

Third Annual Lakewood History Walk

❧ Clifton Park ~ 10k ❧

1. Leaving the Main Branch of Lakewood Public Library (at 15425 Detroit Avenue), turn right, heading east on Detroit Avenue.

The 28th Annual Lakewood Arts Festival runs along Detroit Ave. to Belle Ave.

Enjoy a walk through the arts and crafts exhibits.

Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Ave. Built in 1916, the main branch of the library has undergone significant expansion and remodeling over the years from its humble beginning in a one-story building. And this summer marks the start of the library's latest expansion — making it a full block in length, from Arthur to Mars Avenue — to be completed in 2007.

That first year, the library had 7,640 patrons and 26,287 books for circulation. In 1932, the library had circulated 610,661 books — with almost 250,000 being children's books. The reference librarian, Mrs. Belle Sealand (pictured), was answering questions by telephone; "when in doubt, call Boulevard 3276." Head librarian Roena Ingham proudly stated in her annual report that Lakewood Public Library "issued more books than any other individual library in both Cleveland, East Cleveland and their immediate vicinity with the exception of the Cleveland main library." She was librarian until she passed away in 1938. Today, the library has about 170,000 patrons, over 430,000 items to check out, and last year circulated almost 1.9 million items.



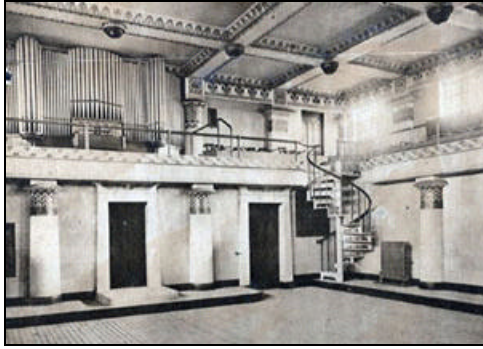
For two years, Lakewood Public Library has been ranked number one nationally among 523 libraries in its population category by Hennen's American Public Library Ratings. During the Arts Festival, in the lower level, is the Friends of Lakewood Public Library Booksale. Restrooms and a drinking fountain are available.



Former Lowe Estate, southwest corner of Detroit and Mars Ave. Daniel Lowe had a beautiful home built here in 1904. In 1919, the Lakewood Press newspaper offices moved into this house. Then, in 1927, it became the Klanke and Parr Funeral Home. The house was later moved to Detroit and Victoria Ave. to make way for this commercial building (which is being razed for the latest library expansion). The Loew house was later demolished at its Detroit and Victoria Ave. site, to make way for a small medical office building.

Lakewood Plaza. This section between the First Church of Christ, Scientist, church at Arthur Ave. and the Masonic Temple at Andrews Ave. was formerly the French-Andrews fruit farm. Established in 1856, Price French's 80-acre farm became famous for super-sized fruit -- strawberries, cherries, grapes, apples, pears and plums. The family became one of the most prosperous not just in Lakewood but Ohio. The French-Andrews family lived here until 1948, when their large house (pictured) was razed for this shopping center. A smaller house remained, nestled behind the Christian Science Church at Arthur Ave., but was just demolished in July.





Lakewood Masonic Temple, Detroit and Andrews Ave.
 Built in 1916, and costing about \$150,000, Lakewood Masonic Lodge No. 601 has been host to many events and organizations over the years. The main floor was designed to seat 850 people; the balcony, several hundred; and the basement banquet room, 500. The winding staircase (pictured) was white marble with marble wainscoting. The ballroom was of French renaissance design, with gilt furniture, ivory pilasters touched in gold, and a foyer paved with marble. The lower banquet room's kitchen was "as well equipped as that of a modern hotel."

Former Dr. Sook House, corner of Detroit and Gladys Ave.

Dr. Henry L. Sook was this area's first homeopathic doctor in the late 1800s, when it was still Rockport township. He and his wife Sarah lived in a house here, with their three daughters.

Henry's father, Henry M. Zook, was born about 1788 in Germany. In 1797, his family sailed the Atlantic for 11 weeks to come here, but both of his parents died en route. It was the captain's duty in those days to find homes for such orphaned children so Henry went to live with a saddler and his wife in Baltimore, Maryland, and his younger brother Peter went to live with a cattle herder from Pennsylvania. Henry's adoptive mother could not write 'Z' to her satisfaction, so she changed it to 'S.' Henry had the utmost respect for her and so kept that spelling. When he reached maturity at 21 years, he set off to find his brother. He married Lettitia McFee in 1779, and they had eight children, including Henry Leech Sook (pictured at right), who was born in 1823 in Pittsburgh.



In 1842, Henry L. married Mary Baldwin Powell. They had three children — Oliver Prescott, Mary Powell and Henry Sylvanus — but their mother died when the youngest was five years old. She was kicked in the neck by the family horse while trying to catch it in their Steubenville yard. Henry married her sister Elizabeth, who was a good mother to the children until she died in 1864.

During this time, Henry became an early student of Hahnemann and became a practicing homeopathic physician. When the Cleveland Homeopathic Hospital College was later opened, Henry attended courses and received a diploma. He also learned about glass working and made some of his own medicine vials. His son Oliver married and also became a homeopathic physician, quite prosperous, in Newark, Ohio. His other son Henry married as well and traveled to the far west, even seeking gold in Alaska. However, his daughter did not fare so well — at first.



Henry married a third time, to Sarah Wheeler (pictured at left), but jealousy reared its ugly head and she drove Mary out of their Newark house with a butcher knife. But Mary apparently was plucky; she found refuge first across the street at her friend's house, then packed up and headed to the same college her father had attended. In 1880, she graduated, along with William Thompson, a student from Canada, whom she married later that year.

Henry and Sarah had three children together: Josephine (pictured below, on the left), Lettitia (center), and Sallie (on the right). Lettitia and Sallie were twins. It's unclear when they moved to Rockport township. 'Josie Sook' was listed in the newspaper as a new teacher from

1895 to 1900. She later married the son of Ezra Nicholson, an early settler of the area and inventor of the Nicholson Ship Log. Sallie married Herbert Kennedy, principal of the high school, and Lettitia married Frank Musrush, a writing instructor for the schools.

Henry had one of the first "magic lanterns" and always had an enthusiastic crowd to watch a "picture show." He would have been thrilled to live right near a moving picture show theater — which opened in 1912 where Chipotle's is now — but he died in his house in November 1892.



The Frame-Up, 14822 Detroit Ave. From 1923-30, this was the Bernice Pyke Book Shop. Bernice (pictured) helped found the library and PTA, and served on the school board. In 1917, she helped women gain voting rights, then in 1921, ran for mayor — narrowly losing. She later became the county Board of Elections supervisor, Cleveland's Public Health and Welfare director, and then Collector of Customs. In 1954, at age 74, she ran unsuccessfully for Congress, and passed away in 1964.



Like Bernice, **Maude Waitt** also ran for election — and won. After helping win suffrage victories, she helped organize citizenship classes for new voters. Bernice was elected vice-chair and Maude was assistant vice-chair. In 1924, Maude was elected to the state senate, and served three terms. She chaired the senate legislative committee and worked for state prison reform.

Detroit-Warren Building, southwest corner of Warren and Detroit Ave. Built in 1924, this five-story building boasted the first elevator in Lakewood. The first floor had Weinberger's Drug Store.



Before it was built, this was the site of Jacob Tegardine's house. Born in 1842 in England, Jacob (pictured, left) came to East Rockport as a baby with his parents, later served and was wounded in the Civil War, then established a merchandise store here. His love of horses spurred him to get into breeding horses and teaming. He married Mary Wagar, granddaughter of early settler Mars Wagar. They had five daughters and two sons, but the boys died young — Peter at two years old and James at one year.

Jacob and Mary built their house in 1884 (pictured, right) and moved the store back a few hundred feet, turning it into a small cottage. Jacob became the fourth mayor of Lakewood hamlet, from 1900-01, and also served as constable, road supervisor, board of education member and postmaster at times. He died in 1923. Their house became Lakewood's city hall from 1911-20, then was razed for this current building. Their barn (where the Marc's Plaza parking lot is now) held the police and fire departments for many years.



Former Wagar House, southeast corner of Warren and Detroit Ave. Mars and Keturah Wagar came to Rockport township in 1820, paying \$7 per acre for land from Detroit to Madison Ave., and Warren to Marlowe. They first built a log cabin, then in 1837, built a stone house (pictured, along with several family members). In 1884, their son Francis built a large Victorian house. He and his brothers Israel Dwelle and Adam grew fruit, becoming prosperous along with many other early settlers.



Around 1910, a wooden, one-room gas station was built right on the corner. The house and gas station were razed in 1930, when Bailey's built their first suburban department store.

Former Sawmill, north corner of Detroit and St. Charles Ave. In 1848, a sawmill stood here. John Honam bought land here from Warren to Belle, to the lake, but it was heavily forested and not valuable for farming. So John's son-in-law, Orville Hotchkiss, ran the sawmill here, cutting the planks for the old Detroit Plank Road. Later, he ran a tannery and then a cider mill. Whiskey cost just ten cents a gallon.

Former Austin Auto Service Station, 14621 Detroit Ave., south corner of Detroit and St. Charles Ave. In the 1910s, Otto Berchtold (pictured) was service manager of the Austin Auto Service Station at this corner. Built of concrete, the service station had 15,000 square feet of floor space and could "handle the Hupmobile car," according to a June 1917 Plain Dealer article. In addition, "day and night service is provided." Previously, from 1899-1900, Otto was the third mayor of Lakewood hamlet. He kept his regular job as a butcher while serving as mayor.



Former Cemetery, south side of Detroit Ave., between St. Charles and Belle Ave. Lakewood's only cemetery once stood here on Mars Wagar's land. The first burial was his mother Lucy in 1826. Over time, Mars extended its use to friends and neighbors, the first non-family burial being a Mrs. Brewster. Many young children were buried here, as that was a fact of life back then. John and Frances Olive Farrow lost two young children: Carrie Mabel at less than a year old and Sherwin Day at about five years old. Mars was even buried here, in the 1860s. But most members of the wealthier families were buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Cleveland, and others were buried in Fairview Park Cemetery or Lakewood Park Cemetery in Rocky River. The last burial here was in 1894.



Later, the cemetery was neglected and children used it as a shortcut to school on Warren Rd. (pictured) In the mid-'50s, the city bought the land for hospital parking. Many descendants had already removed ancestors' remains to other cemeteries. But Mars had not kept any register and many graves could not be identified. Workmen turned up 54 skeletons, which were reburied in a grave at Lakewood Park Cemetery. The headstones went to the maintenance garage at city hall, then later some were moved to the Lakewood Historical Society's herb garden at the Oldest Stone House.

Former General Store, just west of Detroit and Belle Ave. In 1848, a general store stood at the corner of these streets. This store was a community center, with people gathering to hear the latest news, discuss local issues, and purchase necessities. In 1879, Joseph Howe became the postmaster for East Rockport, running the post office from this general store, which he'd taken over from Lucius Dean, the first postmaster. Joseph had come from England in 1861, then married Ellen Calkins, daughter of Reverend Charles Calkins, who had emigrated here from Vermont with his family in 1832. The reverend was one of the first ministers to come into the Western Reserve. In -----, Joseph and Ellen lost a five-day-old baby girl.

Michael Koosey later recalled his youth working at the general store: "[There were] barrels; everyone reached in; everyone took great joy in that. [Men would] turn boys upside down; stand around waiting for mail ... [We had] deliveries once a week ... I remember a woman ordering a ham one day, 'Try to pick me out a ham without worms.' Everything was so cheap; five cents a pound. One day took orders and next day delivered; delivered once a week."

2. At Belle Avenue, turn left, heading north.

Lakewood Hospital, southeast corner of Detroit and Belle Ave. In Rockport's earliest days, a very popular tavern called the Grant House stood here. It was reported Mars Wagar sold the land for two oxen, knowing it was not suitable for farming, as it was on the side of a little gully. (The area of the cemetery had hills and gullies as well.)

According to the diary of Miss Ansley, "One night pioneers coming from Dutchess county, New York, sighted lights ... spent the night and next morning traded oxen and wagon for the tavern. The previous owner left for Australia or New Zealand. New owner of tavern [named Israel Kidney, who was a trustee of Rockport township in 1839] nearly died of typhoid fever. An Indian squaw from a settlement of Indians in Rocky River Valley wrapped him in a blanket, soused him in the river. He got well and lived a long time." Israel's wife Catherine and daughter were buried in Mars's cemetery. Later, when Detroit Avenue was leveled, the Kidney Tavern was left high above the road. As automobiles took over, the tavern wasn't much needed and was torn down.

Lakewood Hospital began in a small house with 15 beds in 1907 by Dr. C. Lee Graber. Ten years later, it became a four-story brick building with 85 beds (pictured). In 1931, the city bought it and began the first of many expansions over the years. Pictured is the hospital in 1932, with the original house building on the right. At that time, it housed the nursing students.



Former Tavern, 1341 Belle Avenue. This house once stood opposite the Kidney Tavern (on the northeast corner) and was also a tavern called the Old Mansion House, owned by Mr. Bennett. But it was a simple place, despite its name, and hardly a competitor for the lofty tavern across the street. It didn't take long for it to deteriorate into a tenement. At some point, Lawrence Johnson bought it and moved it here for his family's residence. He ran the general store at Detroit and Belle and was postmaster also, following Joseph Howe.



Now, this two-family house would little indicate that it hosted rollicking imbibers over 100 years ago. The interiors were most likely put together by untrained hands: the ceilings are low, the rooms irregular in shape, the stairways very steep and of wide rough planks, and the basement rafter beams still had bark attached. But despite all this, the Old Mansion House remains **the only surviving tavern** of the old plank road days.

Norfolk and Southern railroad tracks. Lakewood's first taste of railroading came on Sept. 1, 1868, when the Rocky River Railroad began operating between Cleveland and the Cliff House, which overlooked the Rocky River near Sloane and Edanola Avenues. Clevelanders could reach the W. 59th Station via horse car, then travel the rail 5.33 miles through orchards, vineyards, and strawberry, blackberry and raspberry patches. The Dummy Railroad (so called because of the quieter type of steam engine used) roughly followed the same route as the present Norfolk & Southern Railroad.

3. At Lake Avenue, cross at the light and turn left, heading west. Lakewood Park is on the right.

Lakewood Park, north of Lake and Belle Avenue intersection. This large park was once the Robert R. Rhodes estate, called "The Hickories," which he had built around 1880 (pictured). The west end post of the stone wall still has engraved "The Hickories." Robert died here in 1916 and Lakewood purchased the property in 1918, using it as city hall until 1959. According to a Plain Dealer article, "the huge fancy chandelier was replaced a few years ago by fluorescent glitter. ... At the head of the wide stairway is Mayor Amos I. Kauffman's office. The former dressing room is filled with the desk and files of his secretary, Miss Coletta Black." The street department used the music room. The health department was in the former kitchen, with health officer Chester Solomon's office in the pantry. The finance department was in a luxurious marble bathroom. The permit, parks and building departments shared the broad sprawling porch. A second-floor bedroom held the engineering department. The third floor was storage space. And "The fourth floor has been abandoned ever since it was discovered a janitor kept a cot and number of bottles up there."



CHECKPOINT: In what year was the Oldest Stone House built?



Oldest Stone House. John Honam, a Scottish weaver, built this house near Detroit and St. Charles Ave. His daughter Isabelle married Orville Hotchkiss. (Belle Ave. was named for her.) Later, the house (pictured, in 1920s) served as a doctor's office, post office, grocery store, barbershop, and an upholstery company. In 1952, it was moved here and became home of the Lakewood Historical Society. John Honam's granddaughter, Hester Hotchkiss, married Dr. Jared Kirtland's grandson, Charles Pease II. Another granddaughter, Hattie, married John Wagar, son of Israel Dwelle Wagar, and Noble Hotchkiss was the first Board of Trustees.

If this house could speak, it would tell of two-wheel ruts deeply engraved in the Detroit Post Road; trees foresting the land; and the hardships of frontier life: clearing fields with horse-drawn plows, carrying buckets of water from a stream or well, and boiling clothes to clean them. It would also recall fires crackling inside, surrounded by laughter, singing and probably a fiddle playing.



St. Augustine's Academy, 14824 Lake Ave. From 1885-88, Mark Hanna and his family leased a large cottage here each summer (pictured, left). In April 1888, the Sisters of Charity moved here, with a brick convent beginning construction. As skilled nurses, the Sisters treated patients with pneumonia, diphtheria and industrial accidents, as well as those with no family to care for them. They lived in the cottage six years while the new convent was built.

Death came frequently, often snatching the youngest through pneumonia and tuberculosis. Fires also struck. As Sister Stanislaus wrote in her Annals: "One day while the greater number of the Sisters were doing the weekly washing, fire broke out in the laundry, and but for the able work of the Fire Company, all would have been ashes. A day or two later, another fire; this time, the barn ... How these originated, could not be told; yet all looked as if an evil one had perpetuated the deed, and for a purpose."

The convent was dedicated in 1892, and four years later the Sisters opened the cottage to summer boarders. In 1921, they opened a novitiate high school for girls (pictured, right), later adding kindergarten through sixth grade for boys and girls, then seventh through ninth grades — but later they discontinued the elementary grades. In June this year, they closed the academy. The buildings are leased to Lakewood Catholic Academy, an elementary school.



4. At Abbieshire Avenue, turn right, heading north.

'The Modern Electrical Home,' 15126 Lake Ave. Just a few houses further up Lake Ave., this one deserves a mention! Built in 1922 by The Wel-Bilt Homes Co., the house featured electric lighting throughout and many modern conveniences. In the kitchen: an electric refrigerator, dishwasher and range (the brochure noted "the air of the electrical kitchen is so pure that plant life will thrive"). On the second floor: four bedrooms and an alcove, with "wired furniture," a warming pad, immersion heater (to quickly warm children's food or bottle), a curling iron and a vibrator (having "two important functions, viz.: stimulating blood circulation in the case of local ailments or, in the lady's boudoir, as a beautifier"). And in the basement: an electric washer, dryer, "ironing machine," and electric ice machine.

5. At Edgewater Drive, turn left, heading west.

6. At Summit Avenue, turn left, heading south.

7. At Lake Avenue, turn right, heading west.

8. At Erie Cliff Avenue, turn right, heading north — following this street around the cul-de-sac and back to Lake Avenue.



1068 Erie Cliff Drive. In 1916, realtor Lee Kelley had this Dutch colonial built for about \$9,000. The porch entry (with front doors on each side of the fireplace) was designed for enclosure with winter storm doors to become a vestibule. The second floor had three bedrooms (the master room having an adjoining sleeping porch), a tiled bathroom, den, and photographer's dark room. The third floor had a maid's room and a large billiard room.

1070 Erie Cliff Drive. This house was built in 1918. Around 1946, Alexander Winton, Jr., bought it, shortly after founding the Winton Heat Treating Co. Son of the automobile baron, Alex Jr. drove a 1917 Winton car for years. Before moving here, he and his wife Dorothy lived at 1455 Waterbury Ave.; his occupation in the city directory was "traffic manager." Then they moved frequently. In 1949, the directory had them in Vermilion; in 1951, at 11733 Edgewater Dr.; and in 1953, in Rocky River.



9. At Lake Avenue, turn right, continuing west.

15710 Lake Ave. In 1908, unhappy with the architect's stubborn refusal to even hear her ideas, Mrs. Wilson Smith fired the architect and drew up the plans herself for this house. As the Plain Dealer wrote: "... there were one or two little things that Mrs. Smith wanted. They wouldn't do, however ... so the architect man said." So Mr. Smith arrived home to his wife drawing house plans. She said: "What does a man know about the kind of house that a woman wants to live and work in anyhow?" He said, "Build it yourself, my dear."



So Mrs. Smith got busy, studying home designs and plans at the library, and asking about materials and costs. The living room extends the front, receiving sun and air on three sides. The L-shaped porch, large enough for a "sewing society or a prayer meeting," has four exposures, while leaving the large front windows unshaded — and, thus, a well-lighted living room.

Rather than "upstairs, in a place as far away from the door bell and telephone and the dinner on the kitchen stove as only a man's ingenuity and lack of wit would find," Mrs. Smith designed her "woman's room" downstairs. It was just off the living room, with two windows and "a big closet opening off it, for all the things which a man doesn't see any use for but which are essential anyhow ... glue, hooks and eyes, wrapping paper, camera supplies and just 997 other articles."

For Mr. Smith, she designed a corner room upstairs with a large balcony. She put the stairway in a small hall that could be closed off, keeping heat from escaping upstairs. Woodwork was rounded to minimize dusting. And, coming down the stairs, was a mirror. "As you come down stairs, first you catch a glimpse of your shoes, and the next step gives you an idea of the hang of your skirt. Go on down, and you can take a squint at your belt, and by the time you reach the bottom step you can take one last look at your collar and your hair, and then open the door of the living room reassured and smiling. Trust a woman, every time."

10. At Maple Cliff Avenue, turn right, heading north — following this street to its end at a park bench, then return to Lake Avenue.

CHECKPOINT: What body of water is located at the end of this street?



1053 Maple Cliff Ave. In 1908, Charles Mosher had this two-and-a-half-story brick house built (pictured, left). The carpentry and masonry contracts were valued at \$10,000.

That same year, an advertisement in the Plain Dealer (pictured, right, possibly for the house across the street at 1052 Maple Cliff) stated: "Cheapest Lake Front Property ever offered in this city.... This beautiful private residence park has a massive stone wall front, paved roadways, a pretty park along the bank of the lake, an attractive pavilion and bathhouse, an iron stairway down to the lake affording Bathing, Boating and Fishing. All these features belong to lot buyers Absolutely Free and a nice large lot will cost you less money than on any good street of the city." Apparently the outer structures were removed at some point.



11. At Lake Avenue, turn right, continuing west.

16303 Lake Ave. *This house (pictured, right) was built in 1907.*



12. At Kenneth Drive, turn right, heading north.

13. At Edgewater Drive, turn left, heading west.

14. At Webb Road, turn left, heading south.

15. At Lake Avenue, turn right, heading west (*it jogs to the right, becoming Lake Road*). Continue west on Lake Road. You're now entering Clifton Park.

In 1866, a group of Cleveland businessmen formed the Clifton Park Association:

- **Josiah Barber** (involved in real estate, chief stockholder in Cuyahoga Steam Furnace Co., active in Ohio City government, and first president of Riverside Cemetery; also donated land for open air market and public square at West 25th St. and Lorain Ave.),
- **Thomas Dixon** (real estate developer, associated with J.H. Sargent),
- **George Hartnell** (of Peoples Savings and Loan Assn.),
- **Captain George W. Jones** (shipyard owner),
- **Ezra Nicholson** (part owner of the Rocky River Railroad, inventor of the Nicholson Log which records ships' speed, and large land owner),
- **Daniel P. Rhodes** (served on the Cleveland School Board, coal operator, part owner of the Westside Street Railroad, the Rocky River Railroad and the Cliff House),
- **Elias Sims** (part owner of the Rocky River Railroad and involved in real estate), and
- **Captain John Spalding** (managed the Soo canal locks, and owned the Alameda Allotment).

They envisioned a huge resort area, but they knew they'd need transportation to bring Clevelanders here. So, in 1869, they built a narrow-gauge railroad and bought three engines; this was the Rocky River Railroad (pictured, right; this being the Elias Sims engine). The Park's heyday was in the 1870s and '80s, with John Knoll's Beech Grove, the Lake View House, the Cliff House, Silverthorn's Tavern, Scenic Park, and Williams' Boats and Landing. Across the river were the Rocky River House and the Boarding House.



Those who could afford it came by railroad; others by wagon along bumpy roads or on boat excursions. But apparently the resort was not producing the financial return the investors had hoped for. In 1881, the Nickel Plate Railroad bought the Rocky River Railroad. Beech Grove (pictured, left) and other establishments began to suffer. John Knoll closed down and sold the land to the Clifton Park Association — and a residential paradise was born.



At first, the land was divided into 96 lots of about an acre each. Later, the lots increased to 232. In 1899, the Clifton Park Land Improvement Co. bought the area and began marketing — promoting it as “the finest suburban residence property accessible to Cleveland combining all the conveniences of city homes — water, gas and sewage — with exceptional advantages of pure air, forest grounds, private parks, bathing beaches, boating and fishing privileges with every lot.”

Lake Road. On the 1894 map that first laid out the street plans and lots of Clifton Park, Lake Road was originally named Cliff Road, from Webb Road to West Forest.

Clifton Road. This street was originally Sims Avenue, for Elias Sims.



17818 Lake Road. In 1924, architect-builder William Nilges built this beautiful three-story tudor-style house. It features 110 beautiful leaded glass windows, particularly the two-story living room windows in front. The house has 14 rooms in all, with eight bedrooms originally and five bathrooms. The master bedroom features a marble fireplace. The second floor had a ballroom, with a fireplace and skylight. Off the living room is a solarium with a handmade tile floor, leaded-glass windowed doors from floor to ceiling, a vaulted ceiling (as does the living room), and a fountain. The library has hand-carved paneling in Circassian walnut and a simple but elegant fireplace. The dining room and morning room have lake views.

William lived here about a year, then sold it to Otto and Nellie Leopold in 1926. Otto managed the Pompeian Manufacturing Co., a Cleveland-based maker of vanishing creams, face powders, rouge, after-shave lotions and hair cream for dandruff. In 1929, their daughter Elsa got married in the living room to William Andrew Watters, a Lakewood High School science teacher and track coach. The Leopolds owned the house until 1940.



17825 Lake Road. Built in 1928 by Stanley and Helen Marie Kresge, this house is as pure in the English Tudor architectural style as possible. In 1936, Louis B. and Marion E. Seltzer bought it. Louis was editor of The Cleveland Press for 38 years, and was recognized as one of the country's leading editors. They lived here for 30 years, creating impressive gardens that were featured in the Lakewood Garden Tours. In 1966, Anthony and A.M. Celebrezze bought the house. Anthony was mayor of Cleveland from 1953-62; served as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare with Presidents Kennedy and Johnson; and later presided as a judge in the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

The dining room features a wrought-iron gate as a door of sorts, one whole wall paneled in oak, and a sandstone fireplace. In the living room, the Seltzers installed wall lights of handmade Venetian glass depicting the four elements; earth, air, fire and water. The recreation room is paneled with a hunt scene mural, painted by Shirley Seltzer, on three walls of the room. The fox is found asleep under the mantel shelf!

17826 Lake Road. For years, the Clifton Park Trustees set aside this lot and 17828 Lake Road as a small park, called Cliff Park. In the early 1970s, residents allowed these houses to be built.

17836 Lake Road. Built in 1905 for Robert Wallace, this English Gothic house is heavily gabled and has front doors of heavy cherry wood and a tiled roof. In a 1956 windstorm, half the roof was blown away. It took six months to find a tile maker in Philadelphia who made the same tile.

17839 Lake Road. Francis and Esther Treadway built this house in 1908. An attorney, Francis served as Lt. Governor of Ohio under Governor Harmon, from 1909-10. During that time, he and others were successful in passing House Bill #44, which provided for two new teacher training schools — Kent State University and Bowling Green University.

17840 Lake Road. Frederick Glidden had this Tudor-style house built in 1905, naming it "Franklyn Villa." In 1918, he sold it to Edwin Heinsohn, and bought the house at 17844 Lake Road.

The massive front door is of fumed oak and wrought iron. In the dining room, famed sculptor Frank Jirouch designed and carved the oak leaf and acorn motifs over the doorways and windows, plus designed and carved the stone fireplace and wooden ceiling medallions. The ceiling plaster was seasoned with buttermilk to keep it from cracking. The master bedroom has a fireplace from an 18th century French chateau. Another bedroom has a mantel made of Travertino from Mt. Vesuvius.

17848 Lake Road. Paul North had this house built in 1905. Paul was president of his own company, the Chamberlin Cartridge and Target Co. For years, he was in charge of the local laws governing hunting and fishing.

At the intersection of West Clifton and Lake Road, continue west on Lake Road.

West Clifton and Forest Roads. West Clifton Road was originally named Rhodes Avenue, after Robert Rhodes. Forest Road was first called Leafie Road, after the nickname of Elias Sims' daughter. And Lake Road, from West Forest on, was Rocky River Avenue. West Forest had no name.

Baker Estate, 18131 West Clifton Road. Looking to the left down West Clifton Road, Charles and Julia Church had this house built in 1902; it was smaller than what you see now (pictured, right). Inside, cherry wood warmed the rooms, with fluted pilasters in the dining room and a mellow scenic tapestry on the wall. A beautiful solarium with a domed ceiling of Tiffany glass set in Circassian walnut added grace to this house.



The Churches did not live here long; in 1906 they sold the house (pictured, left) to James and Olive Wills Wigmore, who enlarged it and added the Tiffany dome. In 1909, early automobile inventor Walter C. Baker (pictured, right) and his wife Fannie bought it. He wired it for bells, intercoms and signals — even a private phone line from here to his mother's house on Forest Road.



In 1911, he bought the lot next door for a large garden. He also had a steel disk installed in the garage floor; a turnaround for his car. Many people have rumored this house has secret passageways and rooms, but none exist.

His father George and Thomas White invented a sewing machine in Massachusetts. In 1867, Walter was born, and George, Thomas and Rollin White moved to Cleveland, founding the White Sewing Machine Co. Walter studied engineering at Case School of Applied Science and married his childhood sweetheart, Rollin's daughter Fannie. He co-founded the American Ball Bearing Co. in 1895, and built his first electric car in 1898. The next year, he founded the Baker Motor Vehicle Co. In 1915, they merged with Rauch and Lang Carriage Co., and produced their last car the next year.



Walter pioneered and was passionate about electric automobiles, and was frustrated when his good friend Thomas Edison (pictured, left, in Walter's first car) was unable to create a battery that could compete with gas-driven cars. He introduced left-handed drive, helped Elmer Sperry invent the gyroscope, and patented a steering knuckle for automobile front wheels, adopted industry-wide. Baker Motors sold more electric cars than any other maker. By 1910, his cars could travel 75 miles on fully charged batteries. They were clean, quiet and only needed forward and reverse gear-shifting — becoming known as

an "urban ladies" car."

Walter also created some experimental race cars — his "Torpedo" in 1901 and a smaller "Torpedo Kid" in 1903. With 20 batteries wired to a 110-volt, direct-current motor, the Torpedo reached a mind-boggling speed of 120 mph. Walter would race the cars at the Glenville mile race track (pictured, right, in #999). He died in this house in 1955.



17862 Lake Road. Built in 1899 by John Jennings, this was the third house built in Clifton Park — and is **currently the oldest one**. However, the façade has been changed from the original design (pictured). John and his wife named their summer home “Restcliff.” It has large rooms, including a 30x30-foot living room with a sweeping view of the lake from the large picture window. The dining room also has a large window overlooking the lake. The library has a hidden bar amongst its shelves. Originally, an elevator was built in, running from the first through the third floors. All of the bedrooms featured jalousied sleeping porches.



17863 Lake Road. Built in 1902, the third owners recalled some details: “The house [had] servants call buttons ... a butler’s pantry; separate refrigerator room ... with a pass-through [for ice] through the back porch; a gasoline tank under the garage floor with a solid brass pump ... a cistern to collect rainwater with a hand pump connected to the basement laundry tubs.”

17866 Lake Road. This was the **first house built** in Clifton Park (pictured), by William and “Leafie” Starkweather in 1897. Leafie was the daughter of Elias Sims. They named their summer home “Wywoka.” It had 19 large rooms, seven fireplaces, mahogany woodwork throughout, built-in fireside seats in the reception room, and two massive wood beams on the lake side carved with the heads of Neptune and Amphitrite. William’s father was Samuel Starkweather, a judge of the Common Pleas Court from 1851-58 and mayor of Cleveland from 1857-58. William was a developer of Clifton Park. He died here two years later and Leafie sold the house, building a smaller one at 17879 Lake Rd. The original house had nine different owners before it was razed in 1969. This house was built in 1970.



Lake Point Drive. This street was created after the Starkweather summer house was razed.

Former Beech Grove and Lake View House. John Knoll built Beech Grove around here in the early 1870s. One building offered wine, beer and food — a cellar remnant still exists in the hillside. Another had a dance hall and dining room, while a third held a bowling alley. His listing in the Rockport Township Business Directory read: “Beech Grove, the most romantic Picnic ground, at Rocky River, close to the Lake. Dining Hall, Confectionery, Bowling Alley, Shooting Gallery, Bath-houses, Flying Swings, &c. in connection.”



Nearby was Lake View House (pictured). Plus, on the beach, the Williams brothers had “Steam Yacht, Sail and Row Boats to let. Picnics, Fishing Parties, &c. supplied at all times.”

17869 Lake Road. Built in 1912, Francis Glidden named it “Ingleside.” He was 80 years old and lived on East 55th St. Every day, he’d drive to his paint and varnish company, then here to inspect the construction after work. In those early automobile days, he’d tell his chauffeur, “Speed ‘er up to 20, John.” Later, John took up living quarters in the carriage house here. A chicken coop out back was a white-pillared structure that later became a playhouse for grandchildren.

Francis was born in Maine in 1832. He left school at 14 years old, worked on sailing vessels, and went to Alabama. When the Civil War broke out, he was hijacked into the Confederate Navy, holding duty without sidearms. He survived and returned home, joining a varnish firm. In 1868, they opened a branch in Cleveland and sent Francis as manager. In 1876, he and two partners opened Glidden, Brackett & Co. Around 1900, they added color to their line. In 1917, he sold it and died in 1922.

Francis and Winnifred had eight children. Two sons built mansions around the same time: In 1905, Frederick built Franklyn Villa, and Francis C. built in 1910 what has become the Glidden House on Cleveland’s University Circle. Francis’s granddaughter Virginia Foley still owns this house.

West Forest and Lake Roads. Lake Road, from West Forest to the subway, was originally named Rocky River Avenue. West Forest had no name.



17870 Lake Road. In 1910, James and Olive Wills Wigmore had a mansion built here (pictured). James was in real estate and insurance. The house included a bowling alley, billiard room and a three-car garage in the basement. It had seven 8-foot-tall marble fireplaces and seven bathrooms. In 1931, James had the house moved — each piece cataloged and rebuilt in Gates Mills — taking five years to reconstruct. He was publicly teased by the newspapers at the time. By 1970, the house had been divided into six apartments. The original 36x54-foot living room became a five-room apartment. In 1938, the house you see today was built.

17877 Lake Road. Built in 1904, this house (pictured, right) was built by the Clifton Park Building Co., along with four others, to encourage people to settle here. This house was a rental — with families often rushed into new homes with details still to finish, to make way for another family!



17879 Lake Road. This was the second home of “Leafie” Starkweather built in 1906, after her husband William died.



The Clifton Club, 17884 Lake Road. Built in 1902, the Clifton Club (original building pictured) offered members and their guests dining, billiards, card games, dances, meetings and relaxation on the verandas. In January 1942, it burned to the ground and remained that way through World War II. In June 1950, this new building was finished.

Beach Road. This street leads down to Clifton Beach and Lagoon. Around 1899, a **Bathhouse** was built of rough heavy timber; it held dances and picnics. In 1956, it burned down, then was replaced in 1957 with a new bathhouse. The **Lakewood Yacht Club** was organized in 1900 and built a wooden clubhouse on the beach in 1902 for sailors to haul boats out for repairs. Original membership consisted of 18 crafts. In 1907, the clubhouse was moved to Yacht Club Island in Rocky River.

Former Parsons Estate, 17888 Lake Road. Mabel Hanna Parsons built a summer house at this site (pictured), comprising three lots, in 1911. Around 1961, when Clifton Blvd. was cut through, it took 50 feet of the original property on the west side, so the owners decided on a re-allotment. They razed the house, put in **Clifton Park Lane**, and built new houses. The fountain in front of this house was originally in Mabel’s dining room. She was a daughter of Marcus Hanna, a well-known civic leader who helped make William McKinley President in 1896 and 1900. The architect also designed the houses at 18181, 18183 and 18185 Clifton Road for some of her household staff members. Those houses were built in 1913-14.



16. At the stoplight intersection of Lake Road and Clifton Blvd. (Route 2, a four-lane divided highway), cross at the stoplight, continuing on Lake Road.

Captain’s Cove. Harry and Jane Eliza Coulby had a house built here in 1904. The huge stones for the surrounding wall were shipped from Duluth by boat — at a cost of \$50,000. A native of England, Harry came to the U.S. at the age of 17, a penniless stowaway. He walked 600 miles from New York to Cleveland to find work; eventually working at Pickands Mather Co., a steamship line. At his career peak, around 1904, Harry was president of both Pickands Mather and the Pittsburgh Steamship Co. In 1976, after a couple fires, the house was demolished and this cul-de-sac was created.

17. Just past 17908 Lake Road, turn right onto Sloane Subway (it's not marked) — following this down beneath a railroad trestle, and up to Sloane Avenue.

17909 Lake Road. Robinson G. and M. Jones built this house in 1920. A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Robinson was educated in southern Ohio where his father was a Methodist minister. At 16 years old, he was teaching school. In 1894, he received a bachelors degree from Ohio Northern University, then a masters from Columbia U., a doctorate of pedagogy from Ohio Northern U. and a doctorate of law from Western Reserve U.



In 1917, he became superintendent of Cleveland public schools — leading them to excellence recognized worldwide, with visitors from Europe, Australia, China and Japan. He particularly developed and improved the junior high schools, school gardens, health services, fine arts, trade schools, libraries, and services for the disabled. His staff meetings were addressed by scholars, educators, science and industry leaders, musicians, artists, physicians, and editors.

Robinson received many recognitions and awards — his most prized was the Nicholas Murray Butler Award from Columbia University in 1933. He also prized the Presidency of the Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association, the nation's highest recognition of such work. Robinson G. Jones Elementary on West 150th Street was named for him.

Norfolk and Southern railroad tracks. When the Clifton Park Association built the Rocky River Railroad in 1868, they had three coal-burning tank engines working the five-and-a-half-mile line from West 58th Street in Cleveland to the Cliff House. Initially, the engines were named the "Rockport," the "Brooklyn," and the "Elias Sims." Later, the first two were re-named the "Hanna" and the "Rhodes." In the main summer season, the railroad offered 10 trains each way on weekdays and 17 on Sundays. In 1881, the New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad (Nickel Plate) bought the railroad. It continued to carry passengers until streetcar service on Detroit Avenue began, in 1893.

Clifton Park Beach and Lagoon. Originally a cornfield, the lagoon came about during the winter of 1908-09 when the Rocky River and Lake Erie froze so deeply that the crush of ice squeezed into the soft soil. In the spring thaw was the beginning of the lagoon. In 1912, it was dredged and water lots were sold to Clifton Park owners. Some owners erected boathouses, which later became living quarters.



During Prohibition, it was said a speedboat loaded with beer would run into the lagoon and, if no gunfire or police scuffle ensued, illegal Canadian whiskey would follow. Sometimes there were gunshots, and once a body was found stuffed into an old well.



Westlake Hotel. High on the rise, you can't miss the Westlake Hotel. The history of this site goes back to Rockport's earliest days. In 1816, Rufus Wright paid Gideon Granger \$300 for three-fourths of an acre, where Westlake Hotel now stands. Rufus put up a large frame tavern that his family operated until 1853. Then Jacob Henry Silverthorn bought it, naming it Silverthorn's Inn (pictured, right). His family ran it for years, developing a good reputation. At some point, the Patchen family bought the inn, remodeled it, and named it Patchen House. Some time later, the Silverthorns once again took over. Silverthorn's became very well known to Clevelanders. A popular Sunday pastime was to drive out for a chicken dinner and some famous Silverthorn's French-fried potatoes. In 1915, it was torn down to build what was to be the Miramar Apartments, but actually became the Westlake Hotel.





Winton Boat House, 830 Beach Road. Automobile baron Alexander Winton (pictured) bought two water lots about 1912 and built a sandstone building for sailing gear. Later, he added a second floor. Legend says it replicates a ruined castle on the isle of Cumbrae off Scotland. Inside, a fireplace is carved with an accord (meaning perfect achievement), a rose (England's flower), a thistle (Scotland's flower), and a grid of St. Hubert. In the 1930s, a penthouse was added by the third owner, and supposedly it was used then as a retreat for Eliot Ness, safety director of Cleveland. In the 1960s, it was owned by the Stouffer family.

Vista Footbridge. If you look to the left down Sloane Avenue, you'll see two mid-height chain-link fences — this was the old Vista Footbridge (which is no longer open; pictured). The entrance to Clifton Park was at the end of the Rocky River Railroad line on Railroad Avenue (now Sloane Avenue). The footbridge was the starting point of Vista Street, which guests would travel to Beech Grove and the lake's edge. A line of trees running through the rear yards of Forest Road lots (on the west side) are a remnant of this former tree-lined avenue.



18. At Sloane Avenue, bear right and follow Sloane Avenue to Detroit Avenue.

Former Cliff House. At about this area, the Cliff House once stood — a popular tavern-hotel for balls, weddings, conventions and outings — opened in January 1869 by the same businessmen as Clifton Park. A large frame building (pictured, right), it had abundant guest rooms, a first-class bar on the first floor, a dining room on the second (famous for its chicken dinners), and a ballroom on the third — reputed to be the most beautiful in the greater Cleveland area. A veranda and a "captain's walk" observation tower on the roof let visitors could enjoy the views. A picnic grove stood in front, with a pond, fountains, ducks and swans, as well as two buffaloes in a small enclosure. Ezra Nicholson owned the picnic grove, which ran from here to the lake.



Prior to its opening, Ezra offered the land to Cleveland for a public park, but instead of accepting and thanking him, the city turned him down and newspapers called his offer "Nicholson's Folly."

Edward and Julius Fisk were the second managers, who leased it. After a year, Edward's health failed and things took a turn for the worst. As Dan Chabek, writer of Lakewood Lore, wrote:

"On Feb. 16, 1871, ... Jenny Droz, a 20-year-old former employee, shot and killed manager Julius Fisk. The murderess told police that over a period of eight months, Julius, who was a bachelor, had used every artifice and finally succeeded in seducing her. She further claimed that in the process she caught a 'loathsome disease' from him, which incapacitated her for any kind of work. She said she had applied repeatedly to him for aid, and that [each] time he refused to help her. Finally, on her last visit, she pulled the trigger. She added that if Julius had said just one kind word to her, she would not have done the deed." Whatever happened to Jenny no one knows.



New management re-established the hotel's reputation. In July 1871, many watched Professor Jenkins walk across a 900-foot rope suspended 150 feet above and across Rocky River (pictured, left). In 1874, room rates were \$4 to \$5 a week. Joseph Murch, a Canadian, bought the hotel, changing it to Murch House. He added four bowling alleys and had a two-team surrey bringing guests back and forth between Cleveland and his hotel.

In 1877, other men took over its operation, changing it back to the Cliff House. It reached its height of popularity in 1882, under John Weber's operation. But a devastating fire broke out, leaving only blackened walls. It was never rebuilt.

1312 Sloane Ave. Built in 1907, this house (pictured, right) was advertised as: "situated in the best part of LAKEWOOD with ideal surroundings — affording fine view of lake, etc. ... beautifully decorated, elegant gas and electric fixtures; ... all floors polished; windows from dining room and two bedrooms afford fine view of Rocky River and harbor entrance."



1332 Sloane Ave. Frank Tange, a prosperous Japanese tea importer, had this house (pictured, left) built in 1912. A native of Japan, he had lived here for years and married an American wife. According to a Cleveland Leader article, Frank's father, Yasuke Miyaji, visited but, although Yasuke liked this country, he was homesick — until he took a walk and found this site. Frank bought the lot to build a home for them. The exterior's concave roof and open-roofed porches (pictured, right) were a replica of the Miyaji home in Japan. The interior was "all American and modern," although he wanted sliding door walls, as in Japanese homes, but "the architect assured me it was not practicable in this climate," he said. He was adamant about a garden.

"There is always a pond in a Japanese garden, and there is ALWAYS a garden. You could not rent the cheapest tenement house there unless it had a garden." The garden and pond — even "the position of each tree" — were also an exact reproduction of the Miyaji house. Frank brought a Japanese gardener here, with trees, shrubs and flower roots, who would "test the soil and doctor it and care for it until it will receive his wares and then he will plant them and stay a while to see that they live and prosper..."



Some of the trees were very rare; including: Moso bamboo, Japanese dwarf trees, pines and firs, Kiri wood trees, Ichoa nut trees, and Japanese willows. They were also planting Japanese iris, wisteria and Japonica. The pond was dug when the house foundation was dug — then left empty. "We must not just dig a pond and fill it up," he explained. "It would look too artificial then. We must dig it and then let it be exposed to the elements for a couple of years. Then put the water in and it is a real pond, you see. We never try to do things too quick in our Japan."

In addition, they had a pagoda (tea house) shipped along with the gardener for a platform hanging above the river. Frank said: "It will be just like the pagoda of my father's place, but he has no such view as this. ... he said everything was there. The river was beautiful, and the steep banks, all a beauty of nature, something that has existed for always. And ... the great interurban bridge, the bridge for the steam trains, and ... all your wonderful kinds of boats, [and] beautiful Lake Erie ...

"The old days and the new, the old world and the new, are all right there within your sight, my father said. It is a wonderful thing."



Former Scenic Park. In the Rocky River Valley, near the Detroit Avenue bridge, Scenic Park once stood. An amusement park that sold liquor, this venue offered all sorts of entertainment. It featured a suspended car on a cable that carried guests over the river; a round-trip cost 25 cents. The park also had a two-fifth-mile bicycle track. In 1905, the Beal Law prohibiting liquor sales in Lakewood was passed, adversely affecting the park's attendance. The next year, it became Lincoln Park and, in 1917, was sold to the city of Rocky River.

19. Turn left on Detroit Avenue and follow it eastbound as it makes a sharp left turn at the Harry Buffalo Bar & Grill.

Former Miner Tavern. On the east bank, near the present bridge, was the site of the first recorded tavern in Rockport township. In 1811, the Common Pleas Court of Cuyahoga County issued Daniel Miner a license to run a ferry plus a tavern. He built an 18x24-foot log cabin for the tavern. He died two years later, and Moses Eldred took over the tavern for a time. Later, Mrs. Miner regained operations and ran the tavern for some years.

Former Coulter Drug Store, northeast corner near bridge.

On the rise above the east bank, near the bridge entrance, Walter and Edward Coulter once had a drug store and diner here (pictured). Walter remembered the racket heard when farmers in laden wagons crossed the plank bridge with their iron-rimmed wheels. When the newer bridge was built two years later, they moved across the street (where a small park now stands).



Bob Hitz worked at Coulter's as a teenage soda jerk in the 1930s, when "ice cream cones were five cents, and ... one could buy a good meal for 35 cents." In March 1936, a gas explosion tore apart the building. The Coulters remodeled and reopened in May that same year, but Walter died that same year, from an illness following appendicitis. Family members ran the business until the early 1960s. The building was demolished in 1966 to widen Sloane Avenue.



Detroit - Rocky River Bridge. In Rockport's earliest days, people crossed the river by ferry. In the 1820s, a simple wooden bridge was built just slightly above the water level, and was considered a great convenience. In the 1850s, the Rockport Plank Road Company (who first constructed Detroit Avenue) built the second bridge (pictured, left). It was "a wooden toll bridge 24 feet wide with its terminus half way down the slope. Toll was seven cents for one horse, ten cents for a team, and fifteen cents for a double team." In 1890, a third bridge

of iron and stone (pictured, right — the railroad bridge is visible in the background) was built higher up, saving travelers from a treacherous descent and difficult upward haul "on the hither" shore. In 1909, streetcars ushered in need of the fourth bridge, made of steel-strengthened cement. This current bridge was built in 1981.



Former Streetcar Barns.

Along the right side of Detroit Avenue (apartment buildings now), the streetcar barns once stood. In 1893, Cleveland's streetcar line began service along Detroit Ave., ending at W. 117th St., so Lakewood granted a franchise to extend service to Rocky River. More Clevelanders moved here — with the population leaping from about 450 in 1890 to over 15,000 in 1910. Whereas the Rocky River Railroad had 150,000 customers in 1872, the streetcar line carried 19 million from Sloane Ave. to Cleveland's Public Square in its peak year in 1920. The streetcars were discontinued in 1951.



20. Cross Detroit Avenue at Graber Avenue, continuing on Detroit Avenue.

Bonne Bell Cosmetics Company, corner of Detroit and Graber Drive.

Built in 1969, this Georgetown-style building became the fifth headquarters of this national cosmetics company. In 1927, Jesse Grover Bell started it in his Cleveland home basement. He had worked as a cosmetics salesman in Kansas City, but decided to start his own company, at age 37, with five children, in Cleveland. He named the company, and his daughter, after the character Bonne Bell in Emerson Hough's novel "The Man Next Door."

Jesse first sold items door-to-door; asking customers what they were interested in. Soon he moved into an east side factory, but two years later he'd outgrown that as well. He moved the company to Lakewood — first to Detroit and Geil Avenues, then Detroit and Spring Garden, until finally settling here, where the family business redeveloped an entire block for the corporate headquarters. In the 1960s, Jesse Sr. retired and his son Jesse Jr. and daughter Bonne Bell Eckert took over. Now, James and Jesse Bell, III, hold the reins. In 1989, the company employed about 100 workers.



21. At Riverside Drive, turn right, heading southeast — a panoramic view of the Rocky River valley will be on the right.

Former Taverns. In Rockport's horse-drawn days, the Krauss House tavern and summer garden stood on the northwest corner of Detroit and Riverside Drive. It offered travelers large sheds for their horses and wagons. And on the southwest corner was Hahn's Tavern in a more modern building. Later, around 1903, this building was used as a town hall by Lakewood villagers.



1464 Riverside Drive. Built in 1884, this house (pictured, left) is a good example of those frequently constructed then for people with moderate incomes — although this one boasts very tall first-floor windows.

1585 Riverside Drive. This house (pictured, right) was built in 1925.



22. At Madison Avenue, turn left, heading east (look for the flashing caution light).

CHECKPOINT: What bakery is located at the corner of Winton and Madison Avenues?

Madison School, 16601 Madison Ave. Built in 1912, this school originally had 11 classrooms. It was expanded in 1915 and 1916, adding eight more classrooms. Now it's being torn down to build a new, larger Harding Middle School, which shares the lot behind Madison School. Harding was the last and largest of Lakewood's junior high schools, built in 1925. It had 29 classrooms, a library, auditorium, gymnasium and cafeteria.

23. At the 'Y' intersection, bear left onto Hilliard Boulevard, heading northeast.

Former Wagar Estates, intersection of Madison and Hilliard Ave. Two of the Wagar sons, Israel Dwelle and Adam, set up farmsteads in the 1870s near the intersection of Madison and Hilliard Ave., and both grew fruit. Adam owned 200 acres and employed several African-Americans to cut down the forest on his property. They lived in temporary shacks south of what is now the area of Madison and Morrison Ave.



Hilliard Square Theater, 16200 Hilliard Road. Here we see the back entrance to the former Hilliard Square Theater. In 1927, it was touted as "Lakewood's Most Beautiful Theater" — boasting every modern advance in theater design, with magnificence in interior decoration and luxurious seating. A Lakewood Post advertisement stated: "Selection of films, methods of presentation and service to patrons will always reflect the ultimate in good taste." In 1962, the theater became the Westwood Art Theater until it closed around 1986. In 1988, it re-opened as the Hilliard Square again.

24. At Arthur Avenue, turn left, heading north.

Arthur Ave. In real estate ads, Arthur Avenue was touted as "Lakewood's finest street."



1522 Arthur Ave. This house (at left) was built in 1911.



1516 Arthur Ave. This house (at right) was built in 1909.



1481 Arthur Ave. This house (at left) was built in 1906.



1477 Arthur Ave. This house (at right) was built in 1908.



1446 Arthur Ave. Otto and Nellie Leopold first lived in this house, built in 1908. Shortly after, he bought his first car — a 1909 EMF, a forerunner of the Studebaker — but he only drove it on Sundays. For work, he rode the trolleys. Born in 1877 on Clark Avenue in Cleveland, Otto left school after the eighth grade, but constantly read to educate himself. In 1896, he helped surveyors plot what would become Lakewood. Two years later, he was a cavalryman in the Spanish-American War.

The Pompeian Manufacturing Co. began around 1905 with Fred Strecher, a pharmacist with a drugstore on Clark Ave. Fred was creating a soothing after-shave cream in back, while Otto ran the store. In 1906, they moved to East Fourth St. and added dandruff hair cream, vanishing creams, face powder and rouge. Otto became a salesman.

In 1915, Fred died and Otto became president. The next year, he had the five-story Firm Building put up on Payne Ave. In its heyday, Pompeian employed 100 workers and products were distributed throughout the U.S. In 1918, Otto had a major advertising promotion and **Mary Pickford** (later the silent film actress) was chosen as "Pompeian Beauty of the Year." Otto went to New York to interview her and returned raving about how very charming she was.

In 1927, he sold the company to Colgate Palmolive Peet for \$1 million. In 1926, he and Nellie moved into their Clifton Park mansion, where they lived until 1940. Otto died in 1946.

Arthur Avenue Stone Pillars, southern corners of Detroit Ave. When Arthur Avenue was created in 1908, sandstone pillars and corner walls were erected to give the street an exclusive feel. These elegant gateways were torn down in the mid-'50s during a major renovation of the library.

25. **FINAL CHECKPOINT:** Lakewood Public Library, southeast corner of Arthur and Detroit Avenue.

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