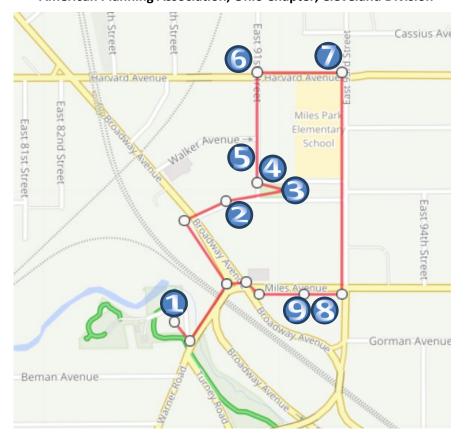


Miles Park Historic District, Area Walking Tour We Plan CLE 2020: HOME American Planning Association, Ohio Chapter, Cleveland Division





9250 Miles Park Avenue \* Cleveland, Ohio 44105-5151 P: 216-341-0757 \* www.unionmiles.org \* F: 216-341-0226

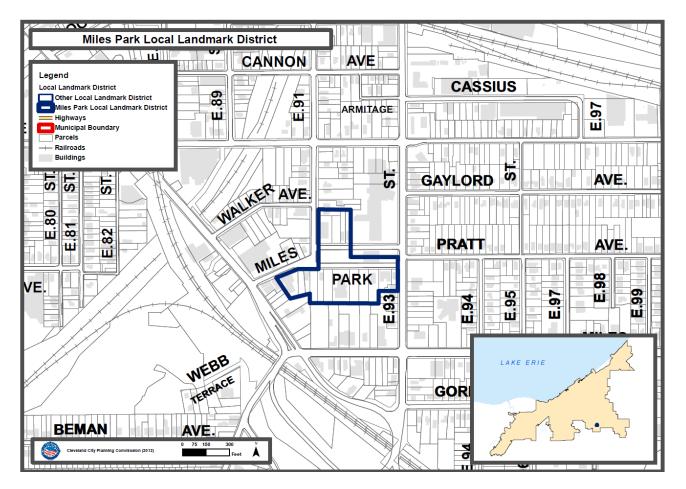
## **Overview of Union Miles History & the Miles Park Historic District**

Cleveland's Union Miles neighborhood origins began with the former village of Newburgh, a township which once held the distinction of being Northeast Ohio's largest settlement in the early 19th century—settled largely around the Mill Creek Waterfall, home to the area's first grist mill. Newburgh's City Hall was originally located at the center of Miles Park on the current site of Union Miles Development Corporation (in the former Carnegie Library Building, built 1914).

While originally functioning as Newburgh's Public Square, Miles Park was also later the Southeastern terminus for Cleveland's once extensive streetcar transportation network. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

Steel mills began gaining momentum in the 1850s and 1860s, drawing an influx of European immigrants. Cleveland began to grow as a more significant port city, with its strategic coastal location on Lake Erie. By 1893 Newburgh was fully annexed by the now larger City of Cleveland. Between 1910 and 1930 the Union Miles area population swelled from 11,000 to 28,000, with Cleveland eventually becoming the United States' 5th largest city, home to over 900,000 people in 1950. Many newcomers chose to reside in Union Miles with its thriving industrial economy.

Racial transitions began to occur in the 1960s and 1970s as the neighborhood's African-American population increased from approximately 10% in 1960 to 96.5% in 2010, coinciding with the decline of local manufacturing, suburban sprawl and financial flight. The neighborhood identity shifted from one of opportunity to "ground zero" for the home foreclosure crisis of 2007, however has since been gradually shifting in line with growing community pride, resilience and new projects designed with social impact, improved land use and community health as pillar foundations for community strength.



9250 Miles Park Avenue \* Cleveland, Ohio 44105-5151 P: 216-341-0757 \* www.unionmiles.org \* F: 216-341-0226