



Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources with previous landmark status:

n/a Kankakee County
n/a Illinois
n/a National Register

Attach a copy of previous nomination form.

4. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Functions: Funerary: cemetery

Current Functions: Funerary: cemetery

5. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification:

N/A

Narrative Description

(Enter categories)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other _____

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Attachment I: Narrative Description



6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Please indicate which of the following criteria apply to the nominated property. (Check all that apply.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in front of all that apply.)

Property is:

☐ owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ removed from its original location.

☐ a birthplace or a grave.

☒ a cemetery

☐ a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ a commemorative property.

☐ less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (A, B, C, D)

Criteria A: Limestone Cemetery represents individuals in the categories of Exploration/Settlement, Agriculture, and Social History.

Criteria D: Limestone Cemetery has important historic associations with Limestone Township's early period of settlement and reflects important aspects of community history.

Period of Significance

1835-1965

Significant Dates

1835 – First burial

c.1852-53- Illinois Central Railroad construction

c.1850-60s – Agricultural Development

1903 – Limestone Cemetery Association established

1835-1965 – Burial of Veterans

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Agricultural Pioneers

Architect / Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See Attachment II

7. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)



Previous documentation on file (NPS)

N/A preliminary determination of individual listing has been requested.
N/A previously listed in the National Register
N/A previously determined eligible by the National Register
N/A designated a National Historic Landmark
N/A recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

N/A recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data

____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
☒ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: Board of Supervisors of Limestone
Township

8. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Tax Assessor's Parcel Identification Number (P.I.N.) 07 - 08 - 23 - 101 - 018

Acres of Property 355' x 198' x 330' x 224.25' 2.10 acres
(Lot Dimensions & # of acres)

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Attachment IV & Illustrations 1,2,3 & 31

Please attach a map indicating the property location and the boundaries of the property and/or landmark location to be nominated. Attach photographs which show sufficient detail, important features, and significant structures of the property to be nominated. Historic photographs of the property to be nominated are encouraged. If possible, please also provide photographs in digital format.

9. FORM PREPARED BY

Include the name, address, telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, and signature of the person(s) submitting this nomination application.

Name/title: Mardene Hinton, Chair Person

Organization: Kankakee County Historic Preservation Comm. Date: _____

Street & number: 2473 Potters Turn Telephone: 815-933-4236

City or town: Kankakee state: IL zip code: 60901 E-mail: mlhinton@comcast.net

Attach additional signature sheets if more than one person/family is making application. Edited by Brenda Albers

10. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

Include the name, address, and telephone number of all legal owners of record of the nominated property. If the property has more than two (2) owners, use Attachment 3.

PLEASE NOTE: When nominating a landscape which incorporates more than one property or when nominating a district, Attachment 1-3 **must** be completed and submitted with this application.

Name/title: Limestone Township, Mike Bossert, Chair

Street & number 5030 W. Route 17

City or town Kankakee state IL zip code 60901 Telephone 815-936-5514



Has the applicant notified the property owner(s) that this property is being recommended for landmark designation to the Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission? X Yes _____ No

If yes, was notification made by the applicant X in person? _____ by telephone?
_____ in writing?

Has the property owner(s) indicated support or lack of support for nomination of this property?
 X Support _____ Lack of support?

11. PROPERTY STATUS INFORMATION

At the time of the application, is the nominated property:

NO threatened by demolition or neglect? *(Please provide detailed explanation.)*

NO considered for new development? *(Please provide detailed explanation.)*

YES likely to remain in its present condition?

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment I

Narrative Description (1):

Limestone (Hawkins) Cemetery, established in 1835, is located within Limestone Township, Kankakee County, Illinois. The cemetery is approximately 4 miles northwest of Kankakee on State Highway Route 113 and sits on the right-hand (north) side of the road (see illustration 1). Once known as Hawkins Cemetery, it was established on the crest of a hill in a wooded area along the banks of the Kankakee River. Four brothers from the Hawkins family, some of the earliest pioneers to settle in Limestone Township, collectively owned land situated along Route 113, starting just outside the present city limits of Kankakee and extending approximately two miles along the Kankakee River. The entire area became known as Hawkins Grove.

Today the nominated property includes 2.10 acres bound on the south by State Highway 113. To the north, the land descends to the Kankakee River where there are a few residential houses situated between the cemetery and the banks of the river. On the east, there is acreage that holds a restored summer cottage and a newly built carriage house, while on the west, the land again descends gradually from the crest of the hill to residential houses built along the banks of the river in Lots 3 & 4 (see illustrations 2 & 3).

The original Hawkins family plot was established on the west side of the cemetery. The nominated property once had a rustic limestone fence that surrounded its boundaries providing enclosure (see attachment 3). The roads within were dirt/stone paths. The primary road was built in a U shape, allowing two entrances from State Highway 113 on the south side of the cemetery. The trees, located within and beyond the boundaries of the cemetery, were most likely native oak, maple, cottonwood, elm and cedar (see illustration 4). The plots at the cemetery are laid out in blocks of various sizes, with a grid pattern numbered within each block. The organization of the blocks conforms to the system of driveways and/or pathways drawn in 1903, by R.D. Gregg of Kankakee, Illinois (see illustration 5). Some of those driveways were eliminated through the years to make way for more burial plots.

The period of historical significance is 1835-1965. The first recorded burial in Hawkins Cemetery was Joel Baldwin Hawkins' baby daughter, Deiadama B.R. Hawkins, who died Oct. 10, 1835 (see illustrations 6a & 6b). The burial location selected was on land that belonged to Joel B. and Hester Hawkins, Deiadama's parents. The location was a beautiful elevated portion of land that overlooked the Kankakee River.

On June 21, 1848, (before Kankakee County was established) Joel B. Hawkins and his wife, Hester, donated to the commissioners of the County of Iroquois the parcel of land located at Township No. 31 Range 11 East for use by the inhabitants as a place of internment (see illustrations 7, 8, 9). The parcel was described as follows on the document:

all of the following described premises situated lying and being in the county of Iroquois and state of Illinois being a part of the south fraction north west quarter of section 23 or 25 in Township No. 31 and bounded as follows: commencing at the east line of section 22 on the state road thence east along said (road) 48 rods to the place of beginning, thence north 12 rods, thence east 20 rods, thence south to the state road, thence along said road to the place of beginning.

Note: A variation of the 1848 deed was refiled on August 7, 1852, with only one change, the 48 rod measurement along the state road was changed to 54 ½ rods. Apparently they realized an error was made in the measurement and decided to refile the deed.

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment I

Narrative Description (2):

In 1902, Jefferson and Mary Koon donated land adjoining the Hawkins Cemetery to the east, extending the size of the original Hawkins family plot. Minutes of an organizational meeting state the following:

In 1902 Jefferson Koon, a predominant citizen of Limestone, donated ground located east of the Hawkins Cemetery, to be used as cemetery grounds. Later the Hawkins Family removed the stone fence on the east side of their cemetery. This gives us an appearance of one cemetery and it is cared for as one cemetery. The whole cemetery is gradually being referred to as the Limestone Cemetery A.K.A. (also known as) the Hawkins Cemetery. We don't want that fact to be lost.

Since there are graves dated far before 1902 within that donated land, it appears that the land adjacent to the Hawkins Cemetery had already been used as a cemetery. The addition, which combined the two properties to form one, represented four-fifths of the total cemetery land.

Near the end of that same year, on December 26, 1902, the Limestone Cemetery Association was organized. Hawkins Cemetery was officially renamed Limestone Cemetery when the Association received its not-for-profit status from the State of Illinois on January 9, 1903.

Early in the 20th century the cemetery's appearance was described as follows by Burt Burroughs, a well-known historian in Kankakee County:

The old burial ground is one of the most beautiful and picturesque situations in Kankakee county today. Near to the river and surrounded by a rustic stone fence, its well-kept graves and lawns and leaning headstones give the place an air of untroubled repose and serenity. Long before the railroad came, and before we Kankakee was, the pioneers of the countryside on their passing, were here interred. The spot is known today as "The Limestone Cemetery", but custom and tradition are hard to displace. To most of us it is the Hawkins cemetery still. That the members of the several Hawkins families were once numerous is still evident. On the western side of the plat the headstones stand in serried regimentation like soldiers, grim memorials of a race who have moved on into the shadow land of the spirit.

Through the years, the original limestone fence on the southern and western boundaries crumbled with age, with only remnants of the original fence remaining on the west side today. The fence was built with native stone, which added to the character of the cemetery and contributed to the charm of Limestone Township. A wire fence was installed at one time on the east, north and a portion of the west boundaries, but that no longer exists today.

In 1992, the crumbling stone fence on the south, running parallel with the highway, was replaced with a new stone fence at a cost of \$45,000 (see illustrations 10-18). The contractor was O'Donovan & Son, Inc. of Naperville, Illinois. The gate that marked the entry for many years was removed and reinstalled at the north boundary of the cemetery as a fixed reminder of its historic role (see illustration 19). In August 1997, a new Limestone Cemetery sign was installed at the front entrance.

The grounds remain fairly intact considering the number of years that have passed. Through the years there has been storm damage to many of the trees. However, several native cedar trees do exist within the cemetery, with many of the old historic oaks remaining along the outskirts of the property. At the northern-most boundary, there is a maintenance area for soil disposal and waste storage. However, there is no access to water.

The markers in the cemetery are not in a consistent pattern, as they face both east and west. This may be a result of their close proximity to an interior roadway or a boundary line. A mixture of ethnic groups are represented, as many people moved to Limestone Township from eastern states such as New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. However, others

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment I

Narrative Description (3):

came directly from Germany, England, Ireland or Canada. The 1860 census shows that the head of the family was almost always a farmer or farm laborer.

The tombstone styles vary, ranging from Die on Base; Die, Base & Cap; Straight Head; Tablet Head; Gothic Head; Head with Shoulder; to various Pedestal designs. Materials used included marble, limestone, granite and concrete. Some headstones are placed directly in the ground, while others are set on a base. Occasionally there is a headstone with a smaller stone, called the Footstone, positioned at the head and foot of the grave. (see illustrations 20 & 21).

Some of the old grave stones are said to have come from the Wiley Stone Quarry that was established c1852-53 by the Illinois Central Railroad when they built tracks through the area, including a bridge over the Kankakee River. The quarry was located just west of the cemetery, across Highway 113, near the mouth of Wiley Creek, which is to the south (see illustration 33).

Much can be learned from the inscriptions on the gravestones that indicate the loss of a young child, a young mother, or a soldier. Symbolic motifs carved into the markers include both religious symbols and secular decorative elements such as a dove, a cross, an angel with child, a finger pointing upward, and a weeping willow tree of the early nineteenth century. The religion of those buried is not known, but it is believed that most Catholics were buried elsewhere in the Catholic cemeteries associated with their church. The symbols, the text, the marker's appearance, and the placement tell us not only about the individual who died, but the society in which the individual lived. Obvious to anyone who walks through this small cemetery are the large number of gravestones that represent generations of a single family, such as Hawkins, Vining and McGillivray.

On July 15, 1928, the Kankakee Chamber of Commerce printed a small booklet with the observations written by James O'Donnell Bennett, of the Chicago Tribune, following his visit to the Kankakee area. They are as follows:

***Stone Ribbons Like Lace:** for what can the tourists see in their ride down one bank of the Kankakee river to Warner bridge and back on the other bank to the city?*

They will see miles of eighty-year-old stone fences of yellow limestone that ribbon the green countryside like strips of old lace. They will see the gently sloping and richly treed valley of the Kankakee with shining reaches of the broad river dimpling in the bosom of the valley.....The limestone remains abundant. One of the townships is named Limestone....amid the vestige of the hard, honorable building by the pioneer farmers I came upon a graveyard where many of them rest.

***Strange First Names:** That little graveyard much interested me because among the inscriptions on the headstones I found four first names that I had never encountered before.....They were Aseneth, Philenzo, Abia, and Ulista.....The Ulista commemorated on the headstone was a Hawkins, and the graveyard in which she rests is called "the Hawkins cemetery." The Aseneth was the wife of Abraham Huyck, and she died in the 1850s. The Philenzo was a Bliss, and he died in 1839. Abia-although the name in the Bible is a man's name-was a woman and married into the pioneer Hawkins family.*

The setting is still one of an old rural cemetery even though there are newer non-contributing gravestones that have been added after the period of significance. The grounds, near the Kankakee River, remain intact with tall oak trees still surrounding the property and native cedar trees within. The historic integrity of this little graveyard has been protected through the years. Families and residents of Limestone Township have taken it upon themselves to maintain the cemetery.

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment I

Narrative Description (4):

Trees that were lost due to weather were replaced or removed, while plantings such as peonies and irises bloom in the spring. To honor veterans, flags are placed on their graves for Memorial Day. The cemetery was cleaned and mowed each year, as it still is. As you walk through the cemetery, you can visually appreciate the many years that the old gravestones have stood, marking the life of those early pioneers who once lived and toiled in Limestone Township. The oldest markers are on the west side of the cemetery. Some of them are so worn from the elements that they either are no longer legible or, at most, difficult to read. While others need repair, a couple are merely jagged stones that have no inscriptions (see illustration 22). However, the vast majority are intact from their initial placement in the cemetery even though some of the gravestones have been straightened over the years.

On January 19, 2003, the property was legally conveyed to the Limestone Township Association to ensure that the property would be cared for. According to the records for Limestone Cemetery on the website findagrave.com there are approximately 821 graves. To date, the latest burial was November 26, 2014.

Note: It is unclear why the legal description of the cemetery produced by documents and by the County of Kankakee remains the same from 1848 to 2015 with only the one correction made in 1852.

Limestone Cemetery is believed to be the oldest burial grounds in Limestone Township and one of the oldest, if not the oldest, in Kankakee County. Several farms had burial plots on them but over the years, most have disappeared. The following are some of the oldest cemeteries in Kankakee County:

Shreffler Cemetery, established in 1846 following the death of a child, is also located within Limestone Township and sits along the East side of Warner Bridge Road, (see illustration 1). Nathaniel P. Shreffler, son of Enos and Mary (Lash) Shreffler, died December 6, 1846, at the age of 8 months and 11 days. Like the Limestone (Hawkins) Cemetery, neighboring families also buried their loved ones at the Shreffler Cemetery. There are veterans from the Civil War, Spanish American War, World Wars I and II, and the Korean conflict. There has never been a charge for burial lots in the Shreffler Cemetery; expenses are covered by donations, volunteer labor and supervision, and annual contributions from Limestone Township (see illustration 23). Limestone Cemetery, in comparison, began charging for lots when it was incorporated in 1903. On April 18, 1903, at a meeting of the Limestone Association, the price of a cemetery lot was set at \$15. Prior to that date, there were no known books to register graves. As the years progressed, charges increased and maintenance fees were added. Unlike Limestone Cemetery, monuments at Shreffler Cemetery have been vandalized and some severely damaged. When Warner Bridge Road was widened, some Shreffler Cemetery graves were moved to an alternate location since the original ones were located where the new roadway was widened.

Momence Protestant Cemetery, according to genealogists in a book entitled *N/E Section*, this cemetery is estimated to have been established c1835. Early history of the cemetery was lost through time, but it is assumed the burial ground was used by early settlers. Historians believe, because of its location on high ground, it was likely also used by the Indians of the area for their burials.

In July 1870, the newly formed Momence Cemetery Association purchased 17 acres from James Mix, incorporating the old burial grounds located in Section 13 Township 31 North Range 13 East. Through the years, more land was acquired and the cemetery property now totals over thirty acres.

Nichols (Six-Mile Grove) Cemetery is located in Momence Township, six miles southwest of Sherburnville, Illinois. William Nichols settled near Momence in 1837 and was one of the first settlers to clear land for farming. The cemetery was established on land William Nichols set aside for burials when his young wife died in 1839, at the age of 17. The land was deeded as a permanent cemetery, c1874. The last burial was Samuel L. Nichols in 1959.

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY
Continuation Sheet: Attachment I

Narrative Description (5):

Richardson Family Cemetery, located in Yellowhead Township, was established in the 1840s. It is located near a grove of trees, on private farm land, in the Southeast Quarter of Section 21 Yellowhead Township. The burial plot is on land settled in August 1836 by William and Mary Richardson who had a four-year-old son, Reuben. William died in 1847 and Mary in 1857. There are only three markers left of the five or six that existed.

Barnett Cemetery, located in Otto Township, Kankakee County, Illinois, identifies its earliest inscribed gravestone to be for Emily Streeter, infant daughter of Zeno Streeter. Emily was buried in January 1853. The Otto Township Cemetery Book describes the cemetery as follows:

Barnett Cemetery is located in Section 9 T29N R13W of Otto Township, Kankakee County, Illinois, three miles east and about 5/8 mile north of Chebanse, Illinois. Immense maple trees center the cemetery and several old cedars are still about the perimeter. The fenced boundary is a thick bramble, but toward the center where the majority of inscribed gravestones are found, there is more or less a clearing. Yellow violets and other wild flowers grow there.....Memories of Chebanse, a centennial booklet published in 1954, states, "A decade or so before the platting of Chebanse, the settlement of Sugar Island buried its dead on four acres of the property of James Barnett. This was a community cemetery and now stands in a grove of trees, in the midst of cultivated acreage."

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment II

Statement of Significance (1):

Criterion "A"

The Limestone (Hawkins) Cemetery, in Limestone Township, Kankakee County, Illinois, meets the criteria of a Kankakee County Landmark under **Criterion "A"** due to its significant association with the county. The exploration and settlement history of Limestone Township is a reflection of the cultural and social history of Kankakee County beginning in 1834:

- when the first burial occurred in the beginning years of the settlement of Limestone Township;
- with the building of the Illinois Central Railroad tracks and bridge, c1852-1853;
- with the heaviest development of agriculture in the 1850s and 1860s;
- with burials of veterans who served in: War of 1812, American Civil War (1861-1865), World War I (1914-1918), World War II (1939-1945), Korean Conflict (1950-1953) and Vietnam War (1959-1975) ending with the period of significance in 1965.

When the earliest white settlers came to Kankakee County, they found great groves of trees and swamps in the eastern part of the county, in the middle and to the west were lush grass prairies and isolated groves of trees growing along the Kankakee River. Just west of the river, they found both prairieland and forest with masses of bushes and small trees. With some of the best soil in America laying beneath the long grasses, it wasn't long before word spread and more families came to settle on the open farm land (see illustration 24).

Those early settlers found that the area was inhabited by tribes of Pottawatomi who were skillful hunters and fisherman and raised corn, beans, and squash. They trapped beaver, mink, otter and sable for their pelts, which they traded to the French fur traders for guns, powder, blankets utensils and liquor. By 1828, President Andrew Jackson envisioned land for all who wished to farm it. On October 20, 1832, in Indiana, the Treaty of Camp Tippecanoe granted individual reserves of land to the Pottawatomi. The reservations were later purchased from the Indians by the early settlers and, in time, the Pottawatomi moved to a reservation near Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The Hawkins family settled along a stretch of the Butterfield Trail, which paralleled the Kankakee River for several miles (see illustration 25). Micah Jepson Bates Hawkins (see illustration 26) is considered by most to be the first white settler in Limestone Township. Noel LeVasseur, who settled in Bourbonnais Township, was the first to settle in what is now Kankakee County. The original Hawkins settlement began when two brothers, MJB (Jepson) Hawkins (1815-1902) and his brother Alanson (1798-1869), came to the area in 1832 to search for land. They traveled here from Danville, Illinois, after a land surveyor suggested they look in the Kankakee area for high-quality land. The area they chose was south of the Kankakee River, which was high ground that was beautifully timbered, with fresh spring water running through it. Everything the serious settler looked for.

Micah Jepson Bates Hawkins (most often known as Jepson) traveled to Chicago in 1832 to purchase his chosen land from the U.S. government, while Alanson returned to their home in Danville. The property that Jepson Hawkins settled on is in Section 25 (see illustrations 28 & 29) near the Butterfield Trail, which later became known as Limestone Road, now State Highway 113. Jepson Hawkins, at just 17 years of age, pitched his tent along an enormous spring that gushed from the rocky bank and became one of the earliest settlers in the county, possibly the first white man to settle in Limestone Township. (There were rumors of squatters in the area, but no permanent settlements were recorded). Mr. Hawkins' temporary shelter was followed by a crude log cabin near the spring. The overflow from the spring formed a shallow pond, with the outlet forming a deep and narrow ravine leading toward the Kankakee River. The spring, which legendarily

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment II

Statement of Significance (2):

became known as *Hawkins Spring*, had earlier been marked by Indian trails and used by wild game. Indians were still in the area when Jepson Hawkins first settled and visited him often, trying to persuade him to give them whiskey.

The following year Jepson Hawkins' brother, Alanson, who had returned to Danville, was back to claim land that adjoined his brother's. From 1833-1835 the Hawkins settlement grew to include several members of the Hawkins family. His other two brothers Robert Buck and Joel Baldwin Hawkins settled in 1834. Robert settled east of Jepson, while east of Robert's holdings was Ike Thompson, who also settled in 1834. Alanson settled to the west of Jepson and next to Alanson was their brother Joel Baldwin. Their combined river frontage extended two miles and is shown on early maps as Hawkins Grove (see illustration 33). Their sister, Sabra Anna Hawkins, also settled in Limestone Township and married George Washington Byrnes. The Byrnes later farmed in Section 3 of Limestone Township. Another sister, Adelia Hawkins, married Dr. Asa R. Palmer from Vermilion County. The Micah Jepson Hawkins Homestead (see illustration 30) is still owned by a member of the original Hawkins family. There has never been a mortgage recorded against the property, which is held by the original patent issued by the United States government to Jepson Hawkins.

1903 – Limestone Cemetery Association established

In 1835, shortly after Joel B. Hawkins arrived in Limestone he, and we assume his wife, traveled east on business and left his baby daughter with his brother, Jepson. In their absence the little girl became sick and died. The Hawkins family chose a beautiful spot on her father's property for her burial. The young daughter of Joel and Hester Hawkins, Deiadama B.R. Hawkins, who died Oct. 10, 1835, became the first recorded burial in what became the Hawkins Cemetery. Deiadama was one of the first, if not the first, white child born in Limestone Township, September 9, 1834. She most likely was the second white child born in Kankakee County, only to be preceded by Louisa Baker, born May 5, 1834, to William and Sylvia Baker who settled in Aroma Township c 1832 by Baker's Creek (see illustration 33).

On June 21, 1848, Joel B. and Hester Hawkins donated to the county commissioners of Iroquois County "the parcel of land located at Township No. 31 Range 11 East for use by the inhabitants as a place of internment" (see illustrations 7, 8, & 9). In 1853, the property was passed on to the newly formed Kankakee County, which had previously been part of Iroquois County.

No other mention of the Hawkins Cemetery was found until 1902 when the Limestone archives has Jefferson Koon (1829-1903) and his wife Mary Lish Koon (1838-1912) donating land to the cemetery that adjoined it to the east. The residents of the township then petitioned the County Board for permission to form a not-for-profit association, giving them the responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery. That same year, on December 26, the Limestone Cemetery Association was organized. At that first meeting the following men were elected temporary officers: H.H. Wheeler, L.B. Bratton Jr., E. J. Martin and J. Powell. On January 9, 1903, the cemetery was designated a not-for-profit association by the State of Illinois. R.D. Gregg was hired soon after to survey and plat the grounds (see illustration 5).

Although past the date of significance, 1965, the following has been included to show the progression of action taken to date in maintaining the cemetery:

- On June 23, 1975, the directors voted to turn an unused roadway to the south and east end of the cemetery back into lots. At that same meeting the sale of remaining lots were limited to Limestone residents only.
- In 1985, the bylaws were changed to comply with Illinois State's *Cemetery Care Act*.

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment II

Statement of Significance (3):

- On October 17, 1986, a trust agreement was also signed with City National Bank Trust Department putting in trust memorial funds of \$13,744.57. Only interest from the trust may be used to maintain the cemetery.
- In 1992, a cremation site was installed.
- January 1, 1991, changes were made to Illinois State's *Cemetery Care Act*, requiring all Illinois cemeteries charge a minimum \$25.00 per lot to be put into the cemetery's "Care Fund" account.
- In 1992, the condition of the native limestone fence was discussed. It had many repairs over its 89 years, but without a foundation, the fence continued to fall apart. The board voted to look into a replacement. Mary and Robert Nesbitt presented an initial gift to the cemetery board of \$1,500 to be used toward a new fence. Perna Lee "Lee" Meents, who was Secretary/Treasurer at the time, was a driving force behind the construction of a new fence.
- On June 8, 1993, there was a dedication ceremony for a new stone fence, officiated by Rev. Jeanette Stevens. Many in the township made donations, but it became a reality with a generous contribution from Mrs. Len (Jean Alice) Small.
- In August of 1997 a new sign was erected at the entrance. The old wrought iron gate was reinstalled at the north end of the cemetery while the old stone gate posts were donated to the Kankakee County Museum.
- On December 31, 2004, the Limestone Cemetery Association, of Kankakee County, Illinois, conveyed to Limestone Township, of Kankakee County, Illinois, its interest in Limestone Cemetery (see illustrations 30 & 31)

c.1850-60s – Agricultural Development

The early settlers/farmers of Limestone Township were significant contributors in the development of Kankakee County and in the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad through Kankakee County. When the settlers came to what became Kankakee County they were drawn by the promise of good fertile farm land, but they also needed access to trees to provide lumber for their houses and various other farm buildings. There were numerous places to settle amongst the groves of trees along the banks of the Kankakee River. Some were fortunate to have fresh water springs on their property flowing into the river in addition to the prairie land that they would convert to farm land. The taming of the prairie was not easy due to the heavy labor of breaking sod that was matted with thick roots, cutting timber, planting crops, and building a cabin and farm buildings. The task of restocking their provisions from a town might involve traveling from a day to as long as a week. The farmer also faced lack of transportation, drainage problems, prairie fires, and weather being a consistent enemy.

At first a crude cast-iron plow, pulled by teams of oxen, was used to turn the tough prairie sod, but in 1837 the John Deere Company developed the steel breaking plow. In 1847, the Diamond Breaking Plow, made by David Bradley, made the process much easier. The David Bradley Manufacturing Company originally established in Chicago, Illinois, was moved to North Kankakee in Kankakee County. The residents of the town were so grateful for the growth the company brought their town that they changed its name to Bradley, Illinois.

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment II

Statement of Significance (4):

The prairie land was also good for cattlemen who started buying land in the 1850s. With the coming of the Illinois Central Railroad and the development of Chicago as a meat-packing center, they no longer needed the great cattle drives that were used to get cattle to market out east. The settlers butchered their own livestock for a food supply, but the livestock created problems as well. Their grain crops would need to be fenced to keep out the grazing animals.

“Ditch” fences were common in 1844, as described by Burt E. Burroughs in *Legends and Tales of Homeland on the Kankakee*: *The fences...consisting of a shallow trench, made by plowing the ground and piling up the prairie sod in a sort of embankment around ten or fifteen acre patches that had been sown to small grain.*

From 1845-1850 there were numerous French Canadian families settling in the county who were glad to find work building stone fences, cutting trees and splitting rails for the settlers. They had settled in Bourbonnais Township, which was only across the river from Limestone Township. They crossed daily to go to work, making 25 to 35 cents a day. Sometimes they might earn 50 cents or receive abundant portions of pork and beef, grain and flour.

Limestone Township is well known for its picturesque stone fences, which farmers built in the 1800s by piling up stones to form the fences. While some examples still exist today along Illinois 113, most of them have nearly disappeared. Wall Street in Kankakee was given its name due to the piled stone walls that ran along much of its length.

On April 6, 1858, Limestone Township passed the “Lawful Fence” law: A Lawful Fence was to be a fence four and a half feet high, made of three boards or three rails, (or) a fence made of two boards or two rails the top one being four and a half feet from the ground with a ditch in front two feet wide and eighteen inches deep. All posts for such fences shall be at least three inches square, six and a half feet long with at least two feet in the ground.

There were no lumber mills at the time, but Burt Burroughs writes about how one of the settlers solved the problem: *Roswell Nichols devoted his attention to getting out rails for fencing, the “Barrens,” close by, furnishing an unlimited supply of this material. These rails had to be hauled a distance of three miles, but the ground was so soft and springy that little headway could be made by team and wagon. He devised a way out of the difficulty by felling a big white oak tree, whose trunk was fully two feet through, and round, and from this he cut four sections nine inches thick, for wheels. Heavy axles and bolsters were prepared, a ‘split’ tongue was attached, and with five to seven yoke of cattle hooked thereto, enormous loads of rails were transported with little difficulty.*

The settlers soon established schools for their children, small businesses to serve the community, and turned trails into roads. Education in the days of the pioneers existed because the early settlers opened their homes to the teacher and students. The first school in Limestone Township was taught in the home of Alanson Hawkins in 1835, by his sister Sabra Ann Hawkins. In *The Legends & Tales of Homeland on the Kankakee*, by Kankakee historian, Burt E. Burroughs, he mentions a log school house located near and east of the Hawkins Cemetery.

In 1842, Mapes School was built of local limestone along Limestone Road/Highway 113 near the mouth of Wiley Creek (see illustration 32). Future Illinois governor Len Small taught at Mapes School for a short time. The structure still exists today. It was converted into a house by Henry P. (1885-1961) and Bernice (1885-1980) Davis in 1847, after the Limestone Township’s school district was formed and schools were consolidated.

The gristmills and sawmills were the earliest industries in the newly settled area. Along Limestone Road the settlers opened several businesses: Andrew Wiley, a blacksmith, came in 1848 and located his shop near what became known as

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment II

Statement of Significance (5):

Wiley Creek, and there was a country store across the road from him and further down the road was a creamery. After the Nichols family came in 1842; they established several businesses on their property, which developed into a little village: a saw mill, a blacksmith, a cooper (a person that repairs barrels), and two shoemakers. But, as the prairies were plowed and towns started to spring up, brickmaking and stone quarrying was developed to construct permanent structures. Quarrying of native limestone began c1852-53 when the Illinois Central's contractors opened a quarry in Limestone Township, at the mouth of Wiley Creek, southwest of the Hawkins Cemetery.

On May 3, 1850, a land grant from the Federal government and the State of Illinois was given to the railroad to finance the construction of a 366 mile long route, running from Chicago, south to Cairo, Illinois. The railroad could sell each even numbered sections of land for six miles on either side of the railroad's main branch; a total of more than 2,500,000 acres, which were to be sold for no less than \$2.50 per acre. The need to construct a bridge across the Kankakee River became the first obstacle in constructing the railroad south from Chicago. It was then that the contractors opened the quarry at the mouth of Wiley Creek. The quarry offered jobs to the Limestone settlers in addition to the Irish and German immigrants who were hired as railroad workers. A bridge would be built across the river using huge stone blocks for the piers that were hauled on sledges pulled by either horse or oxen. The bridge built across the Kankakee River was a double-decker, with the railroad on the top deck and a wagon bridge on the lower level. On August 5, 1853, the first train out of Chicago to use the completed bridge made the trip in 3 hours and 20 minutes, at 20 miles per hour.

The entire line was completed September 27, 1856, and the railroad then began to sell agricultural land and promote the development of towns to generate traffic for the railroad. The Associates Land Company was formed to buy land and plan town sites.

At about the same time, 1850s, the settlers in the various small towns up and down the river (Bourbonnais, Momence, Hawkins' Grove, and Mount Langham) decided it was time to organize their own county, placing the county seat a more reasonable distance from their homes. Limestone Township, south of the Kankakee River, had been part of Iroquois County since 1833 while the area north of the river belonged to Will County since it was formed in 1836. It was about a day's ride on a horse from Limestone Township to reach the county seat, in Middleport, Iroquois County, to do official business. After several elections were held to establish a new county, the public finally voted to develop what became Kankakee County at an election held on April 5, 1853. The election was disputed due to Limestone Township being blamed for bringing in Illinois Central Laborers to swing the vote, but the proposal was approved. Mapes School, located near the Wiley Quarry, served as the voting place in Limestone Township.

During the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad, the Associates Land Company would develop towns and villages along the route. The company surveyed and platted a town that became known as Kankakee Depot, now known as Kankakee, Illinois. At the time the town was little more than a path cut through a grove of trees, with a graded right-of-way for the railroad not yet completed, and the remains of a cabin on what is now courthouse square. In June 1853, the Associated Land Company announced that if Kankakee Depot were chosen as the County Seat, they would donate a square block of land for the courthouse site and \$5,000 to construct the building. On June 23, 1853, Kankakee Depot was chosen over Momence as the county seat. The county was divided into six townships: Yellowhead, Momence, Aroma, Bourbonnais, Rockville, and Limestone. Construction of the courthouse was completed by the summer of 1855. It was a three-story limestone structure, with the limestone provided by Wiley Quarry in Limestone Township. The new Kankakee City was first chartered in 1855, the size of the village was two square miles divided into two wards along the railroad tracks, with the Illinois Central Depot at the center. The population was over 1,000 in 1855. There were 8 or 10 stores

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment II

Statement of Significance (6):

offering general merchandise, two hotels, a number of saloons, a half dozen physicians and lawyers, several blacksmith shops, a weekly newspaper, and one or more subscription schools. With a growing business district, Kankakee City became a trading point for farmers from miles around.

Once the railroad was built things began to change. Sales of small tracts of land to settlers were heaviest in the 1850s-1860s with the Illinois Central selling a major portion of its grant during that period. The railroad was a strong promoter of immigration to Illinois from Europe, Canada and Eastern U.S. Settlers were encouraged to begin moving out into the prairie to develop a more extensive acreage. There now was a way to market larger crops, and the railroad brought lumber from the forests of Michigan.

1835-1965 – Burial of Veterans

The cemetery is also the final resting place for numerous veterans who served our country through times of war and peace. The Limestone (Hawkins) Cemetery has been the burial ground for veterans of the War of 1812, the American Civil War, the Spanish American War, WW I & WW II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. All branches of the U.S. Military are included: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard.

Criterion “D”

The Limestone (Hawkins) Cemetery, in Limestone Township, Kankakee County, Illinois, meets the criteria of a Kankakee County Landmark under **Criterion “D”** because it possesses important historic associations from a community’s early period of settlement. While researching the early settlers now buried in the cemetery, important phases of community history were revealed.

All four of the Hawkins brothers, one sister, their spouses, and many of the extended family are buried in Hawkins Cemetery. Other early Limestone Township families buried there include such names as: Byrnes, Falter, Heil, Koon, Martin, McGillivray, McMullen, Nichols, Peterson, Powell, Robinson, Rounsavell, Vaughn, Vining, Wiley, and Yeates. The settlers had a strength and spirit, a determination to accomplish the challenge before them, confronting it as a new venture. They taught themselves and helped each other to improve their way of life; devising new and easier methods to get things done.

Some of those, specifically those buried in the Limestone Cemetery, are mentioned below, giving more detailed information about each family; when and where they were born, when they settled in Limestone Township, what they did to support those families, and how they helped to develop the community in which they lived.

MICAH JEPSON BATES HAWKINS

Born: July 2, 1815 Place: Ontario County, New York

Died: Sept. 21, 1902 Place: Kankakee County, Kankakee, Illinois

Parents: Ebenezer Hawkins (1772-1828)

Rebecca (Jepsen) Hawkins (1773-1850)

Siblings:

Alanson Hawkins (1798-1869)

Joel Baldwin Hawkins (1803-1869)

Adelia Hawkins Palmer (1808-1851)

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment II

Statement of Significance (7):

Sabra Anna Hawkins Byrnes (1813-1865)

Robert Buck Hawkins (1818-1906)

Almond Hawkins (1823-1888)

1st spouse: Matilda Legg

Born: April 15, 1824

Died: May 5, 1849

Married: 1843

Children:

Rebekah Hawkins Dutellier (1845-1884)

Eben Hawkins (1849-1853)

Third child, (unknown.)

2nd spouse: Harriet Matilda Lowe

Born: September 2, 1823 **Place:** Oxford Township, Butler County, Ohio

Died: October 19, 1916 **Place:** Kankakee County, Illinois

Married: June 30, 1850

Children:

Peter L. Hawkins (1851-1851)

Edwin Hawkins (1852-1854)

Micah P. B. (1854-unknown)

Joel B. Hawkins (1856-1941), married Mary A. O'Brien February 16, 1886

Abiel "A B" Bates Hawkins (1858-1936), married Liddy J. Hines

Mark (1864-unknown)

Julia (1866-1871)

David N. Hawkins (1870-1953)

Micah Jepson Bates Hawkins lived on Section 25, Limestone Township. Born in New York State, his father manufactured pottery. In 1825, when Micah was eleven years old, the family moved to Vermilion County, IL, purchasing land from the government to develop a small farm. The prairie land was wild and uncultivated, but the family soon transformed it into one of the best farms in the county. His father died in 1828 when Micah was thirteen. He helped his mother with the farm until he was nineteen. In 1834, he came to Kankakee County, which was then part of Iroquois County. He settled on a tract of land he purchased from the government and immediately began to plow the land acre after acre. At the time there were only three other settlers in the county. There were no roads, no improvements, nothing but a wild region. He overcame the hardships of pioneer life and in 1845, when he was thirty years old, he married Matilda Legg. They had three children who all died at a young age. Matilda died in 1849. In 1850, Micah married Harriet M. Lowe and from that marriage eight known children were born. Mr. Hawkins was one of the leading farmers of his time, a pioneer making his home on the banks of the Kankakee River. He witnessed the growth of the county, the cities and towns, and the transformation of the waste lands into beautiful homes and farms.

ALANSON HAWKINS

Born: April 6, 1798 **Place:** Sutherland, Vermont

Died: October 22, 1869 **Place:** Kankakee County, Illinois

Parents: Ebenezer Hawkins (1772-1828)

Rebecca (Jepson) Hawkins (1773-1850)

1st Spouse: Cynthia Clark (1802-1846)

2nd Spouse: Betsy Abia Vaughn (1823-1885)

Children:

Marriett Angeline Hawkins (1833-1851)

Albert Hawkins (1837-1866)

Emily Rebecca Hawkins Cooley (1841-1891)

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment II

Statement of Significance (8):

Lucy Hawkins Tupper (1843-1870)
Infant Hawkins (1848-1907)
Justus Hawkins (1850-1851)
Alva Hawkins (1852-1852)
Fannie Abiah Vaughn Hawkins Cowles (1855-1923)
Infant Hawkins (1857-1857)
Edgar A. Hawkins (1860-1916), married Winona Cosner

Alonzo Mark Hawkins (1861-1921)
Ulista A. Hawkins Barber (1863-1895), married William P. Barber (1856-1959)

JOEL BALDWIN HAWKINS

Born: May 9, 1803 **Place:** Sunderland, Bennington County, Vermont

Died: April 9, 1869 **Place:** France

Parents: Ebenezer Hawkins (1772-1828)

Rebecca Jepson (1773-1850)

Spouse: Hester M. Bickel (1812– December 24, 1852)

Married: December 22, 1830

Children:

Deiadamia B. R. Hawkins (September 9, 1834—October 10, 1835) **The first to be buried in the Hawkins (Limestone) Cemetery.**

Henry A. J. Hawkins (1840-1856)

Hester A. Hawkins (1845-1845)

ROBERT BUCK HAWKINS

Born: October 8, 1818 **Place:** Ontario County, New York

Death: November 16, 1906 **Place:** Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois

Parents: Ebenezer Hawkins (1772-1828)

Rebecca (Jepson) Hawkins (1873-1850)

Spouse: Fanettee A Stewart

Born: April 6, 1830 **Place:** Ohio

Died: April 22, 1912 **Place:** Kankakee County, Illinois

Married: May 1, 1850

Children:

Micah Jepson Hawkins (1852-1853)

Eben Stewart Hawkins (1856-1939)

Rudolf Simonds Hawkins (1859-1945)

Nettie Belle Hawkins Jay (1861-1912)

Adelia May Hawkins (1863-1863)

GEORGE WASHINGTON BYRNES

Born: July 30, 1818 **Place:** Fairport Harbor, Lake County (Geauga County), Ohio

Died: April 17, 1896 **Place:** Kankakee County, Kankakee, Illinois

Parents: James & Margaret (Mazler) Byrnes

Siblings: Fifth in a family of 3 sons and 3 daughters

1st spouse: **Sabra Anna Hawkins**

Born: April 6, 1813 **Place:** Bloomfield, Ontario, New York

Died: Sept. 1, 1865, **Place:** Limestone Twp, Kankakee County, Illinois

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment II

Statement of Significance (9):

Married: November 13, 1844

Children:

Joel B. Byrnes (1845-1896)

James Byrnes (1846-1925)

Hester Maria (1850-1851)

George W. Byrnes (1852-unknown)

2nd spouse: Harriet M. Benson

Born: April 16, 1841 **Place:** Maryland

Died: May 24, 1920 **Place:** Limestone Twp. Kankakee County, Illinois

Married: December 16, 1866

Children:

Sabra Ann Byrnes (1867-1880)

Harriet Lois (Hattie) Byrnes (1868-1953), married John Richard Cahan

Cephas B. Byrnes (1871-1871)

John Benson Byrnes (1872-1938), married Zella Isadora Adams (1886-1916)

Cynthia Eunice Byrnes (1878-unknown)

At the age of three, George Washington Byrnes and his parents left Ohio and moved to Mt. Clemens, Michigan, where his mother died the following year. In 1830, at 13 years of age he ran away from home to become a sailor on the Great Lakes. He lived in Chicago as a sailor, but in 1834, when he was 16 years old, he came to Kankakee County with his father who had already been here for two years. He made the journey on foot from Chicago carrying 8 lbs. of nails to be used for building the roof of their house. At the time, there were only about six settlements in the entire county. The majority of land was owned by the government and Indians still resided here, wild game was plentiful and the land was in primitive condition. He developed many acres of land, plowing it for the first time.

In 1843, he married Miss Sabra Anna Hawkins, whose brother Jepson was the first settler in Limestone Township. The Byrnes had four children; however, Sabra Ann died in 1865. He remarried in 1866 to Harriet Benson of Washington D.C. and that union produced five children. Mr. Byrnes helped organize the county and was its first Sheriff, elected in 1852, serving for two years. He eventually owned 320 acres of rich farm land in Limestone Township.

RUSSELL EDGAR NICHOLS

Born: July 13, 1795 **Place:** Stepney, Connecticut

Died: August 2, 1880 **Place:** Kankakee County

Spouse: Mary Ann Durfee

Born: February 10, 1799 **Place:** Rhode Island

Died: May 9, 1883 **Place:** Kankakee County

Married: August 21, 1822

Children: (7 sons & 2 daughters)

Argailous Burton (1824-1915), married **Cynthia Almira Hawkins (1824-1860)**

Bailey H. Nichols (1826-1906), married Viola Potter in 1860, he was Justice of the Peace in Kankakee

Judson Durfee Nichols (1828-1927), married Ludelia Arnold in 1849, Mary Isabel Denny in 1859

Anna Maria Nichols (1830-1863), wife of Dr. Alexander Buchanan (Anna is buried in Limestone Cemetery)

Harriet C. Nichols (1832-1899), married Otis C. Durfee in 1856, lived in Kankakee

Roswell C. Nichols (1834-unknown), married Susan Leslie in 1865, livestock dealer in Chicago

Charles H. Nichols (1837-unknown), married Mary F. Woodruff, lived in Joliet, Illinois, moved to California.

Franklin A. Nichols (1839-1917), married Frances Denny in 1866 and lived on the old homestead farm in Limestone Township. He also served for 3 years as a Union soldier in the Civil War.

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment II

Statement of Significance (10):

Albert E. Nichols (1841-1923), married Patience Denny in 1873. He was a farmer in Limestone Township and served for 3 years as a Union soldier in the Civil War.

Roswell Nichols was among the early pioneers of Kankakee County. In 1842, Roswell and Mary Ann (Durfee) Nichols and their nine children settled in Sections 5 & 6 of Limestone Township (see illustrations 33 & 34). Mr. Nichols exchanged his farm in Palmyra Township, Ontario County, New York, for 640 acres on the banks of the Kankakee River. Mr. Nichols developed and improved his farm, erected buildings, and acquired property totaling 1500 acres. Roswell and his brother Lewis, who settled in 1845, and their sons cut timber on the south side of the Kankakee River and developed the road from Limestone Township to Wilmington (now State Highway 113). Mr. Nichols served for many years as Justice of the Peace for Limestone Township. He established a post office, called Rinosa, in their house, and became the first Postmaster of Limestone Township, serving for 25 years. He also served as Town Clerk and held numerous other township offices at various times while residing in Limestone Township. Mr. Nichols remained on the farm until 1868, when he and his wife retired and moved to Kankakee. He died at the age of 85. His wife passed away 3 years later.

ARGAILOUS BURTON NICHOLS

Born: March 27, 1824 **Place:** Palmyra, Wayne County, New York

Died: March 4, 1915 **Place:** Kankakee City, Kankakee County, Illinois

Parents: Russell Edgar (July 13, 1795 –August 2, 1880)

Mary Ann (Durfee) Nichols (February 10, 1799—May 9, 1883)

1st spouse: **Cynthia Almira Hawkins**

Born: December 17, 1824 **Place:** Ashtabula, Ohio

Died: June 11, 1860 **Place:** Kankakee, Illinois

Married: December 27, 1844

Children:

Burton E. Nichols (1846-unknown), married Anna Dennis and lived in Sioux City, Iowa, working for the Illinois Central Railroad.

Mary Nichols (unknown), widow of Joseph Whitmore, lived in Dubuque, Iowa.

Cynthia Ellen (unknown), married John Dugan of Waldron, Kankakee County.

2nd spouse: Sarah Graham

Born: February 9, 1837 **Place:** Terre Haute, Indiana, daughter of James and Mary (Nichols) Graham of Momence, Illinois

Died: November 19, 1926 **Place:** Kankakee County, Illinois

Married: November 1, 1860

Argailous Burton Nichols was the eldest of three children born in Pultneyville, New York, before the family moved to Palmyra, Ontario County, New York in 1828. In 1842, the family moved to Limestone Township, Kankakee, Illinois. Argailous married Cynthia Elmira Hawkins in 1844. Argailous and Cynthia settled in a log cabin on his father's farm in Section 5 of Limestone Township. Cynthia died in 1860 after which he married Sarah Graham.

Argailous established a small store on his farm in the 1860s. It was the first store between Wilmington and Old Middleport, Illinois. He was very active in the organization of Kankakee County and served in Limestone Township as town clerk and held several other town offices. He ran an eight-horse power circular saw that would cut about 2500 feet of lumber per day. He then hired a blacksmith, cooper and two shoemakers and furnished shops for them to work in. The buildings, all built on slabs, soon became known as Slabtown. Mr. Nichols often loaded his goods into a wagon and sold them to settlers along the rivers of Iroquois County. He made the round trip every four weeks, and in addition to selling goods, he bought furs and hides. After four years he sold his business and his farm and moved to Kankakee where he ran a

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment II

Statement of Significance (11):

very large meat market. He also started an auction store where he sold dry goods and notions; was in the furniture business for nine years with his brother J. D. Nichols; and in 1846, he became an auctioneer, continuing for 16 years as one of the best known auctioneers in Eastern Illinois, extending his business to adjoining states.

Note: The only Nichols family member buried in the Limestone Cemetery is A.B. Nichols first wife (Cynthia Almira Hawkins Nichols). All others were buried in Mound Grove Cemetery, Kankakee, Illinois.

MICHAEL HEIL

Born: April 26, 1823 **Place:** Wurzweiler, Bavaria, Germany

Died: April 8, 1903 **Place:** Kankakee County, Illinois

Parents: Charles and Dorathea Engle Heil

Spouse: Elizabeth K. Seliger

Born: August 11, 1822 **Place:** Germany

Died: June 18, 1899 **Place:** Kankakee County, Illinois

Marriage: August 5, 1844

Children: (dates unknown)

Elizabeth Katherine, married George Butz, a farmer in Limestone Township. Their children were: (Charles, John, Amelia, William).

Anna Maria "Mary," married George Falter of Limestone Township. Their children were: William, Michael, George, Anna, Albert, Frank, Katie.

John C., married Catherine Scheffler of Limestone Township. Their children were: John, Michael, George, Adam, Rosa, William, Lizzie.

Charles W., married Sophia Shields. Their children were: Charles, Frank, Louis.

Michael, married Anna Graves. Their children were: Katie, Cora.

Barbara, died at 2-1/2 years of age.

Lizzie, married Gus Goodknecht who farmed the 200 acre homestead. Their children were: Harry, Grover, Albert, Katie.

Adam, married Ida Stroehlow. Their children were: Emma, Colonel.

Fredericka, married Charles Byers (motorman on Electric Street Railway of Kankakee). They had one child; Clara.

Michael Heil in 1840, at 17 years of age, came to America from Germany with his parents, locating in Columbus, Ohio. His father died in 1842. On August 5, 1844, he married Elizabeth Seliger, also a native of Germany. She had come to America with her parents in 1838. The couple lived with his mother, caring for her until about 1850 when they purchased 50 acres of farm land in Franklin County, Ohio. After 12 years they sold that land and bought 100 acres in the same county, living there for three years. In 1867, they sold that farm and moved to Illinois, settling in the village of Chebanse in Iroquois County. After only one year they purchased a farm in Limestone Township, Kankakee County, moving there on March 2, 1869, and living there for twenty years while raising their family. Mr. Heil was school director for many years, Highway Commissioner and Supervisor of Limestone Township for three years. In 1889, the Heils retired from the farm and made their home in Kankakee. They had accumulated 325 acres of farm land through the years. A portion of the Heil farm eventually became Heil Estates subdivision.

GEORGE FALTER

Born: February 23, 1845 **Place:** Heppenheim, Darmstadt, Hessen, Germany

Died: July 30, 1921 **Place:** Kankakee, Illinois

Parents: Louis and Gertrude Luckhaupt Falter

Spouse: Anna Maria "Mary" Heil

Born: February 23, 1847 **Place:** Germany

Died: July 30, 1921 **Place:** Kankakee County, Illinois

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment II

Statement of Significance (12):

Parents: Michael Heil (1823-1903)

Elizabeth Katharine Seliger Heil (1822-1899)

Children: (five sons and two daughters)

Charles William Frederick (1867-1933), married Nettie Lashuay in 1891, Child: Lora Geneva

Michael (1868-1949), married Cora E. Bratton in 1893

George (1870-unknown)

Anna Gertrude Falter Hartung (1873-1934)

Albert Henry (1875-1960)

Frank Mathew (1877-1970)

Flora K. Falter Holmes (1881-1962)

George Falter was two years old in 1848 when his parents came to the United States from Germany and settled on a farm near Columbus, Ohio. The family moved in 1865 to Will County, Illinois, when George was twenty years old. He immediately left his parental home and began working on a farm, remaining for about a year before he began renting a farm for himself in Section 22 of Limestone Township. He farmed there for thirteen years before purchasing that farm, which totaled 200 acres. On January 6, 1867, Mr. Falter married Mary Heil.

JAMES POWELL

Born: April 10, 1810 **Place:** Long Island, New York

Died: August 12, 1846 **Place:** Limestone Township, Illinois

Married: February 5, 1833

Spouse: Hannah Finger

Born: September 22, 1808 **Place:** Columbia County, New York

Died: 1896 **Place:** Kankakee, Illinois

Children: 3 sons and 3 daughters

Ellen (1934-unknown)

Elias (1837-1926), married Marilda Ann Hammond. Their son, Irvin W., was a leading photographer in Kankakee. Elias farmed over 200 acres in Sections 5 & 8 of Limestone Township until 1876, when he moved to Kankakee and managed the North Kankakee Electric Light and Railway Company.

Leona (1841-unknown), married Charles Moore and lived in Kankakee

James P. (1844-1927)

Margaret Lasher (1839-1886)

Simon P. (1845-1865), Served in the 12th Illinois Cavalry and died just after the close of the war.

James Powell and his family came to Kankakee County in November 1844, settling in Section 16 of Limestone Township. The son of a sea captain, he began his adult career as a wheelwright and blacksmith. He married Hannah Finger in 1808. In 1841, he moved his family to Aurora, Illinois, where he operated a sawmill and produced the lumber that he used to build a house for his family. In 1844, they moved to a farm in Limestone Township. As an early pioneer of this area, he lived here only a short time. He died in 1846 from malaria.

ABIJAH VINING

Born: July 27, 1793 **Place:** New York

Died: June 31, 1865 **Place:** Limestone Township, Illinois

Parents: English descent

Spouse: Abbey Steele

Born: 1797

Died: August 15, 1871

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment II

Statement of Significance (13):

Children: Four sons and six daughters

Louisa (1817-1870)- buried in Limestone Cemetery

Jefferson (1820-1897)

Henretta Vining Burgess (1827-1876)

Martha (1841-1862)- buried in Limestone Cemetery

(Others unknown)

Abijah Vining served in the War of 1812. He was Orderly-Sergeant, later promoted to Captain, in the militia. He and his wife Abbie farmed for several years before moving their family to Delaware County, Ohio, where they made their home for five years. In 1840, they moved to Plainfield, Will County, Illinois, living there for two years. They then moved to Kankakee County where they spent the rest of their years on a farm in Limestone Township. They are both buried in the Limestone Cemetery.

LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment III

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LIMESTONE / HAWKINS CEMETERY

Continuation Sheet: Attachment IV

8. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description: A fractional part of the Northwest Quarter of Section 23, Township 31 North, Range 11 East of and bounded as follows: commencing at the East line of Section 22 on the State Road, thence East along Road 54 ½ rods to the place of beginning; thence running North 12 rods; thence East 20 rods; thence South to the State Road; thence along State Road to the place of beginning.