



Heritage Property – Snyder-Seagram House



50 Albert St.

The Snyder-Seagram House was designed by an American architect; built by Charles Moogk, 1903

Designated Jan. 10, 1983: bylaw 83-10, "The Snyder-Seagram House"

This house was originally built for Herbert Snyder, the owner of Snyder Bros. Furniture, by Charles Moogk, the town engineer at the time. It was purchased in 1929 by Edward F. Seagram, son of the distiller Joseph E. Seagram, who presented it as a wedding gift to his own son J.E. Frowde Seagram. Upon the death of Frowde's father, the son, already president of Canada Barrels and Kegs Ltd., became president of Seagram Distillery Ltd.

The Snyder-Seagram house is a fine example of the Edwardian style of architecture. The Albert Street façade presents superposed sets of Palladian windows. Bay windows — some with transoms — project over both storeys. Many windows still contain the original leaded glass and the bevelled edges of the panes in those windows continue to refract the sun's rays into a spectrum of colours.

A curved, wrap-around verandah is attractive with its classical columns, paired at the entranceway, and its balustrade. The Edwardian balusters have none of the slender delicacy found in the spindles of Queen Anne houses, but share in the sturdy but gracious quality of the house as a whole. The symmetrical design of the façade's central segment reveals a remarkable appreciation of classical architectural elements and their vertical



arrangement, novel in a Waterloo residence of this time. The house's poured concrete construction is further exceptional.

The Snyder-Seagram House serves today as proof that a heritage building can continue to live and exhibit its rich architectural and social history through adaptive reuse.

