



Civic Centre Historical Walking Tour

Heritage Kitchener Committee

The Civic Centre Neighbourhood Heritage Conservation District is an important residential area linked historically to several key periods in the development of Kitchener, and architecturally to unique interpretations of late 19th and early 20th century architectural styles. The first four properties are not in the District, but have contributed to its development:

1 85 Queen St N (1961)
Designed by architect Carl Rieder, this building replaced the Carnegie library located at the SE corner of Queen and Weber streets. Check out the large fresco in the Reading Room by local artist Jack Bechtel, unveiled in 1962. Called 'Enlightenment', it illustrates man's never-ending search for knowledge.

2 77 Queen St N (1852)
The County of Waterloo was formed in 1852, with the judicial seat in Berlin (Kitchener). Construction of a courthouse and gaol (jail) was a prerequisite of county-hood. The land was donated by tavern keeper Frederick Gaukel, after whom both Frederick and Gaukel streets are named. Three hangings took place here, the last in 1939. The squared fieldstone gaol is the last original County building still standing, and the oldest government building in Kitchener.

3 73 Queen St N (1878)
When government inspectors required the gaol be expanded, plans for a Governor's (Warden's) house were added. This High-Victorian brick residence in the Italian Villa style has a four-storey Mansard-roofed tower. Variants of the style may be found throughout the district. Vacant for more than 20 years, it and the gaol were restored as a Millennium Project.

4 20 Weber St E (1964)
A notable example of modern architecture on the site of the original c. 1852 courthouse, this building now houses the Region of Waterloo Archives. Original details include the Conestoga wagon-inspired entrance. Interpretive plaques, one each in English, French and German, describe the first courthouse, gaol and governor's house; they are set between low walls constructed of brick salvaged from the original courthouse.

5 54 Queen St N (1906-07)
Organized in 1855, the St. Andrew's congregation built its first church on this site in 1857. The present structure was constructed in the Romanesque Revival style. Note local artist Tim Schmalz' sculpture 'Jesus the homeless'.

6 Roy St #20 (1938) #26 (1937)
20 and 26 Roy St were built on the site of tannery owner George C.H. Lang's large Victorian mansion; seven red stone posts delineate the original property. Lang inherited the tannery from his father, which was in turn operated by his sons. 20 Roy was built for Dr. Henry Mackie Lackner, who later donated it to St. Andrew's Presbyterian as a manse. 26 Roy was built for shirt manufacturer Harvey A. Wiegand. Both are examples of Tudor Revival, with their distinctive arched doorways, half-timbering, and windows with diamond-shaped panes.

7 41 Roy St (c. 1855)
Once the caretaker's home for Zion United Church (1893), this one-storey brick cottage is one of the oldest in the District. Visible at the rear is the model Sunday school, built in 1915.

8 Maplecroft, 53 Roy St (c. 1915)
Built for Onward Manufacturing proprietor T.A. Witzel. The large gable facing the street with a two-storey bay represents an early expression of Tudor Revival.

9 132 Young St (1886)
This Italianate style house was built for button manufacturer Jacob Mohr. Woelfle Shoe Company founder Wellington E. Woelfle purchased it in 1904, and it is still owned by the family.

10 67-69 Ahrens St W (1905)
This Berlin Vernacular style double house was built for insurance salesman George Baltzer. W.E. Woelfle (see #9) purchased the property soon after and it is still owned by the family. In the years before WWII, former Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King was a regular summer tenant.

11 Hibner Park (1894)
At one time Young St had a kink in it. This tiny triangular park is what remained after straightening in 1894. First called Hibner Place, it is named after Daniel Hibner, a prominent furniture factory owner and former mayor. Hibner provided funds for the first and existing fountains. Listed at the top of the octagonal metal arbour are names of the original subscribers to the fund that purchased the park, many of whom lived nearby.

12 25 Maynard Ave (c. 1872)
Tannery owner and former mayor Louis J. Breithaupt constructed a number of houses in the District. This Classical Revival style house was built for chief constable John Klippert, who also served as county bailiff.

13 55 Margaret Ave (1881)
Breithaupt also built this house for county court judge Anthony LaCourse, who began his career as a junior judge in 1873. Once part of a larger estate, the Italianate structure was owned by button manufacturer Dilman Shantz from 1897

to 1913. The windows in the semi-circular two-storey bays contain curved glass, rare in the city.

14 54 Margaret Ave (c. 1890)
County Clerk Herbert J. Bowman lived here from 1898 to 1918. It was then purchased by furniture manufacturer Charles J. Baetz and his wife Dorothy and stayed in their family until 1970. It is an excellent example of Queen Anne Revival, with several gables and a tower decorated with half-timbering.

15 31 Margaret Ave (1881)
Built by Louis Rau, this Italian Villa style house was first occupied in 1882 by Dr. Rudolph Mylius. He deeded it to his daughter Augusta and her husband David Forsyth in 1903. Forsyth, affectionately known as the 'Daddy' of soccer, was principal of KW Collegiate for 20 years.

16 25 Margaret Ave (1923)
Louis J. Breithaupt's widowed sister Caroline Augustine built this house. Her son Albert, who had married Edna Kaufman, lived across the street at 22 Margaret, now demolished.

17 Sonneck, 108 Queen St N (1874)
Originally built for Judge Anthony LaCourse by Louis Breithaupt, this Italianate style house was acquired by his son, Louis Jacob Breithaupt, in 1883. L.J. had taken over the family tannery following his father's death in 1880. A very influential citizen, he served as mayor (as did his father, brother and son) and Waterloo North M.P.P. Sonneck means 'sunny corner' in German.

18 116 Queen St N (1935)
Once wholesale grocer William Roos' estate 'Bon Accord', the site still includes his ornate 1888 wrought-iron fence, one of the last of its kind in the city, and a coach house. The local Swedenborgian congregation first met in 1833. This cut stone church is the fourth they have built in the downtown.

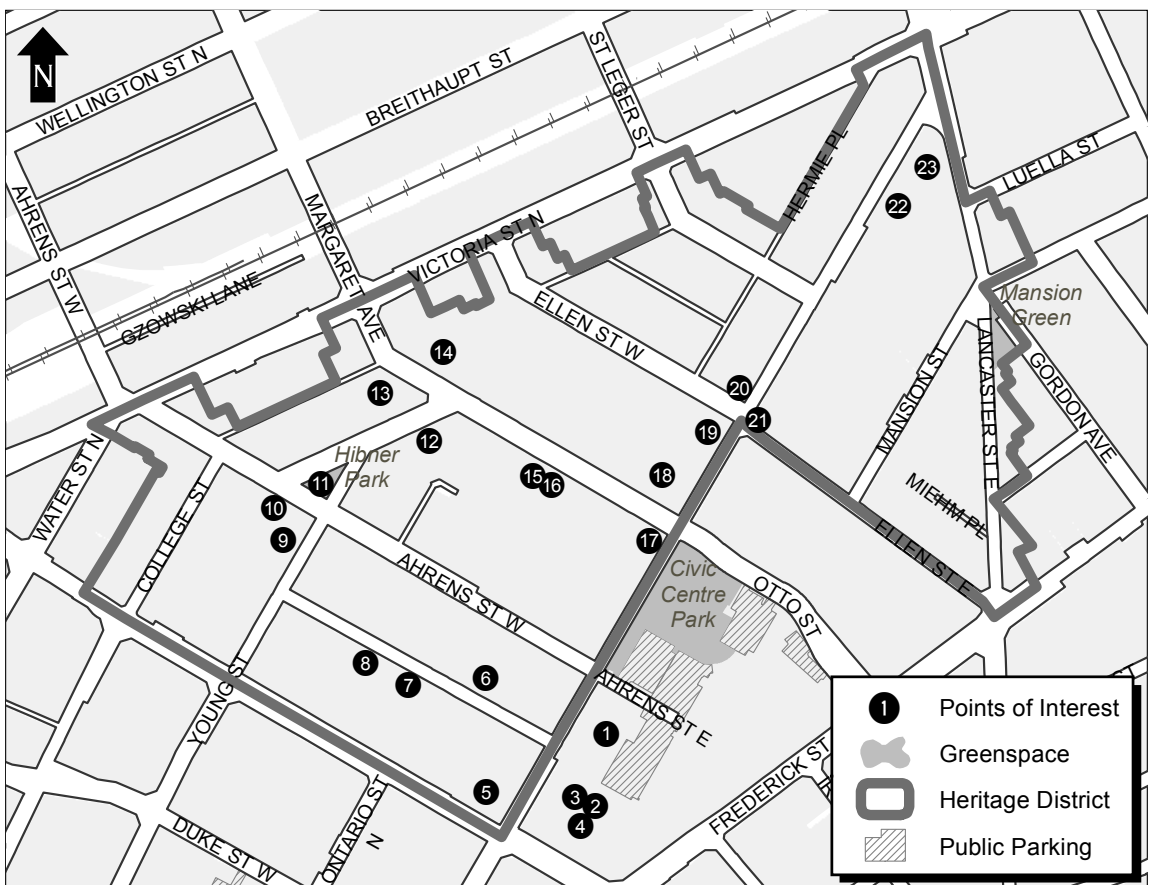
19 128 Queen St N (c. 1857)
The first reeve of Berlin and the first warden of Waterloo County, Dr. C. John Scott built the original one-storey Regency cottage with Zieger's coral bricks (see #21). Druggist and first local telephone agent John S. Hoffman added the second storey in 1875 with Italianate details like bracketed eaves and cornice. Group of Seven artist A.Y. Jackson visited his aunt Geneva Jackson here.

20 132 Queen St N (1876)
When brick maker Nicholas Zieger (see #21) died in 1858, John Dauberger purchased the house and brickyard. As business prospered, he built this house, a fine example of Neo-Classical elements in domestic architecture.

21 139 Queen St N (1852)
Brick maker Nicholas Zieger built the oldest house in the district, this Georgian cottage. Originally clad in wood, it was later faced in brick. Zieger puddled by hand his coral-coloured bricks in the shop behind the house. By 1861, this brickyard was an important part of the community producing 100,000 bricks annually.

22 183 Queen St N (1926)
Built for tannery executive August Lang, this residence resembles an elegant 18th century European townhouse. Composed of several Neo-Classical elements including a palladium shaped entry with wooden fanlight over the door, parapet walls at both sides of the building, and intricately patterned mullions in the dormer windows.

23 189 Queen St N (1908)
Built for town engineer William Davis and occupied successively by Caroline (Breithaupt) Augustine; Jerome and Joseph Lang; and the Wintermeyer family, whose son, John, led the Ontario Liberal Party. The home has three massive field stone chimneys, a distinctive Tudor door, and a steep roof with three large dormers.



All of the properties located within the Civic Centre Neighbourhood Heritage Conservation District are designated under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act. Some are also individually designated under Part IV and can be recognized by bronze 'Heritage Landmark' plaques.

Please respect the rights of the private properties listed in this tour and remain on the public right-of-way to view the houses.

