

# The Olde North is new again

### Long-forgotten city neighborhood reclaims its identity

By Martin Rozenman  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

You've probably heard of Clintonville, German Village and the Short North.

How about Olde North Columbus?

The name usually elicits blank stares, but advocates hope that will soon change.

Yesterday, two arches were erected on N. High Street to mark the neighborhood — between Ohio State University and the North Side neighborhood of Clintonville. One arch is just south of North Street, the other just north of Lane Avenue.

"You see what (improvements) did for the Short North," said Tom Wildman, director of the Olde North Columbus Preservation Society and a representative of the University Area Commission. "It's going to give an identity back to the neighborhood."

The arches, which are to be lighted before Christmas with funding from the preservation society, are similar to 17 in the Short North.

They are part of a \$15.8 million project that also includes storm sewers, water lines, new pavement, sidewalks, bike racks, streetlights and trees. Wildman said the city set aside \$280,000 for the arches when the project was discussed in 2000.

The 10-block street project likely will be finished in the next couple of weeks, Wildman said, so the orange barrels will disappear.

North Columbus was established as a city unto itself in 1842.



KATIE WALKER | DISPATCH PHOTOS

Two arches, similar to those in the Short North neighborhood, are going up at the boundaries of Olde North Columbus along N. High Street — Lane Avenue on the south and North Street on the north.

prosperous mill operated on the Olentangy River at North Street.

"Ohio State was a byproduct of the agricultural business surrounding the mill," Wildman said.

Later, a brick factory on the site of what became North High School helped spur residential growth, he said. "Clintonville was an extension of North Columbus."

But North Columbus was annexed into Columbus in the late 1870s, Wildman said, then forgot-

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**TOM WILDMAN**  
Olde North Columbus Preservation Society

Preservation society member

life for its 8,000 residents.

"We're trying to differentiate the area from north campus," Golding said. "We do have a lot of students living in our area, but it's a very diverse mix."

Despite the makeover, one problem remains for establishing an identity: The signs on them say "Old North Columbus, not 'Olde."

"Olde" was the spelling in the 1850s," Golding said. "It's more quaint — not just 'old.'"



The "Old" on the arches is supposed to be changed to "Olde" to reflect the spelling in use in the 1800s when the area, then called North Columbus, was its own thriving city. The plan is to have the arches lighted by Christmas.

Olde North Columbus

