



Heritage Property – *Hilliard House*



88 William St. W.

Built 1880

Designated July 23, 1979: bylaw 79-128, “The Hilliard House”

The origin of the Waterloo Chronicle can be traced back to the Berlin Chronicle and Provincial Reformers Gazette, issued first in 1856. By 1867 the Chronicle had four pages. Its editor, publisher and proprietor were Thomas Hilliard, one of Waterloo's most able and active citizens. Hilliard was an exceptional individual who contributed to Waterloo's history as a teacher, journalist, town councillor, mayor, school inspector, longtime member of the Waterloo Horticultural Society, founder and lay preacher of St. James Methodist Church (now First United) and, most notably, founder of Dominion Life Assurance Co.

Dominion Life received its charter in 1889 and Hilliard was immediately appointed its managing director and then its president from 1905 to 1929. He collaborated in the founding of Waterloo Trust and Savings Co., becoming its first president in 1913.

Hilliard built a gracious residence on William Street West. His two-storey yellow-brick house is an attractive interpretation of the Victorian style. The hip roof, heavy ornamental brackets under the eaves, stained glass windows, projecting bays and, most obviously, the generous wrap-around verandah distinguish that architectural style from its plain Georgian predecessors.