Fort Negley: Past, Present, Future

IV: Fort Negley as a Historic Site Under Threat

OLLI WINTER 2020
DR. ANGELA SUTTON, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
The Plan

• Jan 17: Enslavement & Building the Fort
• Jan 24: Defense, the US Colored Troops, Battle of Nashville, Emancipation
• Jan 31: Fort Negley & 19th Century Black Nashville
• Feb 7: Fort Negley as a Historic Site Under Threat
• Feb 14: Fort Negley & UNESCO (11am)
• Feb 21: The Future of Fort Negley (Followed by optional walking tour – weather permitting)
Last Time
Postwar Rocktown & Bass Street
1920s & 30s

The price offered for said land by the Board of Park Commissioners of Nashville, Tennessee, to wit—$20,000.00...a fair and reasonable price for the property ... an advantageous sale for the owners because of the unusual topography of the land, it being a high rocky hill, sloping steeply in all directions, with no soil for vegetation and unsuitable for residential purpose or industrial uses and surrounded by railroad tracks, a saw mill and small houses or shacks by negroes and a few white people of the poorer class... – Parks Board Meeting Minutes, 1931
WPA
Fort Negley becomes a Park (for Whites)
1935 Nashville
1950s

Nashvillians Buy Animals for Zoo

By Paul Gardner
Staff Correspondent

DALLAS, Tex. — Nashvillians purchased 22 animals at a sale last Thursday (Nov. 3) at the Oklahoma City Zoo, with proceeds to benefit the Nashville Zoological Society.

The sale was held to raise funds for the new Nashville Zoo and to pay for the transportation of the animals. The sale included a variety of small animals, such as rabbits, guinea pigs, and chameleons.

The proceeds from the sale were to be used to purchase additional animals and to help cover the cost of building the new zoo. The Nashville Zoo had been in operation for several years, but the new facility was expected to greatly expand the number of animals on display.

The sale was well attended, with many Nashvillians coming out to purchase animals for their own collections. The sale was a success, and the proceeds will be used to help build a new and improved Nashville Zoo.
“Urban Renewal” and Highways
Images of Nashville's Civil Rights movement courtesy of the Civil Rights Reading Room at the Nashville Public Library.
Civil War Tourism?
2007
Historic Nashville: ‘If we can't save Fort Negley, then what are we doing?'

By: Josh Breelon

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