

Walkerville

WALKERVILLE

INTRODUCTION

Windsor's Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (W.A.C.A.C.) encourages tours of Walkerville, the former town that now forms part of Windsor. A map of its most interesting area is included inside the back cover.

This booklet has been prepared for W.A.C.A.C. by the City's Heritage Planner. Information is based on recent research into the feasibility of the establishment of a Heritage Conservation District in part of Walkerville.

W.A.C.A.C.

The Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee is comprised of Windsor residents with a common interest in the conservation of our history. They are appointed by City Council to serve in an advisory capacity, researching and recommending properties for formal designation under the Ontario Heritage Act. Designation protects a few of the best examples of our built environment for this and future generations.

Information about W.A.C.A.C.'s duties, and application forms for membership on the committee may be obtained from the secretary, Office of the Clerk, City Hall (255-6435).

Tour participants are reminded that many of the properties herein are private residences, and should be viewed with discretion.

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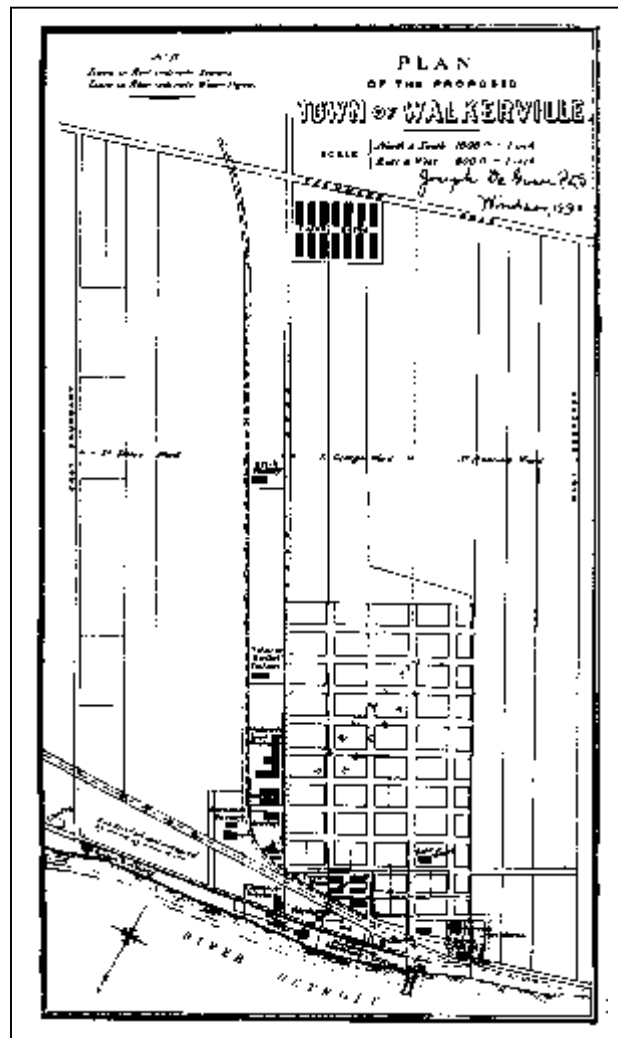
The Early Phase - The Hiram Walker Years - 1858 to 1899

The former Town of Walkerville was founded by Hiram Walker in 1858. The New England-born distiller bought two French farms on the south shore of the Detroit River, and the growth of his industry and the town it supported continued for seven decades under his family's guidance.

Railroads played an important part in Walkerville's history. First, the Great Western's extension to Windsor in 1854 opened up opportunities for commercial expansion. Then Walker built his own line in 1885 with government financing, the Lake Erie Essex & Detroit River Railroad, which connected Walkerville with lakeshore towns and farms, and extended as far as St. Thomas. (The name was changed in 1891 to Lake Erie & Detroit River Railroad.) The availability of rail transportation attracted other industrial enterprises to the area, and brought great prosperity to the Walker family and their town.

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The Walkerville Land & Building Co. was incorporated in 1890 with Hiram's oldest son, Edward Chandler, as president. The Town passed by-law #94 in 1894 by which temporary tax exemptions were provided to attract new industries, and to encourage individuals wishing to build homes in Walkerville. Strict standards on residential setbacks and square footage were stipulated. The W. L. & B. Co. acquired land and hired architects to design rental properties for the distillery's employees at all levels. Modest frame cottages lined the blocks as far as Tuscarora Street, the original southerly boundary. Five north-south streets were laid out and later renamed, at Mrs. Walker's urging, to lend a more refined tone to the town's image. First Street became Kildare Road, Second became Devonshire, Third - Argyle, Fourth - Monmouth, and Fifth Street was named Walker Road. Most of the east-west streets were named for aboriginal peoples - Wyandotte, Huron, Cataraqui, Dakotah, Ottawa, and so forth. All of the community's amenities were provided by Walker - a fire brigade and police, streetlights, sewers, paved roads and sidewalks, parks, a music hall, a school, library and church. This benevolent dictator thought of everything.



The Second Phase - An Edwardian Town on the Garden City Plan

While Hiram Walker's original developments concentrated mainly on the business-commercial areas of town, his sons' residential neighbourhood continued to grow until the City of Windsor annexed the town in 1935.

Britain's innovative "Garden City Plan" was well established when the Walkers' main architects - Mason & Rice, and Albert Kahn - were active in the town. It appears likely that James Harrington Walker, the youngest son and an aspiring architect, had a hand in

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the civic plans. The “model town” plan separated industry from residential areas by streetscape design.

Architectural and social conformity were important. Walker Road’s east side was devoted to industrial manufacturing facilities. Its western edge had modest, brick, semi-detached houses; Monmouth Road’s semis and terraces replaced rows of cottages, and employees were originally required to rent from the distillery. Argyle Road had a mix of terraces and vernacular houses for a higher rank of employee. Devonshire Road became the main street, with Romanesque Revival semis for management and the clergy. Later, distinctive houses of various architectural styles, popular in the protracted Edwardian Period (1900 to the 1930s), rose on the street, and spilled over onto Kildare Road. The concept was fully realized with the landscaped “island” developed as the site of St. Mary’s Anglican Church - the sons’ memorial to their parents, and the erection of Willistead Manor on the former Country Club and park lands.

Walker’s heirs continued the patriarch’s hands-on tradition. In particular, Edward and his wife Mary Griffen Walker directed the second phase of development in Walkerville after his father died in 1899. By 1901 the Walkers sold their expanded Lake Erie & Detroit River Railway to Père Marquette Railways and used the funds (\$2,870,000) to develop their land between Wyandotte and Richmond Streets. The interrupted street pattern reduced the traffic, keeping the park-like setting quiet, and the Walkers used this feature to promote a fine residential neighbourhood focused around St. Mary’s Church and Willistead. Since lots were sold only to those who could build homes of at least 3500 square feet, the substantial character of the neighbourhood was guaranteed. The Arts and Crafts Movement, a philosophy of design founded in England about 1850, emphasized handmade architecture in an age when factory mass-production was taking hold. Every home Albert Kahn designed shows Arts and Crafts influence. Kahn believed that historic period styles were best suited to homes and public institutions, while factories should be utilitarian, brightly illuminated and devoid of ornament. By the 1920s many architects believed that the simplicity of factories should be models for all types of construction. It is ironic that a man so lauded for his innovations in factory design should maintain a philosophy contrary to the direction taken by Modern residential architecture, particularly when his contemporary, Frank Lloyd Wright, was receiving wide acclaim.

Except for some changes since the amalgamation, most of this Walker-built town still survives. If conservation persists, this planned, century old, self-sufficient town will be a cultural treasure for Windsor and North America.

Now, let the Tour begin.

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1. THE HIRAM WALKER & SONS LTD. HEAD OFFICE
2072 RIVERSIDE DRIVE EAST (former Sandwich Street)
ARCHITECT - Mason & Rice, Detroit, 1892-1894
Designating By-law 5895



The flagship of the Walker enterprise stands on the riverfront just east of Devonshire Road. Its design is based on that of the Florentine Renaissance Palazzo Pandolfini (c.1527) with elements taken from Palazzi Zorzi, Rubino and Strozzi, and churches of San Miniato and San Marco.

Smothered for decades under a dense blanket of ivy, the building was carefully restored in 1990 to reveal its original appearance and

fine architectural detail. The exterior features terra cotta ornament and long narrow Roman bricks, bronze gates and lanterns. Mason's twenty-three-year-old draftsman, Albert Kahn, is responsible for the luxurious interior, including mahogany and Circassian walnut panelling, Mexican onyx, Normandy and Egyptian marble, and fine woodcarving throughout. A double staircase leads down to the gardens overlooking the river where a sculpture fountain by Joseph N. DeLauro depicts the aboriginal peoples' creation myth - a theme appropriate to the site where the Ottawa village was located c. 1730.

The elegant building stands as a reminder of the enormous prosperity enjoyed by the firm over its first decades of operation.

2. THE WALKERVILLE TOWN HALL BUILDING
a.k.a. The Barclay Building
350 DEVONSHIRE ROAD (former Second Street)
ARCHITECT - Albert Kahn, Detroit, 1904
Designating By-law 12398

With the completion of St. Mary's Church seven blocks to the south, the original church (c. 1870) was demolished. From its stone foundation, opposite the office building, rose the new Town Hall in 1904, designed by the now-independent Albert Kahn. Ironically, the Town Hall was supposed to have been built on Devonshire Road, where it stands today, but the availability of an existing foundation offered an opportunity too good for the Walker Sons to overlook. Construction of the new public building (at a cost of \$15,000) was in the hands of Victor Williamson.



Ninety years later, with a corporate plan to reduce its heavily taxed physical plant, Hiram Walker & Sons, Ltd. decided to raze the former Town Hall (also known as the Barclay Building), along with the malthouse and the Walker Stores building. A determined group of volunteers quickly formed the Preserve Old Walkerville committee to try to save the Town Hall. Within a year sufficient funds had

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been raised to have it moved. Today, thanks to an imaginative and enterprising businessman who purchased it, the Town Hall has been restored and renovated to house a new cultural and commercial attraction - the Galerie d'Art Royale. The Preserve Old Walkerville committee is now the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario - Windsor Region Branch.

The former Town Hall's design is Classical Revival in concept (symmetrical, belt courses, angled quoins and burst pediment) with windows more closely associated with Arts & Crafts styling. The dark tile roof and low-arched dormers were specified by Kahn, but the roof-top cupola and rear stair ell are modern embellishments.

3. THE CROWN INN BUILDING
378 - 396 DEVONSHIRE ROAD
ARCHITECT - Mason & Rice, Detroit, 1892-1893
Designating By-law 6795



Hiram Walker commissioned his architects to design a hotel to accommodate his business visitors arriving by rail. The Crown Inn was built directly across from the beautiful Lake Erie & Detroit River Railroad depot, also by Mason & Rice, completed just two years earlier, but demolished by the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad in 1957. Twin gables surmount angled oriel windows, and three dormers illuminate 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.

Regrettably, the front facade was sandblasted in 1973, resulting in significant deterioration of the brick surface, permitting moisture to penetrate causing further spalling during freeze-thaw cycles. To understand this effect, one need only examine the untouched side facades which remain in good condition.

The Queen Victoria diamond Jubilee fountain (in the early photo) was donated to the Town by the Walkers in 1897, and moved to Willistead's grounds in 1958 after the beautiful train station was razed.

4. THE WALKERVILLE POST OFFICE BUILDING
420 DEVONSHIRE ROAD
ARCHITECT - Federal Department of Public Works, 1914
Designating By-law 12756

Recognizing the growing importance of the Town of Walkerville, the Federal government agreed to erect an appropriate building on a site purchased from the Walkerville Land & Building Co. Contrary



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to the Walker sons' preference for red brick and limestone, the architect chose buff brick and cast concrete to distinguish his building from its surroundings. The deep setback of the structure, its six tall pilasters and rhythmical symmetry reinforce the quality of this important heritage block.

5. THREE HIRAM WALKER & SONS SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES

514-18, 546-48 and 580 DEVONSHIRE ROAD

ARCHITECT - Mason & Rice, Detroit, c. 1890

Designating By-laws 9978 (546) and 9979 (548)



The Walkerville Land & Building Co. commissioned the Mason & Rice firm to design these massive semi-detached houses - the first management-rank buildings in Walkerville, pre-dating the later residential development to the south. They occupy the entire block between Brant and Wyandotte Streets, and each is distinct from the other. Originally, all had wooden shingled roofs and gables and were constructed of dark, double wythe brick, but here the similarity ends.

Two have round-headed (Romanesque) arched entrances with ornamental trim and brick voussoirs moulded to fit the curve. Both have bell-cast roofs and gabled dormers. The paired house in the middle has a shared balconette connecting the projecting bays to reinforce its symmetry. The most southerly building is markedly different, although gross alterations in the addition of bay-like windows have obliterated the elegant Queen Anne Revival windows at the second and third storeys. 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.

6. THE BANK OF COMMERCE

415 DEVONSHIRE ROAD

ARCHITECT - Albert Kahn, Detroit, 1907

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 - all are terms which may apply to the architectural character of turn-of-the-century bank buildings. Somehow the image of a Classical temple in which the treasures of the golden age of Greece and the Roman Empire were stored gave assurance to the public. If that was needed, Albert Kahn could deliver, and did so with confidence. The scrolled Ionic capitals, surmounting fluted columns on which a plain pediment rests, say it all. With decorative detail minimized and solid mass emphasized, this unschooled, thirty-three year old architect achieved a masterful design. Kahn was blessed with an innate grasp of harmonious proportion,



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nurtured by his friendship with sculptor Julius Melchers and his experience in the drafting room of Mason & Rice. It is ironic that his greatest claim to fame is his status as the “premier industrial architect for Detroit’s auto barons,” for whom he designed such great industrial buildings as the Dodge Truck plant and Ford’s River Rouge complex, as well as the Fisher Building and General Motors Building, among hundreds of others here and abroad.

7. THE THOMAS REID HOUSE **511 DEVONSHIRE ROAD** **ARCHITECT - Mason & Rice, Detroit, 1892**

Thomas Reid was born in Quebec in 1844, educated in Kingston, Ontario, 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 ran for election to the office of first mayor of Walkerville in 1890, but tactfully withdrew his name when Hiram Walker’s nephew, Hiram A. Walker, expressed his own interest in the job. Walker was, of course, acclaimed and held office for three years. However, Reid did achieve his goal in 1897, just five years after his mansion was completed. In 1899, he was elected Chief of the Fire Department.



The Reid mansion exemplifies the quality of masonry for which Mason & Rice were well known. Losses of ornamental detail have diminished the beauty of the house, especially the wide wooden verandah, slate roof with balustrade, and decorated chimneys. Yet the mere fact of its continued existence is to be celebrated. The rounded bay with its Palladian-style window, the dentilled eaves and articulated side elevations are all clues to its original beauty. An obscure item in The Evening Record of April 25, 1893, reports that “Thomas Reid is now making some extensive alterations on his new residence. He is having the pillars carved and gilded.” Some people are never satisfied.

George D. Mason and Zachariah Rice emerged as fully-fledged architects in Detroit in 1881. By 1888, with the completion of their Lake Erie and Detroit River Railroad station, they had become Hiram Walker’s architects-of-choice. They completed the Reid house in the same year as Walker’s head office and the semi-detached houses across the road.

8. THE JOHN BOTT HOUSE **547 DEVONSHIRE ROAD** **ARCHITECT - James Grey McLean, Windsor, c. 1894**

The restoration of the Bott house and its recent conversion to the law offices of Donaldson, Donaldson, Greenaway, gave the building a new lease on life in 1996. Its siting next to the Reid house reinforces the early character of the streetscape.

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.

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The Walkerville Land & Building Co. contracted with McLean for the design of the house for Mr. Bott. The architect was responsible for a number of buildings in Windsor, few of which have survived. Of the losses, the former Windsor (Patterson) Collegiate and Teachers Training School on Mill Street are notable. His Queen Anne Revival style house for Robert Kerr (Kerr Engine Works) can be seen at 427 Lincoln Road.

Features of interest on the Bott house include the turret-like dormers and the massive stair landing window on the north facade. Tripartite gable windows and rondels add to the architectural interest



9. THE STRATHCONA BLOCK
1958 - 1998 WYANDOTTE STREET E. AT
DEVONSHIRE ROAD
ARCHITECT - Albert Kahn, Detroit, 1906-
1907

Before leaving the 500 Block of Devonshire Road, the Strathcona Building should be considered.

When built for the Walkerville Land & Building Co. in 1907 the structure was referred to as “the new Walker block.” In April of that year two established businesses were moving 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 gables. The street entrances have cut stone surrounds. It is the only building of its type in Walkerville designed by Albert Kahn.

10. THE IMPERIAL BUILDING
1900-1942 WYANDOTTE STREET E. AT KILDARE ROAD
ARCHITECT - James Carlisle Pennington, Windsor, c. 1922
Designating By-law 10594

Immediately west of the Strathcona is the Imperial Building, an early 1920s commercial block, recently restored with the assistance of original architect's plans, fortuitously held in the Municipal Archives through the generous donation of Mr. Pennington's successor, William Fraser.



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11. THE 600 BLOCK, DEVONSHIRE ROAD
HIRAM WALKER & SONS SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES
ARCHITECT - Mason & Rice (presumed), Detroit, c. 1888
Designating By-laws 11879 (650) and 10209 (656)

Five of the six original buildings may still be seen, the most northerly having been demolished in the 1920s to permit construction of the Royal Bank building (1922). The lost building was the mirror image of that on the south end of the block, while the four between are identical to one another. They graphically illustrate the “planned town” concept. The same planning can be seen on the accompanying map of 1884 which shows Third Street (Kildare Road) as it was originally built.



All of the survivors have had their distinctive front windows altered, thereby losing the single-hung sash and Queen Anne style transoms with “quarrels” (small square panes). Fortunately, an early photo provides evidence for restoration.

The former bank building (1922), designed by architect David J. Cameron of Windsor, has been converted to use as an upscale office building, and has been designated on its own historic and architectural merit (By-law 11938). It represents a more reserved phase of bank design with broad flat planes and

minimal ornamentation.

The gray apartment blocks across the street were built on the site of Pentilly, William Robins’ great mansion designed by Mason & Rice.

12. THE McDOUGALL-STODGELL HOUSE
712 DEVONSHIRE ROAD AT TUSCARORA STREET
ARCHITECT - Stahl Kinsey & Chapman, Detroit, 1915



Two prominent Walkerville families have resided here. The original owner was John A. McDougall, Secretary of Hiram Walker & Sons. In 1920, he sold the property to Charles J. Stodgell, a mayor and Secretary-Treasurer of the E. W. Jefferies Co.

For all its Classical symmetry, the stuccoed house is essentially Arts & Crafts in design with an abundance of wooden, trellis-like trim, particularly in the entrance portico, the sunroom on the

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south end, and the “eyebrow” eaves detail which emphasizes the central window on the second floor.

Architects Stahl Kinsey & Chapman maintained offices in Windsor, and were commissioned to design several properties for the Walkerville Land & Building Co., including the Walker Power & Light building on lower Devonshire Road. They also designed King George School on Ottawa Street and the Dr. D. W. Hogan house (also a stuccoed building) with its ornamental cut stone portico facing Kildare Road recently demolished. The firm supervised construction of the glazed white terra cotta “temple” built for the Merchants Bank (Bank of Montreal), designed by Hogle & Davis, Montreal (1913) at 1799 Wyandotte Street East (Designating By-law 10094).

The rest of the block has other pleasant houses of diverse architectural styles which reinforce the special character of Walkerville’s development, as do the mature street trees here and on Kildare Road.

13. FOXLEY - THE AMBERY-ISAACS HOUSE 811 DEVONSHIRE ROAD AT CATARAQUI STREET ARCHITECT - Albert Kahn, Detroit, 1906-07

Clayton J. Ambery was private secretary to William Robins of Hiram Walker & Sons when his house was built. He died at an early age, and the property was acquired by a former office boy, William Isaacs, in 1915. By that time, Isaacs had become Assistant Treasurer of the firm and, shortly thereafter, a director.



National attention focused on Walkerville in 1910 when Foxley was featured in *The American Architect & Building News*. The design, while Tudoresque in particular, is generally in the Arts & Crafts mode which drew much of its inspiration from a variety of early picturesque styles, adapting them to modern construction methods. The half-timbered upper storey and gable, and the entrance portico blend Medieval and early 20th Century in a harmonious manner. The name of the house - Foxley - was carved over the entrance as much to give an antique air to the house as to provide the postman with a means of determining the mail’s destination at a time before street numbers. Few houses in Walkerville can match the architectural merits of Foxley in detail, proportion, site and workmanship.

14. ST. MARY’S ANGLICAN CHURCH, RECTORY AND HALL 1983 ST. MARY’S GATE ARCHITECT - Cram Goodhue & Ferguson, Boston, 1904

The southward flow of Devonshire Road is diverted by the park-like setting of the church complex, with the church, rectory, hall and lych gate to the cemetery.

The congregation of 1902 had outgrown the original Walker church (1874) on Sandwich Street (Riverside Drive), and it was the sons of Hiram and Mary Walker who decided to erect a larger edifice in memory of the parents. The present site was chosen, six blocks south, but with an unobstructed view of the river down the length of Devonshire Road. As well, the residential development of the evolving town was concentrated south of Wyandotte Street, and a centrally-located church was a practical decision.

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Albert Kahn, being of the Jewish faith, suggested that the Walkers offer the commission for the Anglican church to Ralph Adam Cram's firm, but acted as Cram's associate, with Ernest Wilby as on-site architect. Cram chose as his model "the little parish church of England," although the architectural taste of the time allowed a freer interpretation of the Gothic style to be followed. (It should be noted that the clock in the tower is not original, but a 1930s embellishment).



Stained glass windows filter the sunlight flooding such treasures as tiles from the Moravian Pottery & Tile Works in Pennsylvania, and exceptionally fine wood carvings by Johannes Kirchmayer from Oberammergau. To the east lies the traditional English churchyard, approached through a lych gate - a small, roofed gateway where the funeral procession pauses before proceeding to the gravesite. The Tudor Revival rectory and Sunday School stand on the west side of the church. The parish hall,

added in 1950 near the cemetery, is by local architects Sheppard & Masson.

Devonshire Road resumes its southerly direction at the rear of the church grounds.

15. THE HARRINGTON E. WALKER HOUSE 1948 ST. MARY'S GATE ARCHITECT - Albert Kahn, Detroit, c. 1911

Two prime lots opposite St. Mary's Church were reserved for Hiram Walker's grandsons, Harrington E. Walker and Hiram H. Walker. 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.



Landscaping softened the severe lines of the building. The house appears to have been patterned on Kahn's design for the larger Henry B. Joy mansion in Detroit. The contractor was Victor Williamson.

The Hiram H. Walker house (1906), also by Kahn, stood on Devonshire Road on the northeast corner at St. Mary's Gate. A grandiose residence built of stone, "Elmscroft," blended Tudor and Jacobean 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 building which was associated with a Georgian Revival house on Devonshire - "Wallmay" - designed by Burrowes & Wells (1912), also demolished. Both carriage houses are designated properties.

(Designating By-laws 8289 (819) and 8290 (819)).

16. THE 800 BLOCK, KILDARE ROAD FOUR MANAGERIAL-RANK HOUSES

Of the four houses south of St. Mary's Gate on Kildare Road, two are credited to Albert Kahn - the Andrew Ridout house, 873 (c. 1906), and the Stephen A. Griggs house, 889 (c. 1905-07). Walkerville's premier building contractor, Victor Williamson, constructed his own residence, *The*

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Cobbles, on the road's curve, and chose fieldstone and slate for the massive structure. The identity of the architect for the fourth house, 863 (c. 1908), is unknown, but it was commissioned by William Grant, manager of the Parke Davis pharmaceuticals plant.

873 Kildare, built of brick and stucco, has dormer windows similar to those employed by Kahn in the Town Hall. The house, first occupied by Andrew Ridout, was built to accommodate managers of the Bank of Commerce.

17. THE STEPHEN GRIGGS HOUSE

889 KILDARE ROAD

ARCHITECT - Albert Kahn, Detroit, c. 1911

Designating By-law 12154

889 Kildare, opposite Willistead's gate, has an informal character with a Jacobean gable and massive, ornamented chimney dominating the main facade. Stephen Griggs, manager of the Walkerville Brewing Co., eventually bought the business from the Walker family. He was also vice president of the Trussed Concrete Steel Co. in 1907, a Kahn-family business on Walker Road.



18. WILLISTEAD MANOR

1899 NIAGARA STREET

ARCHITECT - Albert Kahn, Detroit, 1906

Designating By-law 5334



Edward Chandler Walker, Hiram Walker's second son, moved into his elegant Edwardian mansion in 1906. The name "Willistead" is a memorial to his older brother, Willis, who died in 1886. This imposing residence was designed by Albert Kahn during his early period of major domestic architecture. The imported woodwork was carved by Bohemian artisans and Scottish stonemasons cut the stone quarried at Amherstburg. Leaded glass windows, a heavy oak door, and clay-tile roof suggest the attention to interior detail. The attendant Gate House and

Coach House combine with the landscape to demonstrate a unity of design. Mrs. Walker was widowed in 1915 and, having no heirs, donated the 15 1/2 acre estate to the people of Walkerville in 1921. Before restoration in 1978-1981, Willistead Manor served as Town Council chambers, public library and the Art Gallery of Windsor. It is now owned by the City of Windsor and hosts special events. The Hon. Paul Martin, Sr. Garden is a recent enhancement of the property.

The stone and iron fence which surrounds the property was designed by architects Stahl Kinsey & Chapman in 1914.

A walk through the Willistead Park leads to Richmond Street (formerly Huron Street) and two more houses of interest. *Edgewood*, 1857 Richmond (c. 1914-1916), was designed by Albert Kahn for Col. and Mrs. Brewster, the sister and brother-in-law of Mrs. E. C. Walker. It was later owned by Wallace Campbell, President, Ford Motor Co. of Canada. The Peter Dewar house, 1941 Richmond, was designed by Windsor architect David John Cameron in 1923.

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Turning southward on Devonshire Road past Walkerville Collegiate, designed by James Pennington and John Boyde in 1922, a number of interesting, architecturally distinctive houses may be seen.

19. WILLISTEAD CRESCENT

Two streets that originally intersected with Monmouth Road were Navaho and Cayuga. They were joined in 1929 to form a crescent, and here are found some of the most architecturally interesting houses, most of which predate the closure. The addresses, owners, dates and identity of architects follow:

2089 - F. W. Evans, 1926; 2088 - C. W. Hoare, George Y. Masson, architect, 1927;
2080 - C. W. Isaacs, 1929; 2072 - R. E. Holmes, 1929; 2038 - C. E. Platt, 1929;
2032 - T. A. McCormick, 1930; 2026 - C. D. Brown, 1924; 2025 - A. E. Thompson, 1929;
2020 - R. L. Daniels, 1925; 2019 - C. A. Lanspeary, 1927; 2014 - H. Crassweller, 1925;
2011 - G. Tate Easton, D. J. Cameron architect, 1926; 2008 - E. C. Griggs, 1925;
2005 - C. A. Chilver, 1925; and 2002 - A. W. Reid, D. J. Cameron architect, 1924.

20. THE G. TATE EASTON HOUSE

2011 WILLISTEAD CRESCENT

ARCHITECT - David J. Cameron, 1926

Designating By-law 11937

G. Tate Easton was president of an automobile dealership, formerly in partnership with John Duck. His Arts & Crafts house with Tudoresque half-timbering stands in good company with the other older houses on the Crescent.



The Arts & Crafts style house at 982 Devonshire was built for Charles S. King in 1924 (Sheppard & Masson, architect). Its steeply-pitched roof, stuccoed walls, subtle asymmetrical entrance and dormer windows tucked into the roof's channels, are exemplary Craftsman features in the tradition of William Morris.

Turning right (eastward) on Niagara Street, four more significant houses may be viewed on the way to Monmouth Road.

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21. NIAGARA STREET HOUSES

2033, 2049, 2079 and 2107 NIAGARA STREET



An English-style house at 2033 Niagara looks out on the richly-hued sanctuary window of St. Mary's Church. Confirmation of the architect's identity is needed, but the house was built for John Duck c. 1923. It appears that either David J. Cameron or George Y. Masson drew the plans.

Next door, at 2049, the house built for Henry A. White was designed by Pennington & Boyde, c. 1922. In the *Border Cities Star* (June 23, 1924) it was reported that "... for the first time in the Border Cities, an olive green mortar color was used, giving ... a soft, seasoned appearance, not glaring in its newness." That information can be useful when any restoration is planned.



2079 Niagara, at Argyle, was designed in 1929 by David J. Cameron, as was the richly-textured stucco house for Frederick Allworth around 1925, at 2107 Niagara.

Across the street on the corner on Argyle Road (888 Argyle) is a picturesque house built c. 1906 for S. Cousland and/or H. A. Springle, as far as has been determined.

22. THE 800 BLOCK, MONMOUTH ROAD (former Fourth Street) HIRAM WALKER & SONS WORKERS' TERRACES ARCHITECT - Albert Kahn (presumed), Detroit, c. 1904

Both sides of Monmouth Road are lined with dark red brick houses for the workers at the distillery and other satellite industries in Walkerville. The 800 block has twelve row houses with four units each. At the middle of the block are two semi-detached houses intended for the foremen and their families, all built for the Walkerville



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Land & Building Company which collected the rent. All are now privately owned.

The apparent sameness of the residences is misleading because, on examination, it is clear that there is a great variety of detail. Some have flat parapets, some have end gables, and others have paired frontal gables. All terraces have central open passageways leading to the rear yards. A variety of decorative brickwork is evident, giving interesting texture to the houses and to the streetscape. While the plain shutters are not original to the buildings, the residents find them attractive and they serve to distinguish one unit from another.

Before turning eastward on Cataract Street, a view to the north along the 700 block of Monmouth reveals some of the early (c. 1890) frame semi-detached cottages with shared Tudoresque dormers along the west side of the 700 block. On the east side is a block of red brick semi-detached houses built c. 1893-94 and believed to be designed by Mason & Rice.



704-716, 744-756 Designating By-laws 10590, 10591, 10592 and 10593.

23. THE 700 BLOCK, WALKER ROAD (former Fifth Street) HIRAM WALKER & SONS SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES ARCHITECT UNKNOWN - c. 1893

**Designating By-laws 12397 (721), 10051 (731), 10050 (739), 10049 (749),
10317 (753) and 10052 (763)**



The five identical semi-detached houses on the west side of Walker Road were the last line of defence between residential Walkerville and the industrial buildings on the east side of the street. Like the Monmouth Road buildings, they were commissioned by the 4Walkerville Land & Building Co. Most have been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act for their historic and architectural interest, thus the

integrity of the block may be protected from further unsympathetic alterations to the street facades.

Turning westward on Tuscarora Street to Argyle Road, an early Walkerside Dairy stable is seen (the small horse stall windows are still visible), and a distillery rack warehouse, no longer in use, has survived for the time being.

24. THE 600 BLOCK, ARGYLE ROAD (former Third Street)

Walkerville

THE TUSCARORA (686), THE ARGYLE (657-693) AND THE RENFREW (625-645) APARTMENT BUILDINGS

ARCHITECT - James C. Pennington, Windsor, c. 1925



A dozen or more of the earliest frame cottages built for distillery workers c. 1880 to 1885 were demolished to permit construction of the apartment buildings. The two Classical Revival-style buildings have been attributed to James Pennington.

The Renfrew has a strong horizontal

character with stone belt courses interrupted by columned portals surmounted by Palladian-inspired windows and iron-railed balconettes. *The Argyle* features a more prominent portal treatment with clusters of columns and a simpler arched window above.



Research has not yet revealed the identity of the architect of *The Tuscarora*.

25. THE ORIGINAL HIRAM WALKER & SONS COTTAGES

646, 656 and 662 ARGYLE ROAD

ARCHITECT UNKNOWN, C. 1880 OR EARLIER

Only three of the dozens of modest frame cottages which were built by the Walkerville Land & Building Co. have survived. They are very similar in design with hooded windows, wooden clapboard and side entrances. Their age and history makes them unique and valuable in illustrating the story of Walkerville and its stages of development.



POSTSCRIPT

The foregoing list of properties is not exhaustive, and many special places can be found in Walkerville - the Low-Martin house at 2021 Ontario Street with its distinctive stonework, windows and thatch-like roofline (1928); the white-glazed terra cotta Beaux Arts bank building on Wyandotte Street at Windermere Road (1912); the vernacular frame houses all in a row on lower Kildare Road (1890s); and a unique quadruplex facing them, designed by Mason & Rice (c. 1889) - to name just a few.

Walkerville

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