

Photo 70



4.9 Segment 9, East Anchor: Hiram Walker Distillery Walkerville (Moy Avenue to Walker Road)

Context:

The east riverfront anchor including the historic Walkerville area and the Hiram Walker site provides a distinct entrance to the Central Riverfront. **(Figure 78)** The heritage and other buildings on both sides of Riverside Drive represent the thriving distillery business founded by Hiram Walker in the late 19th century. As a result of the distillery industry, the adjoining Village of Walkerville grew including fine homes, schools and churches. In 1880, Hiram Walker established his own ferry service to and from Detroit, with a ferry terminal in Walkerville **(Figure 79)** (Source: Birth of a City, Carl Morgan, 1991).

Figure 79



General Recommendations

To be recognized as the eastern anchor for the Central Riverfront.

- History and building fabric of the Hiram Walker distillery and Walkerville provides the potential to create a revitalized riverfront entry around Walkerville and Hiram Walker distillery through infill and redevelopment of the area.
- Greater public access and a mix of uses, including office, retail, restaurants, artisan's workshops, markets and shuttle service terminus. The area can become a complementary destination to other uses and activities within the Central Riverfront.

Specific Recommendations (west to east)

Recreationway

- A combined 15 foot recreational trail (crossing at Lincoln Road) to accommodate walkers, cyclists, rollerbladers and wheel-chair users.
- Provide barrier-free access.

Walkerville (former Peabody Site) (Figure 80)

- Multi-use parking area/outdoor market for approximately 100 cars.
- Shuttle Station including recreational equipment (bicycles, rollerblades) rental.
- Infill properties including restaurants, cafes, shops and artisan workshops.
- Potential site for reuse of Dominion Bank façade.
- new traffic light at Devonshire Road and Riverside Drive.
- RTB site (7,300 cubic metres).

Hiram Walker Lands

- Potential to strengthen public access if desired to designated areas such as courtyards, store, and a potential pedestrian ferry terminus.
- Open landscape planted in bands including a variety of grasses used in the distilling process (corn, barley, rye). **(Photo 71)**
- Series of wind turbines as visual markers at the Central Riverfront east anchor, recalling the windmills of the late 18th and early 19th century that lined both sides of the Detroit River, to harness wind and convert to energy for use in parkland (i.e. walkway lighting, fountains). **(Photo 72)**
- Grain Elevators as potential viewing platform. **(Photo 73)**



Photo 71



Figure 80

SEGMENT 9

