

Glendale Heritage Preservation, (GHP) is the non-profit organization that was incorporated in 1974 to protect the core of the village from outside development. This was accomplished by successfully nominating the Glendale Historic District to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1977 the United States Department of the Interior declared our Glendale Historic District a National Historic Landmark, of importance not only to the people of Ohio but to the entire nation.

These events were enabled by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 which was passed by the Federal government to protect significant historic resources from destruction, alteration and neglect.

Village residents were motivated to propose an Historic District for Glendale by a 1972 Cincinnati Bell announcement of their intent to significantly enlarge a switching station located on the corner of Sharon and Laurel Avenues. The enlarged switching station would require demolition of a substantial three story brick home.



Home demolished by Cincinnati Bell.

(The roofline of the house in the background is distinctive and can be seen in the contemporary picture which follows.)

The Village took legal action to oppose this expansion, but the Ohio Supreme Court ruled in favor of Cincinnati Bell. The brick home was razed and the switching station expanded to the configuration it has today.



Contemporary picture of expanded telephone switching station.

(Note the roofline of the house in from the middle-left edge of the picture. It matches the roofline shown in the background of the demolished house picture.)

Doreen Gove moved to Glendale in 1971 and was part of a small group who bemoaned the triumph of Cincinnati Bell. Doreen had lived in Rockport, MA, and had seen nearby Ipswich (settled in 1634) struggle to preserve historic places from modern development. Although a Glendale newcomer at the time, Doreen was invaluable in helping Glendale protect its historic infrastructure.



Doreen Gove (1977)

Doreen invited Gale Brooks, Project Director with the Environmental Preservation Department in Cincinnati, to meet with a group of concerned residents who wanted to prevent further encroachment on the village. Mr. Brooks suggested utilizing the route of the National Register to protect the Village. A listing in the National Register of Historic Places gives protection against adverse effects from any project in which Federal funds are used.

In February 1974 Doreen wrote to the Ohio Historical Society asking for details about the procedure to become an historic district.

The informal group decided to start with the nomination of one building, rather than the entire district. The Glendale Police Station was chosen since it was originally built as a police station and had been used for that purpose for over 100 years. The citizen group generated the information to complete the Nomination Form with the assistance of Mr. Brooks.

In December 1974 the citizen group received a letter saying the Glendale Police Station "...has been given final approval by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board as qualified for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The nomination forms are now being sent to Washington, D.C. for federal approval."

On March 27, 1975 the Glendale Police Station was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Glendale Police Station (1975)

Meanwhile, Articles of Incorporation for Glendale Heritage Preservation were being written by Glendale resident General Clio Straight, a retired member of the Army Judge Advocate Corps. The Articles of Incorporation were signed by Charles Ault, Doreen Gove and Harry Mathews and submitted to the Office of the Ohio Secretary of State on November 29, 1974.

In May 1975, Glendale Heritage Preservation held its first meeting to elect trustees. The nominating committee put forth this list of candidates.

NOMINEES FOR TRUSTEE

GLENDALE HERITAGE PRESERVATION

C. A. Ault
Edward Berghausen
Shirley Campbell (Mrs. Thos.)
Thos. Carruthers IV
Addison Clipson
Jane Faran
Marcia Gest (Mrs. Henry)
Doreen Gove (Mrs. Robert)
Virginia Gutting (Mrs. Jos.)
C. B. Hawley
Eve Keys (Mrs. Richard, Jr.)
James Kloth
Virginia Latta (Mrs. Leigh)
Harry Matthews
R. F. "Rick" Muhlhauser
Wm. MacConnell
Alene Rice
Roland Richardson
Wm. D. Shardelow
Peggy Sherrill (Mrs. Caldwell)
C. E. Straight
Mary Stewart (Mrs. Pat)
Lulu Turner (Mrs. Sam'l, Jr.)
Rev. Richard L. Waldrop
Lawson E. Whitesides

4/22/75

First nominations for GHP Trustees

GHP then turned its attention toward identifying portions of the Village that might qualify as an historic district and to developing the supporting materials for the Department of the Interior Historic Places Nomination Form.

GHP proposed listing 392 acres of central Glendale in the National Register. An approximately 60-page package of materials was compiled with a Statement of Significance listing 59 pivotal structures in the proposed historic district. Information on each structure included an architectural description, structure construction date, and name of the first owner.

Twenty-nine photographs, recent maps, a map from the 1869 Titus Atlas and a copy of the Crawford and Clark Subdivision plat were also included.

The Glendale Historic District Nomination Form was submitted to the Department of the Interior in September 1975.

Form No. 10-200 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

DATA SHEET
FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 17 1976
DATE ENTERED JUL 20 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME
HISTORIC
AND/OR COMMON
**
GLENDALE HISTORIC DISTRICT

2 LOCATION An irregular polygon situated East of State Route 4,
north of State Route 126, embracing a portion of the
C&O-B&O Railroad right-of-way. 247
CITY, TOWN Village of Glendale VICINITY OF No. Cressison, Jr. 1
STATE Ohio CODE 039 COUNTY Hamilton CODE 061

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZENITH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> BENEVOLENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME Multiple-Ownership
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
VICINITY OF
STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hamilton County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER Court and Main Streets
CITY, TOWN Cincinnati STATE Ohio

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

Glendale Historic District Nomination Form

8 SIGNIFICANCE



PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> NATIONAL REGISTER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES _____ BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Glendale Historic District contains within its boundaries what is believed to be the earliest known subdivision village in America, certainly the oldest in Ohio, which still remains a separate and complete entity with many of its original homes intact.¹ The street plan was much in advance of its time, being laid out in a curvilinear pattern related to the topography. This was a radical departure from the rectangular grid plans then in common usage.

The Village of Glendale is located midway between Cincinnati and Hamilton on land that was deeded to John Cleves Symmes by the United States on May 5, 1792. On February 10, 1795, Mr. Symmes deeded the land to John Riddle who, in turn, deeded part of his holdings in 1807 to the Reverend Robert Warwick, and another part in 1832 to Warwick and Lewis. Three years later the latter sold their holdings to Edmund Glenn.

On April 26, 1851, seeing the possibilities for residential development due to the nearly completed C. H. & D. Railroad, two men, George Crawford and Henry Clark, purchased 600 acres, principally from the Glenn and Riddle farms, and laid out a subdivision for railroad officials, owners and operators of the mills and factories that were springing up along the Miami and Erie Canal in the Mill Creek Valley. These business men had inspected the entire route of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railroad and selected the present site of Glendale. This rural location along the railroad gave them easy access to the city but was removed from any encroachment of industry or commerce; subsequently these 30 men formed the Glendale Association which in 1851 bought the 600 acres from Crawford and Clark, 200 of which were laid out by Robert C. Phillips, civil engineer, in lots of 1 to 20 acres. These lots were offered for sale with the understanding that the amount realized above the original cost was to be used for the improvement of streets, parks and the construction of a lake. In order to attract responsible persons, the lots were sold with the understanding that purchasers would erect only "good dwellings".

The first train ran September 18, 1851. Lots were laid out, the Crawford and Clark Plat was born, and lots were exposed for public sale all in that year. The first house was built in 1852, and by early 1855 a petition for the incorporation was signed by 30 of the 50 or more property owners. Actually 56 men voted in the first election held August 13th of that year. It follows some of the men of the Glendale Association were the builders of these early homes. George Crawford, one of the developers of the village and its first mayor, built his on Sharon Avenue (building #16) not far from that of Samuel Fosdick (building #12). Anthony Harkness built his house on Laurel Avenue (building #13) of brick and then had it completely covered with wooden clapboards. These houses have not been greatly altered.

¹Dr. Edward B. Danson - Member of the Secretary of Interior's Advisory Council of the National Parks.

After State of Ohio and Federal review, the Glendale Historic District was entered into the National Register of Historic Places Inventory on July 20, 1976.

The National Register is the official list of the nation's historic properties worthy of preservation because of their state and local significance. There are currently more than 90,000 entries in the National Register.

In January 1977 a National Park Service representative from the Historic Site Survey Department visited Glendale to determine if our Historic District qualified for National Landmark status. Landmark status is reserved for those places that are of importance to the entire nation.

After further review, the Glendale Historic District was designated a National Historic Landmark on May 5, 1977.

Examples of National Historic Landmarks are places like the Statue of Liberty or the Alamo. At the time Landmark status was granted for Glendale, it is believed there were only about 20 Landmark Districts in the entire country with residents. Glendale followed well-known inhabited districts such as the Charleston Historic District in South Carolina and the French Quarter in New Orleans. In recent years more residential districts have been added (e.g. Mariemont and Greenhills), but 50 years ago Glendale was among the first.

There are currently about 2,500 Landmark entries in the National Register.

LANDMARK DAY
October 15, 1977

A ceremony to celebrate the Glendale Historic District designation as a National Landmark took place on October 15, 1977. A bronze plaque from the National Park service was placed at the southwest corner of Village Square.



Landmark Day Ceremony, Doreen Gove speaking



Mayor Harry Mathews



Doreen Gove and Fahy Whitaker, National Park Service representative



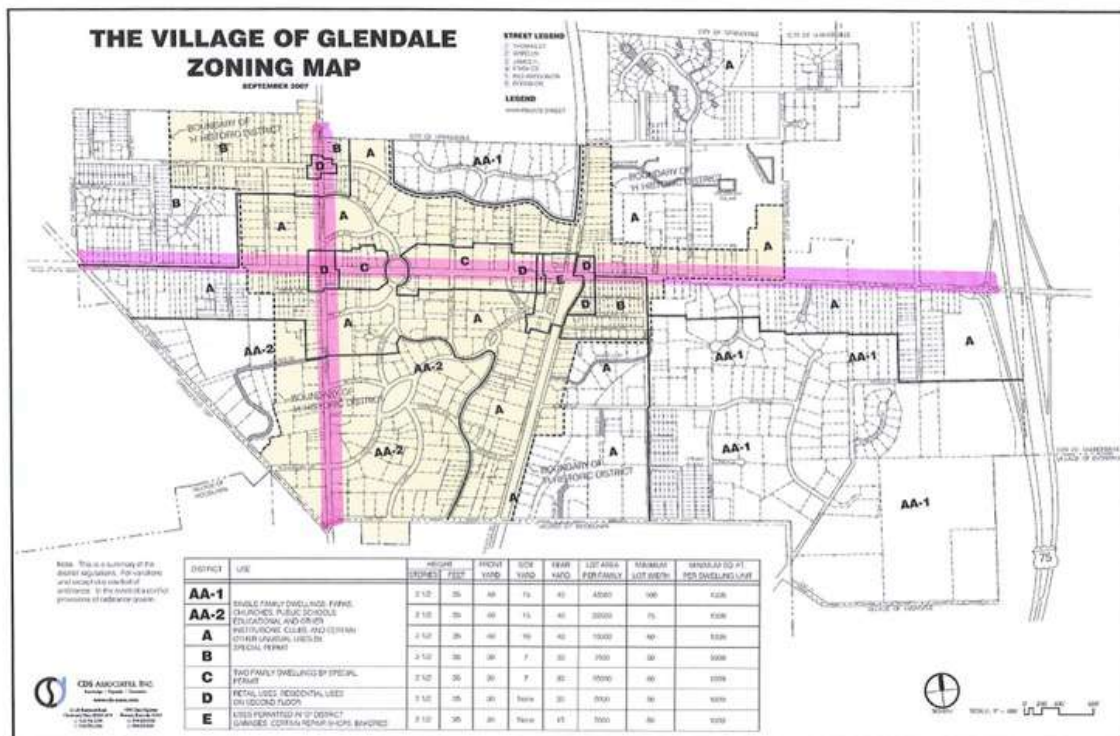
National Historic Landmark Plaque

This plaque was originally mounted at the southwest corner of Village Square. In 2009 Village Square hardscape was renovated and the plaque moved to its current location on a traffic island in the middle of the Square.

Since the National Historic Landmark designation was made in 1977, no structure inside the Glendale Historic District has been demolished due to action by a public utility or the State of Ohio. Other adverse effects have also been prevented.

Some residents recall that just before the Historic designation was made, the State of Ohio was already planning to widen Congress Avenue into four lanes to match the highways in Springdale and Woodlawn. In order to improve traffic flow there is no doubt the Ohio Department of Transportation would widen Sharon Avenue westward from I75 either to Congress Avenue or to Route 4 if Glendale were not protected by the National Park Service Historic designation.

If Congress and Sharon Avenues were four lane highways, the character, livability and small town feel of our village would be much altered.



GHP has been successful in Preserving the Past for the Future.

Additional information and pictures about the formation of GHP and the establishment of the Glendale Landmark Historic District can be viewed on the Depot touchscreen computer. Touch the icon labeled "About GHP" on the computer home screen and then "How GHP Came to Be" on the next screen.