

SUPERMAN'S CLEVELAND

SEARCHING FOR THE ORIGINS OF SUPERMAN IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SIEGEL AND SHUSTER

Though he is called "The Last Son of Krypton," Superman's deepest roots lead not to a distant solar system, but to Cleveland, Ohio.

It was in Cleveland's Glenville neighborhood that two high school students named Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster first met. Sharing an enthusiasm for science fiction and pulp adventures, in 1933 Joe and Jerry began an adventure comic strip featuring a super-powered hero of their own. They named him "Superman."

The Man of Steel has fought a never-ending battle in comics, films, TV series and more ever since, and the story of his origin on a dying alien planet is familiar everywhere. Yet Superman's Cleveland origins are comparatively little-known. Those willing to take some time, however, can still discover many pieces of those origins in the houses and streets of Northeast Ohio's metropolis.

Map symbols: ● Superman-related site ● Private residence ● Historic site (original building gone)

FINDING SIEGEL & SHUSTER

- 1 The Siegels' house**
10622 Kimberly Avenue
Jerry's childhood home, restored in 2008 with the help of funds raised from fans, is the long-time home of a local family. A decorative fence and plaque celebrate the site's history.
- 2 Glenville High School**
Parkwood Drive and Everton Avenue
Joe and Jerry met as students at the original Glenville High School, later demolished when the school moved to a new building on East 113th St.
- 3 The Shusters' house**
Parkwood Drive and Amor Avenue
At age 9, Joe moved from Toronto to Cleveland with his family, settling just down the street from the Siegels. Though the original house is gone, a fence adorned with oversized reproductions of the first *Action Comics* Superman story marks this site.
- 4 Cleveland Institute of Art**
11141 East Boulevard ■ www.cia.edu
Joe attended classes at the Cleveland School of Art, now the Cleveland Institute of Art.
- 5 University Circle Place**
1990 Ford Drive
Jerry and his second wife, Joanne, were married and briefly lived in this building, then the Commodore Hotel. Today this University Circle neighborhood landmark is an apartment building.
- 6 The Shuster Studio**
Euclid Avenue, between E. 105th and E.101st Streets
Joe's away-from-home studio on busy Euclid Avenue, now gone.
- 7 Jerry's house**
2402 Glendon Road, University Heights
Jerry lived here with his first wife, Bella, and son, Michael; according to legend, Jerry would sometimes surprise curious neighborhood kids by answering the door costumed as Superman.

A LIVING LEGACY

- 8 Carol & John's Comic Shop**
17448 Lorain Avenue ■ cnjcomics.com
The hub of Cleveland comic fandom serves up Superman adventures and gifts behind its neon S-shield. In 2009, they even re-enacted the "World's Fastest Man" race between Superman and the Flash.
- 9 Cleveland Public Library**
325 Superior Avenue N.E. ■ www.cpl.org
Jerry and Joe were frequent visitors to the city's main library in their youth, probably never imagining that the library's collection would one day include graphic novels, as well as books and movies, featuring their co-creation.
- 10 Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage**
2929 Richmond Road, Beachwood ■ www.maltzmuseum.org
The museum's wing documenting the history of Cleveland's Jewish community includes a section devoted to the legacy of Siegel, Shuster and Superman.
- ? Superman Museum**
(Still on the drawing board)
Some day, hopefully. Watch this space.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT SITES

- 11 Lakeside Place**
323 W. Lakeside Avenue
Former offices of the Newspaper Enterprise Association which, in its day, published the syndicated Superman comic strip.
- 12 The Huron Road (at&t) Building**
750 Huron Road
Long-rumored to be the model for the Daily Planet building, though Joe dismissed the suggestion. Have a look and judge for yourself.
- 13 Ohio Historical Plaque**
E. 105th St and St. Clair Ave ■ www.ohiohistory.org
The city of Cleveland's official recognition of Siegel and Shuster.

