Little Italy's Local Stone

**Berea Sandstone** has coarse sand grains; its buff color weathers to dark brown. On the Heights, Berea was quarried where local waterfalls exposed it. Important locales included Cedar-Fairmount, Coventry-Euclid Hts, and Superior-Euclid Hts. Just south, on Doan Brook, Italians worked at the quarry on the current Roxboro School grounds. Berea Sandstone was preferred for building masonry. Several Berea houses remain in the area. Many Berea monuments lie in Lake View and East Cleveland cemeteries.

**Euclid Bluestone** has fine sand grains; color ranges from blue-gray to red. Early settlers quarried bluestone at the tops of local road “hills,” such as Cedar, Kinsman, Mayfield, Shaker and Superior. By 1834, the Cedar Hill quarry was sending stone to Euclid Ave on the Quarry Railroad. Bluestone also came from the Dugway Brook waterfall areas at current Lake View Cemetery and Forest Hill Park. Euclid Bluestone was used primarily for sidewalks, stone walls, parapet copings, and fine millwork including early gravestones.

**Little Italy, Set in Stone**

Roy Larick, Bluestone Heights

Little Italy and stone working are closely linked. The district lies below two beds of high quality sandstone. By the late 1870s, Italians worked in local quarries and used the products to fashion infrastructure, buildings, and monuments. Little Italy had more and retains more worked local stone than any other Cleveland neighborhood. Beautiful examples are to be found on thoroughfares and side streets as well as in neighboring Lake View and East Cleveland Cemeteries.

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Little Italy, Set in Stone
From the 1880s to the 1930s, Little Italy Italians helped build many prominent structures of local stone. These included railroad bridge abutments, industrialist mansions, and cemetery monuments. At home, local stone became part of more moderate features such as house foundations and ornamental moldings. Every Little Italy street holds examples, prominent and tucked away.