



METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

TO: Metropolitan Council
FROM: Metropolitan Historical Commission, staff
DATE: November 21, 2025
RE: BL2025-1108

An ordinance authorizing the renaming of South Street to “King Hollands Avenue”. (Proposal Number 2025M-003SR-001).

The subject portion of South Street, which runs from Eighth Avenue South westerly to Music Square East and is proposed for renaming, was established through two main sections, one located on the east side of 12th Avenue South and the other located on the west side of 12th Avenue South. Twelfth Avenue South was formerly known as the Middle Franklin Turnpike and is noted as such on the historic plats referenced below.

The western section, between 12th Avenue South and 16th Avenue South/Music Square East, appears as “South Street” on the 1866 plat for Sigler’s Plan (Fig. 1).¹ This plat indicates the division of John Sigler’s homeplace between his heirs, daughters Henrietta McCall and Elizabeth S. Hawkins and their respective husbands. On the plat, South Street measures 50 feet wide and serves as the southern boundary of the property. Deeds from 1855 and 1856 suggest the property may have been subdivided into lots around 1856 but the plat was not officially recorded until the Chancery Court action.²

The eastern section, running easterly from 12th Avenue South, was known as Bilbo Avenue until 1891, when it was renamed South Street.³ Bilbo Avenue appears on the 1860 map of the *City of Nashville and Edgefield*, serving as the dividing line between the property of Dr. James Overton to the south and the property of W. N. Bilbo to the north.⁴ T. Dixon Overton’s Plan of Lots was surveyed in July 1867 (Fig. 2).⁵ The subdivision of the Bilbo property was recorded in October 1874 (Fig. 3).⁶

¹ Sigler’s Plan, Chancery Court Plat Book 1, p 4, recorded August 1, 1866. Sigler’s Plan also recorded in Plat Book 21, p 118, on December 7, 1870, RODC, but the street name is not labeled.

² Deeds indicate that in 1855 John Sigler conveyed property to a trustee (T.A. McCall) on behalf of his daughters (Deed Book 22, p 42, May 21, 1855, RODC). Shortly thereafter, Elizabeth S. Hawkins and her husband sold a portion of their allotment to C.E.H. Martin: Deed Book 24, p 402, July 19, 1856, RODC and Deed Book 24, p 531, September 18, 1856, RODC.

³ Ordinance 0, January 8, 1891, Council Minute Book 6, p 385.

⁴ “City of Nashville and Edgefield, Davidson County, Tennessee” Haydon & Booth Publishers, 1860. Tennessee State Library and Archives:

<<https://teva.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15138coll23/id/249/>> accessed November 19, 2025.

⁵ T. Dixon Overton’s Plan of Lots, Plat Book 21, p 88, recorded July 1867, RODC.

⁶ Bilbo Subdivision, Plat Book 21, p 142, recorded October 23, 1874, RODC.

The eastern section of South Street was widened and straightened between 1897 and 1898.⁷ In 1970, South Street was widened to an “80-foot right-of-way” from Eighth Avenue South to 16th Avenue South as part of the Edgehill Urban Renewal Project.⁸ The contract included new sidewalks, curbs, gutters and water and sewer improvements.

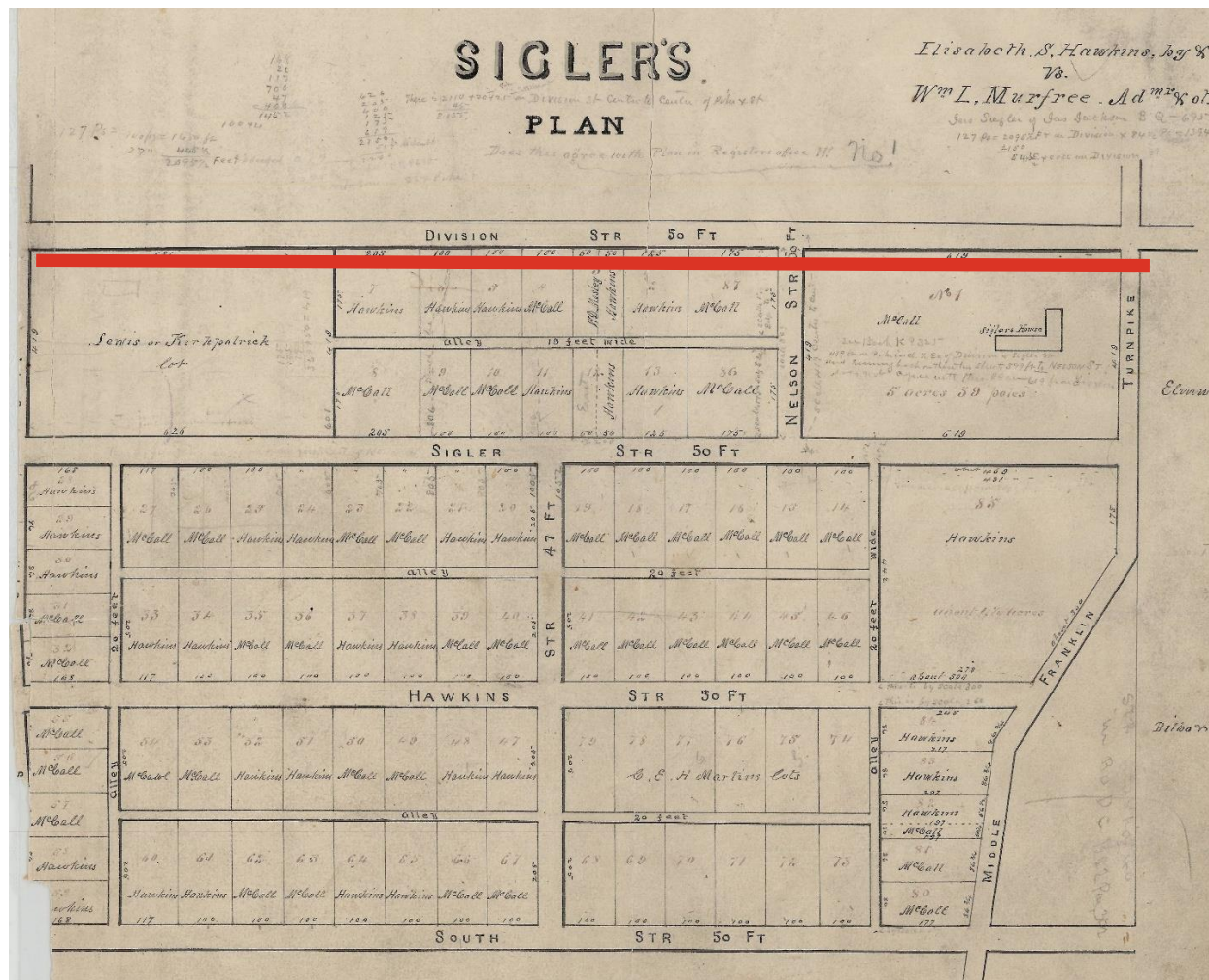


Figure 1: Sigler's Plan, 1866. Source: Metropolitan Planning Department.

⁷ Council Minute Book 9, p 186, September 9, 1897, and Council Minute Book 9, p 299, February 11, 1898. Nineteen parcels were condemned for the straightening and widening of South Street between Spruce Street (8th Avenue South) and Kayne Avenue (12th Avenue South).

⁸ “Edgehill Work Bids Open,” *Tennessean*, 27 February 1970.

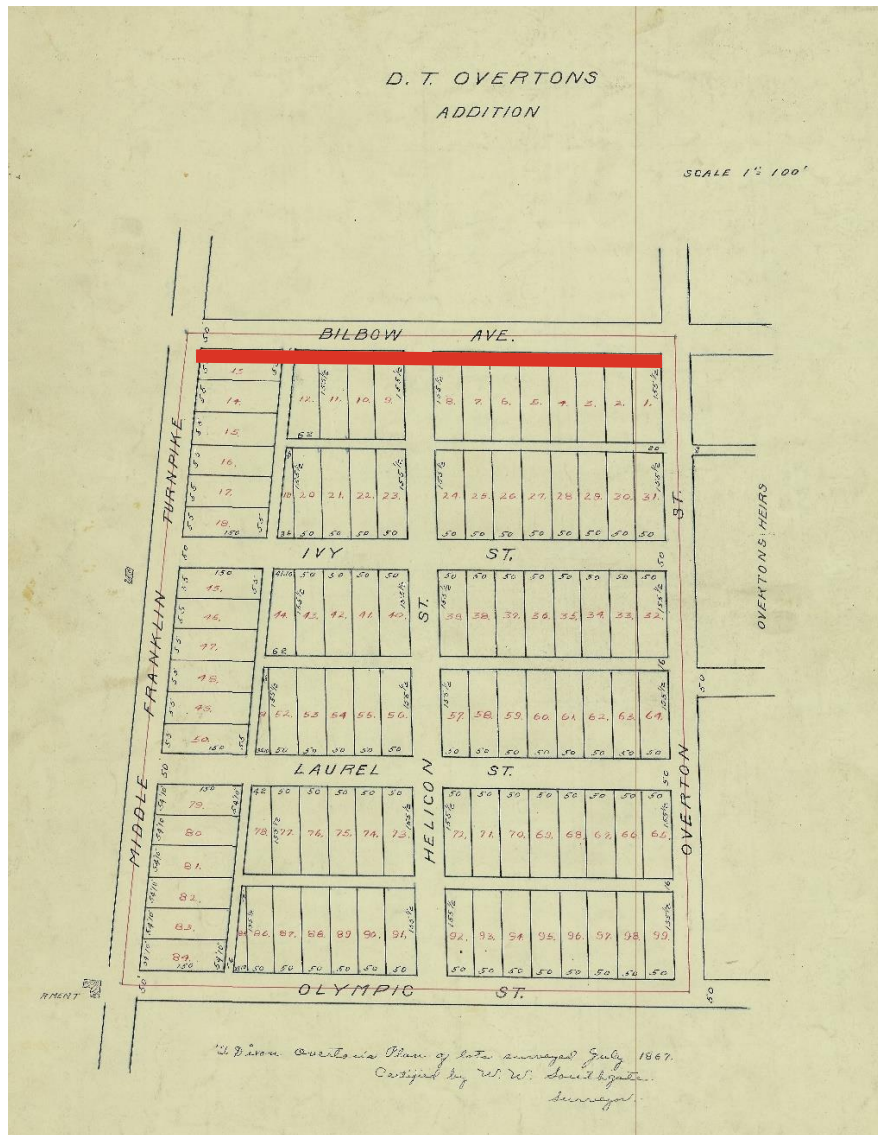


Figure 2: Overton's Addition, 1867. Source: Metropolitan Planning Department.

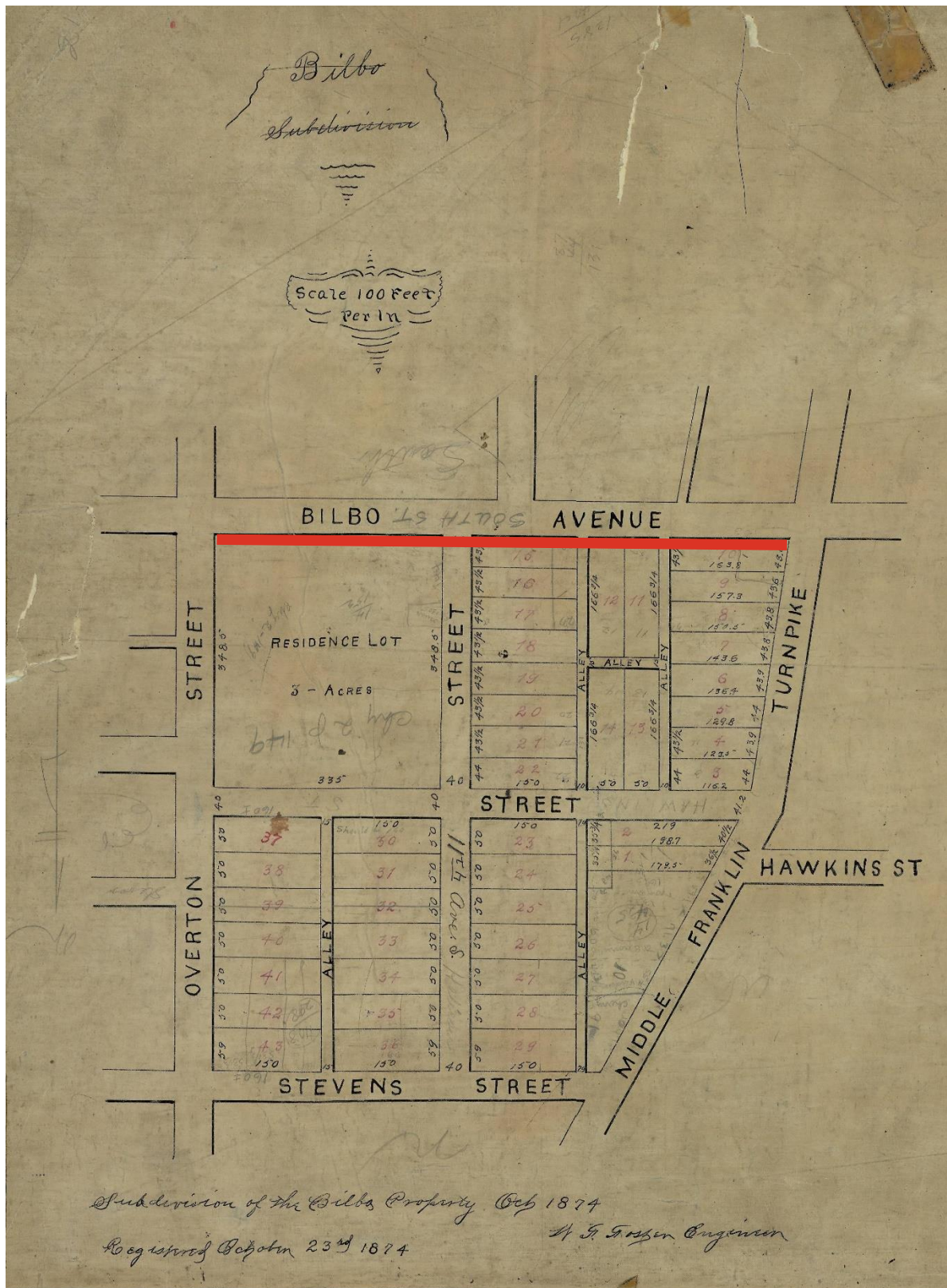


Figure 3: Bilbo Subdivision, 1874. Bilbo Avenue at south (top of map), Stevens Street at north (bottom of map).
Source: Metropolitan Planning Department.