



Heritage News

A quarterly newsletter of Glendale Heritage Preservation, Fall 2023

Missing Church Hiding in Plain Sight

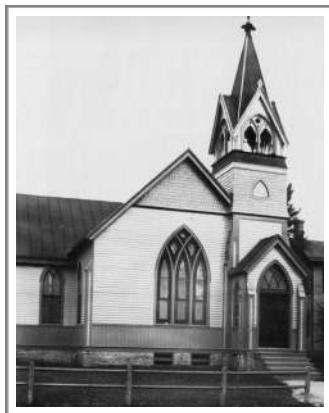
By 1887, Glendale had seven active churches. Today there are six of them still standing. What happened to the missing church?

Beginning in the early 1860s, three churches were built in Glendale for the Presbyterians, Catholics, and Swedenborgians. By the end of the 1860s, the Episcopalians had built Christ Church. Following, in the mid-1870s, the African Methodist Episcopalians built Quinn Chapel and the Baptists built Mt. Zion Church. All six of these churches are still in existence in one form or another.

That leaves one more church, the missing church, to be built. The construction of the seventh Glendale church was begun in November 1886 and dedicated on May 29, 1887. It was the Glendale Methodist-Episcopal Church.

The church was built on one of two lots donated, along with a check for \$500, by Mr. Clinton Kirby.

The church trustees chose the Shingle style of architecture, popular between 1880 and 1900, opting for a standard pattern (No. 44A) provided by the Church Extension Society. In 1951, a house was purchased and moved to the second lot, alongside the



church, to serve as a home for the pastor. The house can still be seen in its original form at 33 W. Sharon Avenue, opposite St. Gabriel Consolidated School, but what happened to the church?

By 1957, the Glendale Methodist Episcopalians merged with the Forest Park Methodists and all properties and members were transferred to the new organization. Subsequently, the Glendale church and house were put up for sale for \$40,000. For the next few years, it became the home of the Temple Baptist Church until the Church relocated to Springdale. Its pastor, Dr. Chester Ratliff, a fervent educationalist, went on to found the Temple Baptist College in 1972. It was a 4-year liberal arts college, also located in Springdale, that trained young men for the ministry.

As if the church and education were inseparable, in 1970, ownership of the church and house transferred to the Princeton Board of Education, which planned to use them for offices. Before that could happen, the church had to be modified. Now, this is where the church disappears before your very eyes. First the steeple was removed, then the church was dressed in brick, and, finally, an extension was added on to the rear of the church. What remained of the church's profile can be traced from the stunted steeple to the gable ends of the roof line, to the original entrance.



So, this is how the seventh Glendale church went missing, but it is still there in plain

sight. Using your imagination, you can rediscover it through the remaining exterior features of what was once the Glendale Methodist-Episcopal Church and is now the Princeton Board of Education offices, at 25 W. Sharon Ave. *Submitted by Martin Sinnott*

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GHP And All That Jazz

On June 4, Glendale Heritage Preservation held its annual fundraiser for the first time since 2019. This year's event titled "GHP and All That Jazz" was held at the home of Chris Schuh and Brian Melleby on Willow Avenue.

The house, known as the Ritterath house, was built by Peter Ritterath in 1857. Chris and Brian are the thirteenth owners of the property.



The event was attended by 120 guests who enjoyed food and drinks while listening to Dan Love's jazz quartet.



In gratitude for their generosity, Chris and Brian were presented with a framed pen-and-ink drawing of their house, created by Glendale artist Jamie Redden.



Event chair, Connie Halbauer Redden, was the driving force behind the event. She conceived, organized and executed the fundraiser with the help of a village of volunteers.



Sears Homes in Glendale

Hamilton County has one of the highest concentrations of Sears kit homes. One estimate puts it at 1,300 homes out of the 70,000 Sears kit homes built over a period from 1908 to 1942. Why were so many Sears kit homes built in our area?

The primary reason is that in 1912 Sears purchased Norwood Sash and Door Company to build its house kits. This meant there was a local supply of Sears kit homes with lower transportation costs, making them more affordable to families in the area. Norwood itself has 124 Sears kit homes.

Identifying Sears kit homes has become a hobby for a number of avid fans of domestic architecture. One of those was Glendale's Laraine Shape, who passed away in 2015. Laraine started a website in 2013 "Sears Homes in Cincinnati" in which she catalogued the Sears kit homes she discovered while doing her job as a realtor.

Her friend Cindy Catanzaro of Springfield, Ohio, has integrated Laraine's research into her own blog "Sears Houses in Ohio." Cindy travels the entire state to document Sears kit homes.

Cindy shared the eight Sears kit homes from her database that are located in Glendale. Identification is based on viewing the house from the street and her knowledge of Sears designs. Occasionally, Cindy will have the opportunity to view the house from the inside in order to authenticate the property as a Sears kit home. One of the eight Glendale homes has been authenticated.

All Glendale Sears kit homes date from the Roaring Twenties, as Glendale expanded to meet the needs of post-war families.

Glendale's Sears kit homes range in size from the two-bedroom *Fairy* model located on Cleveland Avenue to the four-bedroom *Preston* model located on Hedgerow Lane.



There are two examples of the two-bedroom *Windsor* model homes: one on Cleveland Avenue and the other on Chester Road.



Abutting Sharon Avenue are the three-bedroom *Gladstone* on East Sharon Avenue and the two-bedroom *Hamilton* on Summit Avenue. The *Hamilton* is the one house that has been authenticated.



There are two other Sears models in Glendale: a *Somers* on Church Avenue at the junction with Washington Avenue, and a *Whitehall* on Congress Avenue at the boundary with Springfield.



Over 34 years, Sears produced more than 370 kit home designs. There is even a *Glendale* model introduced by Sears in 1922. However, to see a *Glendale* model locally, you will have to go to Minot Avenue in Oakley where there are two of them.

Submitted by Martin Sinnott



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Glendale Heritage Preservation Sponsors

Associated with the fundraising event, "GHP and All That Jazz," Glendale Heritage Preservation sought out sponsors for both the event and the organization as a whole.

We are grateful for the generosity of the individuals and businesses that agreed to be sponsors of Glendale Heritage Preservation.

This following list of Glendale Heritage Preservation sponsors will be on display in the museum:

Steeple Ringer (\$1000+) Tim Mathile & Lynn Dowd

Black Squirrel (\$600-900) Glendale Florist

Train Conductor (\$300-499) James & Constance Redden, John & Sherri Kohnle, Levi Furr

Villager (\$150-299) Sizemore & Company, Queen City Painting, Peter Stackpole

Glendale Heritage Preservation Annual Meeting

Glendale Heritage Preservation's annual meeting will be held on November 14 in Christ Church's All Saints Fellowship Hall. Join us for a reception at 7:00 p.m. followed by the annual meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The highlight of the meeting will be a presentation by Cindy Catanzaro, researcher, cataloger and blogger of Sears houses in Ohio.

Cindy will present on the history of Sears houses, their manufacture in our area, and the examples to be found in Glendale.



The meeting is free and open to everyone.