



Heritage Property – Seagram Buildings



83 Erb St. W.

Buehler Foundry, built by Abraham Buehler, 1851

Designated Feb. 3, 1997: bylaw 97-11, “The Seagram-Remax Buildings”

Abraham Buehler's foundry, at the corner of Erb and Euclid (formerly Foundry) streets, shared the block on Erb Street with the Granite Mills distillery at the corner of Caroline Street. The foundry was established in 1851, grew and continually modernized. By 1864 Buehler had introduced steam power into his plant that produced, in particular, a broad range of agricultural implements.

In 1888, the firm of the Union Foundry was merged with a newer neighbour on King Street, the Waterloo Foundry established by Jacob Bricker. Operations ceased at the old Union Foundry by 1890, and the property was sold to its neighbour to the east, the distillery, which had been acquired in 1883 by Joseph E. Seagram.

Over its many years, Seagram's two-storey administration building had seen a variety of service: a cooperage with lumber and barrel storage, and then after 1950 as a machine shop.



Maintenance Building, built c. 1858

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Originally part of the Buehler foundry, the single-storey Seagram maintenance building to the east and south of the administration building has been a foundry, stables, storage shed, cooperage and machine shop.

Though both of these buildings are typically industrial in design, each exhibits particular refinements: in the first, brick detailing and gothic arched upper windows; in the second, segmentally arched, double-hung windows, engaged brick pilasters, corbelling and spandrels around the windows and entranceway.

Waterloo's core was at one time a buzzing hive of industry, from flour to threshing machines, shoes and gloves to cotton batts and beer to whiskey. In recent times, these two Seagram buildings have been converted to respectively an office building and a restaurant. They now offer fine models of “adaptive rehabilitation” and continue to live a rich, instructive history.