

Historic Nashville Inc. Downtown Survey, 1977- 1994 (bulk c. 1980)

Collection Summary

Creator: Historic Nashville, Inc.

Title: Historic Nashville Inc. Downtown Survey

Inclusive Dates: 1977 to 1994 (bulk c. 1980)

Summary/Abstract: The collection includes city directory and deed research, and photographs, comprising historical and architectural inventories of extant (c.1980) downtown Nashville buildings. A few photographs of structures in the Rutledge Hill area are also included in a separate series.

Physical Description/Extent: 4.2 cu. ft.

Series: Two series:

I. Downtown Survey

II. Rutledge Hill

Accession Number: 2003.080

Language: In English

Stack Location: Closed stacks workroom, Range 2 Section 5

Repository: Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church St., Nashville, TN 37219

Chronology – Downtown Survey

1979 – Historic Nashville Inc. calls for volunteers for the project.

c. 1980 – Photographs are taken and property information is gathered

1994 – Some additional photographs are taken of properties.

Biographical/Historical Sketch

In 1968 the Historic Sites Federation of Tennessee was formed. The name was changed to Historic Nashville, Inc. in 1974. Historic Nashville, Inc. existed as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a stated purpose to document and preserve the cultural, historical, and architectural heritage of Nashville. This group was instrumental in saving Union Station, the Ryman Auditorium, and many other historic buildings. For many years, they held an annual Market Street Festival to raise awareness of the historic nature of downtown's Second Avenue. In 2003, their records were donated to the Special Collections Division of the Nashville Public Library.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

Series I. Downtown Survey:

Documents and photographs composing a detailed architectural and historical survey of downtown Nashville buildings, c. 1980. The area included in the survey is bounded on the east by the Cumberland River; on the west by 10th Ave.; on the north by the State Capitol; and on the south by Demonbreun Street. Each property generally consists of one address, or a group of addresses in the case of large or "block" buildings. Each property has been assigned a property number by Historic Nashville, Inc.

Documents contain detailed architectural descriptions; deed and city directory research; and other research notes, including some materials concerning planned publications based upon the survey. In some cases, there may be properties lacking documentation.

Photographs show front (street) views of most buildings, and frequently include front views taken from an angle to the side. Many properties also have photographs of architectural details, and occasionally side or rear views of a building. Nearly all photographs are of exteriors. Researchers are encouraged to consult photographs of adjacent addresses since these may also provide additional views of a particular property. Most photographs date from circa 1980. However, some date from the 1970's, and a few are from the summer of 1994.

Negatives and contact sheets are also included. Negatives are restricted to staff use only. Not all images from the negatives have been printed, so it may be helpful to check the appropriate contact sheet for other views of the same property.

Historic Nashville photographers kept log sheets of their work, and these are filed with the negatives. During processing by library staff, it was discovered that there were many discrepancies between the property number given on the log sheet, and the property number as ultimately designated by Historic Nashville. Corrections were made on separate copies of the log sheets, which are filed with the negatives. For convenience, a copy of the corrected log sheets are also filed with the contact sheets.

Series II. Rutledge Hill

A discrete portion of the collection, apparently unrelated to the Downtown Survey, is thirteen photographs of seven buildings in the Rutledge Hill area, near downtown Nashville. Photographs were unidentified except for the general notation "Rutledge Hill." Unlike the Downtown Survey, no documentation exists for this series. Addresses were identified and added at the time of processing in 2006 by Nashville Room volunteer Rose Mary Reed. Street addresses include Middleton St., Rutledge St., and 2nd Ave. South. The properties include former private homes converted into business offices, a laboratory building, and a fire hall converted into a private home.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Series I: Downtown Survey – numeric by property number

Series II: Rutledge Hill – numeric by photograph number (roughly by address)

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: In library use only. Available by appointment.
Negatives restricted to staff use only.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction: Some items may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

Index Terms

Corporate Names/Organizations:

Historic Nashville, Inc.
Historic Nashville Downtown Survey

Subjects:

Buildings – Tennessee – Nashville
Historic buildings – Tennessee - Nashville
Architecture – Tennessee - Nashville
Historic Preservation – Tennessee – Nashville
Dwellings – Tennessee – Nashville
Central business districts – Tennessee – Nashville
Architectural surveys – Tennessee – Nashville
Church architecture – Tennessee – Nashville
Commercial buildings – Tennessee – Nashville
Public buildings – Tennessee – Nashville
History – Societies, etc. – Tennessee – Nashville

Places:

Nashville (Tenn.) – Buildings, structures, etc.
Nashville (Tenn.) – History – Sources
Rutledge Hill (Nashville, Tenn.)
Second Avenue (Nashville, Tenn.)
Third Avenue (Nashville, Tenn.)
Fourth Avenue (Nashville, Tenn.)
Fifth Avenue (Nashville, Tenn.)
Seventh Avenue (Nashville, Tenn.)
Broadway Avenue (Nashville, Tenn.)
Church Street (Nashville, Tenn.)
Union Street (Nashville, Tenn.)

Genre/Document Types:

Photographs
Negatives
Manuscripts

Administrative Information

Copyright: Historic Nashville Inc. transferred any copyright they held in these materials to the Public Library Board at time of donation. However, there may be some items for which they did not hold copyright, and therefore rights were not transferred to Nashville Public Library.

Preferred Citation: [property number], Historic Nashville Downtown Survey, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Historic Nashville, Inc. donated materials to the Public Library Board in 2003.

Ownership and Custodial History: Records created by and in the custody of Historic Nashville Inc. until donation to the library.

Processing Information: Preliminary processing performed by University of Tennessee practicum student, Becca Oberlander, April 2004. Additional processing by volunteers Jean Muirhead and Ward Dewitt, May 2004. Matching of negatives to properties by staff member Linda Barnickel, Oct. 2004. Processing of photographs, final general processing, and creation of finding aid by volunteer Rose Mary Reed, 2005-2006.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Other Finding Aids:

Two additional finding aids are available:

Series I - Downtown Survey. Numeric by property number.

Series I - Downtown Survey. Arranged by street address.

References to Works by or about Collection Creator/Topic:

A number of separate collections, publications, and projects from Historic Nashville, Inc. are housed in the Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I – Downtown Survey

Arrangement: Numeric by property number assigned by Historic Nashville, Inc.

All folders for each property are grouped together: document folder first, followed by photograph folders. Property numbers do not necessarily follow a pattern up and down a particular street, so sequential property numbers do not necessarily mean the buildings were in close geographic proximity. Following the final property in Box 10 are contact sheets and four folders of miscellaneous papers relating to the Downtown Survey project.

Container List:

Box 1	Properties 1-25
Box 2	Properties 26-50
Box 3	Properties 51-71
Box 4	Properties 72-96
Box 5	Properties 97-130
Box 6	Properties 131-160
Box 7	Properties 161-178
Box 8	Properties 179-206
Box 9	Properties 207-239

- Box 10 Properties 240-266
 Contact sheets for negative rolls 1-26
 Misc. documents:
 Planning documents for Downtown Survey
 publication
 Second Ave. update, 1980
 Notes relating to *Victorian Memories; Looking
 Back at Tennessee*
 Unidentified manuscript – 3rd through 9th Ave.
- Box 11 Negatives – staff use only

Series II – Rutledge Hill Photographs, c.1980

Arrangement: Rutledge Hill photographs follow the Downtown Survey materials in Box 10. The negatives are part of Roll 24 and are filed separately with the other negatives of the collection.

Container List: The photographs are numbered in sequence as part of the entire collection:

Photograph 772-774	30 Middleton St.
Photograph 775-776	40 Middleton St.
Photograph 774-775	Middleton St.
Photograph 777	40 Rutledge St.
Photograph 780	42 Rutledge St.
Photograph 781	631 2 nd Ave S. (Litterer Laboratory)
Photograph 782-784	James Geddes Eng. Co. No. 6, 2 nd Ave. S.