

Adas Jeshurim – Lakeshore Synagogue

Adas Jeshurim

[Congregation of the People of Israel] incorporated as Adas Jeshurun in 1920, first met in the home of Lewis Brown 289 E.156th and at Kunz Hall at the corner of Waterloo Rd. and E. 156th.



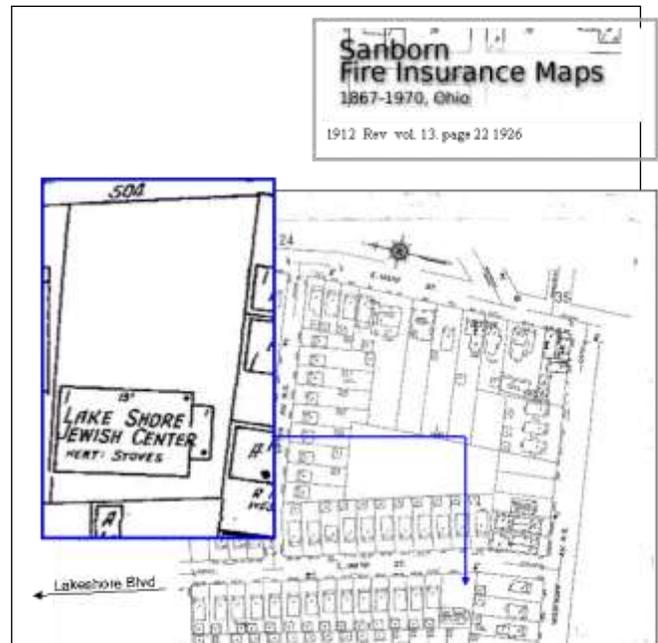
Later that same year adjoining lots at 500 and 504 East 149th was acquired from Joseph Laronge (a member of The Euclid Avenue Temple) who had owned the majority of the lots on the residential street. Construction of a simple one story building was completed in 1923. Adath Jershurim merged with the Lake Shore Jewish Center, also known as the Collinwood Unity Club, an organization that focused on providing Hebrew School and other community activities for the Jewish children in the area including a Boy Scout troop.

About Collinwood

Originally part of the Township of East Cleveland, gaining status as a Village (date unknown) until being annexed along with neighboring Nottingham in 1910 to the City of Cleveland.

The Collinwood rail yard was built in 1874 by a subsidiary of the NYC Rail, Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Rail in 1874. As the industrial revolution grew so did the amount of factories in the area. Those included, Eaton, TRW, General Motors, and hundreds of small machine shops.

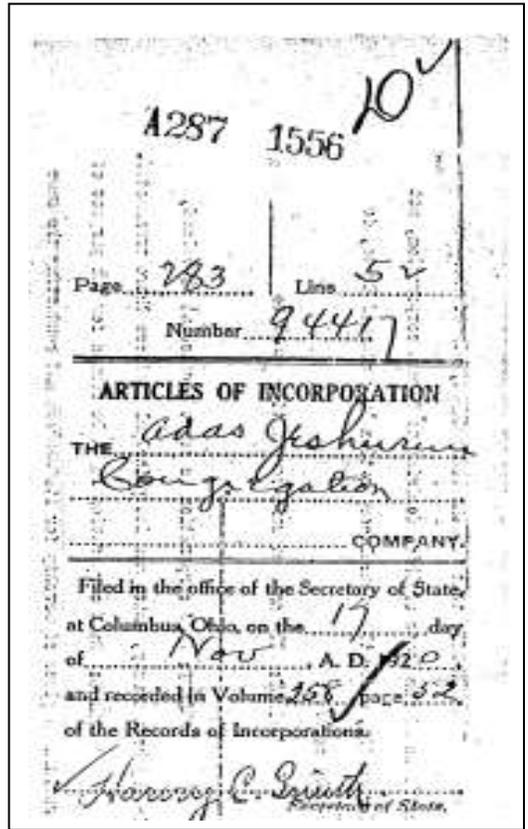
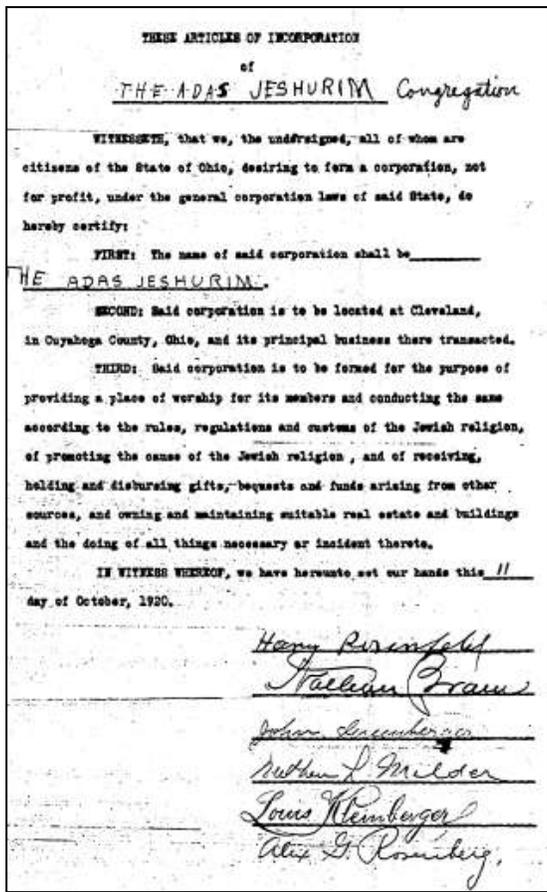
In 1927 Architect Sigmund Braverman was commissioned to design a new Jewish Center for the community. Newspaper clipping and records compiled by the Works Progress Administration, stored at the Western Reserve Historical Society indicate the project went as far as a holding a funding raising event that included support by former Cleveland's City Manager, William Hopkins; however the economic downturn of 1929 apparently ended any hope of this project becoming reality.



According to David Rothenberg author of The Jews of Collinwood remembers as a child growing up in the area the membership was small and at times without a Rabbi, however, the building was the center of the small Jewish community for many years including the occasion in which he along with Howard Cohen, and Howard Reider share the pulpit for their Bat Mitzvah in February of 1934.

When there is no Rabbi,
 No need to fear that a prayer service can not take place when there is no rabbi to lead. Under Jewish Law as long as there are 10 men over the age of 13 there is a sufficient amount of men for a minion (quorum) for a service. The group generally looks to an elder or scholar with the group to lead.

In 1936 the amount of Jews in the area would no longer support the costs of operations and the building was converted into living space that was rented out. The property was sold in September of 1952 to Edmund D. Drowns who sold the property to Thomas and Alice Harker in October 1968. The property was then sold to Beverly Jenkins in 1976. Over the next three years the ownership would be transferred several times including the local economic development corporation known as North Shores Inc. According to city records the building had been condemned 1997, a further inspection in April of 1999 indicates a vacant lot with some debris to be removed, and in June of 2000, a new home was built by Ryser Properties and sold to Douglass and Beatrice Revels.



Reprint of the Incorporation Documents filed in 1920 with the Ohio Secretary of State.

Ahavath Zion --- Sherith Zion

Ahavath Zion [Lovers of Zion] was established by L. Friedman, Mailer Volper, Harry Katz, B Pass, P. Margolin, J. Rothfelder and Max Stashower in 1908. According to Dr. Stan Lasky's assessment of documents in 2000 for the Western Reserve Historical Society, the congregation "broke away" from **Oer Chodosh Anshe Sfard**. The first known meeting place was the former **Woodland Avenue Methodist Church** at 6010 Woodland Ave. The Greek revival structure was built in 1895 and designed by architect Sidney R. Badgley. The Church occupied the building until 1914 when the Trustees of the Methodist District Conference disbanded the church and sold the building to Ahavath Zion.

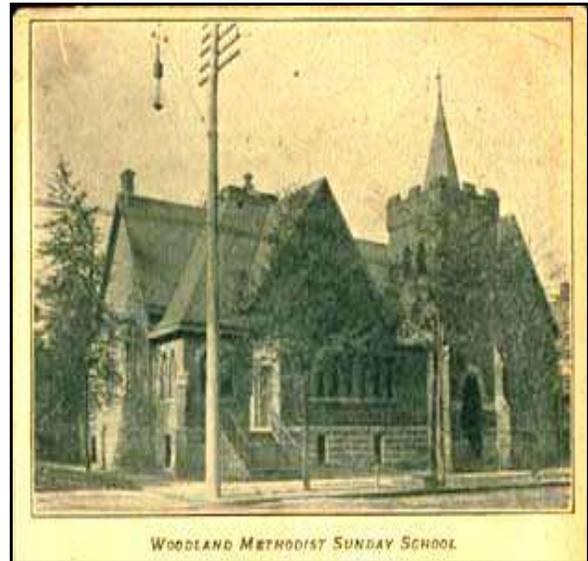


Photo from 1910 Church Newsletter. Walter Leady Collection held at Cleveland State University Michael Schwartz Library. Special Collections



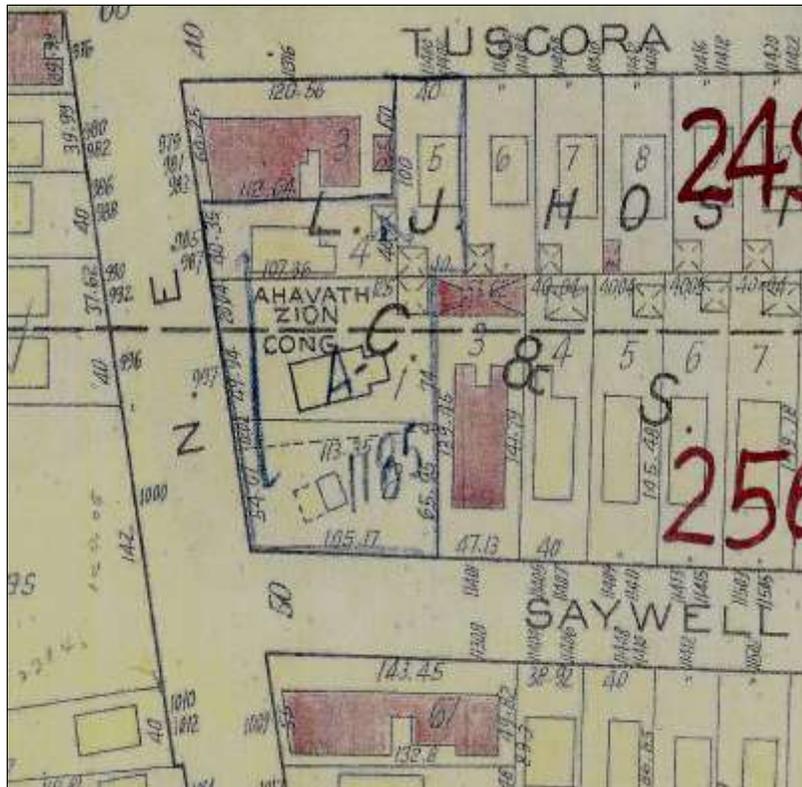
997 Lakeview Drive. Photo taken by Jeff Morris, May 2009. Former location of Ahavath Zion aka The Independent Ahavath Zion. The date the front of the building was added is unknown.

Limited data could be found to determine when Ahavath Zion started holding services at 997 Lakeview Drive in the Glenville neighborhood six miles northeast of their current location. The parcel that included a home estimated to be built in the 1880's had been part of the Saywell farm until September 1924 when George Saywell sold the property to John Zelesko Jr. Less than a year later, on August 4th, 1925, Zelesko sold the property to Max Greenberg, Elias Goldfarb and Charles Shochet, who just two days later sold the

property to the Independent Ahavath Zion. In that era having several board members or a trusted friend of the congregation make the purchase and then re-sell the property often the same day, gave members of the congregation a spiritual sense of purity by purchasing a house of worship from someone of their faith.

The Lakeview address does not start to appear in the City Directories listing of “Churches – Hebrew” until 1935. The name listed and often used at that point was **The Independent Ahavath Zion Congregation**. No records could be found with the Secretary of State confirming a name change.

An additional piece of the puzzle can be found in the City Directories published after 1928. Along with the name of each congregation is the name and address of the clergy. While the listings up until 1935 had the Woodland address for the congregation, the residence of Rabbi Sacks was 11207 Tuscora, a location much too far from Woodland for the Rabbi to walk during the Sabbath.



1923 Hopkins plat (map) maintained by the City of Cleveland's Engineering Department as a reference tool showing each time a parcel split or the consolidation of parcels occur. The blue penciled boundary indicates the consolidation of several lots and is on file as A-1185.

The larger red number (256) indicated the document number issued by the City Council at the time approval was granted allowing the establishment of a sub division or allotment for further development. Note each parcel within an sub-division or allotment are sequentially numbered. This plat map has two different Sub divisions. C&S and that of L. J. Host. Structures shaded in pink indicate the construction being brick, Pink indicates a wooden structure.

In 1936, member's content with the Woodland Ave. location formed **Sherith Zion**. [Songs of Zion] The charter members included Morris Gender, Aaron Marien, and Joseph Portnoy. For a period of time the congregation occupied the Woodland avenue building. According to documents held at the Western Reserve Historical Society compiled by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and newspaper clippings both of the congregations were found to be in default of the original mortgage for the purchase of the Woodland Ave. property resulting in Sherriff Martin L. O'Donnell selling the property at public auction. The foreclosure proceedings were initiated in 1931; however the deed did not transfer to the new owner until 1941. The delay could be attributed to the large number of properties foreclosed as a result of the Great Depression.

The new owner, **Beulah Baptist Church** allowed Sherith Zion to rent the basement of the building for Sabbath services until 1937 when a former church at 2576 E. 61 St. just north of Woodland was purchased from the **Thankful Baptist Church**, who had purchased the property in May 1929 from the **First Mamaras B'nai Jacob Congregation**, now known as **The Green Road Synagogue**.

The Beulah Church held services along with providing community outreach at the building until 1999, when a major fire required the building to be demolished. Using temporary space the church quickly relocated to a new building at 5706 Woodland Ave where they continue to serve the community. Unfortunately documentation of Sherith Zion's existence beyond the purchase of E.61 St. building is limited to the following newspaper article in the Plain Dealer December 2, 1939 and the sale of the building in 1954.

Sherith Zion congregation on east 61st street and Woodland Ave. will celebrate its third anniversary with a banquet tomorrow night. One of the features will be the burning of the mortgage of more than \$2500.00 The Sherith Zion Congregation aside from the Council Educational Alliance is the only Jewish institution remaining in the East 55th street neighborhood, which was originally the center of Jewish population.

Sherith Zion's sale of the building in 1954 to **St Marks Baptist Church** would be the last document located that could be considered a primary source of the congregations existence. St. Marks was forced in 1971 to relocate to 3196 East 93 St. by Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authorities' development of the King-Kennedy low-cost housing project. Interestingly, the sale by Sherith Zion was signed by the same three people who had incorporated the congregation in 1936. In January 1953 The Independent Ahavath Zion congregation merged with **Beth Am Synagogue** located in Cleveland Heights.



2576 East 61st. Former home of Sherith Zion. Date of photo unknown. Source: Cleveland Public Library

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, CONGREGATION BETH AM and
 INDEPENDENT CONGREGATION AHAVATH ZION, have caused this agreement
 to be executed by their respective officers thereunto duly authorized this 2
 day of January, 1959.

Witnesses:
 [Handwritten signatures of witnesses]

CONGREGATION BETH AM
 By [Signature] President
 And by [Signature] Secretary

INDEPENDENT CONGREGATION
 AHAVATH ZION
 By [Signature] President
 And by [Signature] Secretary

Signature page of the Consolidation Agreement (19 pages) recorded by the Secretary of State Ted W. Brown February 18th 1959. Document contains a list of members of both congregations'.

The agreement included an ambiguous name change to **Community Temple** that was reinforced in April 1965 when an official name change was filed with the Secretary of State clarifying the name to be **Community Temple** clearly removing the wording Beth-AM from and official use.

The Ahavath Zion property on Lakeview Drive was sold by Trustees

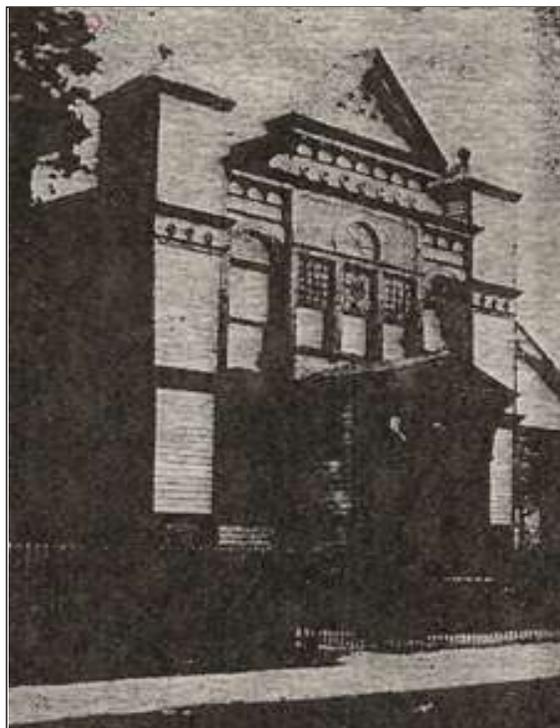
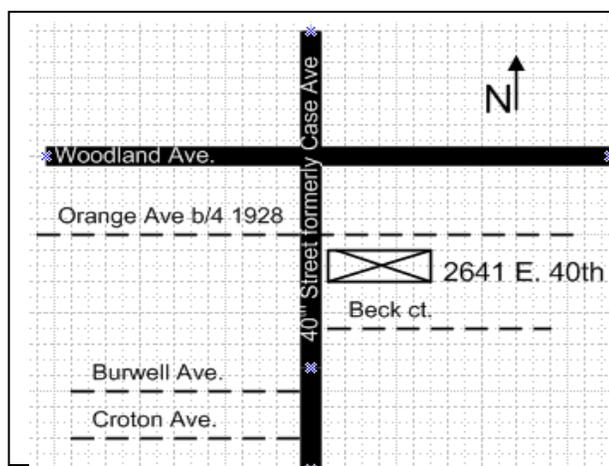
Paul Himmel, Morton Mack to. The Starlight Baptist Church February 1958. The current owner **Greater New Zion Baptist Church** purchased the property from Starlight Baptist April 1982.

BOHEMIAN CHEBRA KADDISCHA CHURCH ASSOCIATION

Baxter Street Cemetery

The Bohemian Congregation officially incorporated August 12, 1884 by Simon Metzel, Markus Koblitz, Solomon Pollock, Louis Adler and Charles Lederer as the Bohemian Chebra Kaddischa [Burial Society] Church Association. Similar to other synagogues incorporated prior to the 1920's public listing of Jewish organizations were often listed under churches and at times, with a sub heading of Hebrew or Israelites. The same would be true for plat maps as shown below. Initial worship services meetings took place in the homes of founding members.

For clarification, this organization, like many others have discrepancies in the spelling of their name. Prior to circa 1920 documents were hand written, often by those with poor penmanship and the ability to translate a foreign language into English.



The above page is from the Cleveland Independent, a weekly publication that printed an annual book of the "who's who" in the Jewish community in 1918. Source: Siegel College of Jewish Studies Beachwood, Ohio

1892 Atlas (Plat) of Cuyahoga County published by George F. Cram Chicago. Ill. indicates the location of the Bohemian Jewish Church as an example of the term Jewish Church.



The growing congregation purchased property at 1267 Case Ave (changed in 1908 to 2641 E. 40th) for fifteen hundred dollars from John Kulus September 25th 1883. Their new two story synagogue was dedicated May 30th, 1884. Based on newspaper clippings of local newspapers, The Cleveland Plain Dealer and The Jewish Independent in 1916 the congregation had 80 members in addition to a women's auxiliary known as the Sisterhood, of over 60 ladies.

44 THE JEWISH SOCIETY BOOK

Chevera Kadisha Congregation

The Bohemian congregation, Chevera Kadisha, Temple Israel, was organized in 1878.

The officers of the congregation are as follows:

OFFICERS

FRED KRAUS
President

V. F. ZINNER
Vice President

F. FRIEND
Secretary

CHARLES SCHULBOF
Treasurer

H. SACIES
Director of Cemetery

I. KOBLITZ
Superintendent of Building

S. STOTTER
Supervisor of Schools

MEMBERS

Adler, Louis, 18410 Drachm Av.
Auerman, J., 4309 Rocky Av.
Berg, A., 1644 E. 79th St.
Buck, W., 2714 W. 17th St.
Cassins, S., 1547 E. 44th St.
Feldman, J., 1993 Oxford Av.
Kandian, Mrs. Anna, 2727 E. 18th St.
Mintz, J., 2718 E. 18th St.
Muhler, A., 3434 E. 49th St.
Schwartz, H., 2829 Canton Av.
Schwartz, H., 2477 E. 86th St.
Schwartz, J., 4159 Park Av.
Steinberg, S., 4117 Berkeley Av.
Wolfska, J., 2426 E. 49th St.
Mintz, S., 4218 E. 71st St.
Folke, S., 1411 E. 14th St.
Kross, J. H., 4117 Broadway
Lewenthal, D., 4107 Duquesne Av.
Schwartz, L., 2486 E. 41st St.
Schwartz, M., 3615 E. 48th St.
Solner, L., 3203 Polaris Av.
Wolner, S., 7516 S. Clay Av.
Wolfgang, S., 4017 Broadway
Kandian, H., 4121 Broadway
Friedland, M., 2824 E. 47th St.
Herrman, C., 2623 E. 11st St.
Mintz, A., 4111 Superior Av.
Frenkel, W., 4101 Woodland Av.

RABBI STEINER

Spang, J. H., 14399 Superior Rd.
Kaufman, S. S., 19801 Tacoma Av.
Gardner, J. S., 3101 and Lakeland Av.
Kross, H. A., 11404 Tuscarora Av.
Kross, J. S., 12907 Saywell Av.
Kross, A., 1601E Oxford Av.
Kross, A. S., 428 Decatur St.

IF ANYONE ASKS YOU WHICH IS THE BEST JEWISH NEWSPAPER, TELL THEM THE JEWISH INDEPENDENT

About this time membership started to decline as families were moving east to the Glenville or Mt. Pleasant neighborhoods. In addition, there was an unofficial (unrecorded) name change to “Chevera Kadisha – Temple Israel” as they as well as other Synagogues moved from the orthodox practices of Judaism to the reform movement. Several members including Fred Kraus and Rabbi Adolph Steiner had by 1916, moved to the Glenville area, with the hope that they could raise funds to relocate their congregation, however this did not occur and the congregation apparently disbanded. The fortieth street property was then sold June 1918 to L Klein, and there were then several owners including the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church and the Apostolate Faith Assembly. In 1929 the land was purchased by Charles Cianciolo and Company then located at 504 Woodland

Avenue. In a 2013 interview with Anthony Cianciolo grandson of Charles recalls the former Synagogue being demolished in 1934 and replaced with a new structure.

The only official document found sustaining the history of the Chevera Kadisha beyond the 1918 sale of the 40th street property is the Ohio Secretary of State’s review of non-compliant corporations in 1962 reclassifying their charter to “Canceled, Failure to File or Reinstate”.

The Cianciolo building and other buildings used primarily for the distribution of fresh produce, were in jeopardy from the late 1950’thru the 1960’s as city planners had designated the area known as Gladstone to be redeveloped into a modern business park. The Gladstone area is roughly E. 28th to E.55th and Woodland Ave. to the north to the Kingsbury Run rail tracks to the south. The majority of the homes were 80 to 100 years in age and beyond repair.

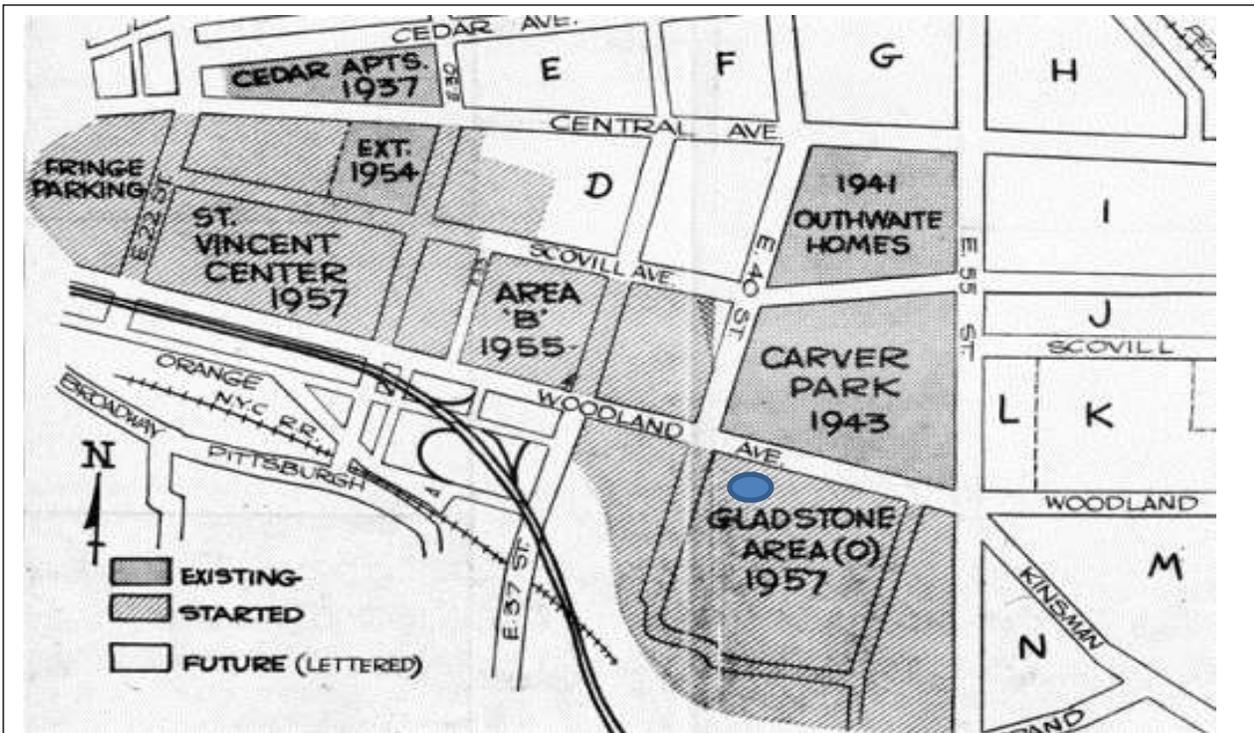
After several law suits and modifications by city planners the ability to attract new business was limited to a handful of companies. At one point some thought this to be the best location to build the Main Post office, which was ultimately built in 1978 at 2200 Orange Ave. fortunately, the building stood untouched for many years until 2010, when the owners of the growing Northern Ohio Food Terminal demolished it.



Photo taken in 1959 by the Cleveland Urban Renewal Agency



Above photo of the was taken in 2009 by the Cleveland Landmark Commission prior to being



● Indicates the former site of former site of the Chevera Kadisha Synagogue. Caption from map published by The Cleveland Press Jan. 4th 1957 reads as follows "Central area rebuilding which started in the 1930s with Cedar Apartments public housing project is scheduled to move faster in 1957. Officials hope to begin clearing slums for St. Vincent Center and the Gladstone industrial project in the next few months. Source: Cleveland State University. Michael Schwartz Library. Special Collections.

The Bohemian Cemetery Baxter Avenue south of Broadway at Morgana Park

This small cemetery consists of two adjoining lots originally being 40 x 140 feet, located in what is now commonly known as the Slavic Village neighborhood. The lots were purchased February 1878 by **Bemissi Checric Kieliche** from James and Ermina Jones who had acquired the lots along with several adjacent parcels from the County Sheriff's office due to foreclosure. The property fronts both Osmond Ct. on the north and Baxter Ave on the south midway between Broadway and East 65th, then known as Tod St.

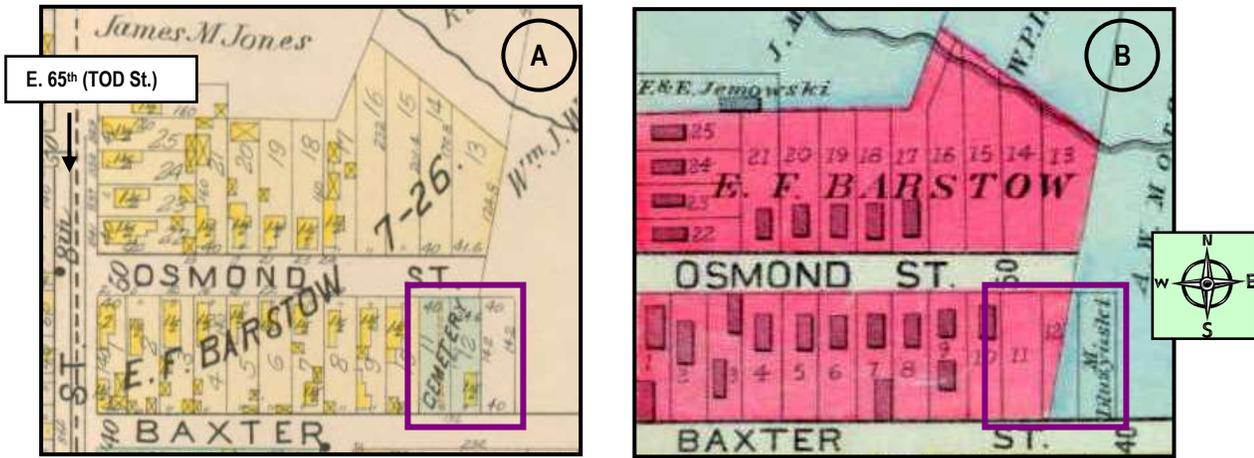
There is no record with the Ohio Secretary of State of the Bemissi Checric Kieliche being incorporated and the Quitclaim Deed from Smith does not list any representatives of the organization, however, in 1880 an organization was incorporated by Jacob Kraus, Joseph Stein and Jacob Weiskopf known as the **Bohemian Chewra Kasischa Cemetery Association**.

The use of a Quitclaim Deed does not provide any promises or guarantees to the quality of title that is being transferred. In effect, there is no promise that the title is clear or that the Grantor even has any ownership in the property that is being transferred. Quit claim Deeds are often used between family members.



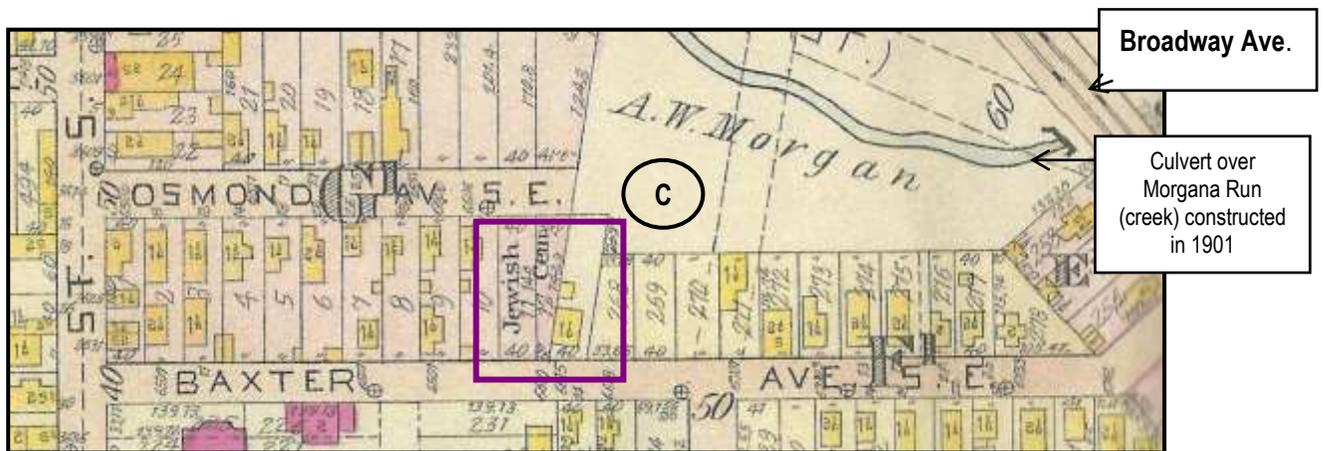
The need to obtain approval to utilize the land as a cemetery became public in 1878 when local papers published a story of a Jewish Bohemian family that recently buried three young children on an unapproved lot on Brownell (East 14th) and Croton St. The approval was quickly granted August 1879 when at the same time, Cleveland Mayor Myron Herrick was agonizing over a request of The Sisters of the Good Shepherd to officially establish a burial ground on their campus located on the southeast corner of Silsby (Carnegie) and Sterling (East 30th). Apparently, over the previous ten years the Order of the Good Sheppard had buried six of its former sisters within the grounds of the convent.

Similar to the Synagogue on E. 40th the only official document found sustaining the history are notices published in the local newspaper by the County listing the Cemetery being in default of taxes due in 1910, and the Ohio Secretary of State's review of non-compliant corporations in 1963 reclassifying their charter to "Canceled, Failure to File/Statement of continued existence. Several unanswered questions remain including when the Cemetery Association disbanded. Also unanswered is why and when did the eastern fence line of parcel 12 change from being rectangular measuring 40 x 140 ft., to an irregular polygon. A minor change took place in 2010 when volunteers with the help of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland removed several tree stumps, excess foliage, and the relocation of the gate from the north side (Osmond Street) of the cemetery to the south side (Baxter Street).



The above plat map (A), published in 1898 by A.H. Mueller of Philadelphia, Pa. shows parcels (sub-lots) 11 and 12 as described in the deed to the Cemetery Assoc. in 1878, that being 40 x 142 feet.. The yellow box in parcel 12 indicates a wooden structure, most likely a shed.

An earlier plat map (B), published by Geo. Cram of Chicago II in 1892 shows lot 12 being partially part of the Barstow Sub-Division and the A.W. Morgan parcel to the east, with the property line being on an angle. That angle is consistent with the all other plat maps including the 1921 Plat map (C) published by Hopkins Plat map Chicago III.



An additional observation that is piece of the puzzle shown on the Mueller Plat and on the Cram Plat is the single parcel just east of the Cemetery that was purchased by Matthias Dluzynaki in August 1899 for \$240.00 from A Morgan. Mr. Morgan would later divide the balance of the property owned on Baxter and several streets south creating a Sub-Division of 256 parcels, the majority being 40' wide and 120 ft. deep. The deed transfers of Dluzynaki parcel through 2006 makes no mention of the angle of the parcel. This leaves the question of why the angle is never mentioned.