

LAKEWOOD HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD



2003 ANNUAL REPORT

The year 2003 represented the seventh full year of operation of the Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board (LHAB). The Board successfully continued its efforts in the areas of public education, legislative assistance, and technical assistance to the Lakewood community.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

◆ **Second Annual Preservation Awards program.** In a public ceremony on May 5, 2003, Mayor Madeline Cain, Lakewood City Council, and LHAB presented six Preservation Awards to Lakewood property owners in recognition of their significant contribution to improving the quality of life in our community through the preservation of Lakewood's historic architecture.

Sustained Maintenance

14710 Lake Avenue – Oldest Stone House –
Lakewood Historical Society

Historic Rehabilitation

1364 Cook Avenue – James and Mary Overman
1456 Grace Avenue – Jeffrey and Mary Cron

Sympathetic Addition

16724 Edgewater Drive – Charles and Linda
Canepa

Rehabilitation

13711 Madison Avenue – Silvia Spotts-Weber,
owner; Weber Architecture, Gerald
Weber, tenant

Adaptive Reuse

18100 Detroit Avenue – Donato's Pizza,
Kenneth Tyson

Nominations from the public are always welcome. The Third Annual Preservation Awards ceremony will be held in May, 2004.

◆ **Front Porches of Lakewood presentation and media relations.** As part of a series of programs presented by the Lakewood Public Library, LHAB made an encore presentation of the Front Porches program. More than 50 people attended the June 29th event.

Reporters from both *The Plain Dealer* and *Ohio Magazine* interviewed LHAB members on the appeal and design of front porches.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

◆ **Storefront Projects.** Board members provided technical assistance to the Department of Planning and Development and the Architectural Board of Review concerning proposed improvements to the Winking Lizard Tavern (formerly Lakewood Tennis Club/Lakewood Elks Club, 14018 Detroit Avenue). The work ensured compliance with the City's storefront improvement program guidelines and the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation* for projects using federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

◆ **Lakewood Park entrance.** LHAB provided technical assistance to city staff concerning the design of the Lakewood Park entrance improvements, as well as the retention of the Rhodes estate stone wall.

◆ **Birdtown National Register Nomination.** LHAB members and the Planning Commission

discussed the issues and procedures concerning the nomination of buildings and areas to the National Register of Historic Places. The Administration has proposed to City Council the completion of a nomination for the Birdtown neighborhood.

◆ **Home Improvement Guide.** Members of LHAB and the Lakewood Architectural Board of Review continued to serve on an ad hoc committee to work with the staffs of the Department of Planning and Development and the Division of Building and Housing on revisions to the *Lakewood Home Improvement Guide*.

◆ **Lakewood School District.** At the request of the Lakewood Schools – Designing Our Next Fifty Years Committee, LHAB prepared a reporting containing documentation and evaluation of the architectural and historic significance of each Lakewood school building to support planning on the future use and retention of buildings.

INTERNET SITE and PUBLICATIONS

◆ **Continued internet sites in cooperation with the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Public Library.** The LHAB site features a bibliography of materials in the categories of general restoration and maintenance, architectural styles, and architectural history. The purpose of the guide is to serve as an easy reference source for Lakewood residents, providing information about old houses and how to maintain, repair, and improve them inside and out, while being respectful of the architecture and design of the house. The listings include magazines and books held in the collection of the Lakewood Public Library, as well as a link to National Park Service publications.

Another highlight of the site is the complete text of the LHAB's popular *Front Porches of Lakewood* publication.

During 2003, the Lakewood Public Library website recorded almost 20,000 visits to the home page and almost 30,000 visits to the *Front Porches of Lakewood* publication. Both figures are a significant increase from the previous year.

The address of the LHAB site at the Lakewood Public Library is: <http://www.lkwdpl.org/homepres>.

The address of the LHAB site at the City of Lakewood is: http://www.ci.lakewood.oh.us/boards_heritage.html.

◆ **Continued speakers bureau and publication distribution.** LHAB members are available to offer programs at no charge to community groups on a variety of topics, including *Front Porches of Lakewood*, *Preserving Sacred Spaces: Lakewood's Houses of Worship*, and *Architects of Lakewood*.

The successful *Front Porches of Lakewood* publication continues to be popular, with almost 900 copies distributed since its publication.

SPECIAL PROJECT

◆ **Survey all buildings located in commercial and industrial zoning districts for their historic and architectural value.** The goal of this project, supported by both the Administration and City Council, is to create for other city boards and commissions—particularly the Architectural Board of Review—city staff, and the general public, a citywide database of information concerning the relative architectural and historic significance of all the buildings in commercial and industrial zoning districts. This information would make developers, businesses, and property owners aware, early in the planning for building rehabilitation or site consideration for new buildings, of the importance to retain specific buildings based on their architectural character and/or historical significance.

To meet this need to proactively provide guidance, LHAB initiated a detailed survey of

the approximately 800 structures within the city that are located in commercial or industrial zoning districts.

The survey, coupled with additional research in local records, is inventorying the age, builders and architects, and design characteristics of the buildings, and assessing their architectural and historic qualities. The result will be to assign one of a number of possible ratings to each building, summarizing its relative value based upon its architectural design, and/or historical associations.

LHAB estimates that a project of this scale, if completed by an outside consultant, would cost \$50,000-\$70,000. In comparison, the estimated cost for completion by LHAB—through volunteer efforts—is approximately \$1,200. To help defray the project cost, LHAB worked with the City of Lakewood Department of Planning and Development to obtain a grant in late 1999 from the Preservation Resource Center of Northeast Ohio.

During 2003, the Board continued its work on the survey. LHAB has provided technical assistance to the Department of Planning and Development by completing information to respond to property specific requests.

◆ **Requests concerning maintenance and repair issues.** Through direct inquiries to LHAB members and referral from City departments, LHAB members responded by telephone, with written materials, and/or site visits to four Lakewood property owners to develop solutions for masonry repair, masonry materials and supplies, porch repair, porch floor materials, and exterior paint colors.

LHAB also provided technical assistance to the Lakewood Historical Society concerning the HVAC system and roof insulation for the Oldest Stone House.

ADMINISTRATIVE

At the beginning of 2003, Lakewood City Council reappointed two LHAB members, James Dolce and Richard Sicha, to four-year terms.

2003 LAKEWOOD HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

James Dolce, Vice-Chairman and Secretary
Sandy Koozer
Rhonda Loje
Paula Reed
Heather Rudge
Richard Sicha, Chairman
Gerald Weber

The seven members of the Board are appointed by the Mayor's Office, Lakewood City Council, Lakewood Historical Society, and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce.

This annual report is prepared in accordance with Ordinance 50-95, Section 6.