

Religion/Ecclesiastical Groups

Due to the predominance, quality, and variety of religious and ecclesiastical properties built in the Dayton area between 1940 and 1970, it is conceivable that the entire body of survey work for the Ohio Modern project could have focused solely on these resources. Twenty-two churches and two synagogues were surveyed. In addition, a convent (later converted to the priest's residence and then parish offices) was documented. Faiths represented include Baptist, Brethren, Disciples of Christ, Congregational, Evangelical United Brethren, Methodist, Jewish, Lutheran, Nazarene, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Unitarian, and United Church of Christ. The religious properties selected for documentation were located throughout the survey area in Dayton, Centerville, Fairborn, Huber Heights, Kettering, Trotwood, and Vandalia. The religious buildings range in date from 1948 to 1970. Stylistically, most are categorized as Modern Movement, however there are also some examples of International Style and Neo-Expressionism. Architects involved in designing or modifying religious buildings in the project time period include Ole Schioler, Elmer H. Schmidt, C. Arnold Thoma, Wilbur W. Wurst and Fred Stritzel.

Constructed in 1948, the former **Lutheran Church of Our Savior** (MOT-05217-24) began as a two-story Tudor style building and was purchased by the Miami Valley Unitarian Fellowship in 1959. The Unitarian congregation constructed the modern addition designed by Ole Schioler in 1965. The building is now occupied by the Chabad Center of Dayton.



Lutheran Church of Our Savior/Miami Valley
Unitarian Fellowship, 1965 addition
2001 Far Hills Ave., Dayton

St. Timothy Lutheran Church (MOT-05519-14), a two-story church with Modern Movement design elements, was built in Huber Heights in 1959 and modified in 1970 by architect Fred Stritzel. The church was founded in 1957 in response to the growing population of Huber Heights. As he had done with schools, Charles Huber, president of Huber Homes, donated land for church construction. St. Timothy Lutheran was one of a handful of churches constructed during the early years of Huber Heights development.



St. Timothy Lutheran Church
5040 Rye Dr., Huber Heights

The former **Vandalia Evangelical United Brethren Church** (MOT-05437-13) is a one-story church with Modern elements built in 1963. Located just south of Vandalia's National Road and Dixie Highway crossroads, the building exemplifies the numerous new churches being constructed in growing suburban enclaves throughout the Dayton metropolitan area.



Vandalia Evangelical United Brethren Church
200 S. Dixie Dr., Vandalia

The former **Our Lady of Mercy Convent** (MOT-05306-09) was completed in 1959 at a cost of \$90,000 as a convent for up to 16 nuns. The upper floors of the building were converted in 1977 to a priest's residence following a fire at the rectory, with parish administration offices and meeting rooms occupying the lower floors. Since then, the building has been remodeled as the offices of three parishes: Our Lady of Mercy, Corpus Christi, and Queen of Martyrs. It was designed by C. Arnold Thoma of Piqua.



Our Lady of Mercy Convent
220 W. Siebenthaler Ave., Harrison Township