

About Jewish Cincinnati: A Walk Through History

Building upon assets from a 2018 FOTOFOCUS exhibition created by J. Miles Wolf in partnership with Cincinnati Skirball Museum, "A Walk Through History" features current, former, and now extinct places of worship around Cincinnati's West End and Downtown core. Each of three tour routes highlights four to six historic and currently active sites which correspond to stunning photographic images created by Wolf.

Wolf culled synagogue and community archives, libraries, and personal local collections for historic photographs to combine with his stunning new images, bringing back to life the forgotten places of worship used by previous generations of Cincinnati Jews.

For natives, this will be a walk down memory lane. For newcomers, it provides a glimpse into the past of the city we have come to call home. For all of us, this important visual history of immigrants who helped to build Cincinnati from a small river town to one of the largest and most influential cities of the nineteenth century is sure to have a lasting impact.

The tours can be enjoyed as both guided and self-guided experiences. Routes range from 1.5mi - 2.6mi, and should last approximately 45-90 minutes, depending on pace. We encourage you to visit ishFestival.com/JewishCincinnati for complete photography archive and downloadable digital map.

Created by ish Festival in partnership with Cincinnati Skirball Museum and J. Miles Wolf. This program is made possible in part by Ohio Humanities, A State affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For a complete photography archive including more information about the sites on this tour and a downloadable digital map, visit ishFestival.com/JewishCincinnati.

Brought to you by:



J. Miles
Wolf

Jewish Cincinnati: A Walk Through History

An Historic
Walking Tour



Extended Tour

2.6mi. | ~90 min.

Departs from Washington Park

- CS** Chestnut St. Cemetery
400 Chestnut Street
- AS** Anshei Shalom
422 Clark Street
- MS** Mound Street Lot
907 Mound Street
- PS** Plum Street Temple
720 Plum Street
- LS** Lodge Street Temple
Fountain Square
- SI** Shearith Israel
Ruth Lyons Lane



Mound Street Temple

In 1868, after only 17 years at the Broadway Shul, Bene Israel built and moved into a new impressive building at the corner of Eighth and Mound Streets. This was the first in a series of moves Bene Israel and other Jewish congregations would make as Cincinnati's Jewish population migrated from the east side of downtown to the west side and then north to Avondale and eventually to Amberley Village and beyond. (Featured on cover)



Hebrew Union College (HUC)

Founded in 1875 by Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, Hebrew Union College had its first home in the basement vestry rooms of the Mound Street Temple. No fanfare accompanied the establishment of the first permanent Jewish institution of higher learning in the New World, but it was an accomplishment of great significance. Wise had tried to open a school earlier, but it was only with the backing of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, founded by Wise two years earlier in 1873, that Hebrew Union College came to exist.

* Original site of HUC

Abridged Tour A: Fountain Square

1.9mi. | ~60 min.

Departs from Fountain Square

- LS** Lodge Street Temple
Fountain Square
- SI** Shearith Israel
Ruth Lyons Lane
- MS** Mound Street Lot
907 Mound Street
- PS** Plum Street Temple
720 Plum Street

Abridged Tour B: Over-The-Rhine

2.6mi. | 90 min.

Departs from Washington Park

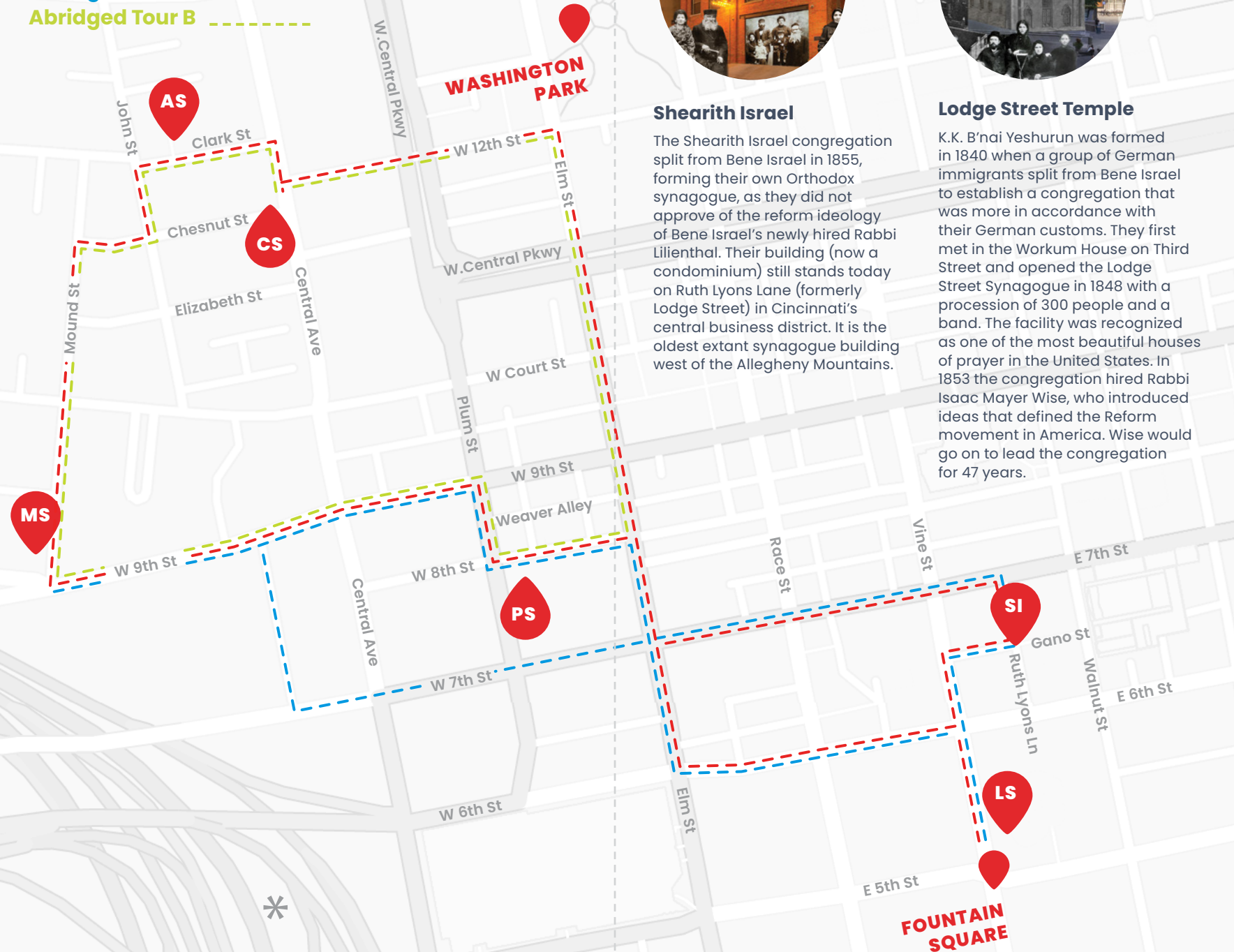
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Walking Tour Routes

Extended Tour

Abridged Tour A

Abridged Tour B



Shearith Israel

The Shearith Israel congregation split from Bene Israel in 1855, forming their own Orthodox synagogue, as they did not approve of the reform ideology of Bene Israel's newly hired Rabbi Lilienthal. Their building (now a condominium) still stands today on Ruth Lyons Lane (formerly Lodge Street) in Cincinnati's central business district. It is the oldest extant synagogue building west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Lodge Street Temple

K.K. B'nai Yeshurun was formed in 1840 when a group of German immigrants split from Bene Israel to establish a congregation that was more in accordance with their German customs. They first met in the Workum House on Third Street and opened the Lodge Street Synagogue in 1848 with a procession of 300 people and a band. The facility was recognized as one of the most beautiful houses of prayer in the United States. In 1853 the congregation hired Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, who introduced ideas that defined the Reform movement in America. Wise would go on to lead the congregation for 47 years.