



Heritage Property – Schiel House



115 William St. W.

Built by Charles Kreutziger, 1898

Designated April 19, 1993: bylaw 93-59, "The Schiel-Patterson House"

The Schiel house has been known as reputedly the first house built in the Samuel G. Snyder survey of the west side of Waterloo. The lot was purchased by Jacob Oetzel in 1888. In 1898, Oetzel sold the land to his son-in-law, Martin Schiel, who promptly planned a new home and signed a contract with a local builder, Charles Kreutziger. The contract contained clauses such as, "the house is to be like the Mitchell's in Berlin" and "the front window is to be similar to the one in Mrs. Martin's home." These instructions indicate the influence that the houses of local families had on the design of the Schiel house. Martin Schiel was one of thousands of local citizens who worked for the prosperous Kaufman Rubber Co. at King and Victoria streets in Kitchener.

This 1¾-storey house of yellow-brick veneer is a good example of the Queen Anne style — an eclectic, romantically imaginative style favoured in more recent times by makers of doll houses. The wood trim along the multi-sloped roof line is elaborate and oversized, highlighting the roof's irregularity. The windows, with Romanesque semicircular heads, likewise vary in shape, size and location, and add to the asymmetrical appearance of the house. In deliberate contrast, the decorative wood trim and delicately turned posts and spindles of the verandah and small balcony (though restorations) are intricate, almost dainty.