



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

Cleveland Landmark Designation

Nominated May 8, 2025



Cleveland Landmark Nomination

Greater New Calvary Baptist Church (former First Congregational Church of Collinwood)

822 East 150th Street (aka 14904 Aspinwall Ave)

Ward #10 Councilperson Anthony Hairston



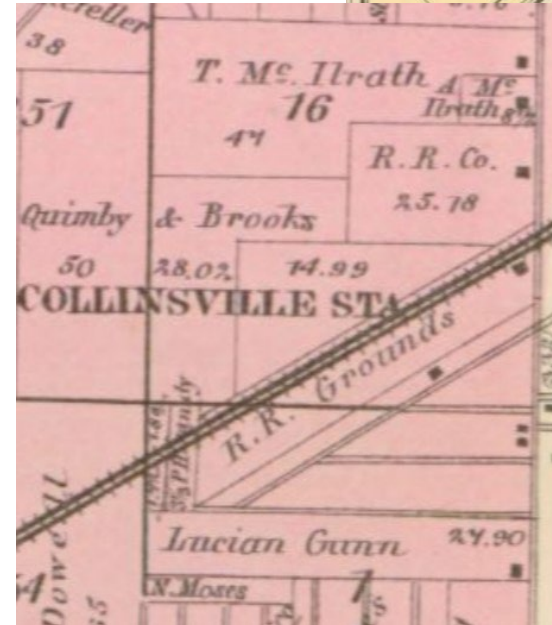
Location



Neighborhood History

- Frogsville
 - Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad
 - Rail Stop #11 created in 1874
 - Collamer Station
 - Post office established in 1875
- What was formerly called Collamer station is now named Collinwood.
- Charles Collins
 - Chief Engineer

—What was formerly called Collamer station is now named Collinwood.



Church History

- Organized May 11, 1876
- Ford Chapel
- Dedicated March 14, 1878



History

- May 12, 1891 – Deed filed
 - Manchester Ave cor. Mars Ave
- September 11, 1893 – Ground Breaking
- September 26, 1895 – First Service
- September 29, 1895 – dedication service
 - Seating capacity of 600



COLLINWOOD CHURCH.

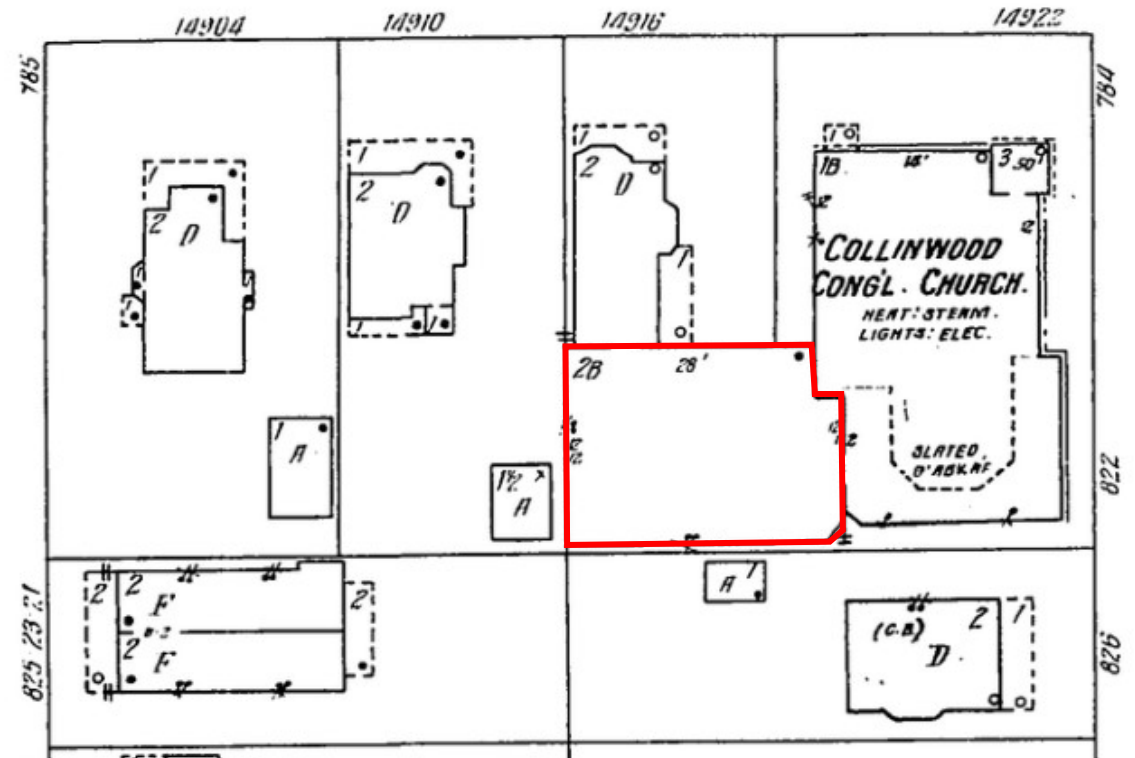
History

- Architect William Warren Sabin
- Active in Cleveland 1888-1923
- Bolton Avenue Presbyterian
 - Antioch Baptist Church



History

- 1910 – Annexation of Collinwood by Cleveland
- 1914 – Vote to Incorporate as the Collinwood Congregational Church
- Desire to build a gymnasium
- Expansion to property next door
- Purchase to the Dr. Clayton and Grace McClenahan property
 - December 6, 1921



History

- Architect Herman Maurer
- Cleveland Architect from 1908
 - Maurer and Mills (1909-1915)
 - Own practice through the 1950s
- East Glenville Methodist Episcopal Church
- 1926 – Church had 500 members and 600 in Sunday School



Changes in the Church

- June 25, 1957
 - Merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Afro-Christian Convention to create the United Church of Christ
 - Several years to complete the merger
 - Name change to Collinwood United Church of Christ (1961)
- Rev. Duane L. Day installed as pastor in January 1961

Changes in the Neighborhood

- South Collinwood predominantly White into the mid 1960s
- Urban renewal in 1950s pushed Black residents further east
 - Brown v. Board of Education (1954)
 - Overcrowding in Black schools
 - Bussing children to White schools
 - Protests both Black and White

Here Are Main Groups in School Controversy

Principal organizations in Cleveland's raging controversy over school integration area:

BOARD OF EDUCATION, the policy making body for the public school system. On Sept. 30 the board passed a resolution directing school administrators to achieve fullest possible integration of Negro children from overcrowded schools with white classes in so-called receiving schools. The children are transported by bus to the schools each day.

UNITED FREEDOM MOVEMENT, a federation of civil rights groups formed last summer. UFM leaders accused the school administration of de facto segregation and demanded that classes of transported children, mostly Negroes, be put in classes with white children at the receiving schools.

COLLINWOOD IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, a neighborhood civic group formed to deal with Collinwood area problems in general. Its members strongly support the concept of the neighborhood school, which tends to send white children from white neighborhoods to predominantly white schools and Negro children from Negro neighborhoods to predominantly Negro schools. Many members are parents of children attending schools to which the overflow classes are sent.

HAZELDELL PARENTS ASSOCIATION, an organization of parents of children at this largely Negro school. It is working with UFM to bring about diffusion of Hazeldell children with those in the receiving schools.

Changes in the Neighborhood and Church

- Clergy involved in protesting continued school segregation
- Accidental death of Rev. Bruce Klunder
 - April 1964
- Rev. Day served on the executive board of the Emergency Clergy Committee on Civil Rights
- Resentment over Day's involvement which drove a wedge in membership
- Day tendered his resignation in an effort to keep the congregation together

Changes in the Neighborhood and Church

- South Collinwood Population 1965
 - Ethnic European – 90%
 - African American – 5-10%
- South Collinwood Population 1968
 - Ethnic European – 40%
 - African American – 30%
 - Appalachian Whites – 30%
- Church Membership
 - 1962 – 479
 - 1964 – 298
- Future in Doubt – 1966
 - Members leaving
 - Aging out
 - Increase in number of churches
 - Expenses
- January 18, 1967 –Vote to disband the church

Property in Transition

- Collinwood Multi-Service Center
 - Cleveland Community Relations Board
 - Cleveland Center on Alcoholism
 - Juvenile Court
 - Planned Parenthood
 - Ohio Youth Commission
 - Collinwood Youth Association
 - American Friends Service Committee
- Cleveland: NOW!
- Renamed Collinwood Community Service Center

A New Beginning

- January 3, 1971, a new congregation was formed
 - Sunday School and a morning Sermon
 - Reassembled in the afternoon to formally organize the church
 - Greater New Calvary Baptist Church was named
 - Reverend H.H. Hardy called to be the pastor
- December 30, 1971, the property purchased from the Western Reserve Association of the United Church of Christ was recorded
- 1980 – Mortgage burned

Greater New Calvary Gets New Minister
Call and Post (1962-1982); Jan 16, 1971; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Cleveland Call and Post
pg. 7A



NEW MINISTER -- Rev. H.H. Hardy, former pastor of True Vine Baptist Church, is the new minister at Greater New Calvary Baptist Church, 822 E. 150 St.
(Photo by Eddie Jones)

Greater New Calvary Gets New Minister

Rev. H.H. Hardy, former pastor of True Vine Baptist Church, has accepted the call as pastor of Greater New Calvary Baptist Church, E. 150 St. and Aspinwall Ave., in the Collinwood area.

Rev. Hardy served as pastor at True Vine for almost six years. He was greeted by a large group of worshippers at his first service at Greater New Calvary. A month's dedication services is underway.

The new church is a beautiful stone edifice and was formerly occupied by the Collinwood Congregational Church. The sanctuary is equipped with cushioned pews, a pipe organ and many other features. Numerous assembly rooms are throughout the structure.

Services are held each Sunday at 11 a.m. Activities for groups of all ages are being planned for the congregation. The public is invited to attend.

Connection to the Community



DEACON BOARD

Left to right sitting: Sam Jackson, Joe N. Sturdivant, Chairman Harry L. Moore. — Standing: Nathaniel Foster Jr., Robert Nowlin and Willie Boyd



DEACONESS

Sitting Left to right: Willie M. Sturdivant, Annie B. Moore, Sadie M. Jackson. — Standing: Hattie Boyd, Bertha M. Nowlin and Pauline Cotton



MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Seated left to right: Pauline Saunders, Velma Brooks, President., Sadie M. Clay — Standing: Annie M. Johnson, Annie B. Moore, Willie M. Sturdivant, Sadie M. Jackson and Lula M. Moffett



SENIOR USHERS

Sam B. Jackson, Moarus Sturdivant, Jerry Stovall, Opal Haywood, Meriam White, Yvonne Foster, Charlotte Burks, Lorraine Sturdivant, Lucille Wilson, President, Cheree Sturdivant and Betty Stover

Connection to the Community

MUSIC DEPARTMENT



INSPIRATIONAL CHOIR



GOSPEL LIGHTS OF CALVARY

Robert Jones, Minister-of-Music; Janice Collins, Director; Arthur Thomas, Organist; Bertha Nowlin and Pauline Cotton, Pianists.



SUNBEAM CHOIR



RECREATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Greater New Calvary "CALS"
Mr. Aaron Smith, Coach

Significance

- Its character, interest or value is part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City
- The property is associated with architects who have contributed to the development of the City
- The property embodies elements of architectural design, detail, materials and craftsmanship
- The property is connected with the cultural, economic, social and historic heritage of the City
- The property represents a familiar visual feature in the neighborhood

Current Conditions







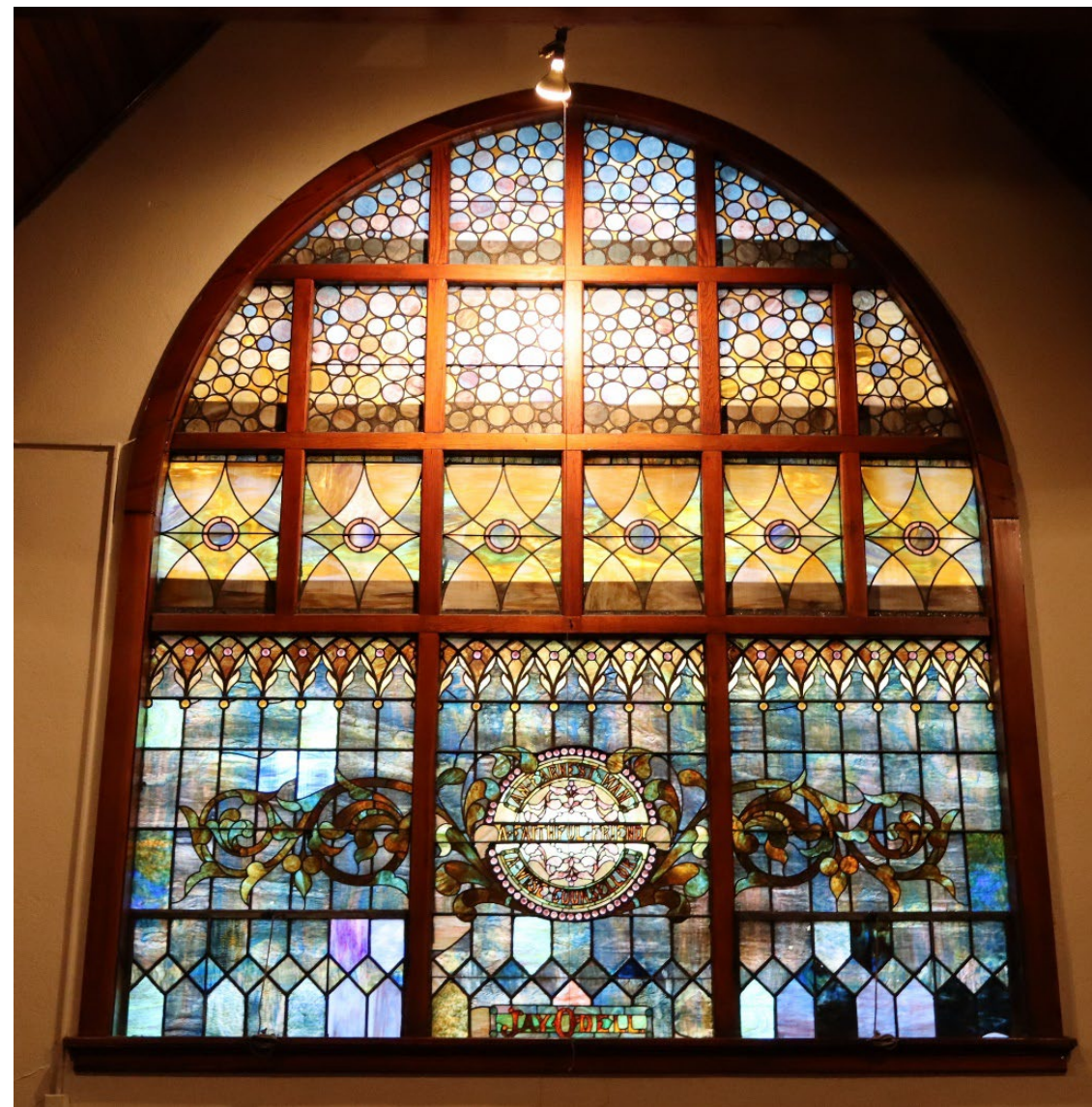
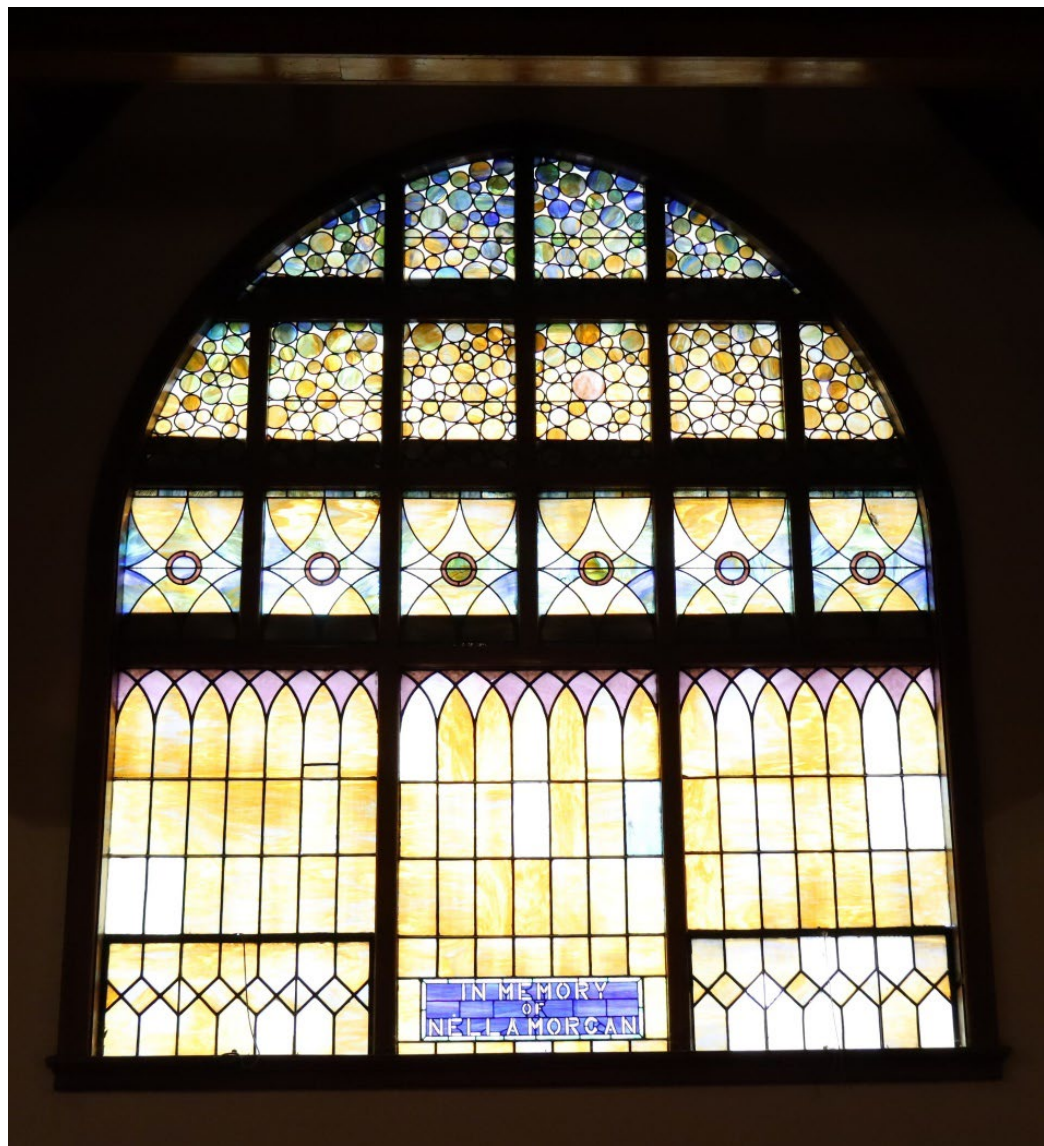














Sources

- Cleveland Congregationalists 1895. Rev. A.B. Christy (1896)
- Newspaper Archives
 - Cleveland Plain Dealer
 - Cleveland Leader
 - Call and Post
- Collinwood United Church of Christ 1876-1967 Records (WRHS)
- Special thanks to Ms. Gay Cain for gathering information on Greater New Calvary and sharing previous research

Thank You

