

About Us

Dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich history and heritage of the people of Township of Athens, the Athens Museum is operated by volunteers of the Athens and Area Heritage Society (AAHS) in conjunction with the Township.

The Athens Museum is located on the main floor of the Lions Club building at 12 Wellington St. East Athens, Ontario

Discover and Explore

Distinguished by its striking high metal ceilings, beautiful wooden stair railings, and stone foundation, the former Model School is a testament to the history of Athens!

Explore captivating exhibits including Crawford Slack paintings, early 20th-century hand tools, the legendary Mother Barnes' table, and much more!

Follow us on Facebook under 'Athens and Area Heritage Museum'



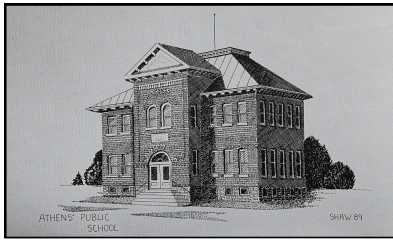
Presents...

Historical Buildings of Athens

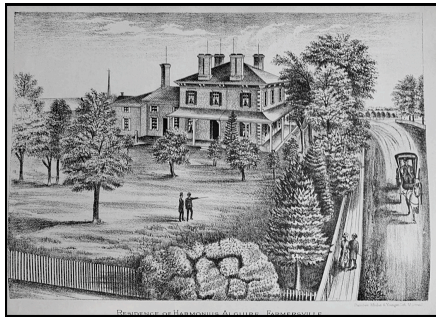
Every building in Athens has a history. Inside are 9 buildings selected for their historical significance.

Athens Model School

12 Wellington St. E



Opened in 1905 after a fire destroyed the original building, the public, high, and model schools operated out of this building until 1969. The Athens Lions Club has owned the building since 1969. The 1st floor has been home to the Athens Museum since 2014.



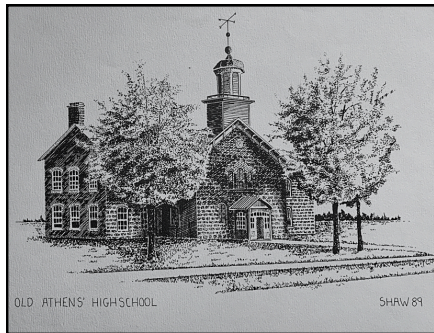
The Judson House

Elgin St. S

Built by early settler Harmonious Alguire in 1860, the home was purchased and used by the Judson family as Judson's Funeral Home for many years.

Athens High School

21 Church St.

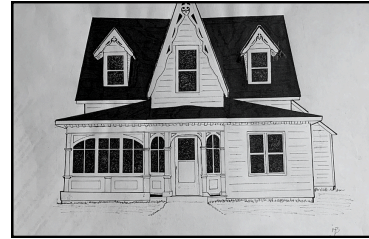


Sketch By: Harry Shaw

A fire in 1921 destroyed the original Athens High School building. The school was rebuilt on the same site in 1925. The current Athens District High School continues to take great pride in their unique student parliament system and other achievements. The site features the "History of Education in Athens Heritage Sign," and the 1921 Graduation Mural.

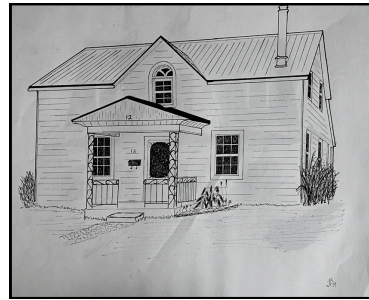
Crawford Slack's Home

Elgin St. N



Sketch By Jennifer Bond

Athens artist Crawford Slack built the home as a wedding gift for his bride in 1882. Notice the home's creative gables, dormer and circular windows. The Athens Museum houses many of Mr. Slack's paintings.



Sketch By Jennifer Bond

The home of Joshua Bates, a founding father of Athens, was built before 1860 and once housed a school. Much of Bates' story is depicted on a Mural on the east side of Fresh Market.

Home of Joshua Bates

Elgin St. S

Township of Athens Municipal Building

Joshua Bates Centre

1 Main St. W

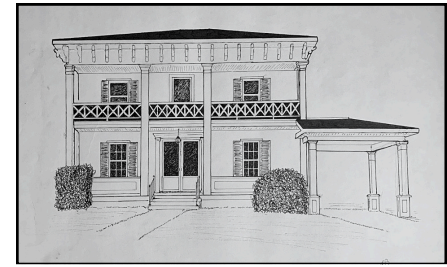


Sketch by Wayne Throop

Opened by Prime Minister Sir Wilfred Laurier in 1905, the building once housed the fire hall, police office, library and the Athens Museum. The 1st floor is currently where the Township Office is located. The 2nd floor is home to the Joshua Bates Centre where a variety of community and performing arts events are well attended.

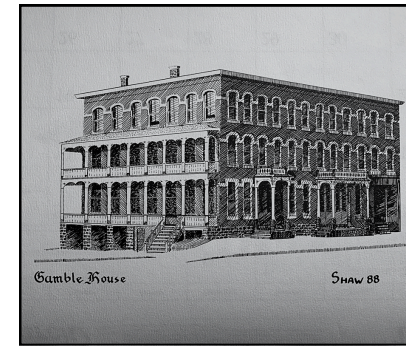
Hill House

Main St. E



Sketch By Jennifer Bond

Town father Arza Parish built this home in 1867. His son Watson, the first reeve of Athens, added the stately front addition. It was later purchased by Hubert Beale and then Ron Hill who named it the "Hill House."



Sketch By: Harry Shaw

Fred Pierce built this large building in 1892 as a hotel. It later served as apartments, offices, and various businesses. It was significantly destroyed by fire in 1977. It was the site of, "Swan's Variety Store" for many years. After renovations, "The Village Store" opened in June 2018.

The Pierce Hotel

23 Main St E

Athens Public Library

5 Central St.



The Athens Public Library building was once the site of the township hall for Rear of Yonge and Escott. It houses a collection of local history resource materials available to the public. The keystone above the main entry shows 1858.