



Heritage Property – *Molson's Bank*



3 King St. S.

Built, 1914; designed by Langley and Howland, Toronto

Designated Jan. 19, 1981: bylaw 81-11, "The Molson's Bank"

The land upon which the uptown branch of the Bank of Montreal is now located was once the property of William Snider (owner of a large adjacent flour mill). However, from 1816 the land functioned as a public town square. In 1914, it was sold to Molson's Bank when the city council turned down an offer from Snider to buy the land. That bank's new building was constructed immediately on the plot. A branch of Molson's Bank had existed in Waterloo since 1881, in the uptown from 1898. In 1925, the Molson's Bank merged with the Bank of Montreal, which had a branch in Waterloo since 1860.

The Bank of Montreal at King and Erb streets is the last standing bank building designed in the Beaux Arts architectural style in Kitchener-Waterloo. Despite its relatively small size, it has a massive character with a mixture of such classical elements as a plinth, clearly identified by a heavy moulding, a rigorous symmetry in the main front façade, engaged Ionic columns, recessed doorway, keystones over windows and the half-round door transom, curved stone pediments over two windows, an architrave (bearing an engraved declaration of the building's name) and a cornice carried on dentils — all of that dressed in a cut-stone suit of a sober grey. The architecture of the Molson's Bank building is typical of the stable and noble image that banking institutions strove to present.