



CITY OF CLEVELAND  
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

# Cleveland Landmark Nomination

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*November 14, 2024*



# Cleveland Landmark Nomination

**New Sardis Primitive Baptist Church (former Kinsman Jewish Center)**

**3474 E 147<sup>th</sup> Street**

*Ward #1 Councilperson Joseph T. Jones*

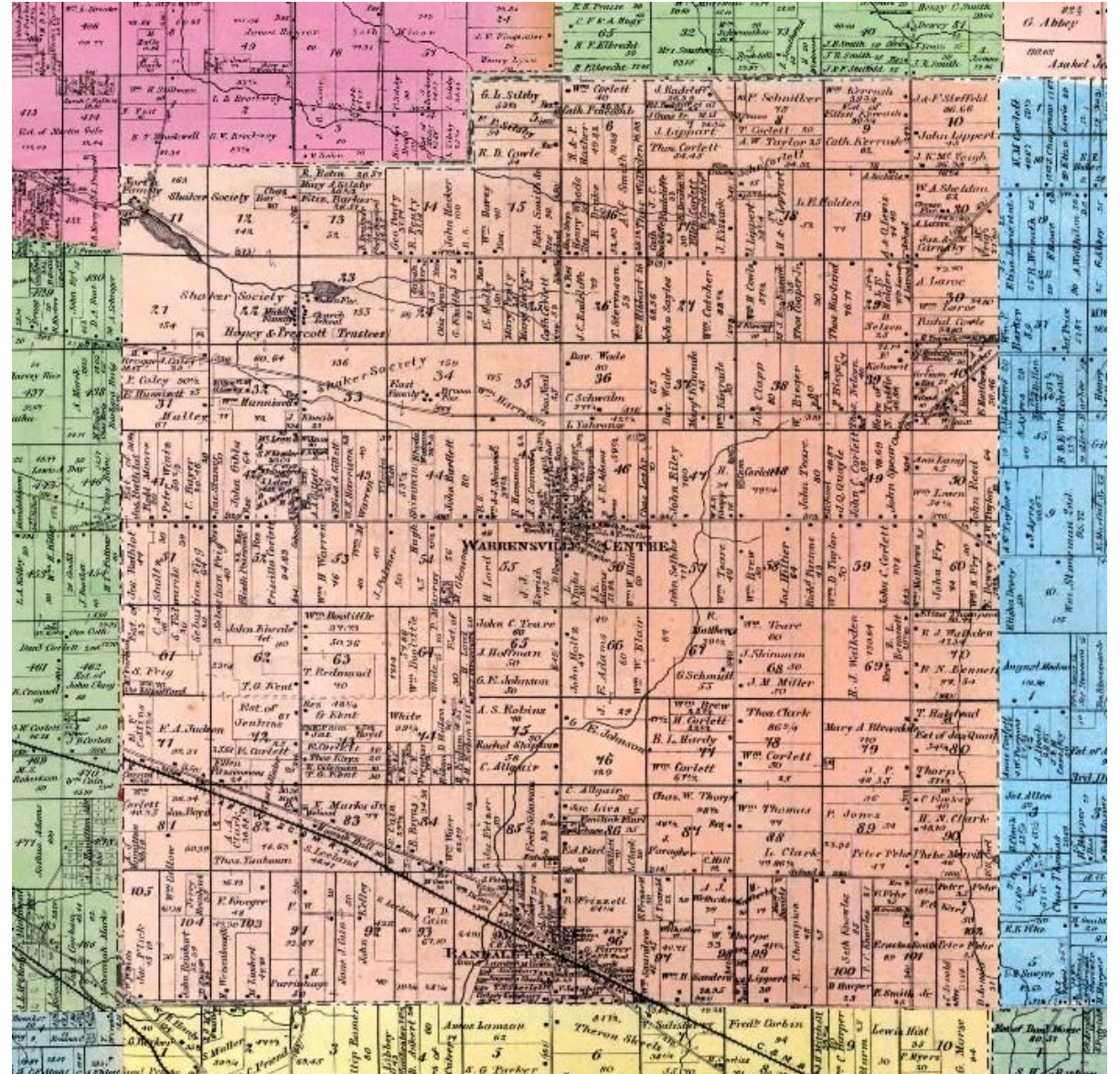


# Location



# East View Village

- Warrensville Township



# East View Village

Lot No.	Owner Name	Acreage
41	Jos. Bathlot	41
30	Robt Moore	30
50 2/3	Peter Wintn	50 2/3
30	C. Bayer	30
40	Jac Staner	40
64	John Gibbs	64
42	John Gibbs	42
43	Warren	43
44	John Barthlot	44
80	John Barthlot	80
46	Wm H Warren	46
53	Wm M	53
40	J. Palmer	40
50	Hugh	50
54	Murray	54
56	M. Gleason	56
40	H. Lord	40
55	J. J. Kewish	55
30	K Indis	30
51.92	J. L. Adams	51.92
60	Wm W Blair	60
46	J. E. Adams	46
70	Chas Leicht	70



# A Jewish Neighborhood

- Kinsman – Mt. Pleasant
- 1925 – about 30 percent of Cleveland's Jewish Population living here
- More mixed ethnically and nationally
- Working Class families
- Architecture matching working class aesthetic
  - Orthodox Synagogues
  - Jewish Carpenter's Hall
  - Socialist Farband Center
  - Council Educational Alliance – Central facility

# Kinsman Jewish Center

- B'nai Jacob Kol Israel
  - Formed in late 1920s
  - Incorporated in 1930
  - One of the first Orthodox congregations to be organized along non-national lines
- Designed by Architect Max Weis
  - Only the first phase built
  - Dedicated in 1932





# Maxwell Weis (AKA White)

- Primarily designed apartment buildings
- Family of Architects

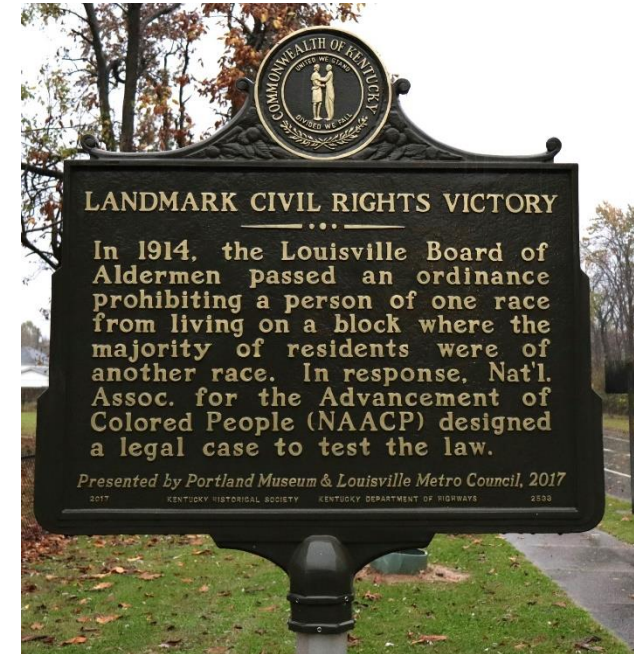


# Kinsman Jewish Center

- Fewer than 30 families to start, grew to almost 400 by 1940
  - Daily afternoon Hebrew School (1933)
  - Sisterhood (1934)
  - Jewish nursery school (1950)
  - Young Women's League (1950s)

# Laws and Legislation

- Buchanan v Warley (1917)
- Shelley v. Kraemer (1948)
  - McGhee v Snipes
  - Violated the Equal Protection clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment
  - Only banned State enforcement
- Equal Opportunity in Housing executive order (1962)
- Civil Rights Act (1968)
  - Fair Housing Act



# Local Deed Restrictions

- Van Sweringen Company deed restrictions
  - “Restriction No. 15”
  - 1925 – Added restriction to deeds
- Van Sweringen Company bankruptcy
  - Unsold lots
  - 1953 – Shaker Heights Resolution 5955
  - 1959 – bankruptcy ended after 23 years

13. The grantee herein hereby agrees to require that these restrictions be recited at length in all future deeds of the premises hereby conveyed.

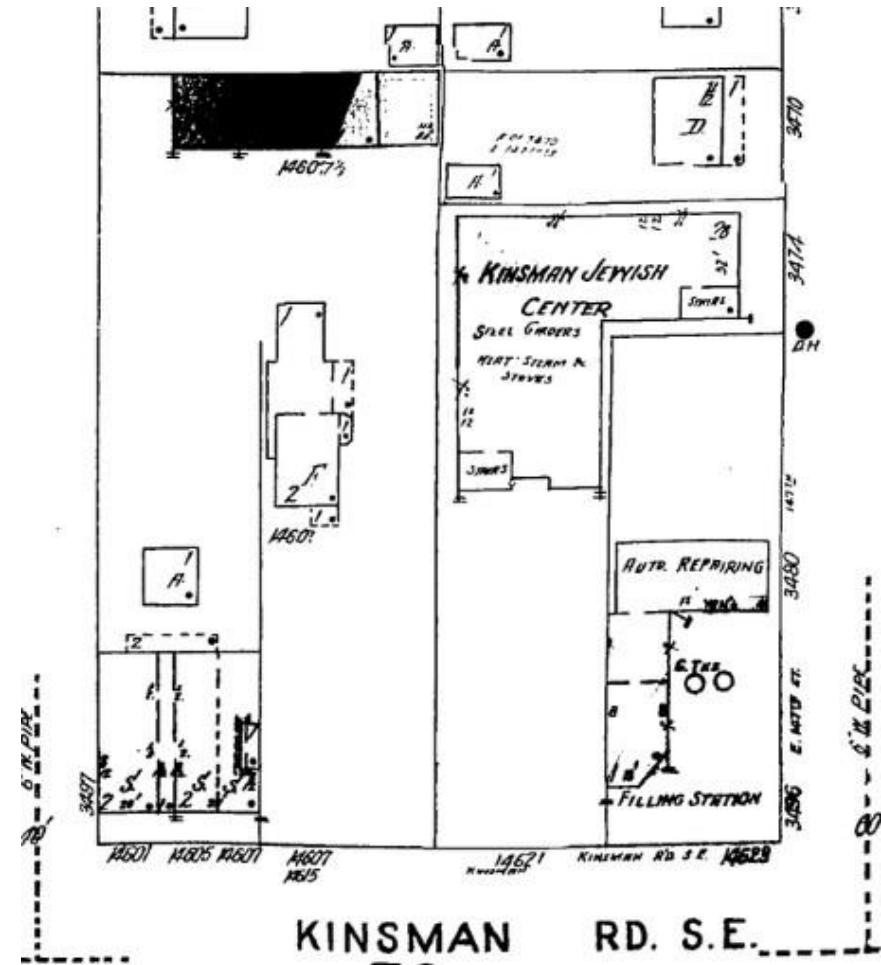
14. No heating apparatus, in, or for any building upon the premises hereby conveyed, shall be operated with any but smoke-free fuel, unless such apparatus be equipped, operated and maintained with such devices as will prevent smoke.

15. The premises hereby conveyed shall not be sublet nor shall the title or possession thereof pass to another without the written consent of The Van Sweringen Company, except that said The Van Sweringen Company may not withhold such consent, if and after a written request has been made to The Van Sweringen Company, to permit such alienation by a majority of the owners of the legal title of all land on both sides of the street or streets upon which this subplot abuts within a distance of 500 feet from the respective sidelines of the subplot hereby conveyed.

In witness whereof, said The Van Sweringen Company hereunto sets its hand and corporate seal by its President M. J. Van Sweringen and its Secretary B. L. Jenks, this 31st day of January in the year of our Lord

# Eastward Movement

- 1949 – Interest in moving eastward
- 1955 – Major loss of membership
  - Split of congregation
- 1958 – Sale of building to New Sardis Primitive Baptist Church
- 1959 – Merged with two other congregations to become the Warrensville Center Synagogue in South Euclid



# New Sardis Primitive Baptist Church

- Founded by Rev. Abraham Gristel (1876-1936)
- Lived in Chattanooga, TN (1906-1917)
  - Employed as a Molder at Cahill Iron Works
  - Lived in Bushtown
- 1914 – Listed as Pastor of New Sardis Primitive Baptist Church
- Appears in 1918 Cleveland City Directory
  - 1920 Census lists occupation as Minister

# New Sardis Primitive Baptist Church

- 1922 – First reference to the church in the City Directory
  - Orange Avenue near E 31<sup>st</sup> St
- 1924 – Church address listed as 3031 Orange Ave
- 1925 – Church relocates to 3207 Scovill Ave
- 1929 – Church nor Pastor listed in City Directory
- 1930 Census Gristel's occupation listed as a mixer at paving company
- 1931 – Listed as the minister of a church in Barberton, OH
- 1932 – Church now shown at 2482 E 33<sup>rd</sup> St

# New Sardis Primitive Baptist Church

- 1934 – Church listed at 2848 E 33<sup>rd</sup> St.
  - Rev. T.J. Rice, Jr., Pastor
  - Rice was Pastor about 1933 to 1938
  - Church address listed in various locations on E 33<sup>rd</sup> St
- 1937 – Church moves to 3602 Scovill
  - Van Talmadge Hunt, Pastor (1938-1939)
- Congregation dwindled to almost no members



# Era of Stabilization

- Arthur James W. Warren (1912-1967)
  - 1930 – Living on family farm with parents and 5 siblings
  - 1939 – Became pastor of New Sardis
  - 1940 – Working as a cooper in a barrel factory and running a boarding house
  - 1950 – Proprietor of a retail grocery and confectionary store; wife and 9 children

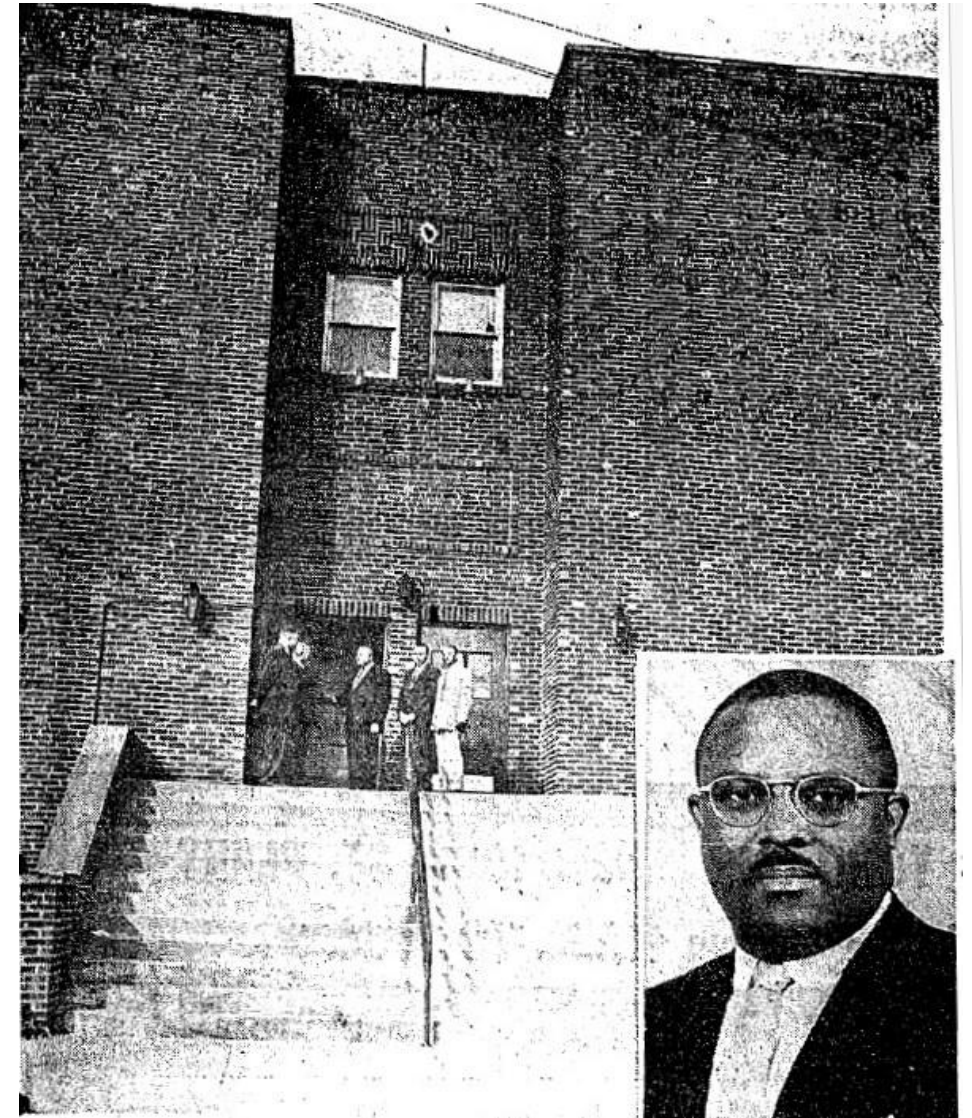


**REV. A. J. W. WARREN**

*Cleveland Call & Post, 10/22/1949*

# Era of Stabilization

- 1943 – Moved to 10525 Hudson Avenue
  - Former St. James AME Church and Church of God in Christ
- 1950 – Moved to 9014 Cedar Avenue
  - Former Mt. Zion Congregational Church and Infant's Rest Home (Orphanage)
- 1958 – Moved to 3474 E. 147<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Former Kinsman Jewish Center



*Cleveland Call And Post, 11-8-1958*

# A New Home



# New Sardis Primitive Baptist Church

- Under Warren's leadership, membership grew to its largest in the 1960s
- At its peak there were 1500 members
- Warren passed away in 1967
- Elder Terry M. Batts, Sr.
  - Nov. 1968 – July 1986
- Elder Jimmy Warren
  - 1986-1988
- Elder Larry D. Tatum
  - 1988- 2023
- Elder Dr. Vincent E. Stokes II
  - 2023-

# 1999 Addition

- Designed by Whitley & Whitley
  - Established in 1963
  - Architects and Urban Planners
  - Multiple buildings designed in the Mt. Pleasant – Kinsman neighborhood
- Contributions Nationally
  - New York
  - Chicago
  - Atlanta



# Significance

- Its character, interest or value is part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the city
- The property relates to other distinctive cultural properties in the neighborhood which may also be eligible for preservation activity
- The property is identified as the work of architects whose work has contributed to the development of the neighborhood and city
- The property's location is a familiar visual feature of the community

# Current Conditions













**New Sardis**  
Primitive Baptist Church

COMMUNITY DAY  
POSTPONED  
UNTIL SEPT 7TH