



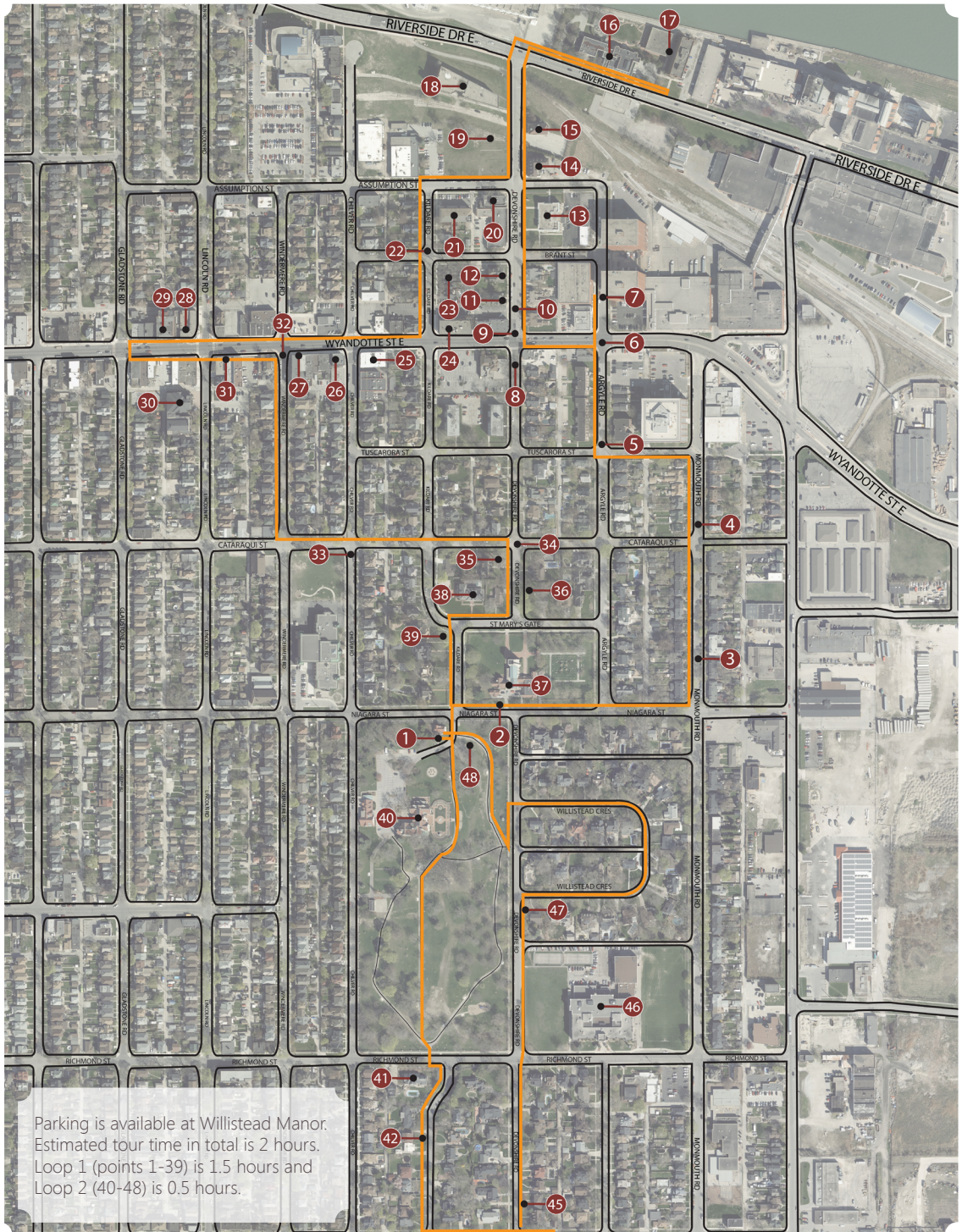
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# WALKERVILLE

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## HERITAGE WALKING TOUR

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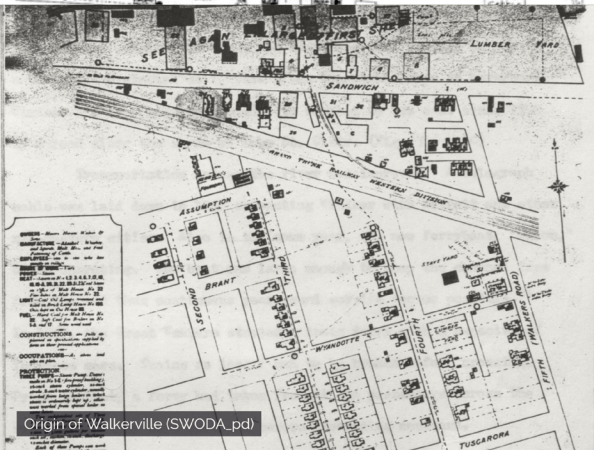
## 1. FIRST NATIONS SETTLEMENT AREA

Before Europeans arrived, the land along the Detroit River was referred to as Wawiiatanong by the Indigenous populations. The area surrounding it is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy—Ojibwe/Chippewa, Potawatomi, and Odawa (Ottawa). Many other Indigenous groups have called this area home such as, the Huron (Wyandot), and the Attawandaron (Neutral). It is thought that the very site that became the future town of Walkerville was formerly the Ottawa village, in which, Chief Pontiac resided during his Siege of Detroit in 1763.

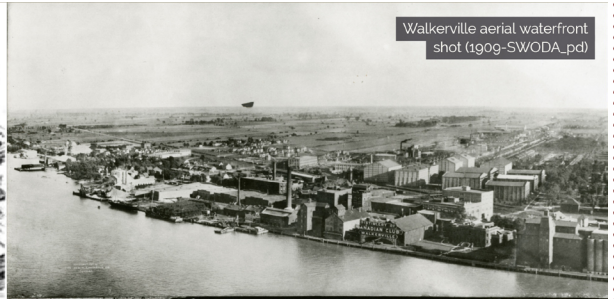




Walkerville 1884



Origin of Walkerville (SWODA, pd)



Walkerville aerial waterfront shot (1909-SWODA, pd)



Sandwich or Riverside Dr (St 1910-SWODA, pd)



Hiram Walker & Sons 1885 Illustration (SWODA, pd)

## 2. THE EARLY PHASE: THE HIRAM WALKER YEARS - 1858 TO 1899

The former Town of Walkerville was founded by Hiram Walker, an industrial entrepreneur from United States. Walker acquired the lands from Eugene Hall in 1856 and relocated his distillery from Detroit to Canada and established a flour mill in 1858. He expanded his ventures to include mill & whisky distilling, hogs, cattle, tobacco and lumber. He began developing the areas closer to the Detroit River in a grid pattern, with the industries on the north and east, separate from commercial and residential districts in the south and west. By 1869, Walkerville obtained

post-office village status. Walker also leased the ferry Essex for commute between the river and expanded it into the Walkerville & Detroit Ferry Co. In 1882, Walker built his own railway line from Walkerville then expanded it, attracting more economic activity and growth to the area. By 1890, Walkerville obtained town status and was a self-sufficient model town.





### 3. 1900S HIRAM WALKER & SONS WORKERS' SEMI-DETACHED BRICK HOUSES & TERRACES

Hiram Walker engaged distinguished architects to design the early development in the community, and later incorporated the Walkerville Land and Building Company to continue construction and provide rental housing initially exclusively for Walker's employees of all ranks, who were required to rent from their company. The 800 Block Monmouth rowhouses are red brick houses presumably designed by famous Detroit architect Albert Kahn c.1904, constructed for Walker's industrial workers. There are 12 rowhouses of 4 units each. Midblock are two semi-detached

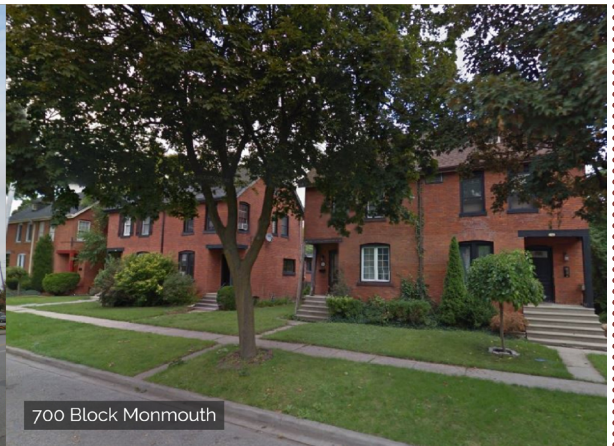
houses designed for the rent collector and their families. All rowhouses have a variety of decorative brickwork, and a central open passageway leading to the rear yard. The rowhouses differ in their detailing in their gables and parapets.

800 BLOCK, MONMOUTH RD  
(FORMER FOURTH ST)





View from Walker Road



700 Block Monmouth



Monmouth Road Semi Detached  
Homes (1890 from Museum P5620)



View from Walker Road

## 4. 1890S HIRAM WALKER & SONS SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES

The 700 Block of Monmouth retains many early (c.1890) frame semi-detached cottages with shared Tudoresque dormers on the west side and red brick semi-detached houses built c.1893-94 presumably designed by Mason & Rice on the east. Monmouth Road's semis and rowhouses replaced rows of cottages, and employees were originally required to rent from the distillery. One street east of Monmouth is Walker Road which was the eastern boundary of the town. The east side of Walker was devoted to industrial manufacturing facilities (buildings not remaining), and on the

west side were residential commissioned by the Walkerville Land & Building Co. Only five identical semi-detached brick houses remain on Walker Road today.

700 MONMOUTH BLOCK  
& WALKER RD



The Argyle



The Tuscarora



600 Block Argyle Fram Cottages

## 5. ARGYLE APARTMENTS & 1880S HIRAM WALKER & SONS COTTAGES

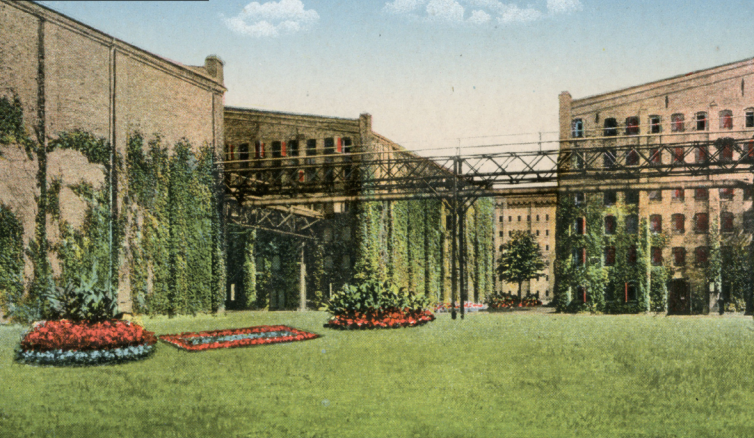
A dozen or more of the earliest frame cottages built for distillery workers c.1880 to 1885 were demolished to construct apartment buildings. Both The Argyle and The Renfrew are attributed to architect James Pennington (c.1938). The buildings have a strong horizontal character with stone belt courses interrupted by columned portico surmounted by second floor arched or Palladian styled stone surrounds and iron-railed balconies. The Tuscarora was constructed in Classical Revival style with Gothic parapet detailing. On the east side of Argyle are the surviving modest frame

cottages built c.1880 or earlier by the Walkerville Land & Building Co. The cottages are similar in design with hooded windows, wooden clapboard, and side entrances

**600 BLOCK ARGYLE: THE TUSCARORA (686), THE ARGYLE (657-693) AND THE RENFREW (625-645) APARTMENT BUILDINGS, 646, 656 & 662 ARGYLE RD**



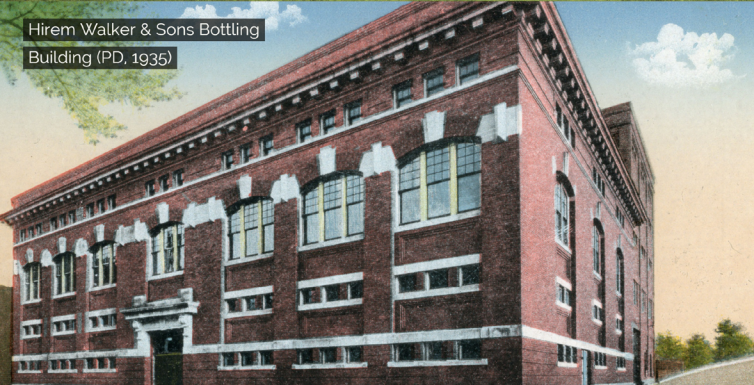
Hiram Walker & Sons Maturing  
Warehouses (1935\_pd)



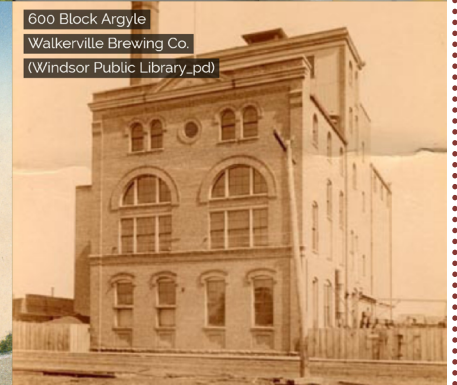
Hydro Electric  
Commission Building



Hiram Walker & Sons Bottling  
Building (PD, 1935)



600 Block Argyle  
Walkerville Brewing Co.  
(Windsor Public Library\_pd)

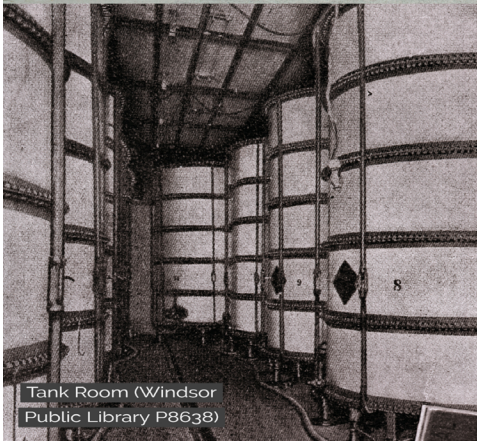
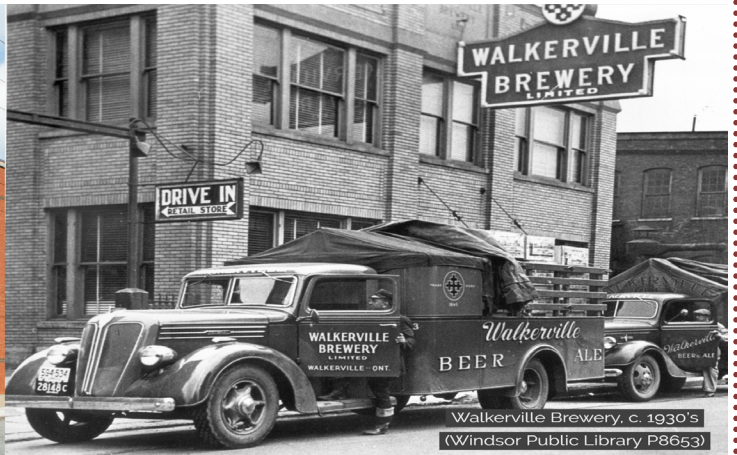


## 6. WALKERVILLE HYDRO ELECTRIC COMMISSION AND THE HIRAM WALKER WAREHOUSE

The Beaux-Arts design Walkerville Hydro-Electric Commission Building was designed by architect Harold McEvers. The brick building with concrete foundation boasts classical design of pilasters and moldings. The center entrance is accented by a carved relief of cornucopias flanking the town crest of Walkerville. Behind it is the former Hiram Walker Warehouse built c.1930s currently housing the Walkerville Brewery. The rectangular four storey brick box has contrasting black banding on the street-facing sides. The history of brewing in Walkerville started in 1885 when Hiram Walker

ventured into the brewing industry. The Walkerville Brewery was very successful and exported to Canada and to the United States and even foreign markets. After a series of consolidations, the brewery stopped operations in 1956 and the original brewery buildings were demolished in the 1960s. The building preserves the area's past.

2040 WYANDOTTE ST E



## 7. WALKERVILLE BREWERY

The Walkerville Brewing Company is a staple in the Walkerville area and in its prime, it was known across North America. Hiram Walker started the brewery in 1885 and used a vacuum fermenting system that revolutionized the industry. With the use of top of the line equipment and the employment of a legendary maltster, the Walkerville Brewing Company steadily rose to fame in the region. There were agencies across Ontario and Detroit. During the Canadian prohibition, the company produced non-intoxicating beers, but returned to regular production as soon as the Prohibition

was lifted. In 1944, the company was purchased by Canadian Breweries and was consolidated with one Canadian Breweries subsidiaries. The Walkerville Brewery closed in 1956 and was demolished in 1962. From 1998-2007, a brewery under the same name was relocated two blocks away, adaptively reusing a vacant Walkerville warehouse that was built in 1928. Under new ownership, the Walkerville Brewery was revived again in 2012.

525 ARGYLE RD





Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)



600 Block St. Devonshire  
Detached Houses



600 Block Devonshire  
Detached Houses (Windsor  
Public Library P5621\_pd)

## 8. ROYAL BANK BUILDING & HIRAM WALKER & SONS SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES

Five of the six original c.1888 buildings (presumed to be designed by Mason & Rice) which Hiram Walker rented to his distillery workers may still be seen. The lost building which was replaced by the Royal Bank building was mirror image of the building on the south end of the block, while the four between are identical to one another. The distinctive front windows of the building have been altered, thereby losing the single-hung sash and Queen Anne style transoms with "quarrels" (small square panes). The former bank building (1922), designed by architect David J. Cameron of

Windsor, represents a more reserved Beaux Arts phase of bank design with broad flat limestone panels and minimal ornamentation. It has been converted to use as an upscale office building.

600 BLOCK, DEVONSHIRE RD



## 9. THE STRATHCONA BLOCK

Devonshire Road was the early commercial/residential street in Walkerville. At the start of the street from the Riverside was the ferry service, then a little south was the train station. Also located on the street were hotels, post office, and other commercial development. When built for the Walkerville Land & Building Co. in 1907, this building was referred to as "the new Walker bloc." In April of that year two established businesses moved in – F. J. Miller, the druggist, and R. A. Holland, the dry-goods merchant, both from the Crown Inn. The Walkerville Hardware Co.

occupied a large part of the main floor, and the second floor was devoted to the Walkerville Public Library until 1922. The two-storey brick building with timber-framed oriel windows is notable for its low profile accented with decorative parapet. The street entrances have cut stone surrounds.

1958 – 1998 WYANDOTTE STREET E.  
AT DEVONSHIRE ROAD





Lower Devonshire Rd.  
(1898, Museum P5624)



Devonshire Rd. (PD) Walkerville, Canada



500 Block Devonshire Rd. Semi Detached  
Houses (Windsor Public Library P5622\_pd)



546 Devonshire Rd.

## 10. HIRAM WALKER & SONS MANAGERIAL SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES

The Walkerville Land & Building Co., commissioned Mason & Rice firm to design these c.1890 semi-detached houses – the first management-rank buildings in Walkerville, pre-dating some of the later residential development to the south. Originally, all had wooden shingled roofs and gables and were constructed of dark, double wythe brick. Two have round-headed Richardsonian Romanesque arched entrances with ornamental trim and brick voussoirs moulded top fit the curve. Both have bell-cast roofs and gabled dormers. The house in the middle has

a shared brick balustrade balcony connecting the projecting bays to reinforce its symmetry. Its gabled porch detail can be found in other Mason & Rice houses on Kildare and Windermere Roads. The quality of these early residences set the tone for later managerial housing development in Walkerville.

514-18, 546-48 AND  
580 DEVONSHIRE RD





## 11. JOHN BOTT HOUSE

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John Bott, who achieved a measure of fame for his prize-winning malt at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, was manager of the Walkerville Brewing Company. He was a member of the first town council with his friend, Thomas Reid, and was elected mayor in 1896. The Walkerville Land & Building Co. contracted architect James Grey McLean for the design of the c.1894 house for Mr. Bott. Features of interest on the Bott house include the dormer with bell-cast roof and finial, roundel windows, and the massive stair landing window on the north facade.

547 DEVONSHIRE RD



Photo of Thomas Reid's House



Thomas Reid (Museum Windsor P5406)

## 12. THOMAS REID HOUSE

Thomas Reid was born in Quebec, educated in Kingston, and moved to Walkerville in 1862 to work for Hiram Walker & Sons. A decade later he became head distiller. Active in civic affairs and highly regarded, he served on the Walkerville Council for several years and was the Town's mayor between 1897-1898. The Reid mansion c.1892 exemplifies the quality of masonry for which the designers -Detroit architects Mason & Rice- were well known. The rounded bay with its Palladian-style window, the dentilled eaves and articulated side elevations are all clues to its original beauty.

Some original features that have been lost or altered include the wide wooden verandah, slate roof with balustrade, and decorative chimneys.

511 DEVONSHIRE RD





Walkerville Post Office (UW LL 105499.pdf)



Walkerville Post Office (2017)



(UofW Leddy Library Acc. No. 07-011 1338 PPI)



Walkerville Post Office (1927, Canada, Dept. of Public Works Library and Archives Canada PA-057488)

## 13. WALKERVILLE POST OFFICE BUILDING

In the early centuries, post office buildings were powerful symbols of the Dominion government and played a vital role in the community and operations of a town. Recognizing the growing importance of the Town of Walkerville, the Federal government agreed to erect an appropriate Post Office building on a site purchased from the Walkerville Land & Building Co. Contrary to the Walker sons' preference for red brick and limestone, the architect chose buff brick and pre-cast concrete to distinguish his c.1914 building from its surroundings. The deep setback of the

structure, its six tall pilasters, projected entrance ends, and rhythmical symmetry reinforce the quality of this important heritage block.

420 DEVONSHIRE RD



(1892 Photo Museum Windsor, P5513)



Crown Inn 80s or 90s Photo



Crown Inn (source: unknown)

## 14. CROWN INN BUILDING

Hiram Walker commissioned his architects to design a hotel to accommodate his business visitors arriving by rail. The Crown Inn was built c.1892-1893 directly across from the beautiful Lake Erie & Detroit River Railroad depot and became the first hotel built in Walkerville. This Queen Anne four storey building has twin gables, surmount angled oriel windows, and three dormers illuminating the attic which once housed hotel staff. The original slate roof was removed in 1991. Hotel rooms have been converted to apartments, and commercial units occupy the former office and dining room.

378 - 396 DEVONSHIRE RD





## 15. WALKERVILLE TOWN HALL/THE BARCLAY BUILDING

With the completion of St. Mary's Church seven blocks to the south, the original church (c. 1870) along Sandwich St (now Riverside Dr) was demolished. Although originally intended to be built on Devonshire, the new Walkerville Town Hall was built in 1904 from the demolished church's stone foundation to save cost. The building also served as the Canadian National Railway station and offices from 1921-1935. In the 1990s, when Hiram Walker & Sons Ltd released plans to raze the Town Hall, malthouse, and the Walker Stores building to reduce taxes, a group of volunteers

formed the Preserve Old Walkerville Committee and raised sufficient funds to relocate the building to its present location. The Classical Revival concept building was designed by Albert Kahn but the roof-top cupola and rear glass portions are later additions.

350 DEVONSHIRE RD



2017 Photo Riverside Front of Building



Back of Walker HQ Office (LC-D428-45015)



Hiram Walker & Son Board Room (UW LL 5069 6 pd)



Directors Lunch Room Postcard (UW LL Walkerville Times Collection pd)



(UW LL Mike Skreptak Collection; Box 1 1927 photo\_pd)



South side of Building (1908, SWODA postcard, UW LL 1041 pd)

## 16. HIRAM WALKER & SONS LTD. HEAD OFFICE & OFFICE ADDITION

The flagship of the Walker enterprise by the riverfront was designed by Mason and Rice and constructed in 1892-1894 based on Florentine Renaissance architecture. Red sandstone and brick were imported from Germany. The exterior also features terra cotta ornament and long narrow Roman bricks, bronze gates and lanterns. Mason's then twenty-three-year-old draftsman, Albert Kahn, was responsible for the luxurious interior, including mahogany and Circassian walnut panelling, Mexican onyx, Normandy and Egyptian marble, and fine woodcarving throughout.

Meanwhile, the buff brick office building, less ornate in design but elegant with many classical elements, was a 1904 later addition by Kahn. These elegant buildings stand as a reminder of the enormous prosperity enjoyed by the firm over its first decades of operation.

1950-2072 RIVERSIDE DR E  
(FORMER SANDWICH ST)





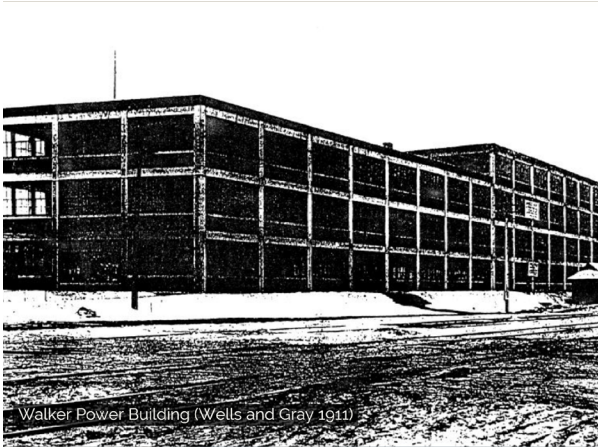
Wiser Reception Centre Interior

## 17. WISER'S RECEPTION CENTRE

Tucked behind trees along Riverside Drive, the tall 1964 contemporary single storey building was constructed for distillery company Hiram Walker & Sons as the "Reception Centre" primarily for company functions. Designed by the Canadian office of Smith, Hinchmann & Grylls (major Detroit architectural firm), the building features a flat roof concrete structure with roof edge of projected squares. The gallery on all four sides supported by square brick columns provide views to Detroit River. In recent years, the building has been renamed "Wiser's" for the Canadian whisky brand

now produced by Pernod Ricard.

2072 RIVERSIDE DR E



Walker Power Building (Wells and Gray 1911)



Walker Power Building (1913, The Evening Record)



325 Devonshire (FEB2011-1)

## 18. WALKER POWER BUILDING

Developed by Walkerville Land & Building Co., the three storey portion was constructed in 1911 and was sufficiently successful that the fourth storey section was constructed a year later. Designed by Detroit architect J.E.Kinsey, the exposed reinforced concrete frame with inset brick panels and large span of tripartite sash windows provided much natural light for the factory and office uses. Amongst its tenants (in 1916) included the Walkerville Light and Power Co., and manufacturers of stoves and cooking equipment, electrical welding machinery, automobile fans, hones for razors, extracts

and bottled goods, drills, electrical fixtures and looseleaf ledgers. The building is an example of early industrial architecture and its prominence along Riverside Drive was heightened after the removal of Peabody Bridge over the railway tracks and leveling of the road.

325 DEVONSHIRE RD





Victoria Jubilee Fountain  
(LC-DIG-det-4a20972)



Train Station (LC-DIG-det-4a20971)



Pere Marquette Station (c1910 UW LL 107.755 JV.-p.d)

## 19. WALKERVILLE/PERE MARQUETTE TRAIN STATION

Railroads played an important part in Walkerville's history. The Great Western Railway of Canada opened connecting Walkerville-Windsor to London in 1854. To connect Walkerville to his farm lands around Tecumseh Boulevard further south, Walker built his own short line for transportation in the early 1880s. By 1885, with government subsidies, Walker incorporated the Lake Erie Essex & Detroit River Railroad, connecting Walkerville to southern lakeshore towns and farms of Essex County and later as far as London. He also commissioned the train station which was designed by Mason

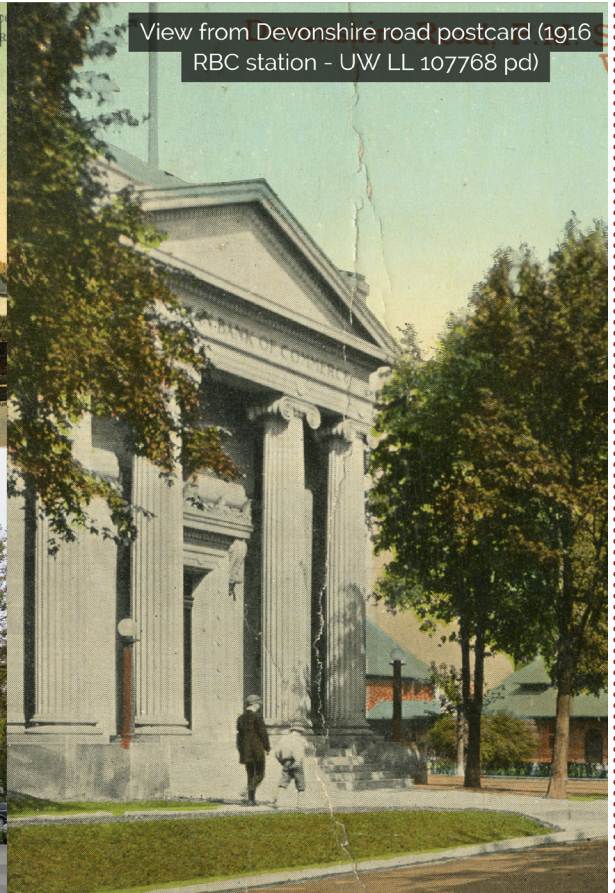
& Rice. Pere Marquette Railroad leased exclusive rail rights to Walker's rail company in 1903 and afterwards merged with the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, who demolished the depot in 1957.

ASSUMPTION ST  
& DEVONSHIRE RD

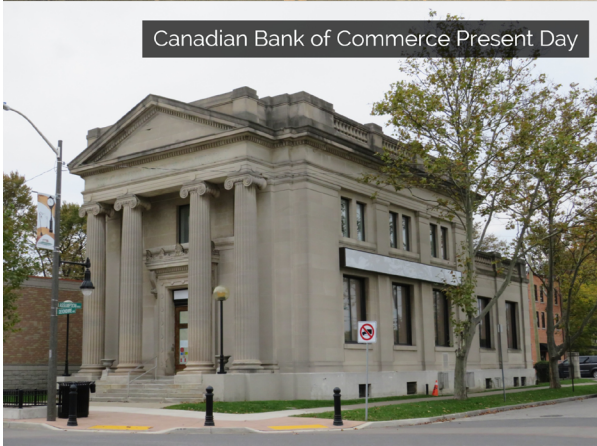




Canadian Bank of Commerce  
(1910 UW LL J.S. 4795 pd)



View from Devonshire road postcard (1916  
RBC station - UW LL 107768 pd)



Canadian Bank of Commerce Present Day

## 20. BANK OF COMMERCE

As important transportation development drew more industries to Walkerville, prosperity increased between 1890 and 1910, and fine buildings continued to be added to the town streets. Stability, prosperity, security were concepts that the public wanted in banks and which architects translated from ancient Greek and Roman temple designs. Although famous Detroit architect Albert Kahn was not formally trained, he was blessed with an innate grasp of harmonious proportion, nurtured by his friendship with sculptor Julius Melchers and his experience in the drafting room of Mason &

Rice. Kahn's 1906 creation of this former bank building features scrolled Ionic capitals atop fluted columns surmounted by a pediment with decorative detailing.

415 DEVONSHIRE RD





Pre-Rehabilitation (PC: International Metropolis)



Walkerville Garage Present Day



Walkerville Garage Present Day



Illustration (1912, The Evening Record)

## 21. WALKERVILLE GARAGE

Property Developer George Reid commissioned architects Leybourne & Whitney to build this c.1913-1914 building for a garage, machine shop and dance hall. The Canadian Auto Trimming & Painting Company occupied this building for a brief period, then Walkerville Garage took over the premises for a number of years. In 1924, the top two floors were used as a patent medicine factory and in later years were used as Roxy Ballroom, and housed a textile manufacturing company. This building serves as a remnant of the rich industrial uses located in Walkerville.

420 KILDARE RD



## 22. KILDARE STONE CURBS AND WALKERVILLE MAYOR HOUSES

Stone curbs on 400 and 500 Block of Kildare are a remnant feature of the Town of Walkerville streetscape. Now rare, they are believed to be installed around 1885 when streets were first paved, or might have been added by 1905. 423, 447, 487 Kildare were all formerly properties of early Mayors of the Town of Walkerville. 423 Kildare was Mayor J.E. Dobie's House, constructed c.1900 in local vernacular style. 447 Kildare was William C. White's House, constructed c.1890 in vernacular Queen Anne style. White was a carpenter at Hiram Walker and Mayor (1906). The

vernacular Queen Anne Walter Chater House at 487 Kildare was constructed c.1892. Chater was head distiller for Hiram Walker and served as mayor of the town (1911-1912). The fish-scale shingles, and ornamental woodwork, and stained glass windows have been retained.

400 BLOCK KILDARE RD





500 Block of Kildare Houses Quadruplexes  
(Windsor Public Library-Museum Windsor  
P5623\_pd)

## 23. HIRAM WALKER & SONS QUADRUPLEX

The "Quadruplex" was constructed in 1888 for Hiram Walker to house employees of his distillery, which was located some three blocks northeast. This project was one of Walker's earlier rental property development for the distillery's employees. By 1930s the units were rented to others beside Hiram Walker Companies' employees. Architects Mason & Rice were the architects of choice of the Walker family during this era, therefore, presumed to have designed this Picturesque Arts & Crafts style building. Although sharing a common gable roof, eaves with wooden

brackets and a cut stone foundation, each unit of the terrace exhibits different architectural details. Some of the units feature shared recessed arched entranceways, arched lancet windows with cross bar, and ornamental brickwork.

500 BLOCK KILDARE RD

## Imperial Building



## 24. THE IMPERIAL BUILDING

This 3 storey commercial block is a major landmark on the major thoroughfare of Wyandotte Street and typical of 1920-style architecture with classical features. Constructed of red brick with limestone trim at belt-courses, parapet, cornice and pier capitals, the c.1922 is a design of architect James Carlisle Pennington. Specific decorative features include the low-relief shield at the centre of the parapet, and the incised name – Imperial over the main bay. The building was owned by the Walkerville Land and Building Co. and leased to a variety of tenants including Jewellers, Tobacconist,

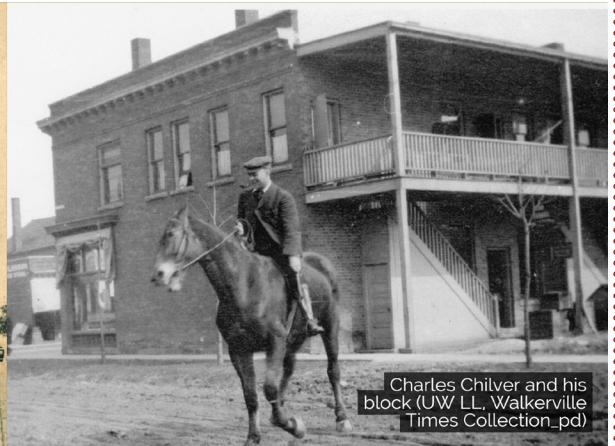
Bicyclers, Barristers, Dentist, Civil Engineers etc. in its early life. A major restoration of the 18,000 sq ft building was undertaken in the 1990s based on the original architectural drawings.

1900 – 1942 WYANDOTTE ST E





1800s Wyandotte St E  
Post Card (UW LL Mike  
Skreptak Collection 1917)



Charles Chilver and his  
block (UW LL, Walkerville  
Times Collection pd)



Chilver Block

## 25. 1800S WYANDOTTE ST E

Chilver Block was constructed c1904 and houses multiple units. Chilver Road was originally called Susan Avenue (later Victoria Road), was partially developed by Charles Chilver from what was originally family farm. Charles Chilver also developed terrace housing at Chilver and Cataragui, as well as the Grier apartments on Riverside Drive East. Charles was active in public service, serving at Walkerville Town Council and as Mayor of Walkerville between 1909-1910. Past occupants of the property was J.W. Petsch (later Lanspeary) drugs, Cafe and ice cream parlour.

The two storey red brick building features a frieze with dentils below the parapet, stone sills on the second floor and a canted corner. The first floor has likely been reconstructed.

### CHILVER BLOCK



## 26. BANK OF MONTREAL BUILDING

This majestic Beaux Arts Classical Revival architecture is clad in enamelled terra cotta, with dentilled Cornice mouldings, double storey Corinthian styled pilasters, bas relief garlands, Doric frieze, and large quoins with elongated center keystones. Designed by architects Hogle & Davis with Stahl & Kinsey, it was constructed c.1912-1913 for the Merchants Bank in the commercial core of the Town to accommodate the growing banking needs of a prosperous Town. Its corner entrance at Chilver and Wyandotte St. E accentuates its prominence on what was a

busy intersection in town. Absorbed into Bank of Montreal in 1922, it continued to function as a bank location until 1995.

1799 WYANDOTTE ST E





Home Bank (1913, The Evening Record)



Recent Photo of the Home Bank



1700 Wyandotte E Block



Home Bank of Canada, (1911 - SWODA Blackbinder 2242 Mike Skreptak Collection)

## 27. HOME BANK 1700 WYANDOTTE ST. E COMMERCIAL BLOCK

Many of these commercial buildings were constructed of brick with stone accents between the years of 1908- 1911. Of note is the three storey "Home Bank" building at the end of the block, designed by Toronto architects Sproatt & Rolph and constructed by local contractor Victor Williamson. The large overhanging dentil cornices and stone belt coursing creates the horizontal look of the building. Radiating voussoirs with keystones surrounding window openings are another architectural highlight of the building. The building was used as a residence for the manager

and the upper floors was rented out. The Home Bank declared bankruptcy in c.1927 and various uses have since resulted in modifications to the first floor.

1700 BLOCK WYANDOTTE ST E



CIBC Interior (CIBC Archives 1724.018)



CIBC Interior (CIBC Archives 1724.014)



CIBC Exterior (CIBC Archives 1724.016)



Recent Photo of CIBC

## 28. IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA

The Imperial Bank of Canada Walkerville branch building was constructed in 1927 for \$113,000 – a sizeable sum in those days, and included a separate safety deposit vault and elevator installation (special features in those times). The Stripped Classical Art Deco style includes classical decorative motifs using simplified pilasters and entablatures, red brick with contrasting limestone materials, and geometric motifs like herringbone brickwork and the Imperial Bank of Canada medallion above the entrance. Canadian bank architects Langley & Howland designed it. The

property is one of several physical remnants of the economic prosperity of the former Town of Walkerville continues to support the commercial Main Street character of Wyandotte Street East.

1586-98 WYANDOTTE ST E



Recent Photo of the Theatre



Walkerville Theatre (1921)



Theatre Interior



Theater Interior



## 29. WALKERVILLE/TIVOLI THEATRE

Located at the town boundary between Walkerville and Windsor, Walkerville/Tivoli Theatre was designed by architect C. Howard Crane (who also designed Detroit's Fox Theatre) with Elmer George Kiehler and Cyril E. Schley. Vaudeville was offered to audiences when the theatre first opened in 1921 then in 1929 sound movies were screened. The theatre was designed in Beaux Arts Italianate style with Classical Revival features. Later, the theatre was also used as a live theatre, bingo hall, community music/dance studio, etc. Unfortunately, much of the decorative mid section of the facade

with the ornamental Palladian windows and wood doors, as well as interior plaster decoration had been removed. The buff brick building however has retained the decorative relief panels on the top and interior elements such as the stage, some box seating and balcony.

1564 WYANDOTTE ST E

Lincoln Church Front



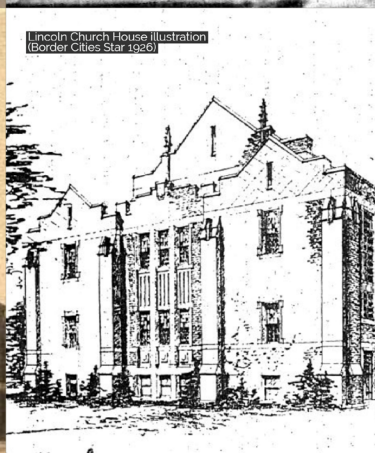
Lincoln Church House and Church  
Photo (Border Cities Star 1926)



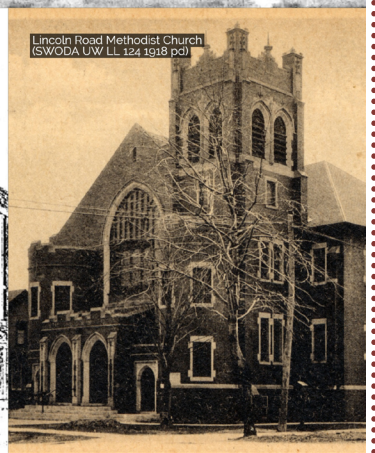
Lincoln Road Methodist  
(1913 The Evening Record)



Lincoln Church House illustration  
(Border Cities Star 1926)



Lincoln Road Methodist Church  
(SWODA UW LL 124 1918.pdf)



## 30. LINCOLN ROAD UNITED CHURCH & WOOLLATT CHURCH HOUSE

The building of the first Lincoln Road Methodist Church was spearheaded by Rev. J.P. Rice in 1891, who was tasked with raising money to build a Methodist Church and Rectory in Walkerville. He sought financial assistance to purchase a lot from Hiram Walker but was refused as he saw no need for more churches (given the existence of St Mary's Church on Riverside). Rev Rice proceeded to purchase lots on Lincoln Road which was then not part of Walkerville but later was included within the town boundary. The church outgrew their facility and bought more land on Lincoln

Road for this second church building. Constructed by architect Irvin S. Walker in English Medieval Revival style, the 1915 church building features eclectic Gothic and Romanesque elements. The adjacent Woollatt church house was constructed in 1926 by Pennington & Boyde. Since 2015, the church was sold and used as a mosque.

651 & 659 LINCOLN RD





## 31. PICKARD BUILDING/TORONTO DOMINION BANK & THOMAS A. MCCORMICK HOUSE

The Pickard Building with limestone, decorative brick and a canted corner entrance was constructed in 1922 for Russell H. Pickard for his Drug store, and other retail and office units until it became Paterson's Drug Store in 1938. In 1950, Toronto Dominion Bank occupied the first floor of the building and operated until 1998. On the other end of the block is the Dr Thomas A McCormick House where the doctor lived and operated his practice. McCormick served as the Medical Officer of Health for Walkerville from 1910-1915 and continued to practice in this building even

after moving to Willistead Crescent in the 1930s. Constructed in the Queen Anne Revival style, the house features stucco and wood on the gable and dormer and the large open arcade style wrap-around porch. The house was turned into a girls' home and known as "The Inn" for several decades.

1601 & 1687 WYANDOTTE ST E



Strathcona Wyandotte Devonshire (LC-DIG-det-4a1992g)



Sandwich St East of Canadian National  
Railway (Museum Windsor PC 7116)

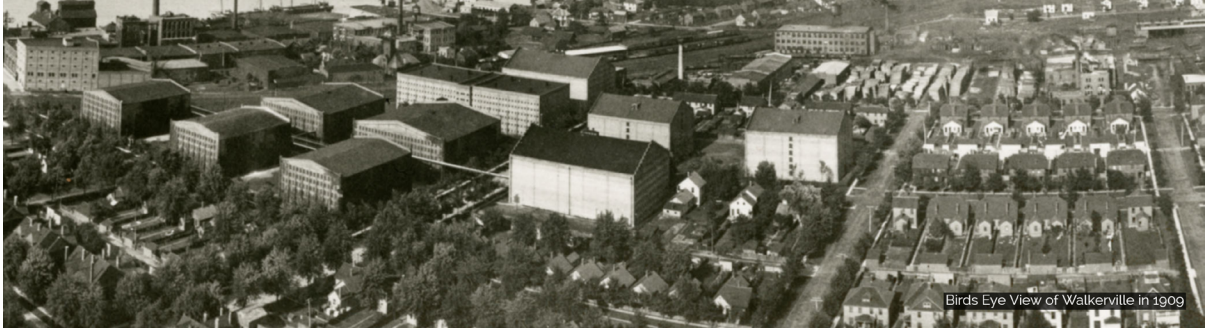
## 32. STREETS OF WALKERVILLE

In a publication by the local newspaper "The Evening Record", Walkerville was admired for its orderly town development and effort that was placed into developing public infrastructure such as cool boulevards, well-kept pavements, and provision of sewers, street lights, gas, and waterworks, which were all modern comforts that were not a standard at that time. The booming growth of Walkerville due to the establishment of factories on Walker Road produced a never ending stream of workers and families to the region. This created new businesses beyond Wyandotte Street

onto Ottawa Street that the surrounding residents could walk to. In 1910, the streets were designed for the use of horses and buggies, street cars, and the people.

**DOWN WINDERMERE STREET THEN  
WALK EAST ON CATARAQUI**





### 33. THE SECOND PHASE: GARDEN CITY PLAN RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

While Hiram Walker's original development concentrated on the business-commercial areas, his sons' residential neighbourhood took the Britain's "Garden City Plan" approach with the "model town" plan separating industry from residential areas by streetscape designs. The concept was highlighted in the curved streets and landscaped "island" developed for St Mary's Anglican Church and then the vast greenery of Willistead Manor, which promoted a traffic-reduced, quiet park-like setting to promote fine residential neighbourhood focused around those

areas. Lots were sold only to those who could afford to build homes of 3,500 sq ft thus ensuring substantial character of the neighbourhood. Albert Kahn (architect of choice for the later era of Walker Family influence) used Arts and Craft influence in residential and public institution buildings designs contrasting the growing age of factory mass-production.



Porter Coate House



Porter Coate House Facade



Bell Coulter House



Bell Shutters

## 34. BELL-COULTER HOUSE & PORTER COATE HOUSE

Bell-Coulter House was commissioned by Harry J. Bell, an insurance agent and designed in the Colonial/Georgian Revival style, featuring decorative portico and brickwork, as well as wood shutters with cut-out bell motifs. The property is one of many prime lots which the Walkerville Land & Building Co. sold in later years and regulated by stipulating through the land deed a high quality of construction with minimum value of constructions and setbacks to ensure grand homes were built. The 1907 Porter-Coates House was first owned by George F. Porter who was chief draughtsman

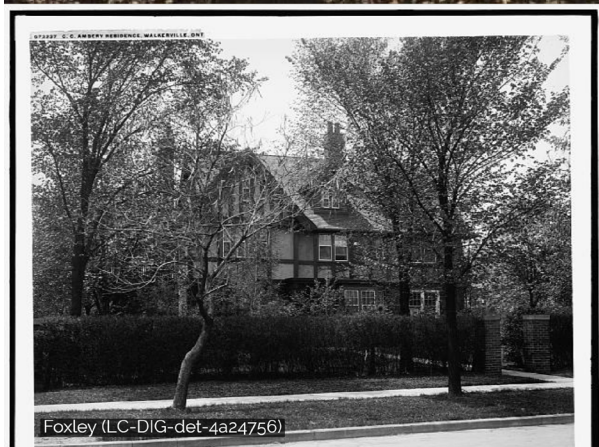
for the Canadian Bridge Co. and designed in late Queen Anne style and Tudor Revival architectural style. The second owner was a prominent businessman, president and manager of the Walkerville Hardware Co. Ltd.

794 AND 793 DEVONSHIRE RD





Foxley in 1913 (The Evening Record)



Foxley (LC-DIG-det-4a24756)



The Ambery-Isaacs House

## 35. FOXLEY: THE AMBERY-ISAACS HOUSE

Constructed in 1907 as part of the Garden City second phase of the Town of Walkerville developments, the property consist of a two-and-one-half storey detached dwelling, one-storey garage as well as landscaped grounds, designed in Arts & Craft and Tudor Revival style. "Foxley" was one of the executive houses commissioned by the Walker family companies for high ranking managers and reflects the high quality of life provided to their employees. Both Charles. C. Ambery and then William H. Isaacs, who were top executives in the Walker family businesses, took

residence there. Designed by renowned architect Albert Kahn, the "Foxley" was even featured in The American Architect & Building News in 1910. Few houses in Walkerville can match the architectural merits of Foxley in detail, proportion, site and workmanship.

811 DEVONSHIRE RD  
AT CATARAQUI ST



## 36. ELMCROFT GATE POSTS

The Elmcroft gate posts are a remnant of the grandiose residence constructed for Hiram H. Walker, grandson of the town founder. Designed by Albert Kahn, the 1906 constructed “Elmscroft” was a stone building of Tudor and Jacobean styles. The main residence was built of stone and blended Tudor and Jacobean architectural styles. The three-storey mansion had two massive chimneys, several projecting bays and a flat-roofed entrance porch. Its carriage house survives on Argyle Road is now attached to a similar carriage house which was associated with a Georgian Revival house on

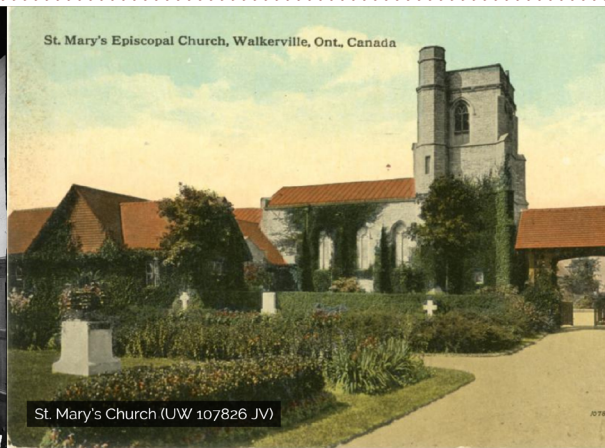
Devonshire – “Wallmay” – designed by Burrowes & Wells (1912), also demolished. Both carriage houses are designated properties.

2030 ST. MARY’S GATE

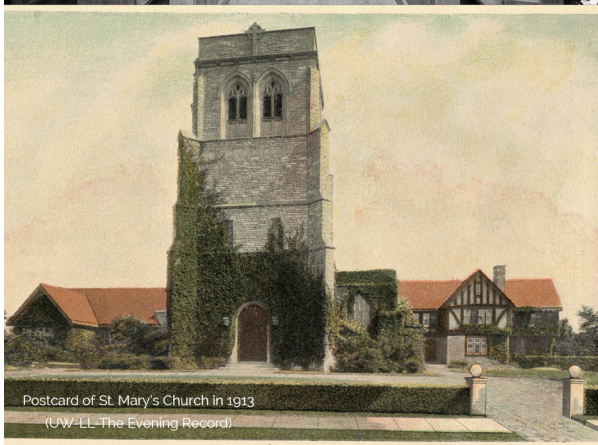




Interior Photo (LC-DIG-det-4a20751)



St. Mary's Church (UW 107826 JV)



Postcard of St. Mary's Church in 1913  
(UW-LL The Evening Record)

ST. MARY'S CHURCH



St. Mary's Church original photo (UW LL St Mary Church Collection Acc. No. 07-011 1067 PP \_pd)

## 37. ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, RECTORY HALL & CEMETERY

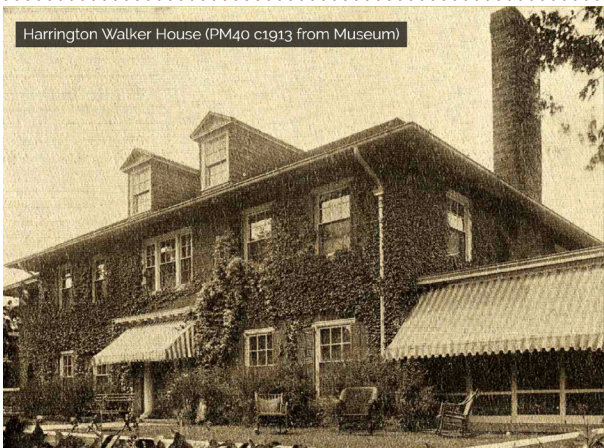
When the congregation of the Walker church (est. 1874) on Sandwich St (Riverside Dr.) grew, sons of Hiram and Mary Walker decided to build a larger edifice in memory of the parents. The present site was chosen for its clear view of the river down Devonshire Road. Architect Ralph Adam Cram was recommended by Albert Khan and chose "the little parish church of England" as a model for his 1904 Gothic church design. Boston architects Cram Goodhue & Ferguson are attributed for the design. No expense was spared in its construction; tiles from Moravian Pottery & Tile Works in

Pennsylvania; wood carvings by Johannes Kirchmayer from Oberammergau; stained glass windows surround the sanctuary; & etc. The parish hall, added in 1950 near the cemetery, is by local architects Sheppard & Masson. Approached through the lych gate is the traditional English churchyard of the church complex. The Tudor Revival rectory and Sunday School stand on the west.

1983 ST. MARY'S GATE



Harrington Walker House (PM40 c1913 from Museum)



Coach House



Harrington Walker House



## 38. HARRINGTON E. WALKER HOUSE

Two prime lots opposite St. Mary's Church were reserved for Hiram Walker's grandsons, Harrington E. Walker and Hiram H. Walker (house, the "Elmcroft", demolished). Both privileged young men had Albert Kahn design their residences, with H. E. opting for a plain house in Flemish bond brick with a wide, low facade and end ells, dormer windows in the hipped roof, and a prominent entrance with a shallow entablature. A detached garage with chauffeur's apartment stands on Kildare Road's curve. The windows were originally enhanced with louvered wooden shutters. The

1911 house appears to have been patterned on Kahn's design for the larger Henry B. Joy mansion in Detroit. Local contractor Victor Williamson who lived nearby is attributed for its construction.

1948 ST. MARY'S GATE





Cobbles



Stephen A. Griggs House



1899 Niagara Willistead  
Coach House (SJ)



Kildare Manager Houses

## 39. KILDARE MANAGERIAL-RANK HOUSES

The Cobbles was built (c.1906) with fieldstone by Walkerville's building contractor, Victor Williamson for his own residence. The house was home to Polish Army offices and Canadian Women's Army Corps during World War II and served as the temporary Metropolitan Hospital School of Nursing in the late 1940s. The Grant-Peterson House is a stucco Arts & Craft, French style house (c.1913), designed by Detroit architects MacFarlane, Maul & Lentz for the president of the Hiram Walker & Sons, William Grant. Ridout-Parsons House is a brick and stucco Arts & Crafts

house c. 1906 designed by Albert Kahn for the Bank of Commerce bank manager. Stephen A. Griggs, resident of 889 (c. 1905) was the manager and later owner of the Walkerville Brewing Co. The design by Albert Kahn includes a Jacobean gable and massive ornamented chimney dominating the main facade.

800 BLOCK, KILDARE RD



Billiard Room

Grand Staircase



Front of Building



Paul Martin Garden



Approach to Gate  
(LC-DIG-det-4a20959)



Entrance to Court photo  
(LC-DIG-det-4a20958)

## 40. WILLISTEAD MANOR

The crown jewel of Walkerville, the elegant Edwardian mansion "Willistead Manor" was the residence of Edward Chandler Walker, Hiram Walker's second son. The "Willistead" is a memorial to his deceased older brother Willis. Completed in 1906, this Albert Kahn Tudor-Jacobean English Manor design includes limestone quarried from Amherstburg and woodwork carved by Bohemian artisans. The interior features leaded glass windows, marble fireplaces, rich wood paneling. Chandler also moved the neo-Grecian portico from his father's Detroit residence and positioned

it in line with his dressing room window. Together with the attendant Gate and Coach House, the entire property reflects a united design albeit the stone and iron fencing was a later design (1914) by architects Stahl Kinsey & Chapman. In 1921, Mrs. Walker widowed with no heirs donated the 15 ½ acre estate to the people of Walkerville. The Queen Victoria Fountain was placed in 1958, relocated from the train station.

1899 NIAGARA ST





Edgewood in 1996



Edgewood 1857 Richmond St.

## 41. EDGEWOOD

Commissioned for Col. and Mrs Brewster (the sister and brother-in-law of Mrs E. C. Walker) the stucco Arts & Craft house was designed by Stahl-Kinsey-Chapman architects c1914. The name "Edgewood" was said to reflect its location at the edge of Willistead. The house later became residence of Wallace Campbell, president of the Ford Motor Co. of Canada who also served as Chairman of the War Supply Board of Canada in 1939. He and his wife Gladys organized safe havens for Ford company English children evacuated due to the war in their property and

others houses in the area. The Campbells were honoured as Commander of the British Empire after WWII for their efforts.

1857 RICHMOND ST



Dr. Brokenshire House



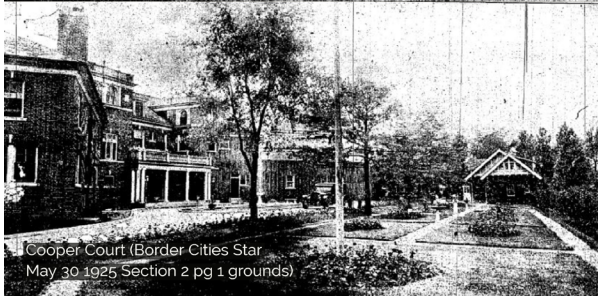
Cooper House Garage



Cooper Court front view (Border Cities Star, 1925)



A J Bowman House Photo (1994)



Cooper Court (Border Cities Star  
May 30 1925 Section 2 pg 1 grounds)



Cooper Court conservatory and pool (Border  
Cities Star May 30 1925 Section 2 pg 2)

## 42. AJM BOWMAN HOUSE, DR FREEMAN BROCKENSHIRE HOUSE, COOPER COURT GARAGE HOUSE & FENCE

Located at 1128 Kildare, the picturesque hipped-roof A.J.M Bowman rough cut stone house was designed by the Detroit architect himself. 1142 Kildare was constructed in 1937 by local designer contractor George Lawton. The Tudor Revival house was the residence of well known Canadian orthopedic surgeon Dr. Freeman A Brockenshire and his wife Gladys. 1166 Kildare is a small remnant of the vast Cooper Court Estate which spanned the entire stretch from Kildare to Devonshire. The 40 room estate included landscaped grounds, the conservatory/ pool, and

garage. James Scott Cooper was an entrepreneur and acquired immense wealth through business dealings during the Prohibition Era. The grand mansion became expensive to maintain thus was demolished, leaving behind the garage and fence. Salvaged materials from the Cooper mansion was used to construct a smaller Cooper residence at 1165 Devonshire Road.

1100 BLOCK KILDARE RD

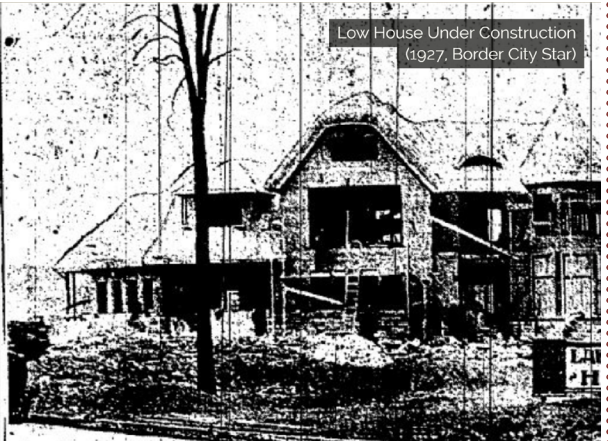




## 43. 1900 ONTARIO STREET HOUSES

The 1900 Block of Ontario Street Houses all constructed in the years between 1925-1926, features a lovely array of architecturally interesting houses, including the picturesque house at 1929 Ontario St, the Scandinavian Revival house at 1945 Ontario St, another picturesque house at 1975 Ontario (former residence of the Douglas Greig, succeeding president of Ford Motor Co. of Canada after Wallace Campbell), and a Tudor Revival style house at 1989 Ontario.

1900 BLOCK, ONTARIO ST



## 44. LOW-MARTIN HOUSE/DEVONSHIRE LODGE

Built in 1928 for Harry Low, a tool-maker who became a well-known rumrunner during Prohibition, the house was originally called "Devonshire Lodge" and cost nearly \$130,000 in 1928 to build. It is likely that local builder George Lawton designed and built the 4,000 sq ft main house and 1,700 sq ft servant's quarters/garage to the rear in consultation with Low. Both the main house and the rear garage/servant's quarters are in the English Cotswold-style, built of rusticated stone with an unusual, undulating roof with contours similar to thatch. Ultimately,

the Depression and legal problems lost Low his house on Ontario Street. Later, the house was also the home of renowned Canadian politician Paul Martin (Sr.), whose son served as Canada's Prime Minister from 2003-2006.

2021 ONTARIO ST





Clement King House



John Strain House

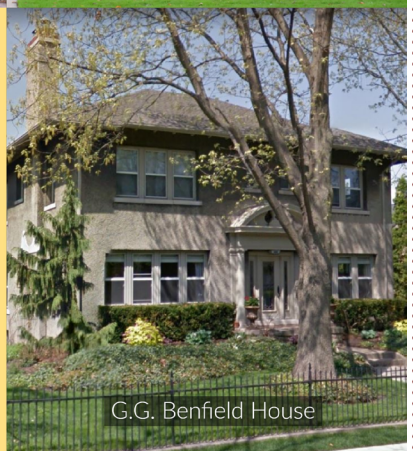


Earnest Carr House



Cooper House (Later)

*1100 BLOCK,  
DEVONSHIRE RD*



G.G. Benfield House

## 45. CLEMENT KING HOUSE, JOHN STRAIN HOUSE, EARNEST CARR HOUSE, COOPER COURT HOUSE, G.G. BENFIELD HOUSE

Several houses on the 1100 Block on Devonshire Road are listed on the Windsor Municipal Heritage Register. On the east side of Devonshire, the Tudor Revival style Clement King House at 1190 Devonshire Road is attributed to architects Sheppard & Masson and constructed in c.1915. John Strain House at 1182 Devonshire was built c.1924. The Earnest Carr House at 1174 Devonshire in Tudor Revival style was constructed c.1924. On the west side, the house at 1165 Devonshire Road is presumed to be the later Cooper Court house constructed c.1941 in Classical Revival style, built

from the salvaged materials from the demolition of the Cooper Court Estates. Finally, the colonial revival house at 1141 is the G.G. Benfield House constructed c.1916.

1100 BLOCK, DEVONSHIRE RD





Walkerville Collegiate postcard (UW LL 112880 pd)



Walkerville Collegiate photo



Walkerville Collegiate Front (PD UW LL 124057, 1931)

## 46. WALKERVILLE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

Walkerville Collegiate was designed by architect John Boyde & J.P. Thomson in the Collegiate Gothic style and cost nearly \$800,000, an enormous amount considering the population size of Walkerville being 7500 people when it was constructed in 1922. The school boasted areas for machine training, household science, science laboratories, as well as a wood panelled library, gymnasium, 800 seat auditorium and stage, and a pool. In the first year, there were 195 students enrolled. The W.D. Lowe Vocational School also used the schools' premises while waiting for

their own building to be constructed on Giles Boulevard. The Collegiate was in danger of facing school closure as recent as 2005 however, the school remains in operation today and is well-known for their arts program.

2100 RICHMOND ST





## 47. WILLISTEAD CRESCENT HOUSES

Navaho and Cayuga Streets originally planned to be connected to Monmouth Road but were joined in 1929 to form the present Willistead Crescent. Situated in prime location next to Willistead Park, many of the houses on Willistead Crescent were prestigious residences designed in Tudor Revival or Classical Revival architectural styles, and built for prominent members of the society. In particular, 2086-2088 Willistead Crescent was built for Dr Charles W. Hoare in 1928 and designed by Nichols, Sheppard & Masson. Hoare was a Walkerville physician active in civic affairs

and with the medical profession. He was treasurer of Walkerville 1890-1916, Mayor of Walkerville 1917-1918, helped found the Walkerville Utilities Commission, was first chair of the Board of Health; and President of Hotel Dieu staff, President of the Essex County Medical Association, helped found Metropolitan General Hospital.

### WILLISTEAD CRESCENT



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Special thanks and credit to the organizations, individuals, and staff for the rich resources that made this walking tour possible:

City of Windsor, Engineering - Infrastructure & Geomatics

Museum Windsor

Windsor Public Library

SWODA - [swoda.uwindsor.ca](http://swoda.uwindsor.ca)

Google Streetview







[WWW.WINDSORWALKINGTOURS.COM](http://WWW.WINDSORWALKINGTOURS.COM)