

## **Glenville's Stephen E. Howe Elementary School, civil rights site, to become townhomes**

Story by Megan Sims, cleveland.com

CLEVELAND, Ohio – The site of the former Stephen E. Howe Elementary School is one step closer to becoming new housing for Glenville residents.

The property on Lakeview Road between Scottwood and Saywell avenues is slated to become townhomes and single-family homes.

It is noted as the site where a civil rights protester - concerned that the new school being built in the early 1960s would be segregated - was killed as he protested during construction work.

LDA Architects, a Cleveland-based architectural firm that has worked on projects like Electric Gardens in Ohio City, presented renderings last week to the Cleveland Planning Commission.

Jessie Sweigart, a principal at LDA, said the project would be completed in two phases, the first being townhomes while the second would be the single-family homes. The firm also hopes to acquire three parcels on Ada Avenue, as well as an unspecified amount of parcels on Linn Drive.

Sweigart said that the townhomes would feature three- and two-bedroom layouts, along with floorplans that would include access for people with disabilities.

The development would include a private roadway connecting Linn Drive to Lakeview that LDA is tentatively calling Howe Drive. Each unit would have a parking space for a vehicle and additional space for bike parking.

Early renderings include a middle green space with a pavilion and a community garden. Inclusion of an historical marker is being considered to recognize the tragedy that occurred during school construction in 1964.

When protestors assembled in opposition, because it would be a segregated school, the Rev. Bruce Klunder, 27, was crushed by a bulldozer, drawing national attention and citywide protests.

[According to the Encyclopedia of Cleveland history, Klunder](#) lied down "behind a bulldozer while four other pickets blocked its forward path. The operator, seeking to avoid the protesters in front of him, unknowingly backed over Klunder, instantly killing him. His death was ruled an accident."

An estimated 150 people marched in silent protest the next day in front of the Board of Education Building and about 1,500 attended his funeral, the Encyclopedia said.

[Klunder is listed as one of 41 martyrs named](#) on the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery.

Howe, which was named for a school district supervisor of adult education, whom died the same year the school began construction, closed in 2005. It was later used as a temporary school for students of Patrick Henry as a new building was being constructed. The building was then abandoned for several years before [City Council voted to demolish the school in 2012.](#)

The Cleveland Planning Commission seemed overall to be on board with the concept of the site becoming homes, but a few members raised some concerns about preserving the site's history.

There are three trees planted on the lot, one for Howe, Klunder and Chadey Anderson, a former Howe student who was shot and killed by a stray bullet in 1993 at age 6. Members raised questions about these trees and possibly honoring them in the developments green space.

Another member was concerned about the green space and it's accessibility to the community at large.

Swiegart said LDA would plan on addressing these concerns, along with phase two of the project in a subsequent presentation.

*Megan Sims covers real estate for [cleveland.com](http://cleveland.com). See [previous work at this link](#).*