



Heritage Property – *Bahnsen House*



47 Albert St.

Built 1924; designed by A.W. Holmes

Designated Aug. 16, 1999: bylaw 99-107, “The Bahnsen-Bierstock-Marsland House”

John Bahnsen bought a plot of land that overlooks Silver Lake and Waterloo Park from Jacob C. Snider’s descendants in 1923 and Bahnsen built this house in 1924 (as is engraved in a datestone). Bahnsen came to Waterloo in 1911 to become the managing director of the newly formed Globe Furniture Co. – located immediately to the south of Silver Lake and visible from his new house. He is credited with expanding the new firm, which over time secured the reputation as a world leader in furniture manufacturing — in particular, church furnishings and religious carvings. The company employed craftsmen of exceptional talent. Bahnsen died in 1931 while his widow, Helene, continued occupying the house until 1941. In the following year, Harry Bierstock, scion of a recyclable materials company, purchased the property.

Situated with its original main façade towards Silver Lake, this two-storey brown, rug-brick house is designed in the Tudor revival style, a late example of only a few in Waterloo in this style. It was constructed using varying brown rug-brick — novel in the 1920s, with the second storey cladding composed of grey pebbledash and painted wood boarding, suggestive of half-timbered construction. The roof is gabled and most rafter ends are visible. Casement windows are set under arched lintels. The materials used for the building



are, along with the rug-brick, also unusual as the window sills are concrete, the frames are metal, the eaves are copper and the roof is made of slate.