

## 2.0 Research Design and Methods

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### 2.1 Research Design

Prior to the commencement of the project, Gray & Pape developed an initial research design for the historic context that included research questions to be addressed. The original list of questions included the following:

- What were the major population centers in Cuyahoga County in 1940 as compared to 1976?
- What were the major land uses in the county in 1940 and how did these uses change by the mid-1970s?
- How did the construction of interstates throughout the county affect new residential, commercial, and industrial developments?
- Who were the major architects, designers, and builders working in the region during this period? Do multiple examples of their works remain, and if so, how are they similar or different to each other? How did they market themselves to potential clients?
- What are the common examples of building types and architectural styles found in the county? Is the area missing any common building types or styles found in other parts of Ohio?
- What are the landmark buildings and developments in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County from this period? What are their current conditions and historic integrity statuses?
- When and where were planned residential and office/industrial parks developed in the area?
- When were planning and zoning standards adopted in various communities in the county? How did these laws affect development in these areas?
- Which public lands were created during this period and why were they developed?

- How did colleges and universities in Cuyahoga County adapt to the increase of students attending from the G.I. Bill, and due to the population increase of the Baby Boom?
- What urban renewal programs were implemented in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County? How did these projects effect the communities?
- How did the county, city, and local/municipal governments adapt to changes during this period? What positions were added or removed from government staffs? What kinds of historic public buildings were replaced with modern features?

These questions were meant to guide research efforts to efficiently cover the topics related to the modern period. The questions were also flexible so that they could be adapted if research efforts determined that necessary.

One necessary adaptation was to shift from individual community research to determine planning and zoning standards and changes to municipal government staff during this period. As Cuyahoga County includes several townships and villages, the level of effort to do a thorough comparison of local government changes during the mid-twentieth century would have taken time away from other significant historic context topics. While this information would benefit the report, a study of local government administration changes would be better suited under a separate cover.

Another adaptation to the research design occurred during research of individual resources. Many times, research, mostly through searches of *Cleveland Plain Dealer* archives, discovered useful data for broader topics. For example, while looking for information regarding the construction of St. Martin Tours Catholic Church in Maple Heights (CUY 1103224), the team discovered an article

titled, "The Revolution in Church Architecture," which provided a broader picture of changes in ecclesiastical architecture and development within the region. Therefore, later research efforts proved useful after much of the secondary research was completed.

## 2.2 Research Methods

Gray & Pape historians conducted research on the history of Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland during the mid-twentieth century, ca. 1940 through 1976. These dates were chosen to include the period leading up to World War II, and the end year of 1976 was chosen as a 40-year mark for the project. Topics and resources a few years on either side of these dates were included, however, if they fit with the overall patterns of development.

Research was conducted using various methods in an efficient and thorough manner. The first research method employed was through oral interviews, which proved to be a valuable resource. During the public meeting held at Park Synagogue in July 2016, Gray & Pape historians met with attendees to determine their levels of interest and insight for the history of the midcentury period in the region. Later, we arranged to meet with available persons to conduct interviews. Each interviewee was given a list of potential questions and topics beforehand to prepare. The interviews were recorded audibly, and each is on file at the SHPO. Many of the interviews were with prominent architects, who were working during these dates. The meetings yielded information about potential buildings to be included within the survey, a broader idea about the mindset of clients during the dates of the study, and how bold, modern buildings were accepted in the communities. The interview recordings were submitted with this report to the SHPO.

The most valuable primary resource for discussions of new subdivisions and individual building histories was the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* archives. The archives, available for a subscription fee at [genealogybank.com](http://genealogybank.com), are

searchable by date range, name, and keywords. Many of the known architects and contractors associated with the surveyed resources were identified through searches of the newspaper. The articles also assisted in the dating of buildings, especially when the Cuyahoga County Auditor was missing this information or included a questionable date. Furthermore, photographs and sketches of some buildings included in the newspaper helped to identify building alterations. The archives thoroughly covered the modern period, and extended into the 1990s, which at times provided a more comprehensive history of the resource.

The Cuyahoga County Auditor website ([myplace.cuyahogacounty.us/](http://myplace.cuyahogacounty.us/)) was used to identify current owners, verify street addresses, provide accurate lot sizes, and complete chains of title to identify previous property owners, when needed. The Cuyahoga County Auditor's MyPlace GIS mapping system was also used in the creation of site plans included on each OHI survey form.

Other primary source materials used in the creation of the historic context and the OHI forms included: historic aerials from [historicaerials.com](http://historicaerials.com), which enabled assessment of impacts of new developments upon communities and helped date major building alterations, and The Cleveland Memory Project files available on the Cleveland State University website (<http://www.clevelandmemory.org/>), which provided historic photographs and other useful information about areas and resources.

Numerous secondary resources were utilized for historic context and OHI form development, including books, journal articles, NRHP nomination forms, previously recorded OHI forms, and various websites regarding the histories of communities, religious organizations, government buildings, etc. While all the references used are listed in the References Cited section of this report, a few of the more notable sources are discussed below.

At the beginning of this project, the Cuyahoga County Urban County Communities was working on its *Mid-twentieth Century Architecture and History Survey*. Gray & Pape received a copy of the draft and later received the final report. The report was vital in the identification of subdivisions for survey as well as names of developers and residential contractors working in the county.

The Case Western Reserve University *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History* (<https://case.edu/ech/>), provides thoroughly researched and written articles about countless topics in Cleveland's history, many of which are

relevant to a study of the region's modern-era history.

The Cleveland City Planning Commission, Landmark Commission website includes a database of Cleveland architects and architectural firms that was useful in finding information about some of those working in the mid-twentieth century (<http://planning.city.cleveland.oh.us/landmark/archIntro.html>). Hopefully, architects documented in this context and on the OHI forms will be added to the database to better round out this period.



Plate 1. Greendale Road within the Northwood Acres Subdivision, Maple Heights.