



FOR RELEASE OCT. 9, 2016

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HISTORIC NASHVILLE ANNOUNCES 2016 NASHVILLE NINE

Historic Nashville joined by recording artist Butch Walker to announce the nine most threatened historic properties in Nashville and Davidson County

NASHVILLE, Tenn. Oct. 9, 2016 – Historic Nashville, Inc. (HNI) announced its 2016 Nashville Nine, a list of the city's most endangered historic places, at a press conference held today at the Union Station Hotel in downtown Nashville. Award winning recording artist and songwriter Butch Walker joined HNI representatives to reveal the Nashville Nine properties and to underscore how vital preservation is in maintaining Nashville's unique character.

Walker, who now calls the Nashville area home, is a local recording artist, songwriter, and record producer, as well as a passionate preservationist. Best known for his work in punk, pop rock, and hard rock genres, Walker operates a music recording studio on Music Row. In recent years, Walker and his band, the Black Widows, have toured with rock bands such as Train and opened for Pink.

The 2016 Nashville Nine was nominated by members of the community and represents nine historic properties threatened by demolition, neglect, or development. These properties will be the focus of Historic Nashville's advocacy and outreach throughout the coming year.

Historic Nashville works to promote and advocate for the recognition of historic places and the impact they have on the culture, commerce and creativity of the city. Over the years, Historic Nashville has successfully assisted in the preservation of numerous landmarks such as the Ryman Auditorium, Union Station, and the Hermitage Hotel.

For buildings on this year's list, Historic Nashville will work with the owners, government agencies, and the public to educate, evaluate and create solutions for preserving these important elements of Nashville's unique history and sense of place.

HNI accepts nominations for the Nashville Nine year round at www.historicnashvilleinc.org

The Historic Nashville 2016 Nashville Nine

Bowling Alleys – 3501 Baxter Street, Inglewood; 517 Gallatin Pike, Madison; 117 Donelson Pike, Donelson, circa 1950s

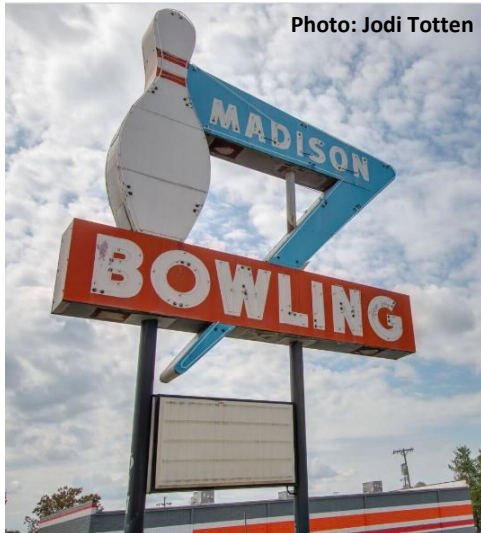


Photo: Jodi Totten

In the 1950s, the Crescent Amusement Company constructed three very similar bowling alleys in mid-century suburbs of Donelson, Inglewood, and Madison. Founded in Nashville around 1910 by Tony Sudekum (1879-1946), the Crescent Amusement Company operated movie theaters and other entertainment venues throughout Middle Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama. Locally, the company operated the famous Hippodrome and Tennessee Theater on Church Street. The Donelson bowling alley remains in operation and owned by Crescent, but the other two have been closed. All three feature distinctive Mid-Century Modern-style architectural elements on their facades and the Donelson and Madison buildings retain their original distinctive neon signs. Members of the community are concerned that these landmarks will be demolished as part of commercial redevelopment projects.

Cleveland Park Neighborhood – bound by Dickerson Pike (west), Cleveland Street (south), Ellington Parkway (east), and Douglas Street (north) – East Nashville, represents buildings from mid-nineteenth century to present

Located in thriving East Nashville, the Cleveland Park neighborhood is becoming one of the city's most rapidly redeveloping neighborhoods. Once an urban streetcar neighborhood, Cleveland Park retains distinctive homes, commercial buildings, and church buildings dating primarily from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The neighborhood features several individual buildings that have been included on the Nashville Nine, including the circa 1840 McGavock House (2011), 1930s Highland Heights School (2011), and circa 1910 Montgomery House (2012). With the rapid redevelopment and escalating property values, members of the community are worried about teardowns of original historic homes to be replaced with new luxury homes.



Photo: Mike Beecham

Fort Negley Park – 1100 Fort Negley Boulevard – Wedgewood/Houston, built 1930s

Owned and operated by Metro Parks and Recreation, Fort Negley Park contains several components, including the Civil War fortification, Herschel Greer Stadium, and Cumberland Science Museum. The park was improved in the 1930s with New Deal funding through the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which restored the deteriorated Fort Negley fortification. The WPA also constructed stone retaining walls, an entrance gate, and recreational ballfields for baseball and softball. The ballfields were later replaced in the 1970s by the Herschel Greer Stadium, a minor league baseball facility. Fort Negley was stabilized as ruins and reopened as a historic site museum in 2004. With the relocation of the city's minor league baseball team to a new downtown ballpark in 2015, the city is currently considering redevelopment proposals for the Greer Stadium portion of Fort Negley Park. With redevelopment, HNI encourages the city to avoid adversely impacting the remnants of the WPA recreational ballfields and historic archaeological sites within Fort Negley Park.



Florence Crittenton Home for Unwed Mothers/Warner Brothers Records – 1815 Division Street – built circa 1929, Music Row



Located at the intersection of Division Street and 19th Avenue South on Music Row, this three-story building was constructed around 1929 by Dr. Richard Alexander Barr (1872-1956) to house his private medical practice, his residence, and a Florence Crittenton Home for Unwed Mothers. Dr. Barr taught at Vanderbilt University (his alma mater), was involved in the national medical profession, published articles, and served as a chief surgeon in the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War. The Florence Crittenton Home for Unwed Mothers operated here until 1981. The building was rehabbed in the early

1980s for use as offices for Sound Stage Associates and Warner Brothers Records, as well as the WNSR radio broadcasting studio. The building was determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Music Row documentation project. The current owners recently pulled a demolition permit, which the Metro Historical Commission delayed by 90 days, and intend to redevelop the property with a highrise residential tower. HNI strongly urges the owner to not demolish the important historic landmark but to consider rehabilitating the unique building for housing, offices, or commercial businesses supporting the local music industry.

Hubbard House – 1109 1st Avenue South, SoBro, built 1921



Built in 1921 with donations from the Meharry Medical College alumni and trustees, the Hubbard House served as the retirement home of Dr. George W. Hubbard (1841-1924), a founder and head of Meharry for 44 years. During his tenure, more than one-half of the South's African-American physicians, dentists, and pharmacists graduated from Meharry. Designed by local African-American architect Moses McKissack and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, this building is the last remnant of the original Meharry

campus, which relocated to North Nashville in the 1930s. In 1970, the house was converted for use as the parsonage of the Seay-Hubbard United Methodist Church. Currently vacant and in poor condition, plans for restoring the African-American historic landmark have stalled, leading to members of the community to worry about its future in the rapidly redevelopment SoBro neighborhood.

Morris Memorial Building – 330 Charlotte Avenue – Downtown, built 1924-1926

Located downtown near the Courthouse Square, the Morris Memorial Building is a four-story Neoclassical Revival-style office building designed by McKissack & McKissack, a prominent African-American architectural firm based in Nashville. Constructed from 1924-1926, the steel, masonry, and limestone building housed the National Baptist Convention, which published religious materials for African-American Baptist churches, as well as other African-American businesses including the architectural studios of McKissack & McKissack. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984, the Morris Memorial Building is the only building still standing that is originally associated



with African-American businesses in the downtown core. Recently, a developer announced a proposal to extensively renovate and enlarge the building with an eight to ten-story addition to the roof, which would adversely impact the building's integrity as an important African-American landmark and result in the building be removed from the National Register of Historic Places.

Music Row Neighborhood – *Between 16th and 20th Avenues from Division and Demonbreun Streets to Belmont University, represents buildings from late nineteenth century to present*

The Music Row neighborhood has been the heart of Nashville's music industry since the 1950s, leading the city to its international identity as Music City and drawing tourists from around the world. While many American cities claim individual music landmarks, there is no other neighborhood in the country like Music Row, where songs are written and recorded, publishing deals are cut, royalties paid, guitars repaired, concert tours arranged, music broadcast, videos taped and stars made.

Over the past four years, Music Row has suffered from the demolitions of dozens of historic buildings for redevelopment. Others are currently slated to fall to the wrecking ball. Recording studios, record labels, publishing houses, supporting industries, private homes and other music-related businesses are being replaced with high-rise condos, apartments, luxury hotels and office buildings at a fast pace. In 2015 Music Row was designated a National Treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which recently completed comprehensive documentation

of the neighborhood's historic resources, a National Register of Historic Places nomination, and a preservation incentives plan. Due to the intensive and relentless redevelopment pressure, this is the second year in a row that Music Row has been included on the Nashville Nine.



Photo: Mike Beecham

Sammy B's/Figilo's on the Row - *26 Music Square East – Music Row, built circa 1906*

Located at the heart of Music Row, this two-story brick building has housed was constructed as a private residence around 1906. Since 1960, it has housed numerous music industry businesses such as Gold Standard Records, Gra-Mar Talent Agency, Brite-Star Promotions, Happy Wilson, Zeke Clements, and Howard-Stone Publishing. Gra-Mar was operated by Billy Grammer and Barbara Martin, who was one of the first female executives on Music Row. In 1965, Billboard magazine opened its first Nashville branch office here. In 1980, the building was renovated for use as a tavern



Photo: Jodi Totten

called BJ's Pour House. Later it was home to Tavern on the Row, Toucan restaurant, Sammy B's, and Figilio's on the Row. These bars and restaurants were very popular with music industry executives, entertainers, songwriters, recording artists, etc. The building was known as a significant gathering place on Music Row. In 1988, Warner Brothers Records purchased the building, which has stood vacant since

2010. The 110-year old building has been determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Members of the Music Row community are concerned that the rapidly deteriorating building will be demolished as part of a redevelopment project.

Starday-King Sound Studios – 3557 Dickerson Pike – Madison, built 1960



Photo: Jodi Totten

Constructed in 1960 in Madison, this nondescript Mid-Century Modern building was an exceptionally significant music recording studio in the 1960s and 1970s. Starday and King were powerhouse independent labels known for traditional country, bluegrass, rockabilly, gospel, and R&B music. In its heyday, stars like Dottie West, Minnie Pearl, Jim

Reeves, Archie Campbell, Cowboy Copas, Red Sovine, Howdy Kempf, Jimmy Day, Pete Drake, Reece Sisters, and Mike Higashi of Tokyo all recorded here. From 1962-1965, Jimi Hendrix played guitar at Starday for such as Billy Cox, Johnny Jones, and Frank Howard and the Commanders. In 1968, Nashville's local disc jockey Bill Hoss Allen recorded "He Went to the Mountain Top" at Starday as a tribute to MLK, Jr., soon after he was murdered in Memphis. The biggest superstar to record at Starday was undoubtedly James Brown, who recorded "Get Up (I Feel Like Being A) Sex Machine" and "Super Bad" here in 1970. The following year, he recorded "Hot Pants" and "I'm a Greedy Man" as well as several other songs from 1970-1975. In fact, many in the music industry still refer to this building as "James Brown's Starday-King Studio" and according to legend, the studio is painted brown in his honor. Once one of the busiest state-of-the-art music recording studios in Nashville, rivaling RCA Studio A and Owen Bradley's Quonset Hut on Music Row, the building has stood vacant since 2000 and is now beginning to deteriorate. There is significant community support to restore the building as a recording studio or other creative use.

About Historic Nashville, Inc.

Established in 1968, Historic Nashville, Inc. (HNI) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 membership organization with the mission to promote and preserve the historic places that make Nashville unique. Over the years, HNI has successfully advocated for the preservation of such historic places the Ryman Auditorium, Union Station, Hermitage Hotel, 2nd Avenue & Lower Broadway and Shelby Street Bridge, as well as neighborhood historic districts throughout the city.

In 1982, HNI established the state's first Preservation Easement program and currently owns easements on 17 historic landmarks with a market value of over \$50 million. HNI hosts an annual membership meeting, publishes an Annual Report, maintains a website, hosts educational programs such as Behind-the-Scenes tours, and the annual Nashville Nine list of the city's most endangered historic places. For more information, visit www.historicnashvilleinc.org.