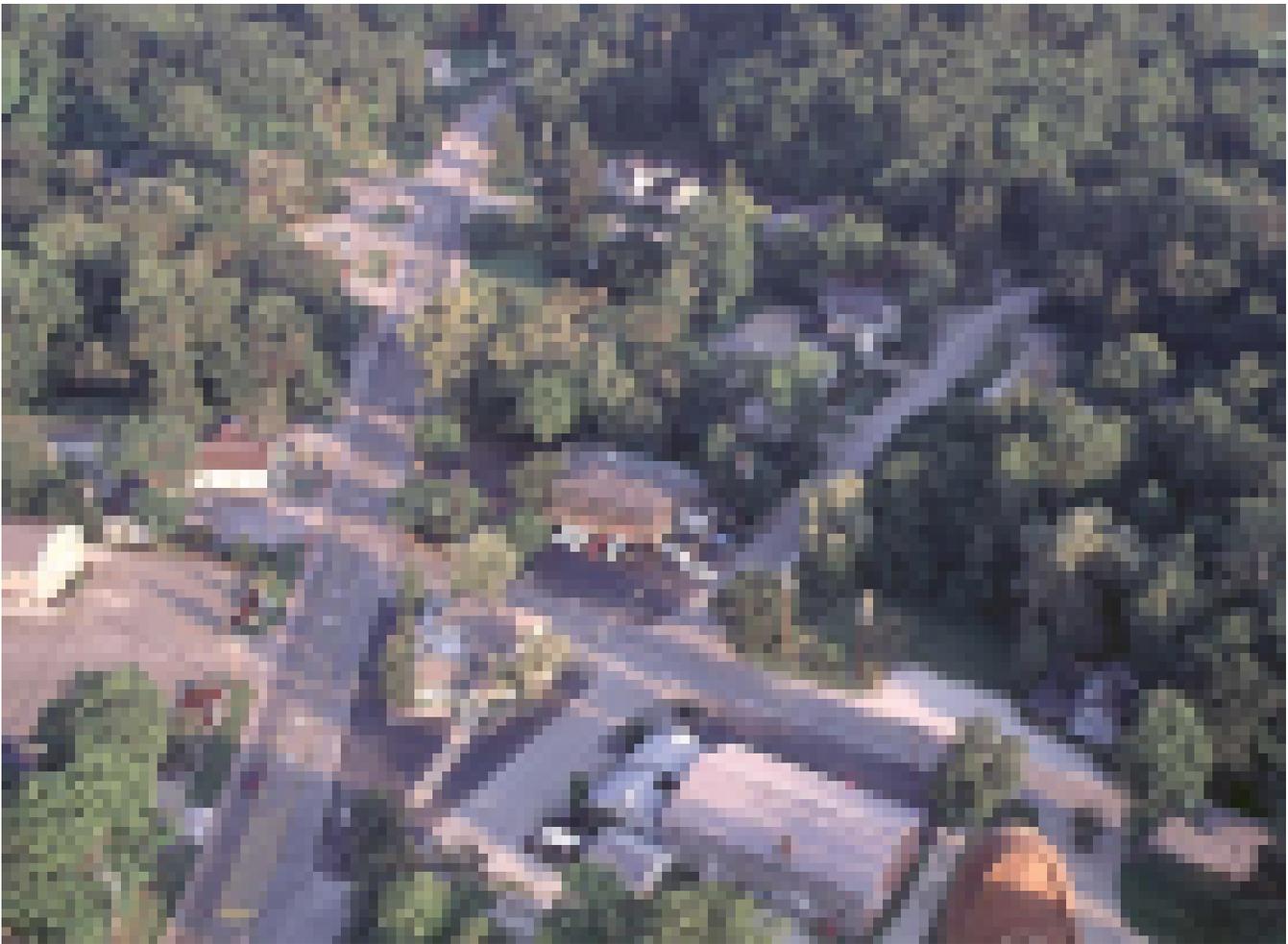


Inventory of the Hamlets



GHENT

The historic Ghent area extends to the east on Yellow Creek Road where the creek passes beneath the road, to the west at Timberline Drive, to the south at the intersection of Cleveland-Massillon Road and Ghent Road and to the north to a point just south of Ghent Hills Road. This area, which is mostly small business, still retains the scale and character of a small village with its clusters of small buildings, though many of the historical structures have been lost over time. However, the Ghent Woolen Mill, Bake Shop, Yellow Creek Barn, the Octagon Bee House, Old Ghent Building and Yellow Creek Barn house provide a strong cluster of historic structures of the area.



The Yellow Creek Barn is an antique shop located in an historic barn on the west side of Wye Road in Ghent.

This history is closely tied to Yellow Creek which extends from east to west and passes beneath both Cleveland-Massillon Road and Wye Road. Historically along Yellow Creek were six mills, including grist mills, lumber mills, a woolen mill, cider mill and others.



1914 photo of Ghent looking North along Wye Road. At the time this was actually Cleveland-Massillon Road before it was rerouted around Ghent.

Many other mills were also located all along Yellow Creek to the east of Ghent.

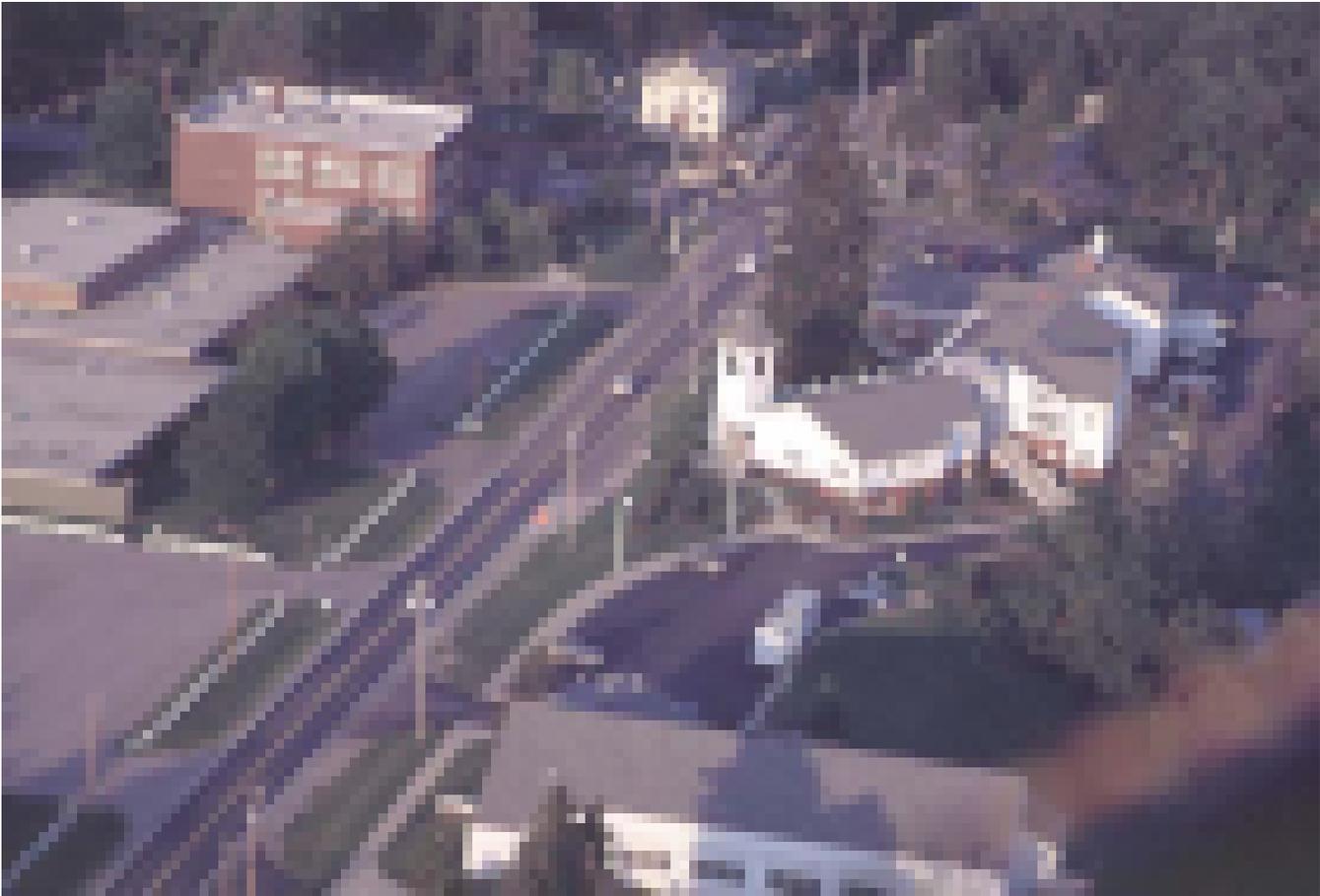
Also helping to give Ghent its character are the Sycamore trees which inhabit the edges of Yellow Creek and the many trees which exist behind the AFC Interiors building and other historic buildings along Wye Road. The businesses in Ghent take great pride in the landscape image of the area.



Yellow Creek looking east from the bridge on Wye Road with the Cleveland-Massillon Road bridge in the background.

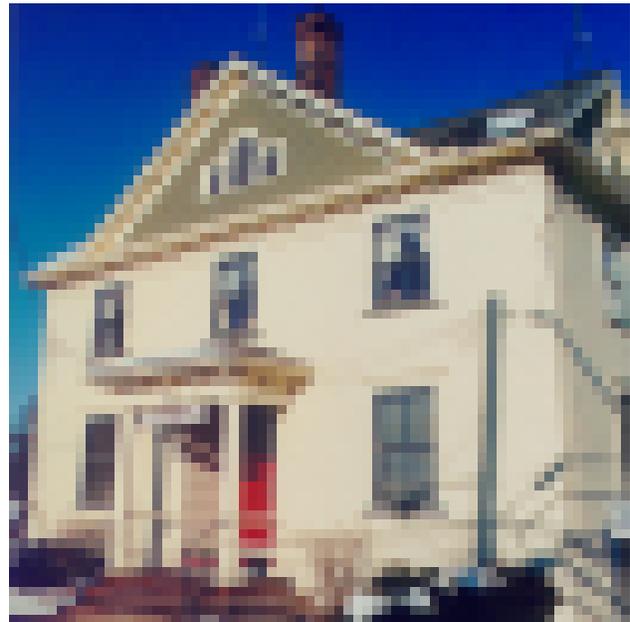
Traffic is quite busy in the Ghent area and promises to increase as more homes are built in Bath. For this reason, Ghent is not pedestrian friendly, particularly along the Cleveland-Massillon Road corridor where crossing the street is both intimidating and dangerous. Lighting, too, is limited in portions of the area except for the bright lights of the Holland Oil station at the corner of Yellow Creek Road and Cleveland-Massillon Road, which detracts from the character of the area.

Any future development in this area would have significant impact on its character and should be carefully guided by the Bath Township Design Guidelines. In the section on recommendations that follows, a number of specific recommendations, which follow the guiding principles outlined in the Cleveland-Massillon Road Design Guidelines, are provided.



BATH CENTER

Bath Center, located at the intersection of Bath Road and Cleveland-Massillon Road and in the very center of the township, is the location of the Bath Township Center, which house the township administration offices, and the Historic Bath Town Hall. The intersection is defined by the Bath Elementary School on the northwest corner, the Historic Bath Town Hall and Bath Center Cemetery on the northeast corner, the new Veterans Memorial on the southeast corner, and the police and fire station and Bath Township Center on the southwest quadrant. Just completed improvements to the Historic Bath Town Hall and grounds have given the area new life and the lighting on the Town Hall highlights this important historic landmark.



The picturesque, Historic Bath Town Hall renovated in 2000 and updated to current public building codes to facilitate wheelchair access.



Historically, Bath Center functioned as the government and meeting center for the community much as it does now. In 1823, a log meeting house and the cemetery were built by the Presbyterians and Congregationalists on the northeast corner of Bath Center and replaced by a wood frame building in 1834. This building was remodeled and converted into the Historic Bath Town Hall in 1870. In 1905, a new town hall was built in this same location and is now on the National Register of Historic Places. Recent remodeling work completed last year has brought the building back as an architectural landmark for the township. It is used as a meeting hall for the Bath Grange, the Bath Township Historical Society and Bath Volunteers for Service among others.

Pedestrian activity is limited in Bath Center except for visitors to the Veterans Memorial and pedestrians crossing the street from the new parking lot to the Historic Bath Town Hall. The Bath Center Cemetery is also a wonderful space and should be enjoyed more by residents.

With the exception of the Bath Center Cemetery, the landscape image of Bath Center is in need of improvement to enhance its sense of place. A more unified landscape treatment to all four corners would go a long way toward achieving this goal. Of particular need is the steep embankment that fronts the school on the northwest corner of the intersection. The slope of this embankment became abrupt due to the lowering of the road profile at this intersection by the county.



Steep eroding bank on the northwest corner of Cleveland-Massillon Road and Bath Road created by the lowering of the intersection a few years prior to this photo.

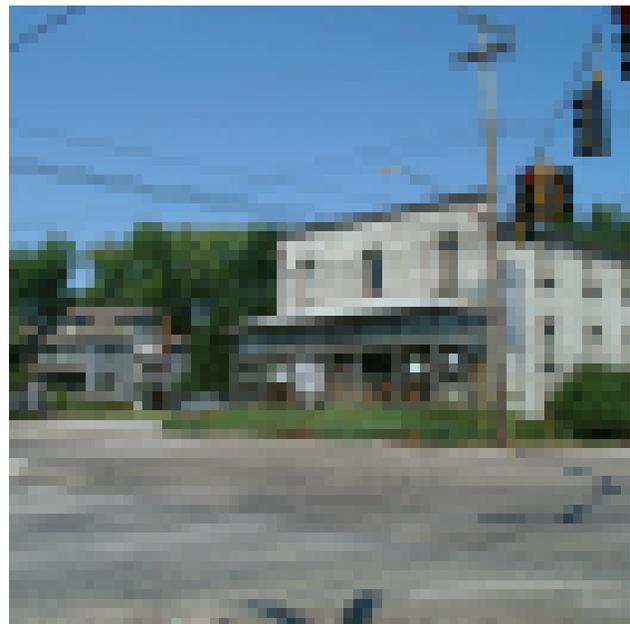
Also needed is a better landscape image along Cleveland-Massillon Road in front of the Bath Township Center. Finally, the numerous utility wires at Bath Center further detract from the image of the area.



HAMMOND'S CORNERS

Hammond's Corners is reported to be one of the oldest hamlets in Summit County and developed around 1820. Unfortunately, the historic character of the area has been compromised by new development including the gas station on the southeast corner and the Post Office on the northwest corner.

There remain several historic homes near the intersection, some of which have been converted to business use. The First Merit Bank is a remodeled Greek Revival structure. The store on the northeast corner of the intersection, first known as the Whitcraft Store, was the social center of the area where patrons gathered to buy goods and socialize. The store burned in 1912 and was rebuilt in 1913.



The historic Whitcraft General Store now houses Garth Andrew's contemporary furniture store at the intersection of Ira Road and Cleveland-Massillon Road.