

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



Metropolitan Historical Commission
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission
Sunnyside in Sevier Park
1113 Kirkwood Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37204
Telephone: (615) 862-7970

To: Metropolitan Council
From: Metropolitan Historical Commission, Staff
Date: April 29, 2025
Re: ORDINANCE NO. BL2025 - 783

An ordinance authorizing the renaming of an unimproved portion of Toney Road to "Lillard Lane." (Proposal Number 2025M-002SR-001)

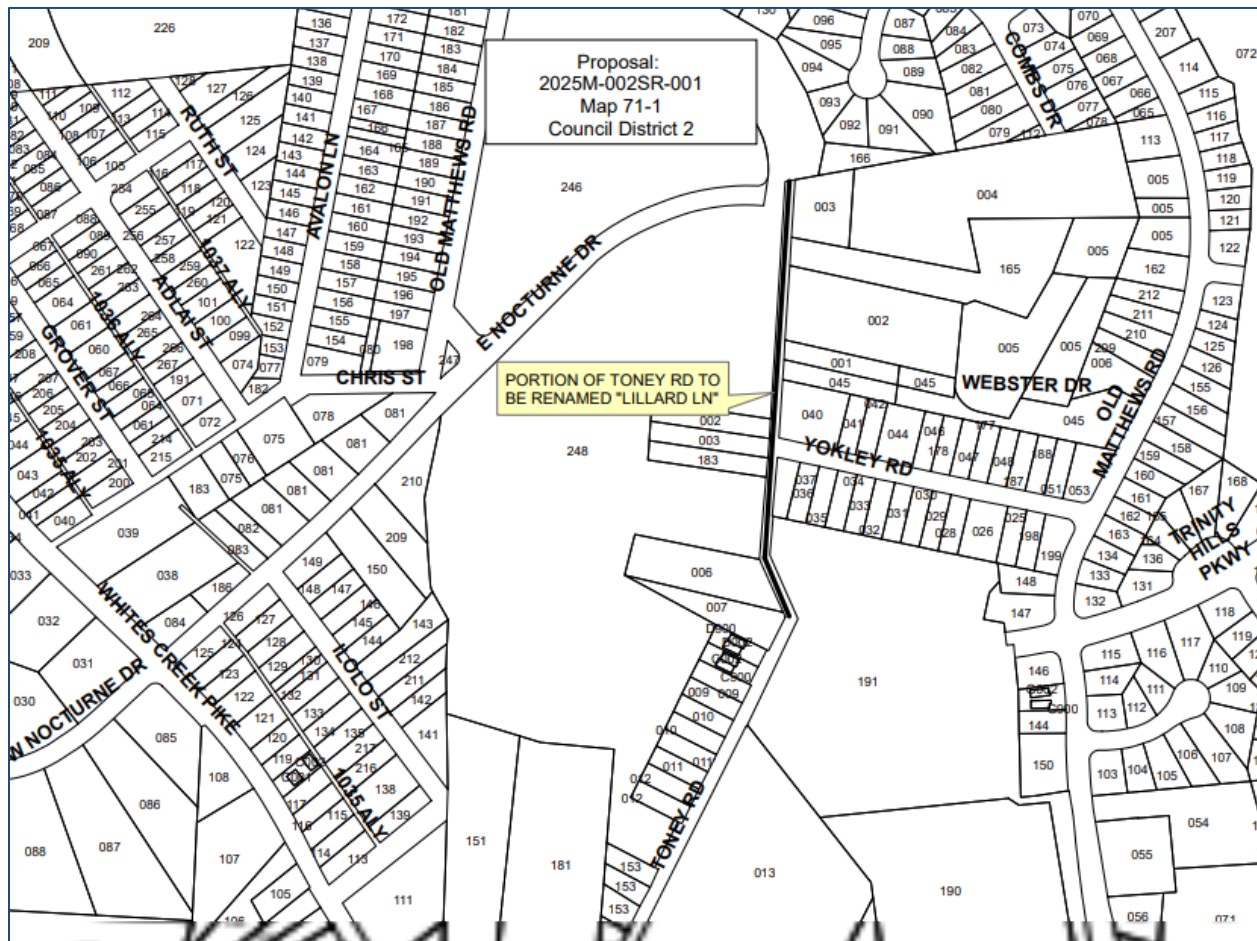


Figure 1: Parcel map showing portion of Toney Road to be renamed. Exhibit for 2025M-002SR-001.
Source: Metropolitan Planning Department.

A section of Toney Road (unimproved) appears as a narrow, unnamed road along the eastern boundary of Lot E of the Dewey Heights Addition of Haynie's Subdivision, drawn in 1900 (Figs. 1 & 2).¹ Measuring 206.25 feet in length, it is located 858 feet east of a "proposed street," which was the intended northern extension of Manilla Street, a 50 ft-wide road connecting to Whites Creek Pike.² Faint pencil notations, added after the recording, identify the unnamed road as Toney Street. Decades later, in 1968, J.B. Downey & Sons, Inc., sold property here to Trinity Hills Village, Inc., "Including but excluding a right-of-way for Toney Road approximately 206 feet, more or less, in length, as shown on Dewey Heights Addition (Block "E"), as of record in Book 161, page 94, said Register's Office."³

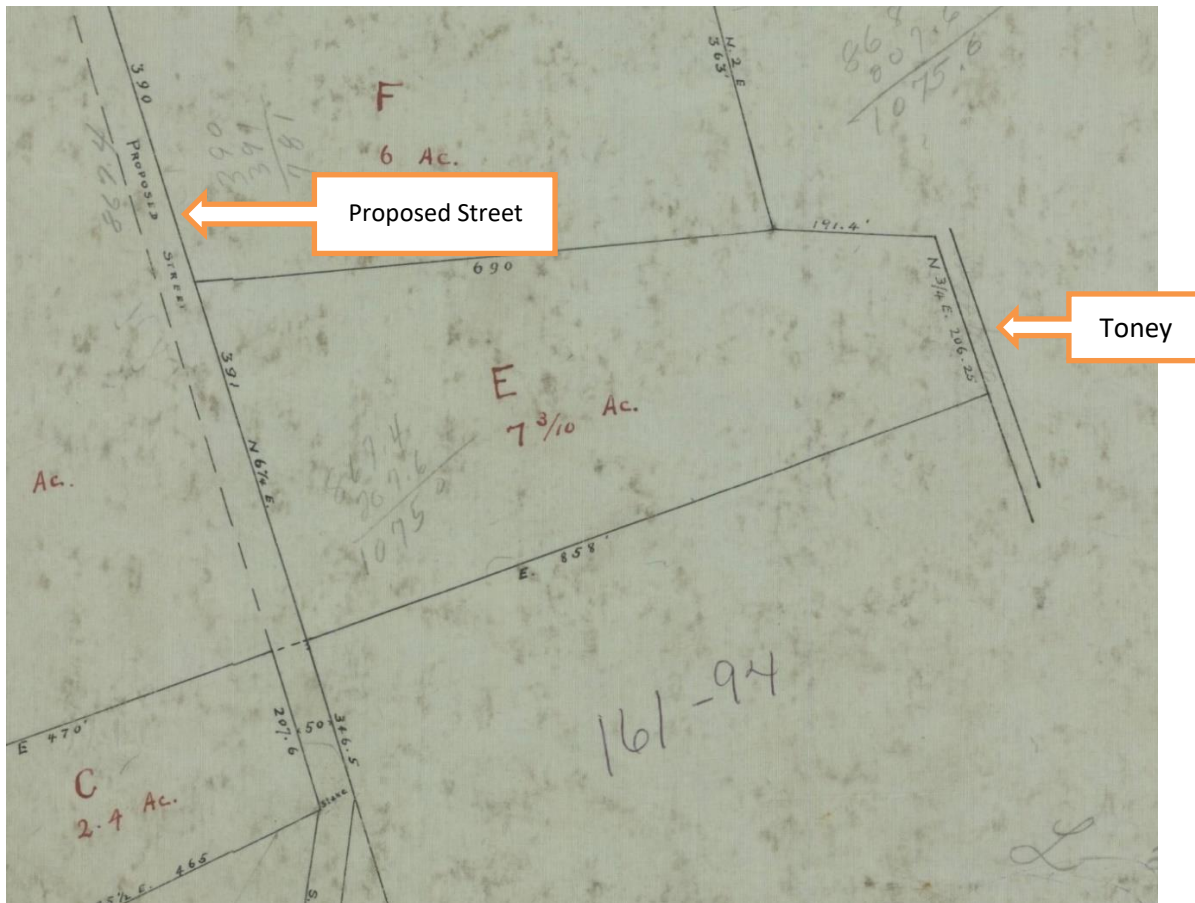
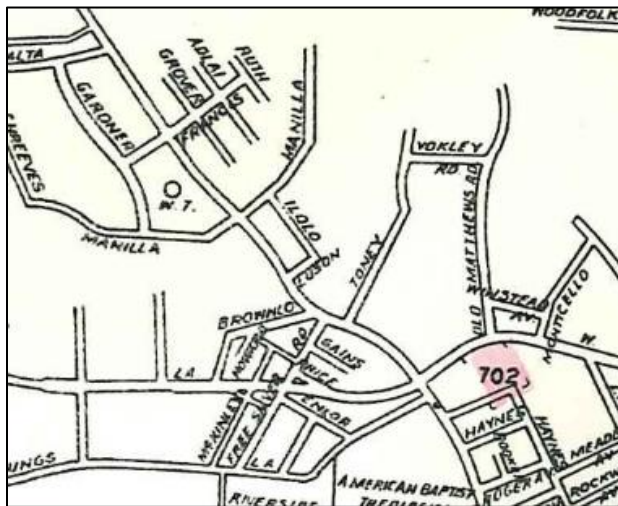


Figure 2: Dewey Heights Addition, 1900 (cropped). Source: Metropolitan Planning Department.

¹ Dewey Heights Addition of Haynie's Subdivision of 51 Acres Bought of W.B. Matthews, recorded on May 15, 1900, Plat book 161, p 94, RODC. Streets not shown include Manilla (E Nocturne), Ilolo, and Luzon (unimproved).
² Manilla Street is now known as East Nocturne Drive. The "proposed street" shown on the 1900 plat is now called Old Matthews Road. It forks northwardly from East Nocturne and serves as the main road through Trinity Hills Village to its terminus at West Trinity Lane.
³ Deed Book 4231, p 191, recorded April 29, 1968, RODC. This deed is found in the history for 0 E Nocturne Dr, Parcel ID: 05916024800. As of April 2025, Metro Government owns 28.35 acres of the 151.50 acres described in the 1968 deed.

As referenced in the plat notes for Dewey Heights Addition, in 1897 Mrs. Lula S. Haynie purchased 51 acres along Whites Creek Pike from W.B. Matthews and his wife, Mary E. Matthews.⁴ The deed for Haynie's purchase calls out features of the neighboring property within the land description, thereby providing a clue to the origin of the road's name. The purchased property begins "at a stone in the 21st District at what was John A. Toney's corner near said Toney's House then ... to a stake near said Toney's Dwelling, hence in a Westwardly direction ... to a stake in center of a rail fence at Toney's Corner, thence ... to the center of the White's Creek Pike..." indicating John A. Toney's former ownership of the neighboring land.

In 1885, John A. Toney (1825-1895) and his third wife, Alice (Richardson) Toney (1859-1928), purchased 60 acres of property here from W.G. Jordan and wife, M.H. Jordan.⁵ The deed notes "in the conveyance the said Jordan conveys to the said Toney an open avenue from the said tract of land herein conveyed to the White's Creek Pike. Said Avenue being twenty feet wide." Although today's Toney Road is likely wider than 20 feet, presumably this is the same "avenue" through the property. John A. Toney was born in Virginia, moved to Nashville as a young man, and was a steamboat builder and ship carpenter before retiring to a farm along Whites Creek Pike.⁶ Together, John and Alice Toney had six children (plus children from previous marriages). One of their sons, Fred Toney, was a professional baseball player from 1911-1923, pitching for the Chicago Cubs, Cincinnati Reds, New York Giants, and the St. Louis Cardinals.⁷ After John's death, Alice married Charles F. Vester.⁸



MHC staff were unable to confirm the date of construction date for the improved Toney Road or its acceptance as an official Davidson County road. Toney Road, from Whites Creek Pike to Yokley Road, appears on the 1957 Sanborn site map, suggesting it was constructed by 1957 (Fig. 3).⁹

Figure 3: 1957 Sanborn fire insurance map of Nashville, Tennessee, Key map for Vol. 7. Source: MHC collection.

⁴ Deed Book 215, p 342, recorded March 13, 1897, RODC.

⁵ Deed Book 87, p 392, recorded March 7, 1885, RODC.

⁶ "The Death Record - John A. Toney," *Tennessean*, 27 Sept 1895, 4. See also Find A Grave, John Alexander Toney: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228189707/john_alexander-toney <accessed 28 April 2025>.

⁷ Find A Grave, Fred Alexandra "Man Mountain" Toney: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/53027070/fred_alexandra-toney <accessed 28 April 2025>. Mike Lynch, "Fred Toney," *Society for American Baseball Research*, <https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/fred-toney/> <accessed 28 April 2025>. Author may have confused John A. Toney's profession with that of another John Toney, see footnote 1.

⁸ "Vester Lands" shown on the neighboring plat for Cumberland View, Haynie's Subdivision of the McLaughlin Land, Deed Book 332, p 45, recorded June 6, 1907, RODC.

⁹ 1957 Sanborn fire insurance map of Nashville, Tennessee, Sanborn Map Publishing Company, New York, New York.