



27855 Aurora Road Solon Ohio 44139



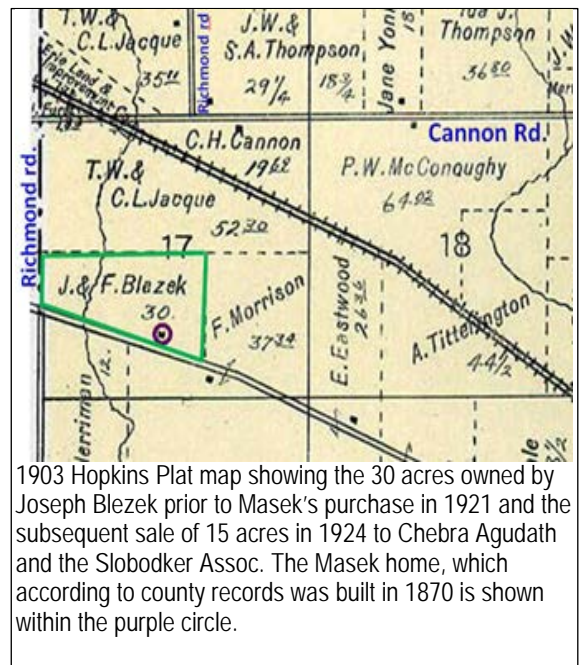
According to an article in the Jewish Independent, a weekly Cleveland newspaper, dated August 5th 1938 the following Sunday, "Sherith Jacob Congregation's, Rabbi Hugo H. Klein, would lead the dedication service for the Cemetery's main gate"

Mount Olive Cemetery was established in 1924 when the Chebra Agudath Achim Congregation and the Slobodker Benevolent Cemetery Association purchased three parcels from Joseph Masek in Solon Ohio at 27855 North Miles Road, now known as Aurora Road. An additional pie-shaped parcel, to the east, was acquired in 1925, also from Masek. The four parcels totaled 14.5 acres

The Chebra Agudath Achim Congregation Association (CAAC) was incorporated in 1891. At that time the congregation was located at the northwest corner of what is now known as Community College Drive and East 30th. In 1953, after relocating several times the congregation merged into The Taylor Road Synagogue.

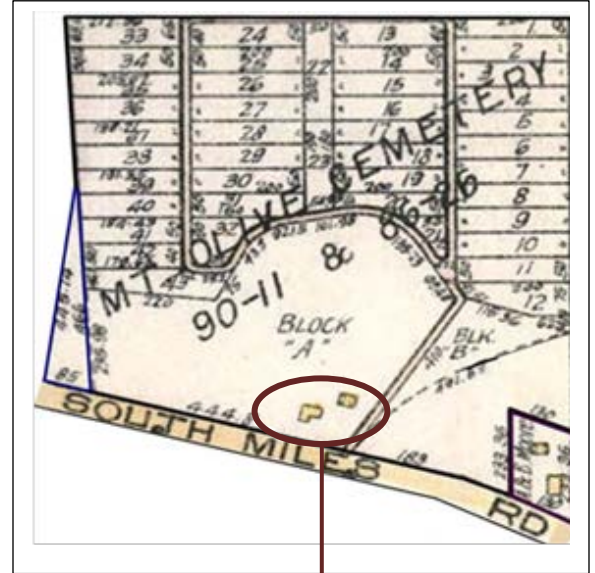
The Slobodker Benevolent Cemetery Association (SBCA) was incorporated in 1906. In 1928, under the direction of longtime member and at that time President Joseph H Sibert the organization changed its name to the Forest City Hebrew Benevolent Association. Today both the congregation and the benevolent society provide representatives to the Mount Olive Cemetery Association, which is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Cemetery.

Documenting the history of any organization with names that were changed intentionally or in error can be challenging. In the case of the Mt Olive Cemetery it is important to know that in 1928, the Slobodker Benevolent Association changed their name to the Forest City Benevolent Assoc. In 1953 Congregation Chebra Agudath Achim their equal partner merged into the Taylor Road Synagogue, formerly known as Oheb Zedek.

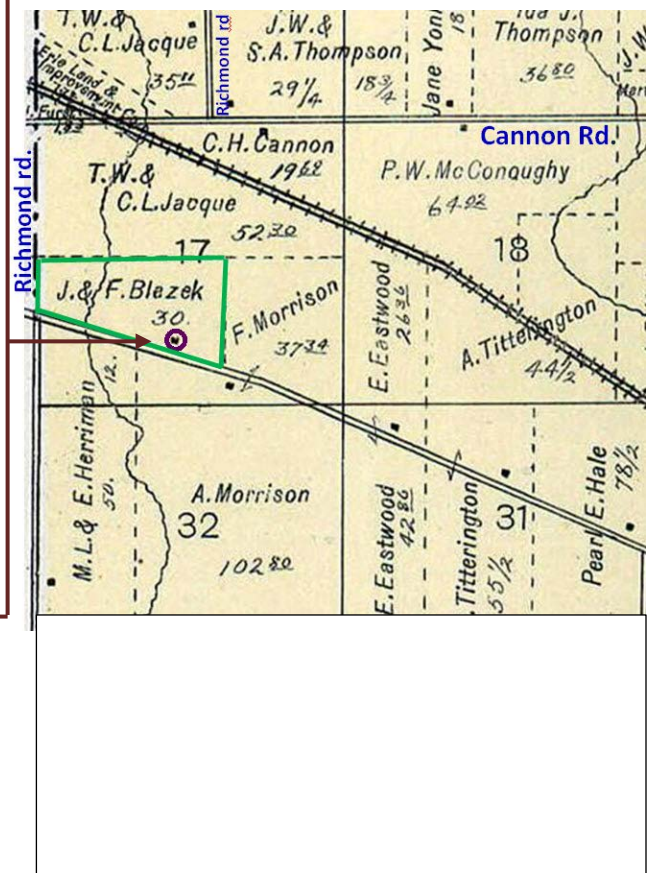
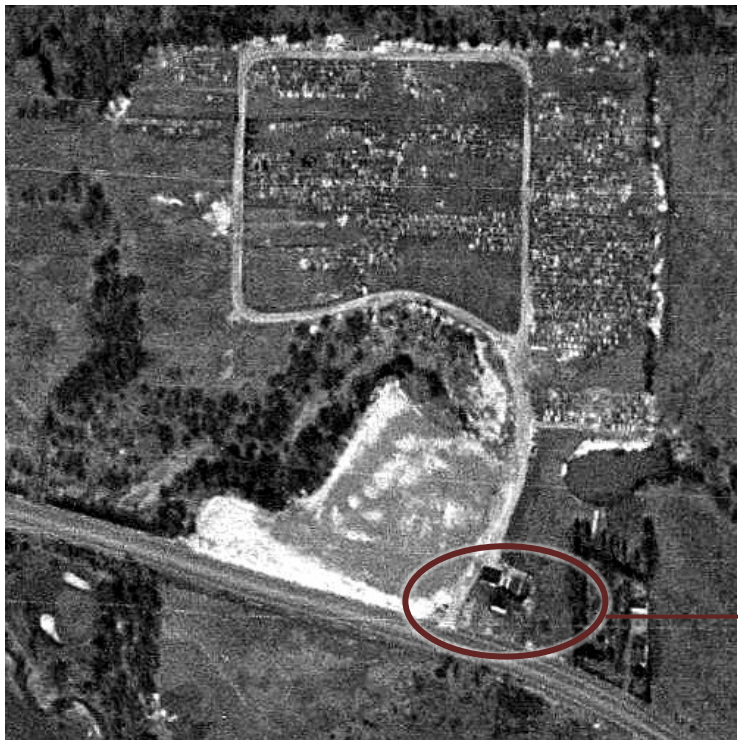


The layout (plat) of the property including establishment of sub-lots was done by Engineer A.A. Soffin 1924. The plat shown below right was approved by the Cuyahoga County Recorder and officially titled as the Mt. Olive Cemetery Sub Division V.90 page 11. This designation allowed the two equal owners Chebra Agudath Achim and the Slobodker Association to sell a portion of the 45 sub lots to other synagogues or Jewish organizations. The first to acquire land was Congregation Nvai Zedek in March of 1925.

According to county records and information from the Solon Historical Society, the only known structure on the property when acquired, was the Masek Home built circa 1870, fronting South Miles. According to Joseph Masek's grandson, Lawrence, his grandparents, Joseph and Agnus had operated a fruit and vegetable farm on the property for four years. The Maseks remained in the house until a new home was built, to the east, on the remaining 15 acres several years later. Joseph Masek was an employee of the U.S. Post Office for over forty years. Joseph passed away in 1955, his wife, Agnus, predeceased him in 1947. The only photograph found showing the house is the 1952 aerial photo shown below. The house also appears on the 1903 Hopkins plat map and the plat filed by the Cemetery defining the sub lots.



Masek home built circa 1870.



In 1953 the cemetery acquired the half acre lot and home of Alfred Moore located at the southeast corner of the cemetery. Moore had purchased the property from Masek, the day, Masek sold the fourteen plus acres to the cemetery. In addition to the acquisition of the land and house, the purchase removed a restriction, recorded in the 1924 deed transfer from Masek to the cemetery, which limited the location of any structure or grave within 200 feet from the Moore's property. Subsequently the Moore home, according to county records, was demolished and replaced with the current home built by PAR Construction Company in 1967.

LAND VALUE COMPUTATION										BLDG. ALTERATIONS, REMODELING OR OTHER CHANGES			
FEET FRONT	FEET DEEP	% FOR DEPTH	% FOR TRIA.	% FOR C. I.	SIZE FACTOR	19 REAPP. UNIT	19 REAPP. VALUE	19 REAPP. UNIT	19 REAPP. VALUE	TAX YEAR	PERMIT RECORD OR PETITION NO.	CHARACTER OF CHANGE APPRAISER'S NAME AND DATE	VALUE
							1600			58	EXPT 5992	S B T A	-1600 -3000
										61	118	Comp 1-1-61	
												2CAR GAR CB EXPT	
												6-20-61 R.F.	
										68	72	INDS GAR PRVD	-3050

Card shows that the "dwg" dwelling and "Gar" Garage was razed in 1968

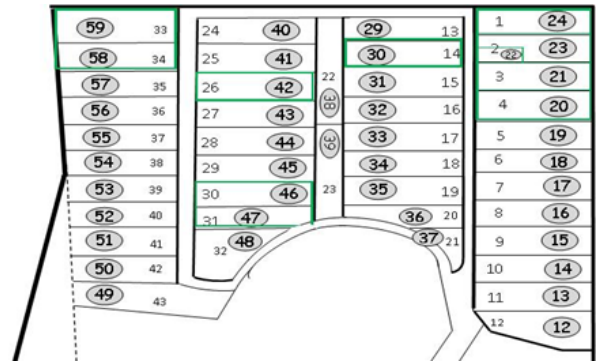


The County Auditor completed a survey of all residential and special use properties such as cemeteries in between 1958 and 1962. The card shown to the right provides information including, dimensions, owner, rental income, estimated construction date and the assessed value. The photo shows the former home of Alfred Moore before being replaced in 1967 with the current residence.

Several years earlier in September 1957, under the direction of Board members Sam Miller, Jack Abrams, Nathan Hodous, Frank Stein, Nathan Gordon, William Bokor, Sol Gilman approved the contract to build a new cemetery office. The building designed by Architect Louis Skolnik and built by Sam Marcus, included public restrooms accessible from the parking lot and a maintenance and storage facility.

The cemetery approaches capacity... and triples in size

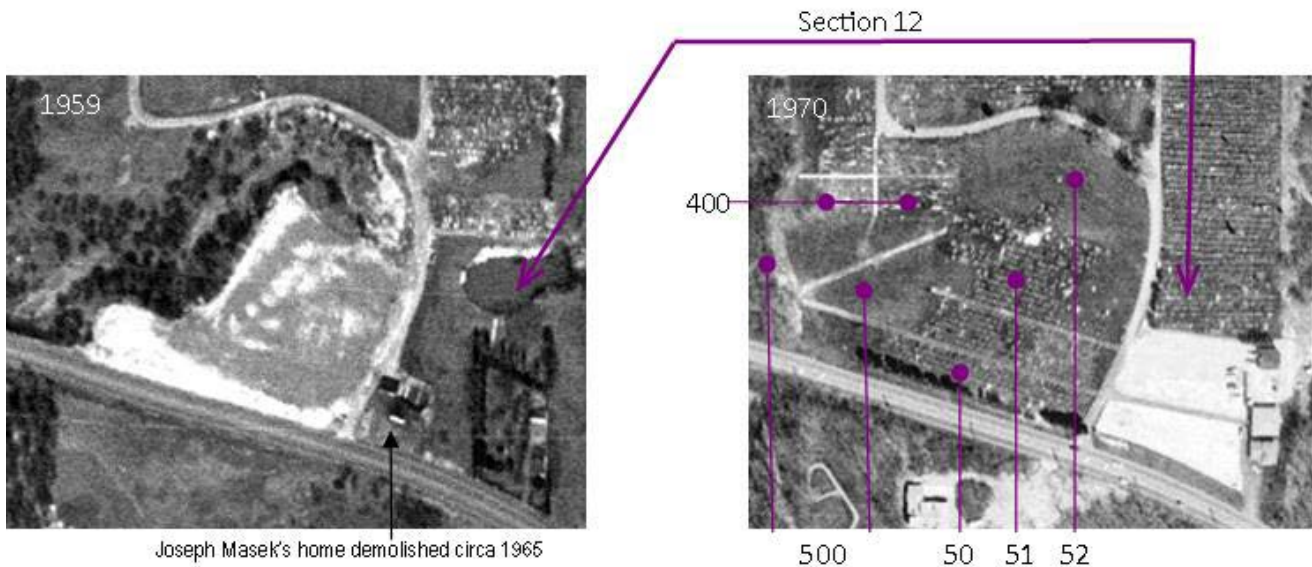
The information below details the parcels sold over time by Chebra Agudath Achim Congregation and the Slobodker Benevolent Cemetery Association, the joint owners of the land. The name of the current owner listed is based on official documents recorded in the office of fiscal services of Cuyahoga County. In some cases the official owner of record does not reflect the actual owner, but the congregation or association that has accepted or assumed control.



Sub lot Section & number	Permanent Parcel Number 951 -	Name of buyer, date and County Doc. number of deed transfer	Current Owner If applicable subsequent deed transfer, buyer, date, County Doc. Control number of deed transfer
3 4	21-020 21 -021	Nvai Zedek 6/6/25 v3289 p41	Current owner based on County Record based on merger into Warrensville Center Synagogue , 10/26/1959, V9765 p461
2	-21-022	Tifereth Israel Anshe Sfard 6/19/1931 v4163 p257	Current owner based on County Record of 951-21-022 is Tifereth Israel Anshe Sfard of Mt. Pleasant. The congregation disbanded circa 1950. Remaining members joined with Ohel Jacob V'Yavneh Congregation – Shaker Lee which merged into Warrensville Ctr. Synagogue in 1970. Oheb Zedek Cedar Sinai Synagogue
2	921-023	Shaarey Israel of Mt, Pleasant 12/17/1930 V4002 p605	Current Owner based on County Record of 951-21-023 is "Shaarey Israel of Mt, Pleasant. The congregation disbanded circa 1950. Remaining members joined with Ohel Jacob V'Yavneh Congregation – Shaker Lee which merged into Warrensville Ctr. Synagogue in 1970. Today known as Oheb Zedek Cedar Sinai Synagogue Today Warrensville Ctr. Synagogue is known as Oheb Zedek Cedar Sinai Synagogue
1	21-024	Ohel Jabneh Bilchek's Shul 1/26/1936 V4585 p537	Current owner based on County Record of 951-21-024 is Ohel Jabneh. Disbanded circa 1960 with remaining members joining Warrensville Ctr. Synagogue today known as Oheb Zedek Cedar Sinai Synagogue
14	-21-030	Jewish Progressive 9/8/1938. v4870 p242.	The organization was incorporated as the Cleveland Vilner Jewish Progressive Society in 1925. The organization's incorporation was canceled 6/30/1970 by the State of Ohio. Last know filing to the state by the society was processed 10/5/1959
23	21-038	Beth Hamedrosh Kol Israel 11/05/1929 v3862 p319	Transferred by merger with Warrensville Center Road . Merger filed with State 5 14 1959. Doc. B101-617. Recorded by county recorder V3704 page 305. Now listed with 951-21-029. It is unknown when this parcel was listed with 951-21-029 Owner per Cuyahoga County fiscal office for this parcel is Cong. Etal
26	21-042	Brisker & Grodner. Soc.. Date of Sale is 8/2/1937 recorded 4/4/1961 v10140 p696	Disagreement between Brisker & Grodner Benv. Society and the Mt. Olive Cemetery Assoc. over fee's for perpetual care resulting in the matter being resolved by Cuyahoga County Court of Appeals Judge Lee Skeel in favor of the Cemetery Association in January of 1964 Case number CA 26820 As of 6/1/2017 the Brisker & Grodner Benv. Society incorporation status is identified by the Sec. of state as on hold due to failure to file a statement of existence as required. Last reinstatement by the state occurred 1/19/2012.
31 32	21-047 21-048	Shomrei Hadath *7/13/1934 Not recorded until 7/15/1973 V1333 p6671	Deed transfer documents dated 7/13/1934 however it was not recorded until 7/15/1973. Thought to be done in preparation of merger of Shomrei Hadath into Young Israel. Merger agreement, B905-0929 filed with state of Ohio 8/28/1973. Merger recorded as Shombro Doth Jewish Congregation to Young Israel 9/6/1973 v13352 p963. for parcel 951-21-046, However parcel 951-21-027 was not transferred to Young Israel by the county recorder.
34 33	21-058 21-059	Cleve. Hebrew Benv. Assoc. 1/21/1936 V485 p422	Minutes of the Mt. Olive Cemetery Assoc. dated Nov, 16,1971 indicate the disbanding of the Cleveland Hebrew Benevolent Society. Deeds to the two parcels to be turned over to the Cemetery Association. The Cuyahoga County fiscal office shows these two parcels being owned by Assoc. with an additional owner being the Cleveland Hebrew Benevolent.

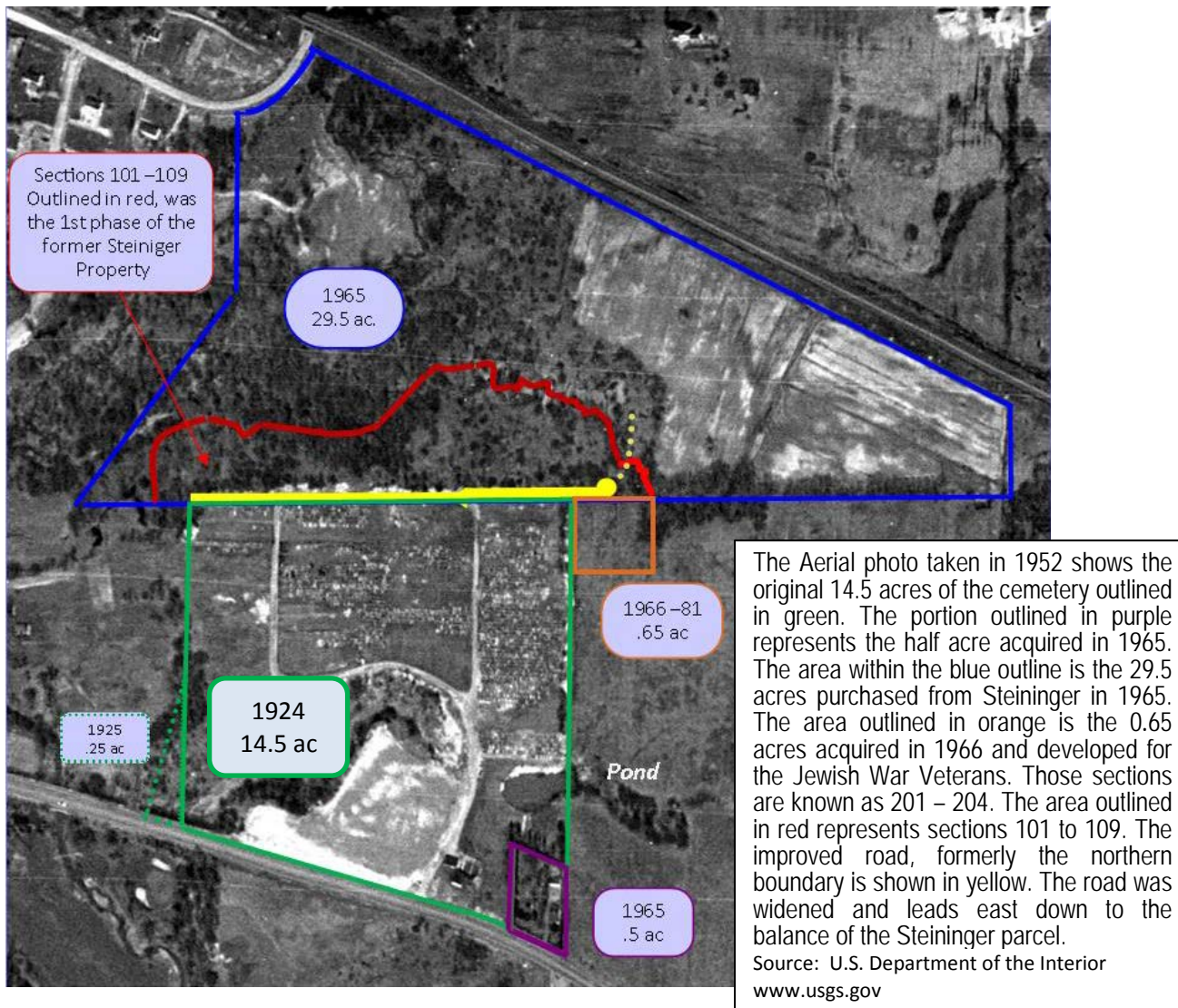
As the 1950's came to a close, the amount of land available for burials needed to be addressed. The board of directors had several options including the development of the front (southern) portion of the property which included a gully, and or the acquisition of additional land preferably adjacent to the cemetery. Board minutes from late 1950's through the early 1980's indicated the logical decision was to improve the southern portion for burials in phases. The work would include filling the pond located adjacent to the parking lot and section 12, replacing and redirecting drainage and eliminating the gully. The elimination of the gully would result in sections 50, 51, 52, 400 and 500 being established. Details of the work are limited to board minutes approving the work. The majority of the work was done by Mr. Wesley Chrisman of Granger Construction.

Front Sections developed circa 1960		
Section	Name	Estimated completion date*
50	Mt. Olive Cemetery. Assoc.	1966
51	Mt. Olive Cemetery. Assoc.	1971
52	Forest City Benevolent Assoc.	
400	Memorial Garden Assoc.	1974
500	Mt. Olive Cemetery. Assoc.	
*based on Obit review in Cleveland Jewish news and site review on grave stones, minutes and aerial photos		



In August 1965, the board of directors approved the purchase the 29.5 acres to the north from longtime owner Cloyd Steiniger. In addition, four small “land locked” parcels each 50’ x 150’ along the north east corner of the cemetery were acquired between 1965 and 1967. That was followed by 1981 from with the purchase of an additional adjoining parcel just 11 feet wide. The increase from 15 acres to 44.5 resulted in Mt. Olive being the largest Jewish Cemetery in Northern Ohio. The five small parcels were part the 37 Acres to the east of the cemetery owned for many years by Frank Morison’s family.

As a result of these purchases two major decisions needed to be made. Those were; how to layout the land and establishing a plan different from the one commonly used when sections were sold and split into individual parcels to various synagogues or groups.

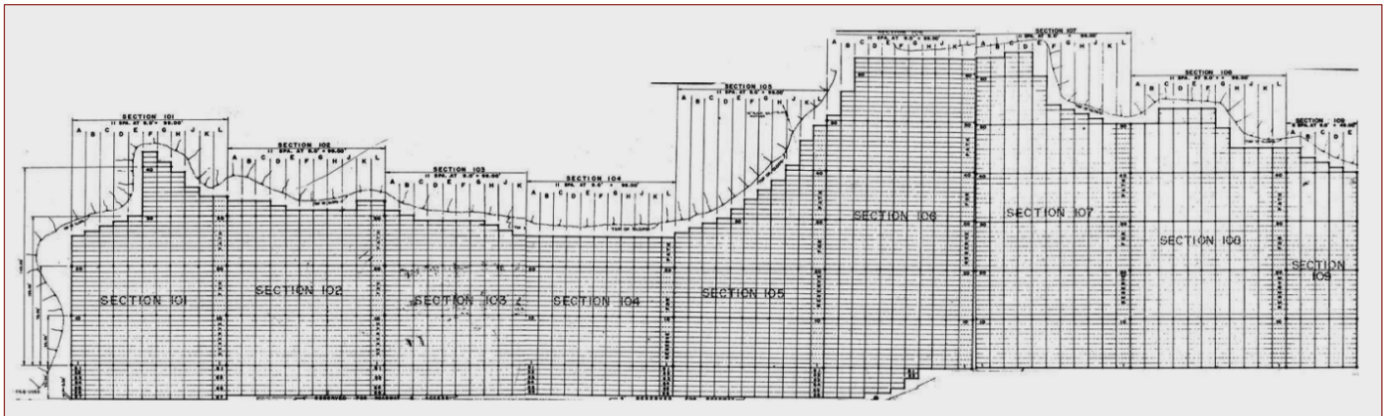


By the late 1950’s nine land owners were added to the original co-owners, Chebra Agudath Achim Congregation Association and the Slobodker Benevolent Cemetery Association. Most of the congregations or benevolent associations were and continue to be in solid financial condition. Several were not and two ceased to exist. In addition disputes over usage including perpetual care fees were at times disputed and left for the courts to resolve. Clearly a updated model needed to be developed.

The solution was establishment of Affiliate Membership Agreements, at times known as constituent agreement, which allowed synagogues and benevolent organizations such as the Jewish War Veterans to purchase burial rights within a predefined section while the deed to the 29.5 acres would continue to be held by the Cemetery Association. The agreements define the rules and obligations including religious guidelines, the size of monuments, and the day-to-day property management responsibilities of the Mt. Olive Cemetery Association.

The second task was to choose a civil engineer or landscape architect to layout the overall design. Details for the first two organizations to participate as Affiliates, at times known as constituents, were the Memorial Association, and the Jewish War Veterans Post #44. The initial design occurred in 1967 when Solon based engineer Melvin Smith and later his partner Karl Stonebraker were chosen to design the overall plan and the details needed for the Memorial Association and the War vets.

Smith’s biggest challenge was the seventeen foot difference in elevation between the Steiniger parcel and the area 150 to 200 feet north of the original northern property of the cemetery line. That area is outlined in red in the photo shown on the pervious page. In March of 1967, Racca Asphalt was granted the contract to clear the upper section of the Steininger parcel for nine sections each measuring fifty feet wide and up to 200 feet deep. Racca would construct a road east to west fronting the new sections and extending east. The road included a sixty foot circle that would provide access to the four small parcels to the east and a roadway descending north to the balance of the newly acquired land.



The above drawing shows the detail information provided to establish the legal description of the nine sections. The document was filed with county recorder June 30th 1968 and is known as Vol 202 page 54. This is an excellent example of how improvements to land should be documented, to avoid unforeseen circumstances

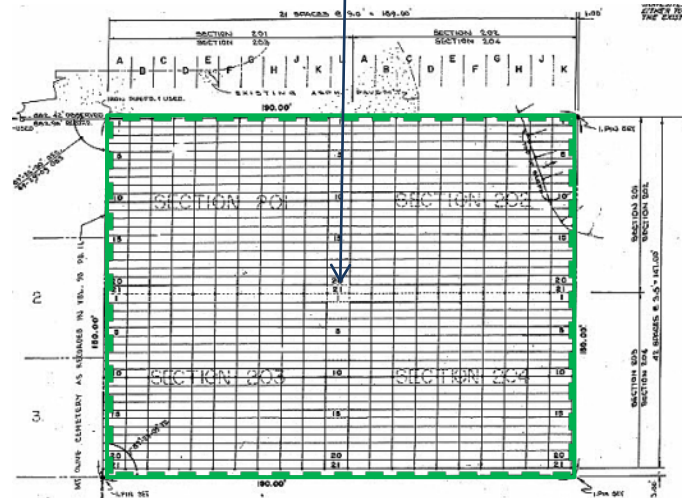
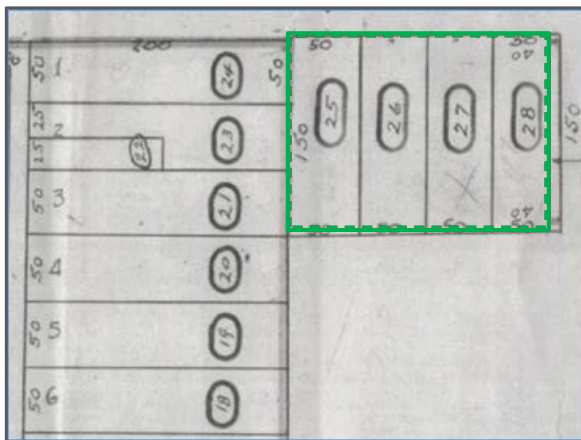
MT. OLIVE CEMETERY		
SOLON OHIO ORIGINAL SOLON TWP. LOT 17 TR. 1 - CUYAHOGA CO.		
SECTION 101 - 444 GRAVESITES	}	TOTAL GRAVESITES 1241 SIZE 3.5' X 9.0'
" 102 - 418 "		
" 103 - 379 "		
MELVIN L. SMITH AND ASSOCIATES - CIVIL ENGINEERS 33825 SOLON RD. SOLON, OHIO		
SCALE 1"=20'	MAR. 15, 1968	JOB S67-223

The above is the “corner block” of Smith’s layout section 101 to 109. The total number of graves based on Smith’s design would be just over 3700.

Several of the Memorial Sections are within Sections 101 thru 109. In 1972 a mausoleum was built by Granit-Bronz of Cold Spring, Minnesota at the rear of section 102 on behalf of the Memorial Association. After several months of discussion within the Jewish community the mausoleum was removed and repurposed by Kotecki monuments.

An article in the Jewish Independent dated November 8, 1935 announced a public dedication the following Sunday by the Jewish War Veterans Post 14 in a section at the cemetery set aside for burial of Jewish ex-service men. The ceremonies would be led by Rabbi Abraham Nowak of Community Temple. The event would include the dedication of a flag and flag pole. At that time George E. Kath was the president of the post. It is unknown where that section is located.

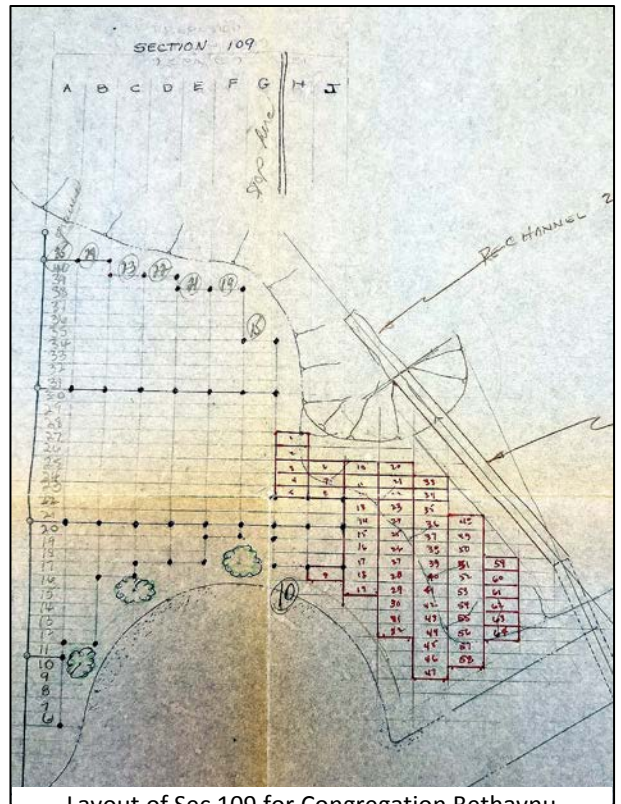
At the same the land for sections 101 thru 109 was being developed, and sections 201 to 204 were being established on the four small parcels acquired in 1965 to 1968. This was developed by the Jewish War Veterans Post 44. According to the Cleveland Jewish News published October 21, 1983, a dedication ceremony took place several days earlier. The dedication included the unveiling of a three sided monument designed by Arthur Hemlock. The monument straddles the center of the sections. A flag pole was donated by Leon Miller. The dedication service was led by Rabbi Jacob Shtull and post commander David Siegel.



Shown above is the plat on file with the County Recorder prior to the cemetery acquiring the five parcels. The plat to the left is Smiths reconfiguration of the five lots. This document is part of the plats filed June 30th 1968 and is known as Vol 202 page 54 with the County Recorder. Smith's drawing dated Feb 1st 1968 listed their office being at 33825 Solon Rd. along with the following information Section 1 241 graves, 202 219 graves, 203 231 graves and section 204 210 graves totaling 882 graves.

The last section of the upper parcels to be developed was 109. This section is uniquely shaped and provides an unblocked view over the then soon to be developed Steinnger parcel. In 1984, this section would be prepared for the cemetery's newest affiliate, Congregation Bethaynu. According to Mt. Olive board minutes this section would accommodate one hundred burials with an option to use an additional seventy-seven. Bethaynu held their last service in 2011. Many of the members, of Bethaynu chose to join Congregation B'nai Jeshurun Congregation which maintains the relationship with the Mt. Olive Cemetery Association for former members of Bethaynu.

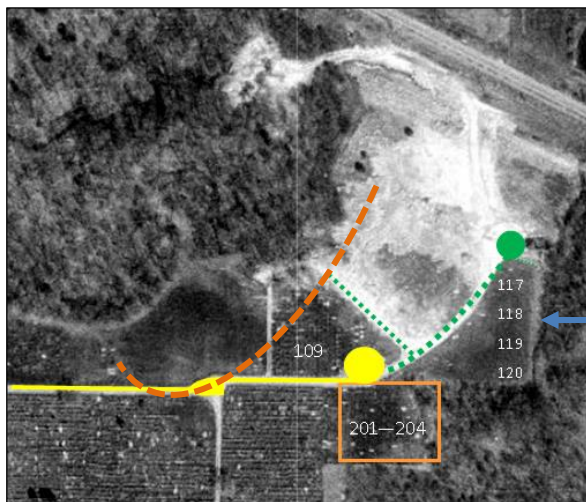
By 1988, a road was built leading from the circle or upper landing point in front of section 201 through 204, north down to the lower portion of the Steinnger parcel. The project provided access for the development of sections 117 through 120. In addition the road included a culvert which would define and enhance the beauty of Bethaynu's section. That road is outlined in green on the aerial photo shown below. According to cemetery records the work was done in 1988 by Granger Construction.



Layout of Sec 109 for Congregation Bethaynu

The establishment of section 117 provided the Cemetery additional burial plots for those not a member of congregations with burial rights. Sections 118 and 119 were developed for the Jewish War veterans in 1998a section 201 0 204 were reaching capacity

Section 120 developed in 1981 for Sinai Synagogue, one of Cleveland's oldest orthodox congregation's today a part of Oheb Zedek-Cedar Sinai Synagogue in Lyndhurst.



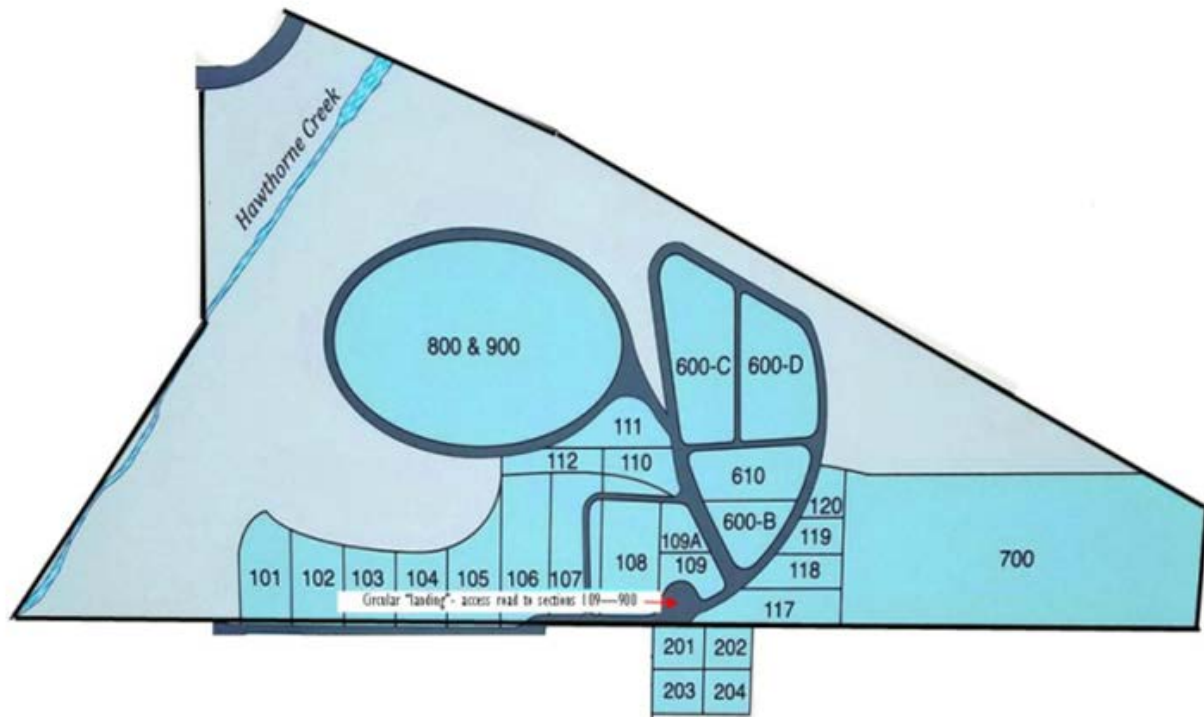
The above monument is to the left of sections 118 119

Earth moving equipment would return in 1994 when JTO Inc. of Mentor, was selected to construct a road around section 600. The construction of the road would also provide improved access to sections 110, 111, and 112. The work would also include the construction of a gravel road providing limited access to the undeveloped western portion of the cemetery, identified as sections 800 and 900.



Upon completion of the road work, Park Synagogue would join the other affiliates in obtaining burial rights for their members within a substantial portion of section 600 in addition to options for additional land yet to be developed. The Forest City Benevolent Association an original partner in the development of Mt. Olive reserved 600B, and *Temple Israel Ner Tamid* acquired the center section, 610.

Most recent additions include section 110 provided by the Cemetery Association for burials of Holocaust survivors and their family. The section is anchored with a monument designed and built by Classic Memorials. In 2009, section 111, became the Jewish War Veterans third section in the Cemetery, also identified with a monument for their third section, also designed, by Classic Memorials.



Section	Name	Section	Name	Section	Name
101 - 104	Mt. Olive Cem. Assoc.	111	Jewish War Vets.	600	Park
105	Taylor Rd	112	Forrest City B. Assoc.	600B	Forrest City B. Assoc.
106 - 108	Memorial Assoc.	117	Mt. Olive Cem. Assoc.	600C & D	Park
109	Bethaynu B'nai Jeshurun	118 - 119	Jewish War vets.	610	Temple Israel
109A	Mt. Olive Cem. Assoc.	120	Cedar Sinai	700	Park*
110	Mt. Olive Cem. Assoc. Holocaust	200 204	Jewish War Vets.	800 & 900	Mt. Olive Cem. Assoc.

In 1987 a stand-alone garage was built by Commonwealth Lumber just north of the cemetery office. Until then, equipment storage was limited to a portion of the office building built in 1957. In 2008 a small addition was added to the north side of the building, and in 2016 the garage doubled in size with a 30' x 30' addition to the front.

The proper development of Mt. Olive would not have occurred without the dedication of both paid staff and dedicated board members, and additional input from community members. The memorial markers to both Mr. Gill and Mr. Wolf are testaments to their dedication, to serve our family members of blessed memory, with respect and dignity. That dedication continues under the outstanding leadership of Mr. Larry Collins and his dedicated staff.