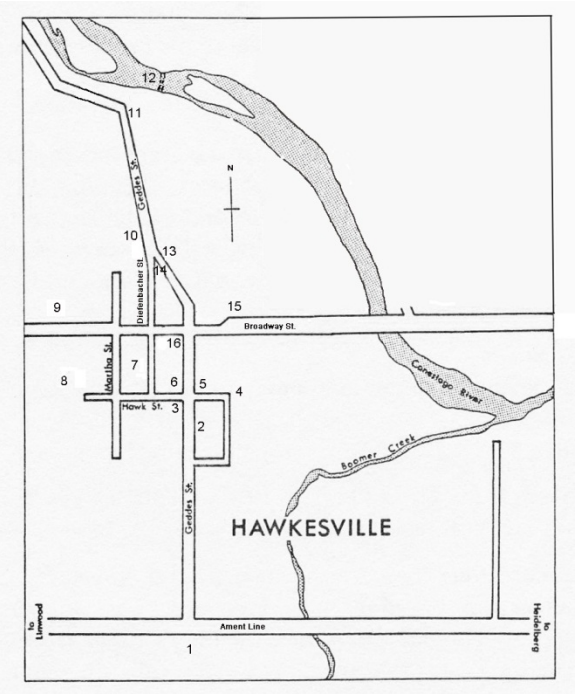


Hawkesville Walking Tour

Most of the buildings on this tour are privately owned.
Please respect the rights of the owners.



1. 3500 Ament Line – Ament House



As you approach Hawkesville by car on Ament Line, note the fine red brick house as you turn onto Geddes Street to enter the village. It was built by Jacob Ament, a squatter, who settled sometime before the 1843 township survey. Note the “s-shaped” tie rod ends on the front of the house.

2. 1065 Geddes Street - O. M. Weber Shop



The O. M. Weber shop is a historic Hawkesville enterprise. The front section of the present building was once the village blacksmith shop and boasts a “boomtown” front. Over the years, the building at the back has been enlarged several times.

3. 1072 Geddes Street



This Georgian style home imitates many of the typical attributes found in this style of architecture. This includes the symmetrical, 6 over 6 paned, sash windows along the front house. The front door is positioned centrally with a separate front door which traditionally would have entered the parlour. The front veranda could be an addition. Along the side of the home, the windows follow the same symmetrical layout with smaller, 6-by-6 paned, sash windows in the side gables.

4. Cemetery



Historically significant, the cemetery dates back to the time of the first settlers. It was used by the congregations of all three churches, one of which, the Methodist Church was located on the grounds.

5. 1081 Geddes Street



This is the site of the former Oakes’ 3-storey store. It was torn down and was replaced by the Hawkesville Gospel Hall. It is now a private residence.

6. 1080 Geddes Street



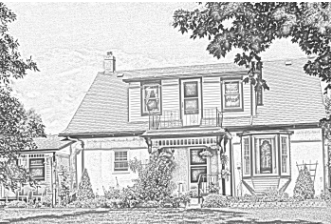
The present furniture shop was formerly a United Brethren Church. The small, yellow brick Victorian house beside it (1084 Geddes) served as the parsonage. It is a charming little house with a notable projecting bay.

7. Church on Diefenbacher Street



This 1868 Presbyterian Church now serves a Mennonite congregation. It has been extensively altered. Built in the Gothic Revival style its most notable feature is the stylized tower.

8. 5 Hawk Street



This Regency Style brick home is distinguished by its large windows and low hip roof which once included a widow’s walk. It was built by the founder of

Hawkesville, John Hawke around 1860. It was later bought by George Diefenbacher, the wagon and sleigh maker whose grandson was John Diefenbaker, a Canadian Prime Minister.

9. 3521 Broadway Street – Community Centre



The community centre was formerly S. S. #13 Hawkesville School. The original school on this site was built in 1857 to replace a log school at the corner of Ament Line and Herrgott Road.

10. 1138 and 1140 Geddes Street



These homes, located on the west side of Geddes Street follow the Gothic Revival style. It is estimated that they were built during the 1880s. Some classical Gothic features evident in both homes include steep gables along the top of the structure laced with verge board or ornamental architecture (ginger bread). The sash windows on the main structure of the home are stylistic as well. Additionally, the brick work on top of the windows suggests this architectural style as well. Lastly, the front veranda and balcony are visible in some Gothic Revival homes, although not as common as other features. Both homes have new additions attached to the rear.

11. 1163 Geddes Street



This home was used as a meeting house during the 1930s by the Hawkesville Gospel Mission. A new Gospel Hall was built at 1081 Geddes St. (#5) and it is now a private residence as well.

12. Hawkesville Dam

This dam, while no longer intact, was built in 1930 to replace an earlier structure. Traces of a millrace still remain down river along the base of the hill.

13. 1121 Geddes Street



This unique looking building was once home to a harness shop, post office and library. It is hard to classify this home in any particular architectural style, however one term could be an Upper Canadian clapboard home. It is made of board and batten siding that has since been painted blue. When approaching this home, you are able to notice the original windows and facade just behind the enclosed porch.

14. 1122 Geddes Street



This structure is representative of the Georgian style of architecture with symmetrical, sash windows, central door, and side gables. This was known as the American Hotel in the 1860s and was owned by Thomas Freeborn. Later, it became the Royal Hotel, owned by Edward Martin. Thomas Freeborn’s brother Hugh built the original Queens Hotel in Wellesley. The facade has been redone in a stucco finish, yet the original windows and other Georgian features are still visibly present.

15. Site of the flour and feed mill



The mill was established in 1847 by John Hawk. It underwent many changes and additions until it was torn down during the 1940s.

16. 1094 Geddes Street

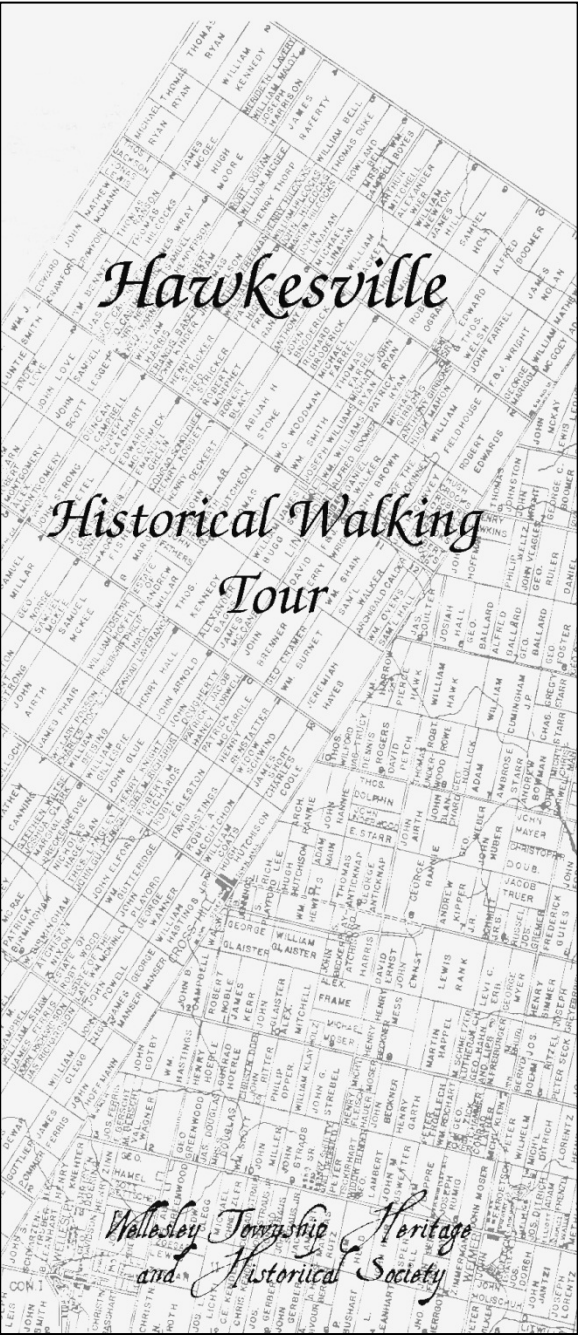
This is the site of a two-storey store owned by James Hall. It was later purchased and operated by Angeline Martin. Most of the building was destroyed in 1942 and rebuilt as a one-storey structure. The current building has been updated with a new front entrance.



HAWKESVILLE HISTORY

The village of Hawkesville was first settled in 1846 by the four Hawke Brothers: John, Gabriel, William, and Piercifer. The original squatter of the district, Johann Schweitzer, settled here in 1837. In 1847, John Hawke received a parliamentary order in council allowing him to purchase property on the condition that he would construct a gristmill and a sawmill. He built the grist mill and later his brother, Piercifer, built the sawmill. John Hawke became the first Reeve of the Township of Wellesley after its incorporation in 1852. Gabriel became the first postmaster when Hawkesville was granted a post office in the same year. The first Township Hall for Wellesley was built in Hawkesville but it was closed in 1853, sold, and a new one was built in Crosshill in 1855.

Besides the Hawks, the village has had several historically significant citizens: Dr. William Vardon was at one time Reeve of the Township, Warden of the County and the district Coroner. Michael P. Empey was a general merchant, postmaster and General Counsel. He was so successful, he once employed a governess and nursemaid for his children, a gardener, a coachman and clerks for his store. George Ballard surveyed the original site of Hawkesville and was first clerk and treasurer when Hawke was the Reeve of the Township. Ballard was also the first teacher in the area, writing wills, bonds, and contracts. He is an ancestor of Harold Ballard, the one-time owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs and Maple Leaf Gardens. George Diefenbacher was the village carriage wagon maker and the grandfather of the late Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker.



Produced by the Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society, 2012