it done right. Classes of the 40's, 50's, 60's '70's really worked hard.
Judy Orrand Hewitt You can tell this is a very old photo. Look at the lawn—hardly any trees. I just passed by today and took note of how many trees are in the front lawn.

Richard Hubbell Frank Sutton, Sergeant Carter of Gomer Pyle fame, was an alumnus

R Stevie Moore My father, Bass player Bob Moore went to East. Pat Boone went to David Lipscomb. His family lived out near Green Hills on Granny White Pike and was staunch members of the Church of Christ. Pat was involved with a talent show at East.

Judy Orrand Hewitt My granddaddy's barbershop was just across Shelby from the American station. That's Mr. Moser's TV repair shop behind the service station.

Beverly Gallagher Stanley I think you see East High at the end of this road.¹¹

NORTH EDGEFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD

In this neighborhood are outstanding examples of Victorian, Queen Anne and Bungalow styles of architecture that many gave up on. As for years the residence watched code violations and criminal activity consume their middle class community once filled with historic houses and well-manicured lawns. Thankfully, the neighborhood is seeing a revival. Metro Agencies have invested millions of dollars for the area’s improvement. Vacant lots are no longer dumping sites. Drug dealers and prostitutes have moved out of the area of North Edgefield. A local developer plans to revive the old Roxy Theater, to feature independent films and add a music studio. As mentioned previously V & B Developers are steadily moving forward on plans to build the Winberry Place, in an effort to support this revitalization effort to the business and residential districts.

The socio-economic makeup of the neighborhood is also changing, as gentrification settles into the once predominately African-American community. The latest on a long list of enhancement projects is a foreclosed property at 704 Meridian St. under

¹¹ Facebook.com/north Edgefield
revitalization by the Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity. The late 19th century Victorian house was threatened by demolition last November because of fire damage. The Metropolitan Development Agency acquired the property and worked with the Metro Historical Commission to donate the structure to Habitat. Metro Historical, Historic Nashville Inc., Tennessee Preservation Trust, and The Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University have all partnered with Habitat on this local preservation project. ReConstruct, as the program is called, is designed to help revitalize neighborhoods by restoring dilapidated homes and making needed improvements to others.

The rehab of the Meridian Avenue house is a first for the Nashville-based agency, whose officials say they will also continue building new construction homes.

North Edgefield Remembered tells the story of an important, yet often overlooked and undervalued, neighborhood. The book chronicles a community where citizens, religious and educational institutions, small businesses, manufacturing plants, social services agencies and public officials worked in concert to build a vibrant place to both work and live. Noted North Edgefield leaders: Tennessee Governor Neill Smith Brown, General William White, the Reverend John B. McFerrin, Nashville School Superintendent Joseph J. Keyes, author Beth Salter Whitson, and newspaper editor/owner W. F. Bang are featured prominently on the pages of North Edgefield Remembered.

Cleveland Park Community Center located in Cleveland Park in Northeast Nashville. Before the demolition of the Cleveland Street Viaduct, Cleveland Street ran along the south perimeter of the park.

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12 http://www.habitatnashville.org/
This playground was located near North Third and Foster to the rear of Caldwell School.

Slum area, probably in the area behind Meigs School, near Railroad tracks before urban renewal.

Site of proposed housing project off Shelby.
Large building a little right of center is Boscobel College. Boscobel College...it was an all girls school.
North Edgefield It's a shame this beautiful house was torn down. You can view what is there now by going to nashville.gov/assessor and putting in the address, 807 Boscobel.  

Christopher Who-Dat Lesley I used to live at 708 Boscobel...the current owners have totally rehabbed the house.  

Tom Frey Wow... I was born at 1118 Stockell in 1938 and was there until 1948. It seems (at least as I remember it) that the entire neighborhood kids got together at dusk and played. I remember running across the Cherry’s yard (1120) to my friends just north. Strange memories...Honeysuckle hedge, snowball bush..Etc  

Jerry G. Marable My grandparents who lived across from the Roxy theatre were the Bloodworths. They rented that old house for 27 years. Also my mother's sister and her family lived there too. Their names were Byram. A real nice man named Mr. Pruitt lived in the house next door and the other neighbor on the other side was a Mrs. Hubbard. We would walk to and from Glenn School and Highland Heights everyday.  

I remember an old lady, a Ms. Harding, who walked with a cane who lived down on Stockell Street I think, and she would pass through my grandmother's back yard with her cane to go up on Wilbur Street to get her some beer. One day as she was returning, she dropped her big glass bottle of beer right out in the middle of Meridian Street in front of the Dime Store. It busted into a million pieces. In those days, everyone sat out on the front porch and we saw everything that was going on. When we laughed at the sight, she came back with some words to us that I cannot print on this board. I will never forget her. It was hilarious.  

I can also remember, as a small boy, truckloads of prisoners being transported up and down Meridian Street to different locations to work. In those days, they wore leg irons while working and wore striped black and white clothing.  

My old house at 242 Berry Street has been torn down and replaced by some "community action" type facility. The building to its rear used to be Brown's grocery store where I hung out when I was 12 years old. It is now some kind of police building. The housing projects right across the Street on North 3rd have all been torn down and replaced with newer type housing. We were the first family to live in our "new quarters". They were brand new. They were called the Sam Levy Homes. Oh, the times us kids had growing up there. It was wonderful memorable times.

My older sister Charlene Marable lived with us and my other sister Emily Marable too. She was a cheerleader at Highland Heights Jr. High about 1957 or 1958. We lived all over that area when I was a child: Lischey avenue, Grace Avenue, Edwin Avenue, 909 Meridian St., 1116 Meridian Street, North 5th, North 3rd, 242 Berry Street. We moved so much because my father Charles J. Marable, was "alcoholically challenged" and drank up our rent money, so we finally all had to leave him. The disease killed him in 1970.

We used to stay at McNeilly day home before and after school. It was on Mark Street. The original home where we stayed has been torn down and replaced by another "McNeilly" facility. We could not find the original location since the streets have all changed and been re-routed in that area drastically. You used to could drive all the way down Meridian St. straight in front of Caldwell School till you ran into Spring Street. Now you have to turn left or right before getting to Caldwell.

Debie Oeser Cox Dickerson Pike, from Whites Creek Pike going south towards the Woodland Street Bridge was originally part of Whites Creek Pike. Later it was called North First Street. I have my doubts as to whether or not the name was ever officially changed to Dickerson Pike along that stretch of road. Dickerson Pike was originally Dickenson Meeting House Road. It was not, as many believe, the first road in the county or the buffalo trace from Nashville to Manskers Station at Goodlettsville. That honor goes to Gallatin Road.

ABOUT MERIDIAN STREET

Most of Northeast Nashville was the plantation of the McGavock family.

The house at 908 Meridian sits way back from the street. When I was a kid we all thought it was haunted. It's the oldest house in the area.
We lived at 1017 Meridian and at 1015 was the Hurt family. He was Wilson and her name was Ladye. They were both profoundly deaf and used sign language to communicate and both could read lips. I loved them so much and called them other Mama and other Daddy. I don’t know how that got started. Mrs. Hurt’s mother Ophelia Primm lived with them. The Hurts’ had two daughters, Donna and Lucy. Both were older than me, probably born in the early to mid 1940’s. Robert and Hattie White family lived at 1013. Their children were Joanne, Bobbye, John, Mary Sue and Martin (Marty). Marty was the youngest and only a couple of years older than me so he was in my group of playmates. I don’t remember much about who lived at 1011, except when the Cunninghams lived there. 1009 was a little duplex and Miss Hargis lived there. It was a mistake to ever hit a ball across her fence. If it landed in her yard it was hers.

Next was a big brick house at 1007, where the Banniza family lived. I think Mr. Banniza owned a liquor store downtown and they had a lot of children. Later the Oakes family lived in that house. They had a big family too. There was a cute little brick duplex at 1005 and the house at 1003 must have been a rental with no one living in either very long. The corner house 1001 was where Mrs. Sharpe lived. She had cats and a wrought iron fence around her house. Her son, Dallas Sharpe, was killed in WWII. Later, when I was going to East, a family with several boys around my age lived there. Maybe their name was Knight. Across the street at 1000 was the Beazley’s. I think or maybe there were at 1002. A Raymer family lived on that side of street. I don’t remember much about that side until 1008. The Morrissey family lived there. Their daughter Martha Jane was my first grade teacher. She has a brother named Jimmy. Martha Jane married Don Petty, who also grew up in the neighborhood.

At 1010, was a duplex where Mrs. Wimberly and her daughter Ruth lived for a long time. At 1012, were Lem and Wilma Newby, and their children Mike, Sue, Dianne, and Cindy. Mrs. Newby, who was the daughter of Mrs. Wimberly, had a son from a previous marriage named Jimmy Davenport. At 1014, was the Fitts family and Jerome and Daisey Tunstall lived at 1016, and owned a little duplex at 1018. Back across the street the McKinney family lived at 1021. Robert and Roberta McKinney and their children were Bobby and Patsy.

The house at 1019 was a duplex and lots of people lived there. Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Williams are the ones I remember most. Other neighbors that I remember are Mrs. Cavender, who had a grocery store at the corner of Meridian and Evanston.

Mrs. Frey lived in the 1100 block of Meridian and she had room in the back of her house, where she cut and styled ladies hair. A family named Marks lived in the 1100 block, as did the McNeese and the McNight families.

My aunt Ruth Oeser married Prentice Massey who lived on Meridian in the 800 block. My aunt Margaret Oeser married Russell Allen. His father Asa Jeff Allen was a photographer and so was Russell. My cousin Russell Allen, Jr. was also a commercial photographer until he retired a few years ago. Butch Richardson lived in a little house on
Evanston, on the left as you go up the hill from Pennock to Stainback. Toby Waller and his family lived there. Tom Teasley lived on Meridian near Evanston and he was killed when he only about 20 in an industrial accident, about 1959 or so.

Oh, I don't want to leave out the Pickle family. They moved around and lived all over the area. For a few years they lived at 1023 Meridian. Bunch of kids and I think all the boys ended up in prison. I didn't know all of them but remember Mike and Gary. There was one named Wayne. They hung out with a group who bleached their hair blonde and spent their time stealing and burglarizing. The Yellow-haired gang, I think they were called. They were the only neighbors to be on the TV news on a regular basis so everyone knew them.

1017 Meridian St. Courtesy of Debie Oeser Cox.
Ernest and Lola Mae Oeser lived here from 1952 until 1972. Children were Ernest, Ann and Debie.

ABOUT PENNOCK STREET

1022 Pennock Ave. Courtesy of Debie Oeser Cox.
Ernest Oeser about 1920. That's Grace Baptist Church visible at the top left of the photo.

1014 Pennock.
Debie Oeser Cox It looks different. Vinyl siding and new windows and doors a cheap way to fix it up. I hate to see this done with the old houses. But the Queen Anne style is still evident, hipped roof and wrap around porch. They closed in the side part of the porch on Papa Oeser's house and it looks ugly. Not many people can say two of their great-grand father's lived in the same block of the same street.

John and Reath Locke lived at 1104 Pennock. Mr. Griffey lived at 1100 Pennock. My sister had friends named Bishop and Peggy Denson, who lived in the 1000 block of Pennock. The Baggetts, the Allens, the Careys and the Charlton family lived in that block. The Crouch family later lived in the Carey house. My daddy grew up at 1022 Pennock and some of his friends were Roy Buck, Harold Averitt, Charles and Gert Uthman, and Sam Koeline.

Tom Frey I remember them re-tarring the street and everyone chewing the tar YUK. Mrs. Matthews down the street that made the homemade doughnuts for all the kids on Saturdays? The Blind, deaf and dumb man across the street from me made beautiful furniture. I will never understand how. I actually learned to chat with him by using our hands and spelling out words. I remember the firemen!!!!!!!

Tom Martin remember Mr. Burton who was a history teacher at east, had a son named Larry, live close to Peggy Denson...Satterfields on Stainback, Maddocks on either Pennock or Stainback get those streets confused...oh what a time we had...so long ago.14

CONCLUSION

The case for local zoning ordinances of the Cleveland Park neighborhood, situated within the North Edgefield district of Nashville Tennessee is historically significant. Particularly because of the potential discoveries waiting to be revealed in its current revitalization efforts. It is important that the people are passionate and deeply committed to this renewal process. This commitment can be seen online within the social networking sessions of Facebook, as well as with cursory surveys (vehicular drive-bys) through the streets of the Cleveland Park neighborhood.

A community once plaque with drugs, prostitution and disenfranchisement was, as result, considered an unlikely candidate for any substantial rehabilitation investment. But is clearly demonstrating through oral histories and intently focused efforts that regaining its position among the respectable communities of Tennessee is doable. If there are any doubts as to the tenacity and fortitude, of these residents, one only need look on Vernon Winfrey Way and the career of former resident Oprah Winfrey, to see the potential of these citizens; and be prepared for the rebirth of this jewel of a community.

NOTE: All photographs depicted in this paper are courtesy of the Metro Nashville Archives, unless otherwise indicated.

14 Facebook.com/north Edgefield