

**CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**Board Meeting**

December 21, 2017

**RESOLUTION TO EXPLORE USE OF RENOVATED SCOFIELD MANSION  
FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL MUSEUM**

WHEREAS, Since May 2017, the Cleveland Public Library has been in discussions with BRIDGES Black Heritage Cultural Center, Inc. (“BRIDGES”), a non-profit Cleveland-based organization focused on the historical and contemporary events and achievements of African Americans in Cleveland, regarding the possibility of the Library hosting an African American heritage cultural center; and

WHEREAS, BRIDGES has been in discussions with Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, a local community development funding intermediary with experience financing and carrying out renovation projects, about renovating the Levi Scofield Mansion located at 2437 Baldwin Road in Cleveland for use as a museum and cultural center; and

WHEREAS, BRIDGES and Cleveland Neighborhood Progress believe that the Scofield Mansion is capable of renovation and, once complete, could house the cultural center and potentially other uses; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Public Library has authority under Section 3375.402 of the Ohio Revised Code to establish and maintain a museum in connection with and as an adjunct to the Cleveland Public Library; and

WHEREAS, The Library requests authority to explore issues relating to operating an African American heritage cultural center and museum at the Levi Scofield Mansion including, but not limited to, participating in the renovation of the building, purchasing or leasing space in the renovated building, costs, logistics, staffing, and feasibility; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, The Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Public Library hereby authorizes the Executive Director, CEO or his designee, and the Chief Legal Officer, to explore the issues related to operating an African American heritage cultural center and museum in the renovated Scofield Mansion as described in this Resolution.



# The Historic LEVI SCOFIELD MANSION

2438 Mapleside Road, Cleveland, Ohio

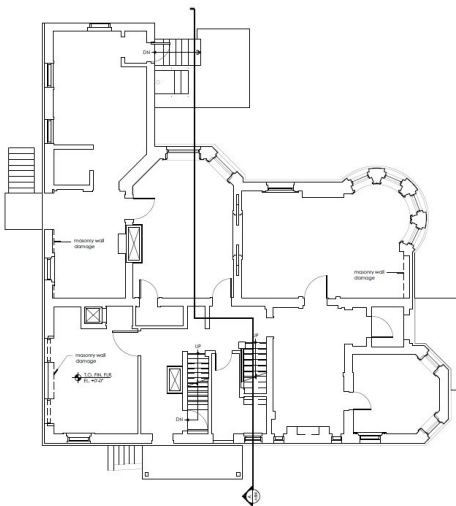


Cleveland's vibrant history is defined in large part by an array of architectural works with deep cultural significance. Levi Tucker Scofield was an architect (and Captain for the Union in the Civil War) who contributed an array of works to this legacy. This includes the Soldiers and Sailors monument on Public Square in 1894, numerous schools and personal residences, and the Scofield Hotel on East 9th, which recently reopened as the Schofield-Kimpton. Elsewhere in Ohio, Scofield built the Athens Lunatic Asylum (located on the Ohio University campus) and the Mansfield Reformatory, depicted in the film *"The Shawshank Redemption."* Scofield rapidly gained national acclaim, not least because of his construction of the Central Prison in North Carolina shortly after the conclusion of the Civil War. Indeed, Scofield specialized in structures built on a grand scale: his portfolio is predominately schools, mental health asylums, and penitentiaries.

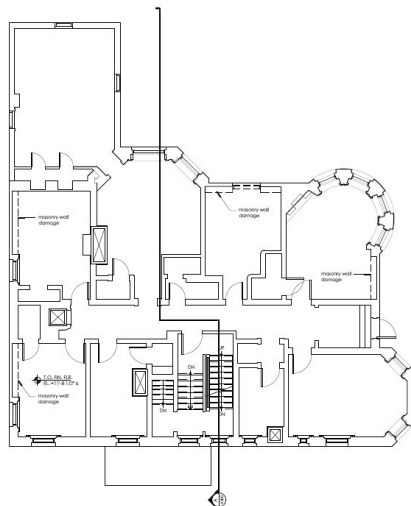
While the Soldiers and Sailors monument has been maintained and preserved, this is due in part to it enjoying pride of place in Cleveland's Public Square. Throughout the city of Cleveland, historic structures located in neighborhoods impacted by continued disinvestment suffer from neglect. When faced with the choice of demolishing (or continuing to neglect) a structure or preserving our heritage, we ought to strive for the latter. Doing so allows us to maintain the character of our neighborhoods while supporting residents who have been most impacted by urban blight.

### STATS

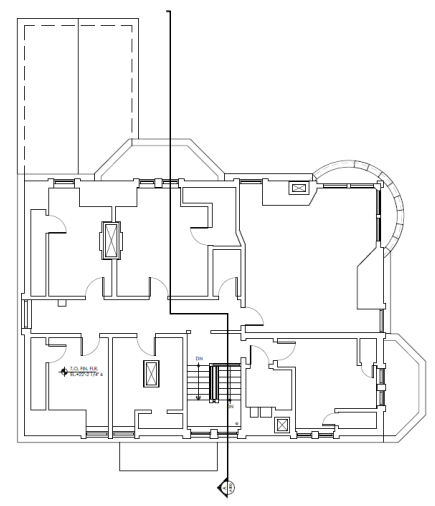
- > Year Built: 1898
- > Architect: Levi Scofield
- > Square Footage: 10,025
- > Lot Size: 1.6 acres (wooded)
- > Floors: 3, plus Basement



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR



## AREA INVESTMENTS

1. Cedar-University Circle Station  
\$18.5 million reconstruction
2. East 105th-Quincy Station\*  
\$4 million expansion
3. Opportunity Corridor Roadway\*  
\$331.3 million construction
4. Woodhill Community Center  
\$5 million restoration + addition
5. Sunbeam School  
\$23.5 million construction
6. Legacy at St. Luke's\*  
\$3 million housing development
7. St. Luke's Hospital Phases 1-3  
\$78 million renovation
8. Harvey Rice School + Library  
\$7 million construction
9. East 116th-Shaker Station\*  
\$6.3 million reconstruction

\*Currently in planning/development

The Scofield Mansion is a prime candidate for this type of renovation. At 10,025 square feet and three stories, the Scofield Mansion is a large and versatile space with a superb location. Throughout the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the region surrounding the Scofield Mansion dealt with a prolonged and sharp outflow of residents and revenue. Today, the area surrounding the Mansion is recovering – and in some areas, thriving: it benefits from being at the intersection of multiple large scale redevelopment projects, from the ongoing work at University Circle to the north, to the Opportunity Corridor to the northwest, and to the redevelopment of the area north of Woodland Avenue. Should the Cleveland Public Library choose to develop a satellite at this site, it would benefit greatly from this nexus.

In addition to the Scofield Mansion, this parcel includes an additional two-story 17,500 square foot commercial building with rear parking. Built in 1968 as a 50-bed assisted living facility, this brick structure is available for optional inclusion in a potential master lease/property transfer. Irrespective of the inclusion of this second building, the location has the potential to serve as a key linchpin for the neighborhood.



2437 Baldwin Rd, Cleveland, Ohio