



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

Metropolitan Historical Commission
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission
Sunnyside in Sevier Park
3000 Granny White Pike
Nashville, Tennessee 37204
Telephone: (615) 862-7970

To: Metropolitan Council
From: Metropolitan Historical Commission, Staff
Date: January 30, 2023
Re: BL2023-1648

An ordinance to amend the Geographic Information Systems Street and Alley Centerline Layer for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, by renaming Horton Avenue, between 11th Avenue South and 18th Avenue South, to “DeFord Bailey Avenue” (Proposal Number 2022M-005SR-001).

The section of Horton Avenue which runs from 11th Avenue South to 18th Avenue South was constructed in sections first known as Pike Street and Weston Avenue. By October 1941, after several changes, the road from 11th Avenue South to 18th Avenue South was called Horton Avenue.¹

The name changes for this stretch of road provided continuity with a section of Horton platted in 1869 by John A. McCampbell’s Addition (Fig. 1).² On this plat, Horton runs westerly from Woodward Street (9th Avenue, no longer extant), across Currey Street (10th Avenue), to a 20-ft alley, later named Koscis/Buell Avenue (11th Avenue).³

¹ Pike Street, running from 11th Avenue to 15th Avenue, was renamed Horton Street by Ordinance 063 on May 14, 1908. By this same ordinance, Horton Street from Olympic to Chestnut Street, east of 8th Avenue, was changed to Cherry Avenue. Weston Avenue, running from Villa Place to 18th Avenue South, was renamed Horton Street by Ordinance S01526 on October 7, 1941. Master Index to Council Minutes 1861-1954, Board of Public Works 1921-1947, City of Nashville. Office of the Metropolitan Clerk.

² John A. McCampbell’s Addition, Registered October 21, 1869, in Plat Book 21, page 104.

³ Although Horton Avenue was platted as early as 1869, and agents Browns & Cheatham auctioned lots in McCampbell’s Addition as quickly as April and May 1870, the road does not appear in City Directories until 1896. Horton Avenue from 11th Avenue South to Hillside was closed by ordinances 069-721 and 069-781, approved on February 4, 1969, and May 6, 1969, respectively. Cross streets renamed numerically in 1904.

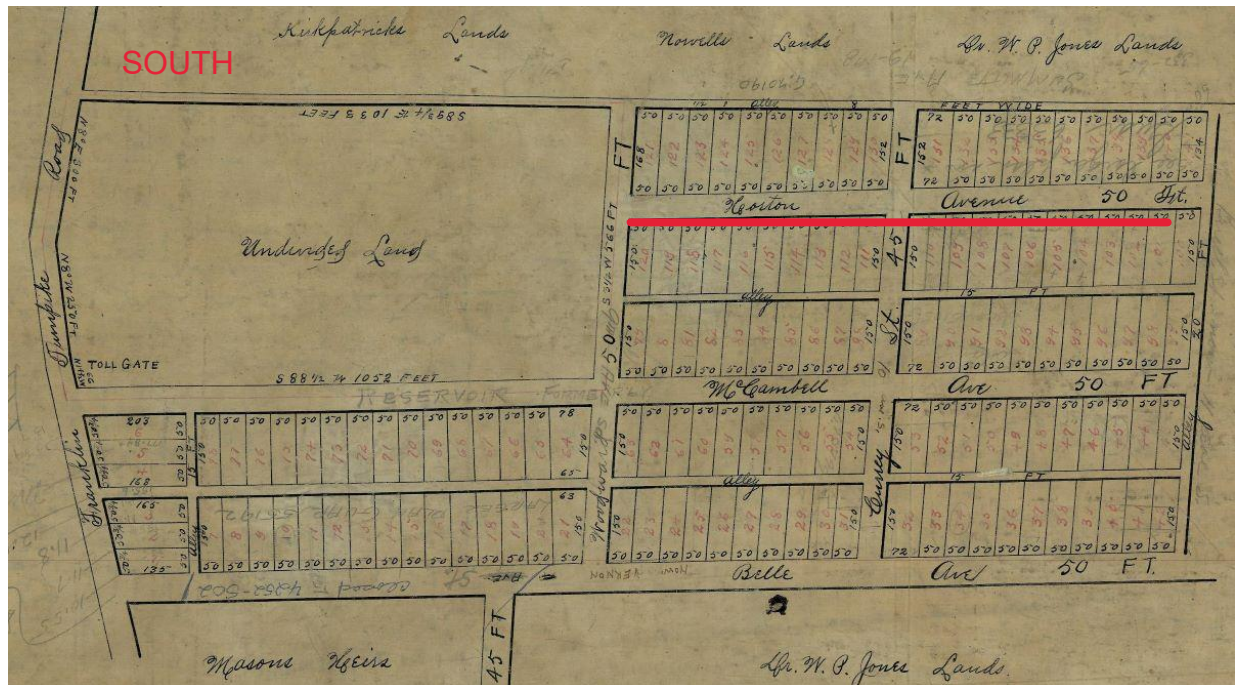


Figure 1: John A. McCampbell's Addition, 1869. Source: Metro Archives. South at top of image.

The 1875 Harris and Dickerson Plan of the same property provides a clue to the source of the Horton Avenue name. The plat identifies a large undivided area of land, also shown on the 1869 plan, as “McCampbell of Horton” (Fig. 2).⁴ This undivided land would eventually become part of the City Reservoir, which was constructed from 1887-1889. According to a deed registered on June 3, 1869, John A. McCampbell purchased 25 acres of land here on the west side of Franklin Pike, “being the hill immediately at the first toll gate” on the pike.⁵ The Clerk and Master sold the property to McCampbell at a public auction on May 28, 1853, following a decree by the Chancery Court rendered in the cause of Sophia W. Horton, Complainant, and Woodfolk and Fall, Defendants, during its November 1852 term. The 1869 deed served to “carry into effect said sale.”⁶ Sophia Western Davis Horton was the widow of Joseph White Horton (1790-1846). Two of her sons-in-law, W. W. Woodfolk and Alexander Fall, were executors of Joseph W. Horton’s estate and, as such, had attempted to sell the property in 1848 promoting the property’s “most beautiful eminence for building near the city.”⁷

⁴ Harris and Dickerson Plan, Registered November 16, 1875, in Plat Book 21, page 144. The plan divides a portion of McCampbell’s plan, a portion of which he purchased from Currey, between A.J. Harris and W.S. Dickerson.

⁵ Howell (Morton B.), Clerk & Master, to McCampbell, J.A., Registered Jun 3, 1869, Deed Book 40, page 111. Howell was Clerk & Master of Chancery Court.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Fall was married to Elizabeth Cheatham Horton and Woodfolk was married to Ellen Douglas Horton, daughters of Joseph and Sophia Horton. J.B. White served as Clerk & Master at the time of the 1853 sale. *The Nashville Union*, Wed, Jan 19, 1853, p 2; *The Daily Union*, Mon, Nov 20, 1848, p 3.

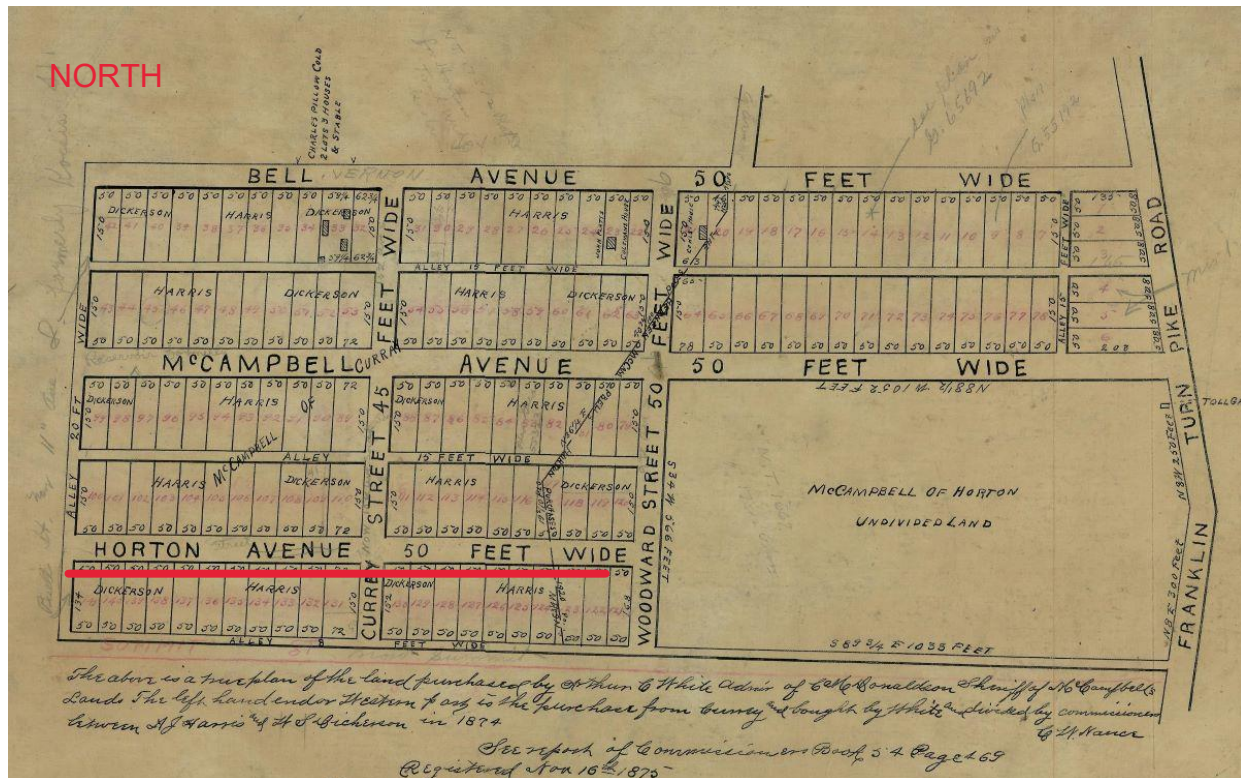


Figure 2: Harris and Dickerson Plan, 1875. Source: Metro Archives.

In 1846, Joseph W. Horton died at his residence “in the county” on Franklin Pike; he was 56.⁸ Horton was a former Davidson County Sheriff and Cashier of the Bank of Tennessee. The Plan of the Estate of Joseph W. Horton, deceased, filed in an early Chancery Court plat book, shows some of the extent of Horton’s landholdings (Fig. 3).⁹ The plat appears to assign property to his sons, Joseph White Horton (J.W.), William Dixon Horton (W.D.), and John D. Horton (J.D.), and to the families of his daughters, Anna Horton (Mayson/Mason), Ellen Douglas Horton (Woodfolk), Elizabeth Cheatham Horton (Fall), and Louisa Horton (Dunn).¹⁰

⁸ *The Tennessean*, Mon, Nov 2, 1846, p 3; *Tri-Weekly Nashville Union*, Tue, Nov 3, 1846, p 2.

⁹ Chancery Court Plat Book 1, page 44, undated. Another plat for Joseph W. Horton’s Plan, drawn in 1851 and registered in June 1855, shows Horton property along the west side of Rains Avenue. Joseph W. Horton’s Plan, Registered June 4, 1855, Plat Book 21, page 4.

¹⁰ For more information about Joseph and Sophia Horton and their descendants, see Octavia Zollicoffer Bond’s feature “Yester Nashville Names: The Horton Family,” *Nashville American*, Sun, Oct 17, 1909, p 4.

shown on the 1871 map are likely the homes of Louisa Horton Dunn, who married Col. W. D. Dunn, shown on the Chancery Court plat near the Franklin turnpike, and Joseph W. Horton II (or Jr., then later, Sr.), located to the east near Rains Avenue. This map also shows the tollgate referenced in the 1869 deed for McCampbell's Addition.

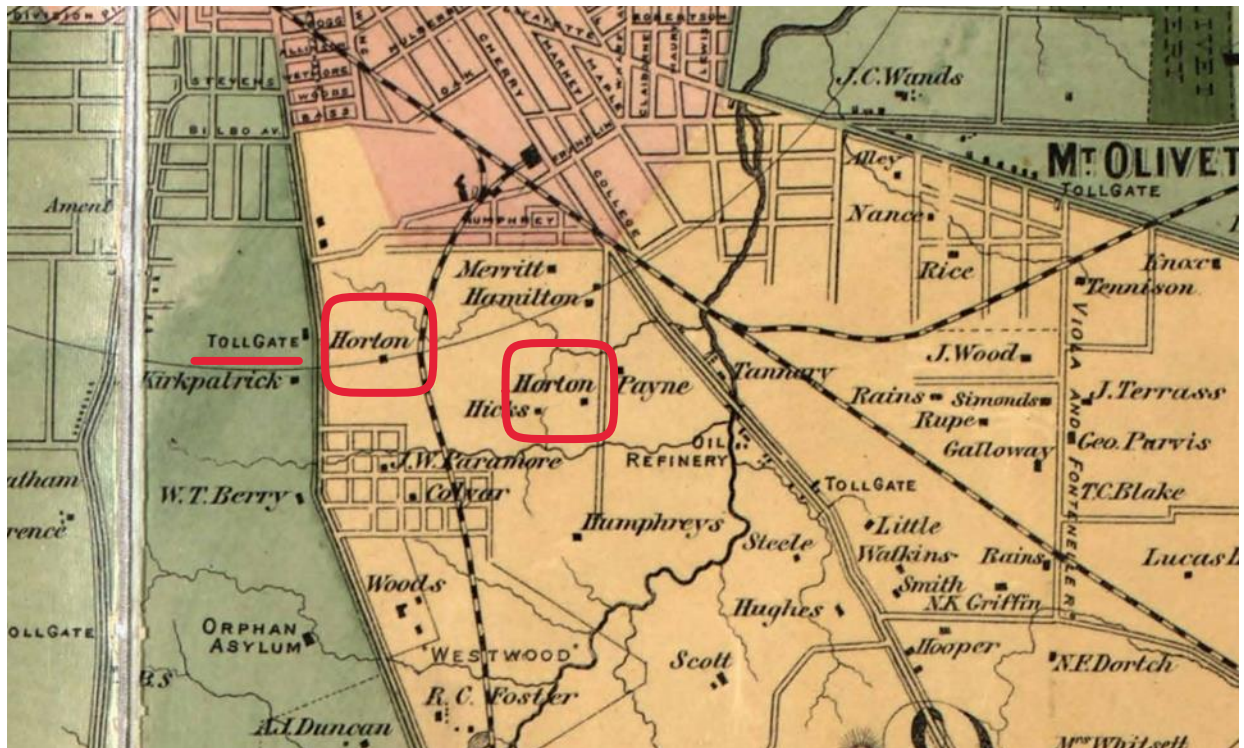


Figure 4: Map of Davidson County Tennessee, 1871. Source: Library of Congress.

As most of the Horton family's residential property was located east of today's Eighth Avenue South, generally between Chestnut Street and Rains Avenue, the area once contained several roads bearing the Horton name, including a section of road called Horton Street located north of Chestnut Street, behind Fall School. This section was platted in 1891 as part of the Franklin Square Plan, which subdivided property owned by Thomas H. Malone (married to Ellen W. Fall, a Horton descendant) and Elizabeth J. Fall.¹² It was renamed Cherry Street in 1908. Another short section of Horton Street, possibly just a private road, ran east-west just south of Chestnut, in an area now part of the I-65 right-of-way.¹³

In summary, Horton Avenue was likely named for the Horton family, who owned property on both sides of the Franklin Turnpike but resided on property east of the turnpike.

¹² Plan of Franklin Square, Registered June 13, 1891, Plat Book 57, page 163.

¹³ "Map of Nashville, Tennessee and Suburbs, Compiled 1907 and 1908 for Nashville Title Company," W.Z. Hitt Surveyor, available online through the Metropolitan Planning Department, accessed 27 January 2023, <<https://nashville.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=c14ec64626244f6d975c94c2f190edb1>>.