



METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

To: Metropolitan Council
From: Metropolitan Historical Commission, Staff
Date: May 27, 2026
Re: ORDINANCE NO. BL2026-1384

An ordinance authorizing the renaming of Alley #581 to “Birdsong Alley”. (Proposal Number 2026M-001SR-001).

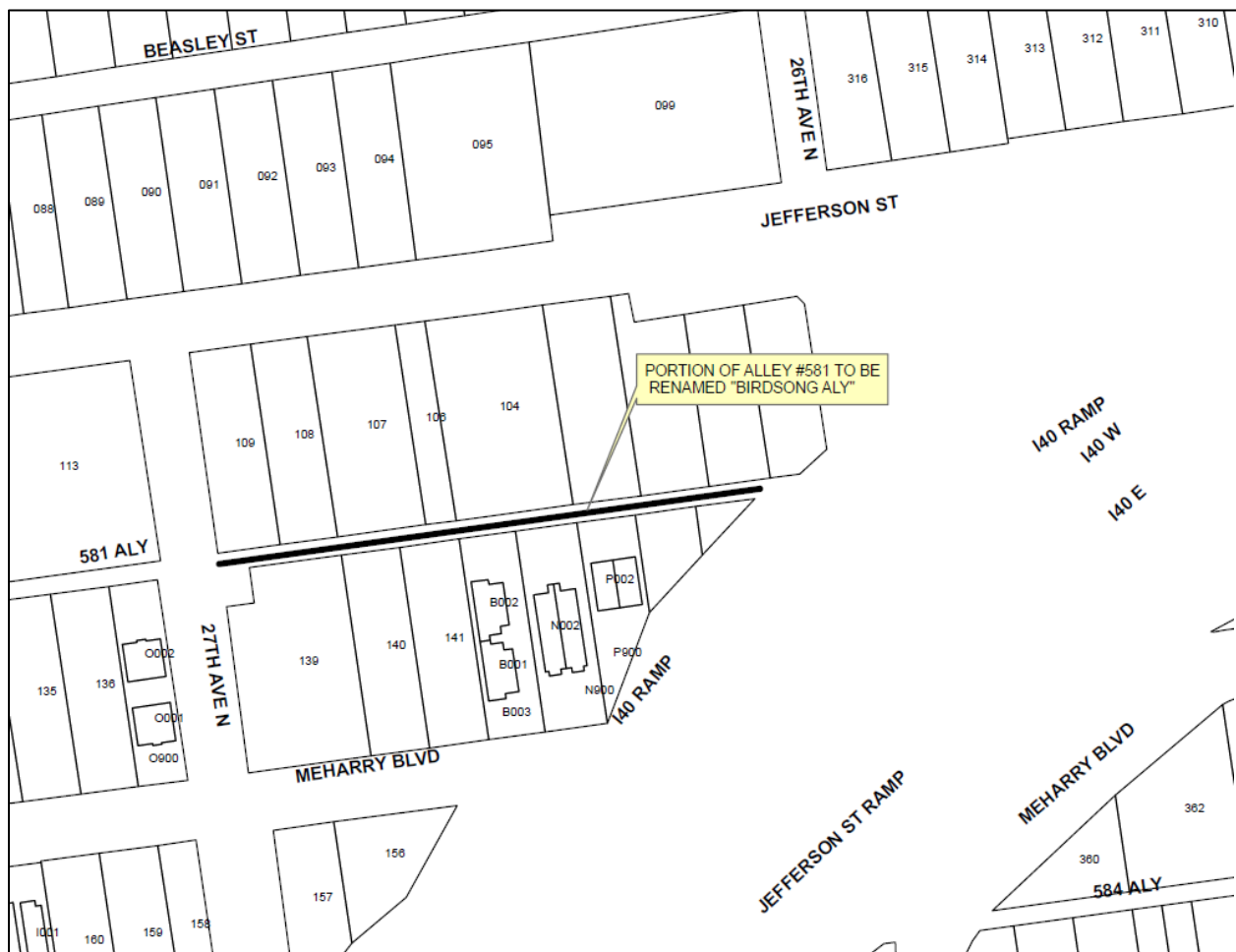


Figure 1: Parcel map showing portion of Alley #581 to be renamed. Exhibit for 2026M-001SR-001.

Source: Metropolitan Planning Department.

Alley #581 runs parallel to Jefferson Street and Meharry Boulevard in a slightly southwesterly path from Dr. D.B. Todd Jr. Boulevard to its terminus at 28th Avenue North. Its path is interrupted by Interstate 40 and the exit and entrance ramps to and from Jefferson Street. The subject portion of Alley #581, which runs between the interstate right-of-way and 27th Avenue North, appears on two plats recorded in 1888 and 1889 (Fig. 1). The western end of the alley segment appears as an unnamed and unnumbered alley measuring 16 feet in width on the 1888 plat for Dr. O.H. Menees' Subdivision of the Boyd McNairy Lots (Fig. 2).¹ The eastern end of the alley segment, most of which has been lost to the interstate right-of-way, appears as a unnamed and unnumbered alley measuring 16.5 feet in width on the 1889 plat for Long and Ashworth's Subdivision of Lot 35, Boyd McNairy's Plan (Fig. 3).² On both plats, the alley is located south of Jefferson Street and north of Heffernan Street, which was renamed Meharry Boulevard in 1940.³

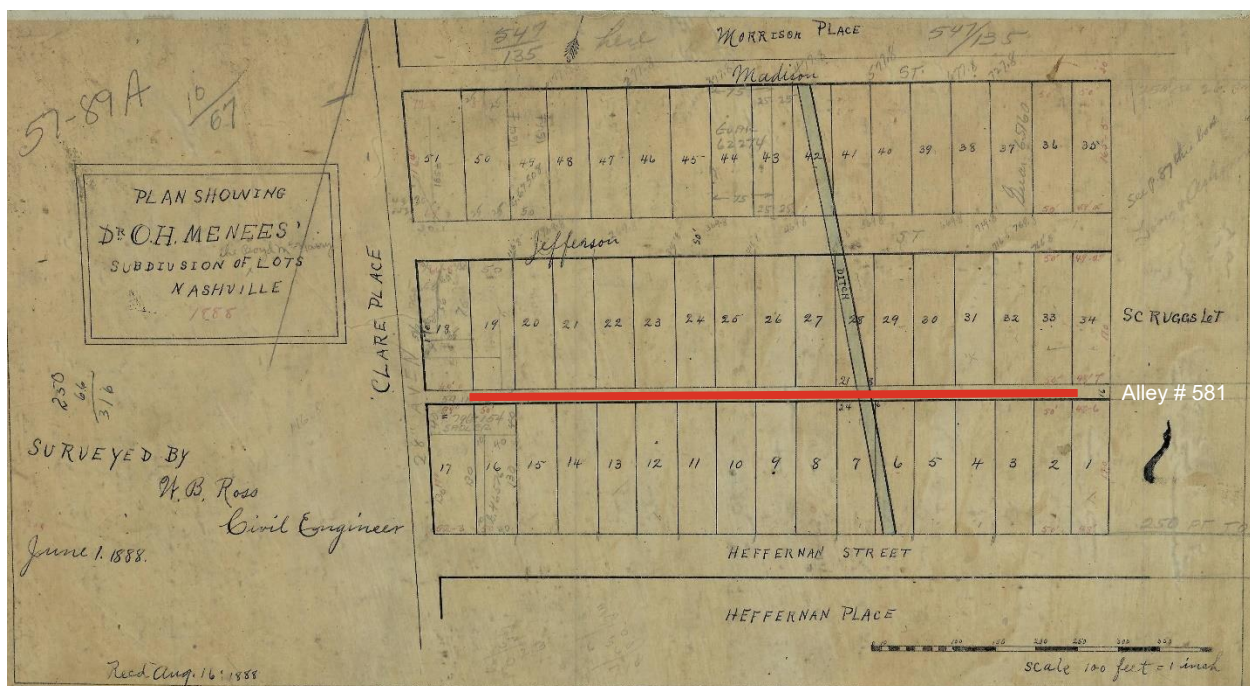


Figure 2: Dr. O.H. Menees' Subdivision of the Boyd McNairy Lots, 1888. Alley #581 noted.

Source: Metropolitan Government Archives.

¹ Dr. O.H. Menees' Subdivision of the Boyd McNairy Lots, Plat Book 57, page 89, recorded August 16, 1888, RODC. Historically, Alley #581 had a longer path, but the Metropolitan Council has closed other segments.

² Long and Ashworth's Subdivision of Lot 35, Boyd McNairy's Plan, Plat Book 57, page 87, registered March 19, 1889, RODC.

³ Clare Place renamed 28th Avenue North by Ordinance No. 090, December 22, 1904. Heffernan Street renamed Meharry Boulevard by Ordinance. No. O40-1361, April 2, 1940.

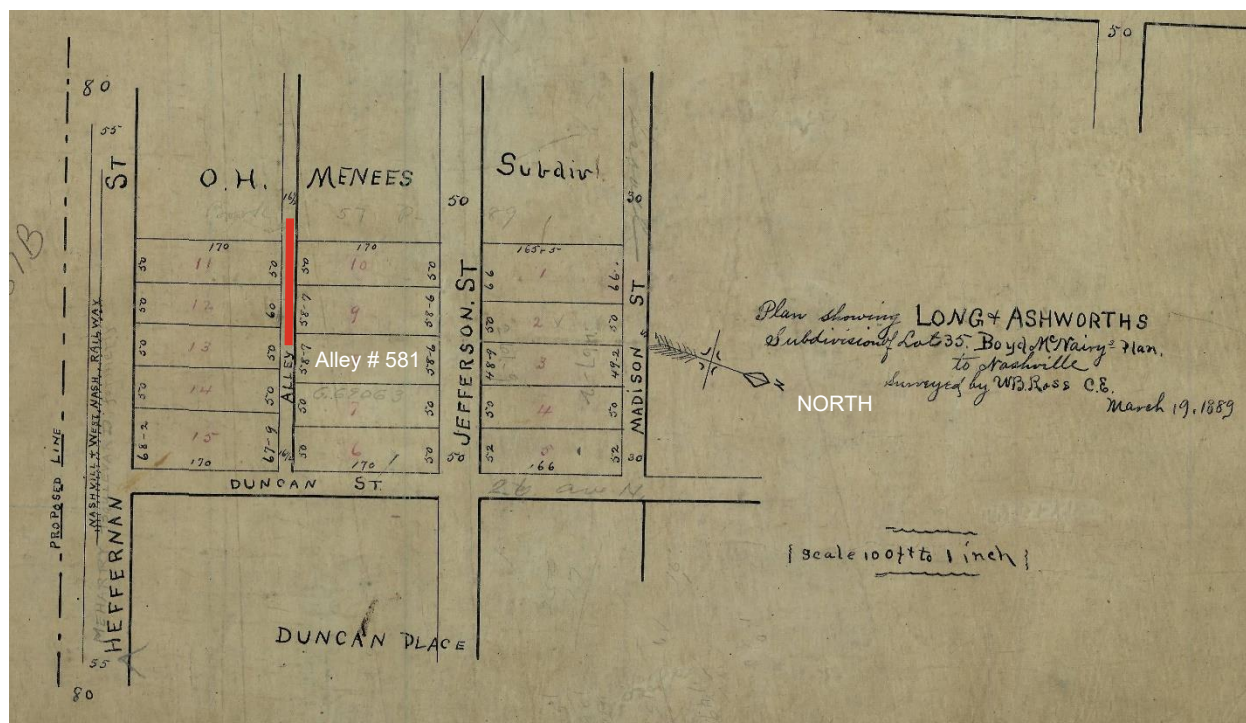


Figure 3: Long and Ashworth's Subdivision of Lot 35, Boyd McNairy's Plan, 1889. Alley #581 noted.

Source: Metropolitan Government Archives.

The City of Nashville began instituting a numeric identification system for alleys by the 1910s. The date when this alley became identified as Alley #581 remains unknown.