



Heritage Property – *Pumping Station*



17-23 William St. E.

Built by the Waterloo water commission, 1899

Designated Jan. 22, 1990: bylaw 90-17, “The Pumping Station”

Waterloo’s first pumping station was built in 1899 after the owner assumed responsibility for the supply and distribution of water. In 1889, a private water company in Berlin (Kitchener) had extended its wooden mains to Waterloo, but on May 21, 1889, with the agreement expired, Waterloo council approved bylaw 99 which authorized the Waterloo Water Works Co. to provide water to the town. Council also established its own water commission consisting of David Bean (chairman), Aloyes Bauer, John Ritzer and Mayor George Diebel. A debenture of \$40,000 was approved for a complete waterworks system to be located at the low site on William Street East.

The pumping station began operation in 1899 when three artesian wells, yielding a daily flow of 750,000 gallons, were sunk there and provided the town with water and fire protection.

The single-storey pumping station, in yellow brick laid in a common bond pattern (with headers alone as tie-bricks in every seventh course), is designed in a plain Victorian, industrial style. Large, steel-framed windows admit good light to the machinery and operators inside. Each window bay is bound by a shallow buttress which rises to a broad corbelled moulding of bricks along the roof line. A stone keystone in the low arch over each window suggests solidity.