

Heritage Property – Log School House



Waterloo Park

Built 1820; built by Pennsylvania German Settlers

Designated July 23, 2012: bylaw 2012-07 78, “Waterloo Park Log School House”

The Log School House, located in Waterloo Park adjacent to the Lion’s Lagoon play area, is currently situated in a prominent location on the east side of the Park near the Eby Farmhouse (near the Young Street entrance to the park). The property consists of a one-storey log house that was constructed in 1820.

The schoolhouse is the first school in the City of Waterloo and was built by the Pennsylvania German Mennonite city founders on land that was donated by Abraham Erb in 1820. Having served 22 years as a schoolhouse (whose language of instruction was in German), it was moved to the city of Berlin, ON (currently Kitchener, ON) and served as a residence until 1894 when it was moved to its current location in Waterloo Park. As the oldest standing school in the Region of Waterloo as well as the oldest known log school in the Province of Ontario, its cultural historical significance is associated with early Pennsylvania German education and construction techniques. Its later use as a residence for an ex-slave and his family is also associated with the early presence of the Underground Railroad in the Region of Waterloo as well as the early Black settlers to this area. This is an excellent early example of Pennsylvania German



construction techniques that are uniquely identified with Waterloo County Pennsylvania German log construction. The one-storey log structure consists of squared logs which are 'v'-notch saddle keyed and are chinked with lime mortar. Little wedges (or shims) of wood were used as filling which is a typical but unique Pennsylvania German construction technique with early log structures. The roof is a single gable construction with cedar shake shingles (not original). Dimensions are approx. 16'x20' and eight logs high.

The windows have been replaced and are not original. The inside of the schoolhouse is open (not partitioned) and the log interior walls are natural but whitewashed. The chinking is still visible in between the original logs. The ceiling and floors are rough-hewn planks that are also whitewashed.