



Heritage Property – *Huether Hotel*



59 King St. N.

Original structure built 1842; Lion Brewery founded, 1859; hotel front built, 1870; hotel opened c. 1872

Designated May 1988: bylaw 88-82, “The Huether Hotel”

The land on which the Huether Hotel stands was sold by Elias Snider to Wilhelm Rebscher, a brewer, in 1842. Until 1856, Rebscher exercised his craft on the property — setting up reputedly the first brewery in Waterloo. Following his death, Christopher Huether and his father Adam, recently arrived from Germany, took over the operation of the brewery, naming it the Lion Brewery. In 1870, they purchased the site from the Rebscher estate. The business passed to a grandson, Christopher Nicholas Huether, on his father's death in 1898. With demand for the brewery's products becoming strong, he made extensive improvements in the malt house and storage areas. However, the entire works were lost to a creditor only a year later when he missed a single payment on his father's mortgage. Theresa Kuntz (of the Kuntz Brewery family) acquired both the Huether Hotel and the Lion Brewery in an auction; the Kuntz Brewery Ltd. was itself the proprietor of the premises from April of 1910 to May of 1930.

In 1953, the Adlys family purchased the hotel and restored it to much of its original glory. They have further excavated a portion of the old brewery site, a barrel-vaulted crypt (which, with the hotel's facades, received a heritage designation) and several tunnels believed to date from 1855 in the basement to the rear of the hotel.



The four-storey brick and stone Huether Hotel is an excellent example of an elegant commercial hotel from the 1870s. The King Street façade was added in 1880 along with an impressive tower topped by wrought-iron cresting. A fire in the hotel's roof in 1969 destroyed the tall peaks over each of the three bays of double windows. However, that façade still retains elements of the Victorian style. The symmetry of the placement of windows contributes greatly to its handsome appearance. The use of yellow brick with contrasting trim is evident everywhere on the exterior of the hotel. The arched windows and entrances add a further air of gentility to the front façade.