July 2003

800 Delaney Avenue • Delaney School • 1920 • Photograph by Rose Jerome
627 Cherokee Circle • A.T. Carter House • 1927 • Photograph by John Hartlieb
The theme for this year's Historic Preservation Board Calendar is the Lake Cherokee Historic District. As early as the 1840s, families homesteaded the land encompassing what is now the historic district, growing cotton and citrus and hunting and fishing the bountiful wilderness. The railroad came to Orlando in the 1880s, spurring residential and commercial development on the outskirts of town near Lake Lucerne and Lake Minnie (now called Lake Cherokee). After the disastrous freezes of 1894 and 1895, Orlando boosters advertised the city's pure water supply, fine schools and healthful climate and the neighborhood continued to develop. By the time of the Florida Land Boom of the 1920s, high style houses were being constructed by many of the city's civic and business leaders. Two schools were built within the neighborhood to handle the unprecedented population explosion. On the eve of America's bicentennial, highly publicized struggles to save a handful of the earliest houses in the neighborhood motivated property owners to support the adoption of the City's historic preservation ordinance. It wasn't until 1981, however, that the character of the Lake Cherokee neighborhood was protected with the enactment of the Lake Cherokee Historic District.

The City of Orlando's Historic Preservation Board has actively pursued the recognition and protection of the significant buildings, neighborhoods, objects and landscapes of our diverse city since 1976. The Board has designated many individual landmarks, as well as six historic districts: Downtown, Lake Cherokee, Lake Copeland, Lake Eola Heights, Lake Lawsona and Colonialtown South. In addition to historic and architectural surveying, designation, architectural review and public education, the Board and City of Orlando staff provide valuable technical assistance to owners and developers contemplating the rehabilitation of historic properties.

Cover: 525 South Eola Drive • Cherokee Junior High School • 1926 • Photograph by Rose Jerome