



Heritage Property – *Hahn House*



88 Fountain St.

Built 1896

Designated May 28, 2001: bylaw 01-54, “The Hamel-Elsworthy-Elgie House”

At the request of Jacob C. Snider and Elias Snider, owners of the land from Erb Street North to the present Central and Marshall streets and reaching from Waterloo Park over to Laurel Creek and Brighton Street, the Ontario land surveyor, Schofield and Hobson drew up a subdivision into building lots both east and west of King Street as well as large, un-subdivided “park” lots east of Regina Street. The subdivision was registered in 1857 as Plan 491. Snider’s name was the first name by which Fountain Street was known.

While the Hamel family owned a substantial block of several lots on Fountain and Central streets, a marriage in St. Jacobs on Dec. 31, 1891 between Edward Hamel (a wagon maker) and Catherine Hahn, daughter of Elizabeth and John Hahn of Heidelberg, was probably the later occasion for John Hahn’s construction of this house, perhaps a gift to the young couple. Edward Hamel is recorded as living on Snider (now Fountain) Street in 1897, and specifically occupied this house in 1899; he was then employed at the Waterloo Woolen Mill in the centre of the town.

The Hahn house was in its time an exceptionally substantial, even elegant house for its immediate district. Along Snider Street its neighbors were modest frame buildings. It shares with the Schiel house its yellow brick, its 1¾-storey height and a debt to the Queen Anne style of the turn of the 20th century.



The house is of solid-brick construction on a rubble stone foundation. It embodies a projecting rectangular bay, a roof that is somewhat variable in its lines and decorative details typical of Queen Anne design. Also characteristic are the turned verandah roof supports, delicate spindles and intricately detailed woodwork. The gables likewise show a close attention to detail — within the peak of each is a decorative arch with applied scrollwork, spindles and circular piercing. Second-storey windows are semicircular at the top with the curve echoed and reinforced by projecting brickwork. A dormer that provides access to an upper porch breaks the front roofline.