



Heritage Property – Waterloo Hotel



4 King St. N.

Built by W. Young, c. 1880; addition by Henry Zimmerman, 1890

Designated March 5, 1990: bylaw 90-34, "The Waterloo Hotel"

In various forms and under various names, the Waterloo Hotel has long been situated at a corner of the main crossroads of the City of Waterloo. The first hotel, built by Henry W. Bowman in 1835 and known as the Farmer's Inn, named after the bulk of its clientele, and later as the Bowman house, was a 2½-storey stucco-over-brick building that burned to the ground in 1850. A similar structure replaced it and was sold to W. Young in 1876. Around 1880 he added the two-storey wing to the back, along Erb Street, now the oldest part of the present hotel. Henry Zimmerman became its owner in 1882. Another fire led to a rebuilding in 1890 of the main block in three storeys and in a style that matches the addition.

In 1897 the hotel was converted to an inn with rooms for rent. From 1904, when Zimmerman sold the hotel, the property was owned by the Royal Bank. (In 1920, the bank had a branch on the main-floor corner, while the Waterloo Social Club used the balance.) Stanley Chadder bought the building in 1935 and renamed it the Waterloo Hotel, and it was later bought by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in 1990.

The Waterloo Hotel is a handsome yellow-brick structure in an Italianate style. The most striking element is a central pointed pediment that rises well above the building's projecting cornice and contains a date stone. Great effect is made from symmetrically subdividing each elevation by means of projecting vertical columns of brick and horizontal



dentil mouldings, intermittent between window sills and continuous below both the frieze and the cornice. A secondary horizontal moulding links the window lintels of the two upper storeys. In a manner suggestive of classical orders, those lintels vary by level, going from arched brick with cast key stones for the ground floor, solid stone lintels for the second, to brick arches without a keystone for the third. A wider window in the middle of the second storey replaces a former doorway to a small balcony. That window and the one above still contain an outer band of stained glass. The rough ashlar of the foundation is visible above the sloping ground level along Erb Street and on the other three sides, while windows through it give daylight to the basement.