

Growth and Urban Planning of Belmont University

Matthew Burns

Abstract and Thesis

Over the years Belmont University has transformed from Belmont College, to Ward-Belmont School for Women, back to Belmont College, and finally to Belmont University. Not only has the name changed over the years, but the physical campus has changed and grown over the decades, especially within the past decade. Belmont strives to continue to grow in a fashion that best suits the surrounding neighborhoods and still serves the campus in the best way possible. Although the school does a tremendous job of detailing and projecting the plan for growth, along with determining how to spend its money when purchasing property, the rate at which the university has grown is not reflected in the updates, or lack thereof, to the Master Development Plan.

Context and Introduction

Deal May Expand Ward-Belmont

Coeducational Use Proposed;
Transfer to Baptists Confirmed

See editorial "In Step With Progress," on page 12. Story on student reaction on page 2.

Transfer of historic Ward-Belmont school, one of the nation's best known schools for girls, to the Tennessee Baptist convention yesterday will probably give Nashville another four-year coeducational college.

Chances are that Ward-Belmont's high school and its conservatory of music, both of which probably would be retained, would also be coeducational.

The transaction, which involved the transfer of bonds and preferred stock as well as bank indebtedness, was announced yesterday by Dr. Charles W. Pope, executive secretary of the state Baptist group, who stressed that it was not a "purchase."

Physical assets include more than 20 acres of land and 44 buildings such as dormitories, classrooms, library and faculty dwellings. Total value of the property has been estimated at more than \$4,000,000.

Baptist Offices To Move

Dr. Pope announced also that state Baptist headquarters will be moved from the present location at 149 Sixth ave., and 725 Commerce st., to Fidelity hall on the Ward-Belmont campus, facing Belcourt ave.

After the transfer, the executive board, on recommendation of Dr. Pope, asked the education committee of the Tennessee Baptist board to study the situation with a view toward obtaining its best use for educational purposes.

Schools Not Yet Approached

Although final word on changes will come after the committee has made its report to the board in the near future, it was understood that the removal of a portion of

Cumberland university in Lebanon or Union university in Jackson to Ward-Belmont is a possibility.

Neither Cumberland nor Union university has been approached on the subject and probably will not

(Continued on Page 4, Column 3)

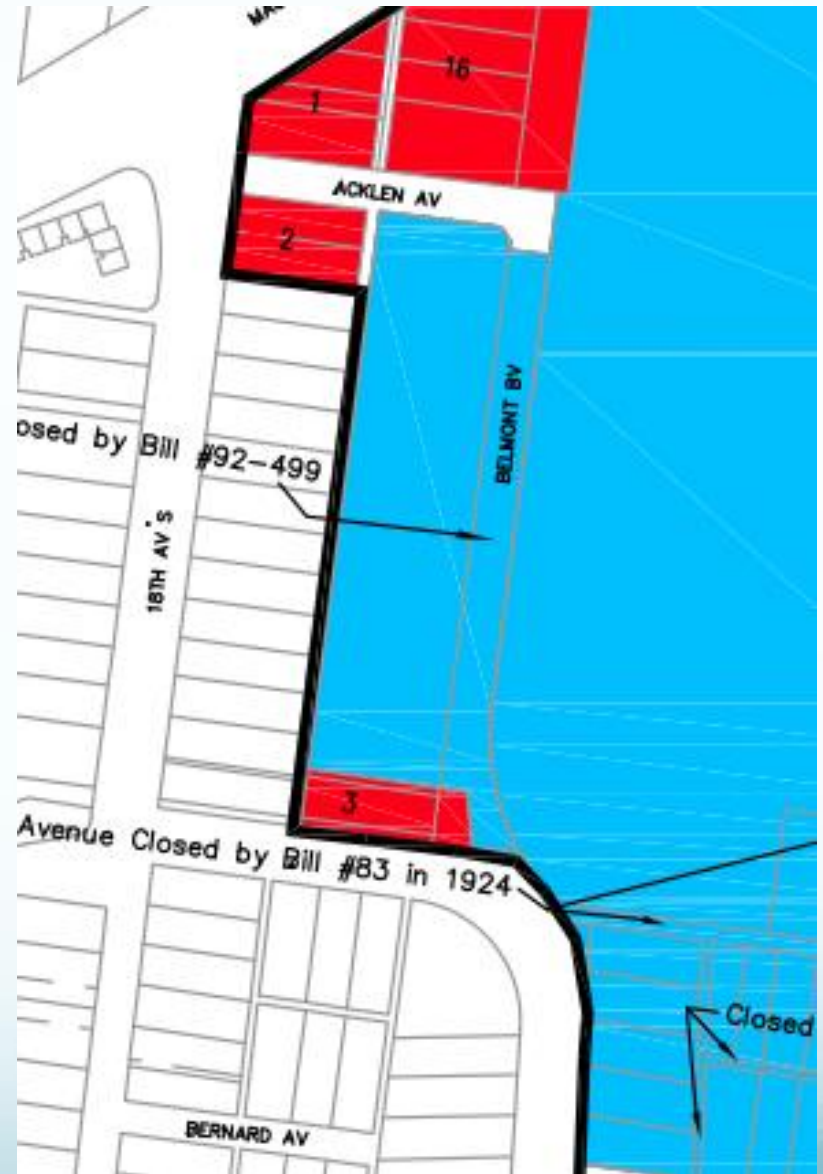
Art Building and Library

Parcel 10412028600

Sold in 1982

\$425,000

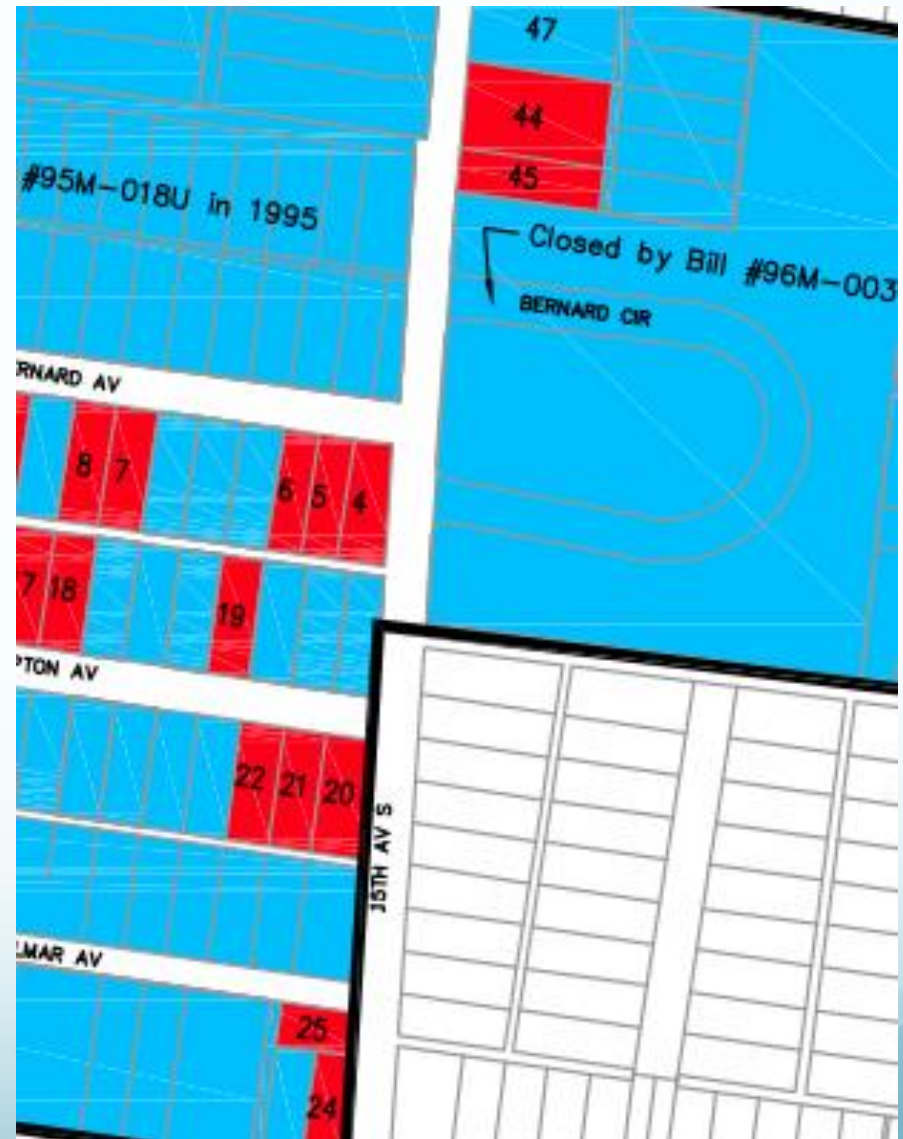
3.48 acres



Purchasing Property Priorities

Some properties are purchased for top dollar in order to expand the university as needed.

Other properties are not purchased, even though they lie within the Institutional Overlay.



Future Expansions

- Properties are already being purchased for the future
- Many properties do not lie within the Institutional Overlay
- Some Properties are purchased by request of the Metro Government.



Drawing Conclusions

- University has a very detailed plan for the future.
- The Master Development Plan is 10 years old and needs updating to match the rate of growth.
- Since the school is landlocked, it must pay top dollar in order to expand.
- Financial situations have changed over the decades, allowing the property to come full circle with Ward-Belmont.