



Landmark Certificate of Appropriateness Info Sheet

Printed Date: February 25, 2025

Property Address:

3300 MAYFIELD (REAR) RD CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH 44118

Detailed Project Description

The iconic Park Synagogue is about to undergo a significant restoration to preserve Erich Mendelsohn's 1950 architectural masterpiece while adapting it as a community arts center. The wedge-shaped building is dominated by a 100-foot-wide, 65-foot-tall hemispherical dome atop the Temple, which fans out to a school wing surrounding a courtyard. Mendelsohn located the synagogue along the Dugway Brook ravine, which runs through the 28-acre wooded property between Mayfield Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard. The synagogue is no longer in use and has been purchased by Sustainable Community Associates [SCA] for development. The project has been awarded numerous grants and public funding, including Historic Tax Credits [HTC] by the State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO] and the National Park Service [NPS] for a complete restoration and rehabilitation. The restoration scope includes masonry/soffit repair, new windows and doors, new roofs, interior floors, walls, and ceilings. The synagogue will be upgraded with the latest building systems while being sensitive to the historically significant spaces. New uses will include K-12 non-profit arts education programs, special needs art experiences, and a new Bachelor of Fine Arts interdisciplinary fifth-year program by a Northeast Ohio college. Other functions will include the continued use of the Temple space for the High Holy Days and community arts events, as well as private events and parties. The synagogue is connected via a late-sixties addition by a successor to Mendelsohn with a bridge over the ravine to a large overflow auditorium and event space known as Kangesser Hall. The addition is not considered historic as the structures are outside the period of significance [1950-1953] of the Mendelsohn synagogue, so the bridge will be retained, but the hall will be demolished. Other buildings on-site planned for demolition include a caretaker house, boiler room, and garage to the north and a gas house to the south. The daycare building to the southeast and a Mikvah [ceremonial bath house] to the north of Kangesser will remain. The owners are requesting a certificate of appropriateness for the following aspects of the project: 1) Historic preservation & adaptive

reuse of Erich Mendelsohn's Park Synagogue Temple & School Wing. 2) Expansion of the Mechanical Room with a two-story addition on the back of the synagogue temple. 3) Demolition of the Boiler House, Caretaker Apartment, and Service Garage. 4) Demolition of Kangesser Hall with a new entry at the end of the bridge.