



Heritage Property – *Market Hotel*



12 Dupont St. W.

Albert Hotel, built c. 1860; expanded as the Market Hotel by Christian Letter, c. 1874
Designated Feb. 3, 1997: bylaw 97-10, "The Market Hotel"

The Market Hotel has been in Waterloo's centre from the village's early years. The first hotel, at the corner of Albert and Dupont streets, occupied the site of a two-storey house and was known as the Albert Hotel. Christian Letter, an immigrant stone mason from Germany, bought the hotel and expanded it along Dupont Street toward King Street.

In 1874, the grand new municipal hall of the village (within two years, to be the Waterloo Town Hall) was constructed nearby at the corner of Albert and Erb streets. The weekly market (formerly located at the public square at King and William streets) was then held in the new hall's basement. Later, the expanding market warranted its own building (1910-1965) directly across Albert Street from the hotel, near the site of today's public library. As a result of increased and constant patronage from the market and town hall, the Albert Hotel flourished and was renamed the Market Hotel. It catered to farmers and commercial travellers attending or visiting the Waterloo market. An early advertisement stated, "This first-class hotel is kept in the best style for the reception of guests." As was usual at the time, the Market Hotel catered to boarders, generally single men. Located to the rear of the building, stables and a driving shed offered "good stabling and attendance."

Letter sold the premises to Christian Zoerger, and up to 1917 five further owners (Louis Englehardt, Frederick Huether, Julius Germann, John and Elizabeth Mayer) ran the Market



Hotel as a hotel, boarding house and pub. Prohibition in 1916 reduced business sharply. In 1917, the Market Hotel was sold to the John Forsyth Co., a prominent Kitchener clothing manufacturer.

The Market Hotel then functioned as a pajama and underwear factory; the original building was expanded to the rear in 1923 to accommodate a growth in the company's business. In 1991, the old Forsyth buildings were sold and converted to a mixed-residential and commercial land use.

The style of the two-storey brick structure along Dupont Street is plain. Despite the return eaves on its gable ends, it has a fundamentally utilitarian appearance which, after 140 years, still reflects a simple, practical and serviceable existence.