

# THE HISTORIC WHITLAND NEIGHBORHOOD



**Whitland Avenue**  
**“Best tree-lined street in Nashville”**

## Special Recognition by Tennessee Government

Adopted on June 4, 2001, the resolution is signed by Representatives West and Phillips, Speaker of the House Naifeh, Speaker of the Senate Wilder, and the Governor.

A copy of the proclamation is held by the Association and another may be seen on display at the West End Middle School.

## GENERAL HISTORY OF THE WHITLAND AREA

Middle Tennessee has a prehistory extending back for 5,000 to 8,000 years. With a mild climate, flowing streams for potable water and transportation, an abundance of wild game, fertile soil, and numerous caves, it was an ideal spot for early Native Americans. Over the centuries tribal cultures shifted from a hunting-gathering lifestyle to planting gardens, specialization of occupations, production of pottery, and building permanent fortified villages. In recent centuries, the Mississippian culture occupied what now is the Whitland area. Over all this immense span of time it seems certain that camping spots were used along the creeks and springs in our neighborhood. In more recent centuries, there must have been small kitchen gardens with corn, beans, squash and other staples for the community. Shelter would be provided with small homes made of wood with plastered walls ("wattle-and-dab construction")

Elsewhere in the area, there were elaborate villages protected with stockades up to 20 feet tall, earthen pyramid-style mounds with log temples on the summit, and various religious symbols painted on nearby cliffs. During the Middle Ages in Europe, the Nashville area supported a large population. Among the evidence are the thousands of graves excavated near the David Lipscomb University campus. Examples of wonderful pottery - - some with bird, animal, and human effigies - - can be seen in the artifact collection on loan from Vanderbilt to the Tennessee State Museum. There also are extensive collections that remain in private hands around the city.

Beginning in the early 1700s, French traders came up the Mississippi, Ohio, and Cumberland Rivers to establish trading posts. About 1779, the first families came to the Nashville basin with the intention of establishing farms and businesses. Many of them claimed land on the basis of federal grants made to veterans of the American War of Independence.

The government owed the poorly-compensated veterans for their service, had little or no money, and wanted to see vacant lands and western lands settled. Land grants were a cost-free solution.

## GENERAL HISTORY OF WHITLAND AREA (continued)

Fortunately for the little group who came to the bluff along the west side of the river, the area was not occupied on a permanent basis. The Chickasaws along the Mississippi River and the Cherokees to the east agreed the territory would be open for hunting to both. Arrival of settlers was not popular.

On June 26, 1793, North Carolina made a grant of 640 acres, including this neighborhood, to Francis Hodge. In 1797, Hodge sold Joseph Erwin 540 acres for \$2,500. Erwin built what came to be known as Peach Blossom. His daughter Ann (Nancy) married Andrew Hynes; several years later they came into possession of the estate. In 1832, Hynes sold Charles Bosley 201 acres of the property for \$8,070. In 1840 he sold Bosley additional acreage.

Bosley died in 1870 and left nearly all of his estate to his 7-year-old great-granddaughter, Gertrude Bosley Bowling. She married John Leonard Whitworth and eventually gained control of her inheritance. This neighborhood was "Whitworth Farms" at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Whitworths had two children - - Charles and Gertrude. Gertrude married Dr. R. W. Grizzard. With the court's permission, they bought 100 acres of the "Whitworth Home Tract" from the mother's trust for \$100,000; they surveyed, created infrastructure, and began selling Whitworth Realty lots in 1910.



Joseph Erwin had another daughter, Jane. In 1811 he deeded to Jane and her husband, John B. Craighead, 144  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres, part of the tract bought of Francis Hodge. This was owned previously by Jane and Charles Dickinson. Dickinson was killed by Andrew Jackson in a duel, after which she married Craighead. Their home is located on Westbrook Avenue. It was very similar to the Joseph Erwin home, except smaller.

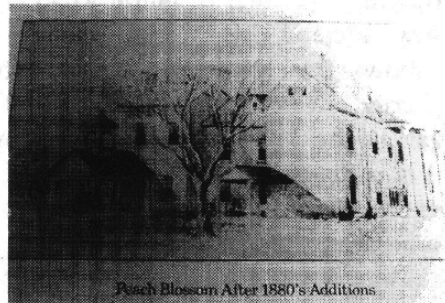


## MISSISSIPPIAN INDIANS

The hill bordered by Bowling Avenue, Brighton Road and Leonard Avenue, where Richmeade is now located, was once known as "Indian Hill". Archaeological evidence shows that Native Americans who lived during the Mississippian Cultural Period were early residents of the area. The Mississippian culture began in the Mississippi River Valley (hence the name) and spread over much of southeastern North America, as well as Oklahoma, Missouri, Southern Illinois and Ohio. The Mississippian Indians were farmers, the major crops being corn, beans, squash and pumpkins. Hunting was also important with deer and turkey being the major game animals. Their houses were constructed of sapling logs covered by mud plaster, topped with a roof of thatched grass. They developed a centralized form of government and practiced elaborate religious ceremonies which were depicted on their pottery and shell jewelry. Flat-topped earthen pyramids, used as platforms for temples and the residences of civic/religious leaders, gave the period the designation "The Age of the Temple Mounds"



## PEACH BLOSSOM

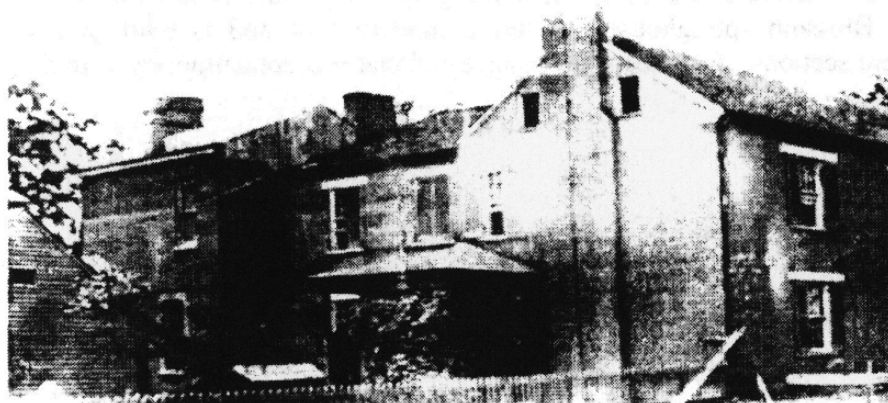


Captain Joseph Erwin built what was later known as “Peach Blossom” at this location (Craighead Avenue) 1801-1803. One of the first brick homes in the area, this handsome Georgian mansion sat back in an oak-studded lawn that fronted what is now West End Avenue. Built with bricks manufactured on the premises, the dwelling had a 50-foot entrance hall containing double galleries and a beautiful spiral stairway opposite the front door. There were 8 rooms that were 20 feet square with 13-foot ceilings.

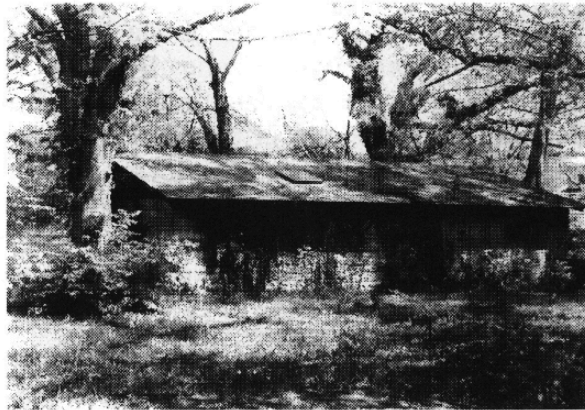
A wealthy man, Captain Erwin raised cotton, owned many slaves and several sugar plantations near New Orleans. Over a period of time he purchased a total of 690 acres. This land known as “The Erwin Plantation” included the Whitland area. It extended to the present Hillsboro Road and also included what is now the campus of West End Middle School and the Whitworth development.

One of the daughters of Joseph and Lavinia Thompson Erwin, Jane, married Charles Dickinson at the home in a wedding ceremony attended by the “most glittering” society Nashville possessed. Dickinson, a lawyer, got in a dispute with Andrew Jackson over racehorses. They fought a duel near Harrison’s Mills, Kentucky on May 30, 1806. Dickinson was killed and Jackson severely wounded. The body was brought back to Nashville and buried on what is now Carden Avenue. Another daughter, Leodocia, married William Blount Robertson, son of General James Robertson, the founder of Nashville.

In 1829, Joseph Erwin sold 100 acres of the Erwin plantation to Andrew Hynes. In 1842, Hynes sold the property to Charles Bosley. Gertrude Bosley Bowling, his granddaughter, inherited the land and married John Leonard Whitworth, who added on to the mansion in the 1880's. This property was known as the "Whitworth Farms" during this time. It later became the property of their daughter Gertrude and son Charles Whitworth. Gertrude married Dr. R. W. Grizzard and a corporation known as the "Whitland Realty Company" was formed which in 1910 sold the property, including Peach Blossom. The home was torn down in 1967.



## PEACH BLOSSOM SPRINGHOUSE



Captain Joseph Erwin had what came to be known as "Peach Blossom" constructed between 1800 and 1806. The structure pictured above is located where an underground spring feeds into the brook, which goes along Rolland Road. Since plantations had to have a source of water and a period map shows a structure at that location; it is highly likely that this structure is the Peach Blossom springhouse. It has a modern roof and is built in two different sections. Architects have suggested that it is contemporary with the period.

## ORIGIN OF THE WHITLAND AREA STREET NAMES

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**Bowling Avenue.** The street was named for Gertrude Bosley Bowling, who was born in 1863; inherited a large tract of land in the Whitland area and married John Leonard Whitworth. The couple lived at Peach Blossom. The land known as the "Whitworth Home Tract" was developed in 1910.

**Brighton Avenue.** The origin of this street is regrettably unknown.

**Cantrell Avenue.** This street was named for the Cantrell family. Stephen Cantrell was a member of the county court, a captain in the Revolutionary War and a state legislator. His son Stephen, Jr. served as commissary and quartermaster during the War of 1812, President of the Nashville Bank, Secretary of the Nashville Bridge Company, city Alderman, and fifth Mayor of Nashville in 1817.

**Carden Avenue.** This street was named for Martha Ann Carden, daughter of Allen D. Carden, a prominent Nashville merchant. She married Charles Bosley. Their daughter was Gertrude Bosley Bowling.

**Craighead Avenue.** This street was named for John B. Craighead, who was born in 1785, the son of the Reverend Thomas Craighead, one of the leading ministers and educators of early Nashville and president of Davidson Academy. He married Jane Erwin Dickinson, widow of Charles. They lived in a home still in existence located at 3710 Westbrook Avenue, until his death in 1819.

**Leonard Avenue** was named for John Leonard Whitworth (see above)

**Rolland Road** was named for Colonel Rolland Abrahams by his father, I.K. Abrahams, who subdivided the land abutting the south margin of the road west from Wilson Avenue.

**West End Avenue** was named for the section of the city in which it is located.

**Whitland Avenue** was named for the Whitland Realty Company, started by the Whitworth family to develop the area, beginning in 1910.

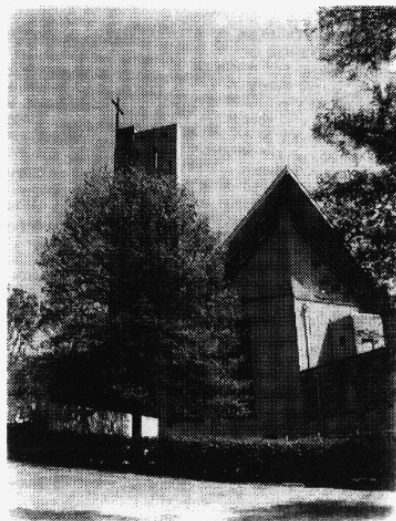
**Wilson** was named for Benjamin F. Wilson, who served in the Confederate Army, moved to Nashville in 1870, established a bank, was part of a syndicate that published the Nashville American and served on the Executive Board of the Tennessee Centennial. He built a "country home" that was located at the corner of the present Wilson and West End Avenues.

## **BLAKEMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SUMMARY OF NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORICAL MARKER TEXT**

In April of 1890, the Methodists west of Vanderbilt University felt the need for a new Methodist church. West End Methodist Church gave a one-room meeting house and Dr. James W. Blakemore, for whom the church is named, gave a lot at the corner of Natchez Trace and Wellington.

From 1900-1910, the Reverend Paul B. Kern, later a Bishop, served as pastor of the church. The church grew rapidly and moved to a new building at the corner of Thirtieth Avenue North and West End in 1925. Under the leadership of Reverend Carl Elkins, the church moved to its present location in 1958. Noted evangelist Wallace Chappell served as minister of Blakemore from 1966-1969.

Under Youth Director George Bass, the Mountain Top program was started to help the people of the Appalachian region. The church is known as "a church of unlimited Christian love".





## THREE HISTORIC ELM TREES



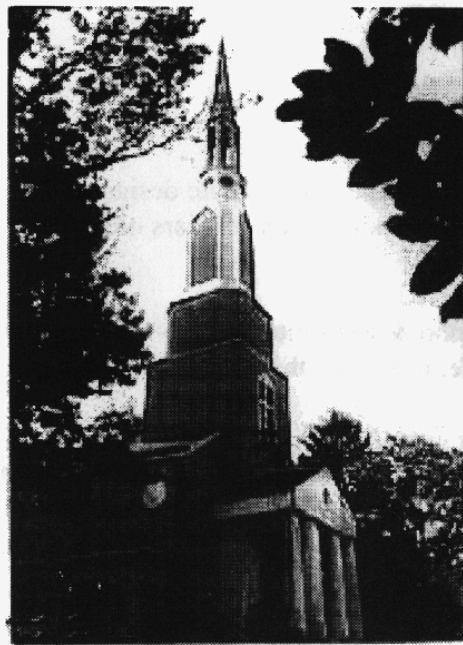
Markers from the Elm Tree Research Institute designate these three trees as historic (more than 75 years old).

1. Located at home of John & Beth Interlandi - - 3614 Whitland Avenue. The oldest elm tree in Nashville, it is more than 200 years old, thus dating it from the Peach Blossom days.
2. Located at the home of McWherter family - - 3806 Rolland Road.
3. Located at the brook between Craighead Avenue and Leonard Avenue (see picture above).

## **VINE STREET CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

### **SUMMARY OF NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORICAL MARKER TEXT**

Vine Street Christian Church traces its beginnings to 1820, when a small group of members from the Baptist Church of Nashville established a new congregation. The location of the first church was on Spring (Vine) Street at Capitol Boulevard. In May, 1828, Phillip Fall became their minister, following the practices of Alexander Campbell and Barton W. Stone. The church became deeply rooted in the reform movement. The Spring Street Church would eventually expand to provide the beginnings of Nashville churches known as the Christian church, the Church of Christ, and the Disciples of Christ. The church moved to its present location on Harding Road in 1958.



**THE FUGITIVES**  
**3802 Whitland Avenue**



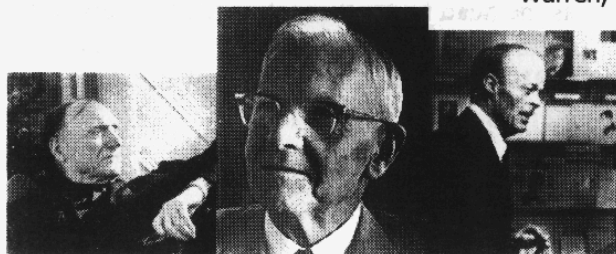
**Frank House**  
**Text of Marker**

In this home of James M. Frank, the Fugitives one of the most influential groups of poets and writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, met regularly from 1920 to 1928.

This marker was placed by Vanderbilt University in November, 1980.

The Fugitives included Robert Penn Warren, author of "All the King's Men", Vanderbilt University professor and founder John Crowe Ransom, Allen Tate, Ridley Wills and spiritualist advisor Sidney Hirsch.

Left to right:  
Warren, Ransom and Tate



## AREA SPORTS HEROES

### **Coach Dan McGugin (208 Craighead)**

Born on an Iowa farm in 1879, Dan McGugin went to the University of Michigan to study law. While there, he played on the 1901 and 1902 "Point a Minute" football teams, under Coach Fielding Yost. After graduation, McGugin coached at Vanderbilt University 1904-1917 and from 1919-1934, compiling an overall record of 197-55-19. Along with Yost, he was elected to the National Football Hall of Fame.

### **Fred Russell (3804 Brighton)**

Fred Russell served as Sports Editor of the *Nashville Banner* from 1930 until 1959, when he was named Sports Director. Mr. Russell has written *Fifty Years of Vanderbilt Football*, with Maxwell Benson and his numerous honors include election to the National Football Hall of Fame. He is acknowledged to be one of the best sports writers of the century.

### **Bill Wade (220 Craighead)**

Bill Wade was a star quarterback at Montgomery Bell Academy and Vanderbilt University before playing for the Los Angeles Rams and Chicago Bears from 1954-1957. He led the Bears to the World Championship in 1963. After retirement he worked for Third National Bank. He remains active in his church, First Presbyterian and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

### **Coach Fielding Yost (206 Craighead)**

Fielding Yost served as the head football coach at the University of Michigan from 1901-1925. Under Yost's leadership, the Wolverines won several national titles from 1901-1904; ten Big Ten Championships; and the first Rose Bowl. His overall record was 165-29-10.

## FAMOUS RESIDENTS OF THE WHITLAND AREA

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**Lamar Alexander** (Craighead Avenue) Governor of TN (1979-1987); president of the Univ. of TN (1988-1991); U.S. Education Secretary (1991-1993); and elected United States Senator in 2002.

**Charles Bosley** see page 20

**Frank Clement** (3824 Whitland Avenue) TN Governor 1953-1959 and 1963-1967.

**Francis Craig** (3822 Whitland) see pg 21

**Tom Cummings** (203 Carden) Nashville mayor from 1938-1951.

**Joseph Erwin family** see page 5

**Richard Fulton** (Brighton) Nashville mayor from 1975-1987.

**Phil Harris** (3814 Whitland) Orchestra leader, regular on Jack Benny radio and television shows (see page 24).

**Luke Lea** (3700 Whitland) see page 19

**Dan McGugin** (208 Craighead) see page 13

**Potter Family** - Edward, founder of Commerce Union Bank; and Justin, industrialist and financier

**Fred Russell** (Brighton) Sports writer, *Nashville Banner*. Mr. Russell died on January 26, 2003 at the age of 96.

**Dinah Shore** (3745 Whitland) Singer, talk show host (see page 23)

**Thompson family** (211 Bowling) see page 17

**Bill Wade** (220 Craighead) Quarterback, Montgomery Bell Academy & Vanderbilt University, Chicago Bears, Los Angeles Rams.

**Dawn Wells** (206 Carden) Played Mary Ann on Gilligan's Island television show (see page 25).

**Ben West** (223 Craighead) Nashville mayor from 1951 to 1963.

**Fielding Yost** (206 Craighead) University of Michigan football coach, member National Football Hall of Fame.

## WEST END MIDDLE SCHOOL

The school was built in 1935, making it one of the oldest schools in Nashville. The first graduating class of the old high school was in 1938. Elmington Park was named "Best Place to Fly a Kite" by the book, *Nashville's Best*. Whitland Avenue was named "Best Tree-lined Street" by this same publication.

The land, which became Elmington Park, and on which the school is located, was originally the estate of Edmund Warner known as "Elmington". It was purchased by the Harding Realty Company for \$110,000. The Park Board approved the expenditure of \$65,000 and anonymous citizens contributed the remaining \$45,000. The Works Progress Administration did the work necessary to complete the park including the stone wall close to West End Avenue and the school football stadium.





**MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY  
4001 HARDING ROAD**

**TEXT OF METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION MARKER**

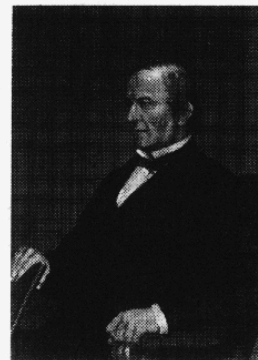
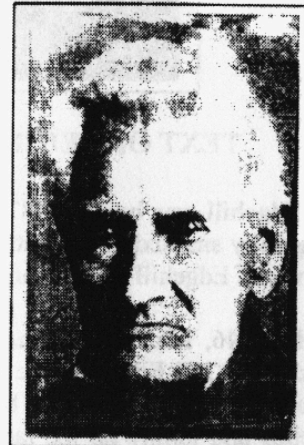
Formerly established in 1867 with a bequest of \$20,000 by ironmaster Montgomery Bell, the roots of M.B.A. actually go back to 1785, with the University of Nashville, Cumberland College, and Davidson Academy. The boys' preparatory school has been here since 1915, when the Board of Trustees purchased Totomoi, the estate of Garland Tinsley.

Montgomery Bell

**THE GLADSTONE  
3803 West End Avenue**

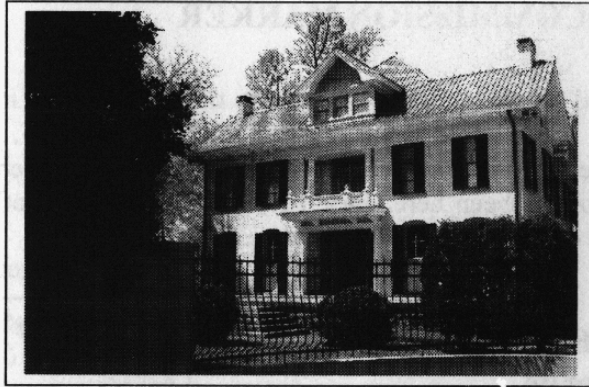
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC  
PLACES MARKER**

The Gladstone was constructed between 1923 and 1931. It was named for William Edward Gladstone, who served as Prime Minister of England four times. A staunch progressive who was committed to then-revolutionary ideals, Gladstone was also deeply rooted in traditional values. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Metropolitan Historic Register in 1981.



William Edward Gladstone

**EDGEHILL  
THE THOMPSON RESIDENCE  
211 Bowling Avenue**



**TEXT OF NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORICAL MARKER**

Edgehill was built in 1879 as the Charles A.R. Thompson homeplace. It was originally situated in a beautiful twelve-acre grove with magnificent gardens on the corner of Edgehill Avenue and Hillsboro Turnpike (21<sup>st</sup> Avenue).

In 1846, Mr. Thompson founded Thompson & Company, a dry-goods store. Located at 213 Fifth Avenue North. Thompson & Co. served as a social crossroads. People warmed themselves by the store's huge stoves. Proper ladies visited with friends and family on the large benches. People posted messages at the store for others in town.

Thompson & Company was Nashville's most prominent merchant for silver, china, furs, woolens, linens, and laces. The store offered exquisite goods, including ball gowns, bridal trousseaus, gloves, cloaks, shawls, and fans.

Much of the merchandise was displayed in elaborate wooden and glass cabinetry designed to protect the goods from the dirt of the street. Some of these pieces are currently in use as the home's bookcases and cabinets. Thompson & Company was a Nashville institution for most of the century. It closed in 1932.

Edgehill was purchased in October, 1910 by Peabody Normal College (later George Peabody College for Teachers). In 1911, Edgehill was dismantled and moved to its present location (*Bowling Avenue was called Golf Club Lane at that time*). Twelve trees were moved with the home. The magnificent magnolias and ginkgo trees grace the property today.

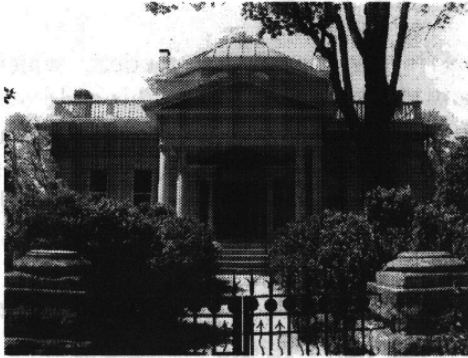
Edgehill's architecture had its origins in early Italianate models, which dominated American home construction between 1850 and 1880. This style was popular as a departure from the more formal Colonial and Classical Revival styles. Typical detailing of the Italianate style is found in the wide eaves supported by decorative brackets and the well-defined entry doors. The tall, narrow windows have a suggestion of an arch on the lower level.

In 1986, the current owner undertook an extensive restoration and revitalization of Edgehill, transforming it into a single-family house.

It is now known as "The Edge".



**WASHINGTON HALL  
LUKE LEA RESIDENCE  
3700 WHITLAND AVENUE**



**TEXT OF TENNESSEE HISTORICAL MARKER  
3 A 118**

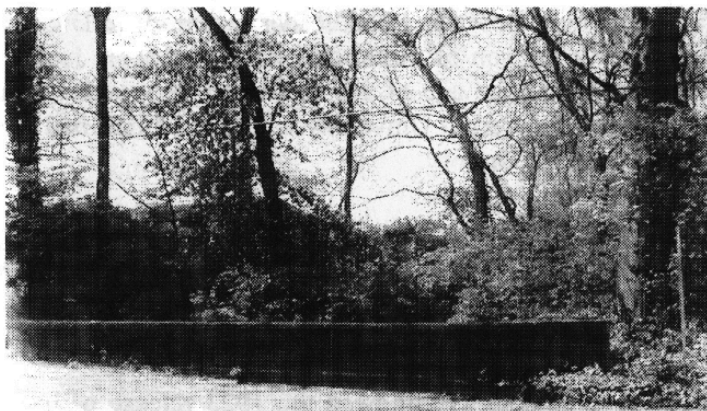
Inspired by Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and Lord Burlington's Chiswick House in London, John B. Daniels built this Italianate house c. 1914. Colonel Luke Lea, a United States Senator, organizer of the 114<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery in World War I, and founder of the *Nashville Tennessean*, lived here from 1936 until his death in 1945. He gave to the people of Nashville 868 acres of land for the creation of Percy Warner Park. One of the leading developers of Belle Meade, he also was instrumental in establishing the American Legion, and, for many years was active in the public life of the state.



**JOHNSON'S STATION  
(Charles Bosley Home)  
4210 Harding Road**

**TEXT OF THE METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION MARKER**

A double-log house and a few log cabins, partially picketed, stood here about 1790. On May 9, 1793, four children on their way to the spring were attacked by Indians. Three were scalped and killed. One escaped. The home of Charles Bosley, wealthy pioneer and a member of the Nickajack Expedition later stood at this site.



**LUTEN BRIDGE**

The Luten Bridge, located at the corner of South Wilson and Rolland Road, was built by the Luten Bridge Company (Nashville) in 1913. There are two historical markers on opposite corners of the bridge. The first indicates the above information. The second lists the "Bridge Committee", headed by Judge W. M. Pollard and Chairman R.G. Connell.

**FRANCIS CRAIG RESIDENCE  
3822 WHITLAND AVENUE  
NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORICAL MARKER TEXT**



Francis Craig, noted composer and bandleader was born in Dickson, TN on September 10, 1900, the son of Methodist minister Robert James Craig and Fannie Frost Craig. At the age of 10, he played the piano by ear. In 1919, Mr. Craig entered Vanderbilt University where his father had received the first Founder's medal for Oratory.

Mr. Craig organized a successful band, forcing him to choose between a school or musical career. From 1928 until 1947, Mr. Craig played at the Hermitage Hotel Grill Room, making his the longest engagement in hotel history.

Tremendous national popularity followed the 1923 release of his theme song, "Red Rose". In 1925, he led the first orchestra to play on radio station WSM.

Mr. Craig also was the host of "Sunday Down South" which was broadcast coast-to-coast on the NBC network for 12 years. In 1941, Mr. Craig composed the official Vanderbilt school song "Dynamite", which is played at each school athletic contest.



In 1947, after twenty-seven successful years, retirement beckoned. As a memento of his career, Mr. Craig recorded "Red Rose" on the Bullet label with a new Craig tune, "Near You" on the "B" side.

Recorded in the legendary WMS Studio C, "Near You" became the first major hit recorded in Nashville, staying at the top of the Hit Parade for 17 consecutive weeks, the longest period that a song was number one in Hit Parade history. "Near You" was the number one hit of the year and eventually sold more than 3.5 million copies. The tune was a major international hit. The sheet music was recorded in 14 different languages. Mr. Craig went on a coast-to-coast tour playing to record crowds in most of the principal cities of the U.S. In 1977, George Jones and Tammy Wynette recorded the song and their version became a number one country hit.

His other records included "Beg Your Pardon", a tune which was on the Hit Parade for 12 consecutive weeks and sold more than 1 million copies in its first year. Others included "Tennessee Tango", "Too Much Sugar for a Dime", and "Don't Make Me Sorry".

Many famous persons were part of his orchestra including Metropolitan Opera singer and concert star James Melton; Dinah Shore and Phil Harris. Mr. Craig purchased this residence at 3822 Whitland Avenue and lived here with his wife Elizabeth and daughters Celeste and Donia from 1926 to 1937. Mr. Craig died on November 20, 1965.



## **DINAH SHORE RESIDENCE**

### **3745 Whitland Avenue**



A native of Winchester, TN, Fannie Rose (Dinah) Shore, daughter of Solomon Shore was born in 1916. The family moved to Nashville in 1924 and Solomon established a dry goods store. The family lived on Whitland Avenue for many years. She graduated from Hume-Fogg High School and Vanderbilt University. The Dinah Shore Show, a NBC television program which ran on Tuesdays and Thursdays, started November 27, 1957. It was on this show that she first used two of her signatures: the line "see the USA in your Chevrolet, America is the greatest land of all"; and her conclusion of blowing kisses to the audience. In 1957, the Dinah Shore-Chevy Show became one of the first color television shows. In 1962, Dinah decided to end her public life and quit the show. In 1970, she started a daytime talk show called "Dinah's Place". In 1974 the show won an Emmy award and was later cancelled. CBS picked the show up under the new name "Dinah". It ran for 90 minutes. After 10 years the show concluded its run and Dinah retired. A woman of tremendous achievement, Dinah started the Dinah Shore Golf Tournament in order to spotlight the then overlooked accomplishments of women professional golfers. The event remains very successful. For four years starting in 1989, Dinah returned to television as the host of "Conversations with Dinah". She died on February 24, 1994. After her death, she was elected to the Lady Professional Golfers Hall of Fame.

## PHIL HARRIS RESIDENCE 3814 Whitland Avenue



Phil Harris - - singer, band leader, comedian and long-time performer on the Jack Benny radio and television shows lived at 3814 Whitland Avenue. Mr. Harris got his start when he attended Vanderbilt University and was the first drummer with the Francis Craig orchestra. Becoming a band leader in the 1930's, his career flourished on radio. His hit recordings included "The Thing", "Smoke! Smoke! Smoke! that Cigarette" and "The Preacher and the Bear". His trademark song was "That's What I Like about the South".

Phil Harris is best known for playing the lovable alcoholic on the Jack Benny Show. The radio version started in 1936 and continued for 16 years. With a toothy grin and Southern accent, he would greet Benny with the line, "Hiya Jackson!"

From 1946-1954 he played a rough-cut, lovable egomaniac, who abused the language mercilessly and always tried to bluff his way through a problem in a radio series. His real wife of 54 years, Alice Faye, played a retired movie star. He appeared in several films including two with friend Bing Crosby- - "Here Comes the Groom" in 1951 and "Anything Goes" in 1956. In 1967 he came out of retirement to provide the voice of the bear in the Disney cartoon version of "The Jungle Book". He sang "The Bare Necessities". He died at age 91, in 1995.

**DAWN WELLS RESIDENCE**  
**206 Carden Avenue**



Dawn Wells who played Mary Ann in the very successful television series "Gilligan's Island", lived at 206 Carden Avenue at one time. The show developed by Sherwood Schwartz who had been the head-writer for the Red Skelton Show, started in 1964. It lasted three seasons and became a surprise hit. Several TV movies resulted and it is seen constantly in syndication. Dawn competed and got the part, beating out Raquel Welch.

Dawn, a native of Nevada, is a graduate of Stephens College. Mary Ann Summers (character on "Gilligan's Island") was a well-meaning clerk from Winfield, Kansas who had won a place on the ill-fated boat trip in a local radio station contest. Mary Ann worked at the Winfield Grocery Store, was a member of the 4-H Club and worked on a farm.

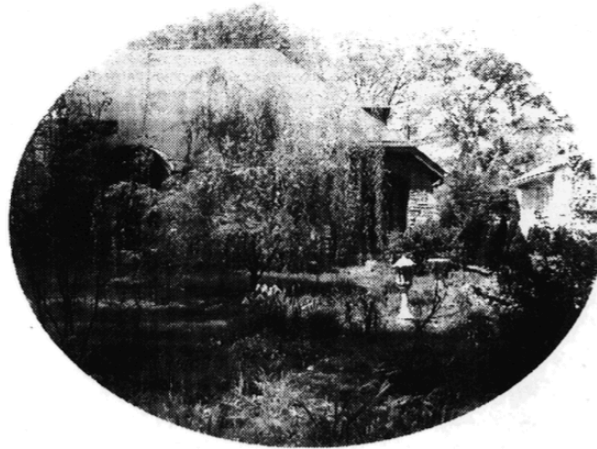
Since "Gilligan's Island" she has returned to her first love the theatre and starred in several road companies including "Chapter Two" and "They're Playing our Song". Dawn has been in several feature movies and has guest-starred in more than 100 television shows. She has volunteered for charitable work including the mid-Missouri Children's Miracle Television Network.

## **THE GARDENS**

**(as featured during 1999 Walking Tour of the area)**

### **The Barden Family 221 Bowling Avenue**

The lush Barden family garden includes marigolds, canas, clematis, peonies, hostas, lilies, lambs ear, Mexican sunflowers, sedum, zinnias, yarrow, geraniums, begonias, asters, cosmos, parilla and strawflowers.



### **David Bradley 212 Craighead Avenue**

The Bradley garden features three ponds, a water fountain and a stream. Pond one (lower one) came with the house (pre-1955). It was originally an aboveground concrete version. It was re-done, with surrounding dirt, the twenty-foot stream and deck in the fall of 1992. The second pond, with Koi and stone wall was built in 1994. These ponds and stream were on the 1994 and 1995 Nashville Pond Society Tour of Ponds. The third pond, with frog waterspout, was built in 1999.

### **Gerald Langley 203 Carden Avenue**

This is the former residence of Thomas Cummings who served as mayor of Nashville from 1938-1953. The Langley garden features a swimming pool, fishpond, waterfall, perennial and annual beds and a shade garden.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Deep appreciation is expressed to the group who planned a walking tour of the Whitland area in September 1999. In the process, they created the first edition of this guidebook. Those good neighbors were David Bradley, Mary DeMoss, Fay Forlines, David Marable, Jackie Plott, Robinson Regen, and Mrs. John Wade. Updates for the second edition were contributed by Sue Senter, Denise Hawkins, and Jack Miller. Drew Trotman arranged final production of the booklet.

The Whitland Area Neighborhood Association was formed in 1980, under the leadership of the late John Walker. It now is a non-profit organization concerned with preserving this community and extending a warm welcome to all who move to this section of "the near west side" in metropolitan Nashville.

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