



Landmark Certificate of Appropriateness Info Sheet

Printed Date: December 13, 2024

Property Address:

3300 MAYFIELD 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. A Framework Plan for the Park Synagogue property has been underway for the past year, and we are ready to start preliminary reviews

with the city boards and commissions. The multi-phase plan envisions retaining the park-like character of the wooded site, celebrating the architecture of Mendelsohn's synagogue, and exploring opportunities for new buildings. Studies have included small-scale residences such as townhouse apartments on the site's south side near the Synagogue in phase one and more significant multi-family buildings on the north side across the ravine in future phases.