

LAKEWOOD HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD



2004 ANNUAL REPORT

The year 2004 represented the eighth 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

◆ **Third Annual Preservation Awards program.** In a public ceremony on May 3, 2004, Mayor Thomas George, Lakewood City Council, and LHAB presented seventeen 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.

Preservation Honor Award

17432 Clifton Boulevard – Marc and Lori Waite

Adaptive Reuse

14018 Detroit Avenue – Winking Lizard Tavern,
James Callam

Commercial Revitalization

11726-28 Detroit Avenue – Virginia Marti
College – Virginia Marti Veith

13368 Madison Avenue – Sullivan's Irish Pub –
Patrick Sullivan

13715 Madison Avenue – Angelo's Pizza – Tom
Kess

Garage Rehabilitation

15501 Hilliard Boulevard, Harald and Linda
Friedrich

New Garage Construction

15709 Lake Avenue – John and Jill Snider

Historic Rehabilitation

1053 Maple Cliff Drive – Mark and Cynthia
Stockman

Porch Rehabilitation

1542 Belle Avenue – Matthew and Kathleen
Markling

New Porch Construction

1560 Arthur Avenue – Joseph and Brenda
Lamparyk

1565 St. Charles Avenue – Gregory and
Elizabeth Ahren

Rehabilitation

14917-19 Arden Avenue – Matthew and Janet
Popielski

1223 Ethel Avenue – Lawrence and Elizabeth
Meese

1216 St. Charles Avenue – Scott and Karen
Borland

13963 Clifton Boulevard – David Strong and
Betsy Lantz

Sympathetic Addition

17887 Lake Avenue – Thomas and Janna
Dresing

2376 Woodward Avenue – Sean and Mary Berry

Nominations from the public are always welcome. The Fourth Annual Preservation Awards ceremony will be held in May, 2005.

◆ **Media relations.** A reporter from the daily *Ocala* (Florida) *Star-Banner* interviewed the LHAB Chair on the appeal and design of front

porches, cited material from LHAB's *Front Porches of Lakewood*, and provided a link to the document at the Lakewood Public Library website. The library reported that for the ten day period following the article, hits of the front porch publication were more than 400 per day higher than the ten day period preceding the article.

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 13002-04 Madison Avenue.

◆ **Birdtown National Register Nomination.** LHAB and the Planning Commission continued to discuss the process and issues involving the nomination of the Birdtown neighborhood to the National Register of Historic Places. The two boards scheduled a joint session in October in order to conduct an official public meeting on the project. For the meeting, LHAB provided a presentation on the National Register, the process of listing a district on the Register, and the meaning of listing. In November, LHAB briefed City Council on the project.

◆ **Clifton Boulevard Improvements.** LHAB members continued to work with Councilman Dever and the administration on the project to provide aesthetic enhancements and pedestrian-friendly improvements to the Clifton Boulevard right-of-way as part of an overall infrastructure project, which will occur in several years. The work included advice on structuring the project and incorporating public input, as well as photographic and historical research.

◆ **Rockport Square.** At the request of the project architects, LHAB members attended a presentation of the project and engaged the Board in detailed discussions about the

architectural features of the development's buildings. The Board drafted a memorandum that was distributed to the Department of Planning and Development, with copies to Mayor George, City Council, and the architects.

◆ **Lakewood School District.** As part of the first phase of school construction, LHAB members are serving on both the Design Committee and Heritage Committee established by the school district.

◆ **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 Historical Society.** LHAB provided written research on building permits and family geneology for the descriptive brochures and docent material used at the Society's biennial home tour. LHAB also provided advice on organizing the architectural salvage work that will be conducted during 2005 by the Historical Society on the schools and homes to be demolished.

INTERNET SITE and PUBLICATIONS

◆ **Internet sites 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 2004, the Lakewood Public Library website recorded over 21,000 visits to the home page and almost 44,000 visits to the *Front Porches of Lakewood* publication. These figures are up from approximately 5,000 and 11,000, respectively, from two years earlier.

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.

◆ **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 2004, 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 three Lakewood property owners to develop solutions for matching brick and mortar

for a new addition, repair of existing windows, and the architectural significance of a specific property.

LHAB also provided information on the federal investment tax credits available for historic restoration of commercial properties to an accountant working with prospective investors in the Cleveland area.

ADMINISTRATIVE

At the beginning of 2004, the Lakewood Mayor's Office reappointed two LHAB members, Sandy Koozer and Heather Rudge, to four-year terms.

2004 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.