

# Downtown Heritage Walking Tour

## St Jerome's College (Former) – 120 Duke Street W..

Built in 1907 in the Neo-Classical style, St. Jerome's is recognized as being the



foundation of Catholic education in Waterloo Region. Notable features include the triangular pediment at the roofline supported by coupled columns, interesting brickwork, and stone voussoir details over the entrances. The building has recently been restored and serves as the home of the Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work (Wilfrid Laurier University).

#### 2 Kaufman Footwear Factory (Former) – 410 King Street W.



Built by Jacob Kaufman in 1907 and expanded in 1911, 1920 and 1925, Kaufman Footwear

became one of the largest industries and employers in Berlin. It is an excellent example of early industrial modernism architecture and was designed by Albert Kahn, one of the great industrial architects of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The former factory has recently been converted into a loft style condominium complex.

#### 3 Lang Tannery (Former) – 113-151 Charles Street W.

Founded by Reinhold Lang in 1848, the Lang Tannery contributed to establishing leather



tanning at Berlin's first major industry. The complex features several buildings constructed from c. 1896 to 1956 and is representative of industrial vernacular architecture. Of particular interest is the former administration and production building located at the corner of Charles and Francis Streets, and the now rare 80+ foot high smoke stack off of Joseph St. Work is commencing on redeveloping the site into a mixed use heritage precinct featuring retail, office and light industrial uses.

#### 4 Public Utilities Commission Building (Former) – 191-197 King Street W.



Built during the years 1931-1932, this building served as the location of Kitchener's Public Utilities Commission. It

is constructed of cut granite and sandstone, much like the old (1924) Kitchener City Hall, and has influences of the Art Deco style with impressive carved brackets and arched entranceways, metal and stone work, and brass front doors.



## 5 Simpson Block - 117 King Street W.

by Built in 1895 William Simpson, who established one of the earliest furniture businesses in the County. The Simpson block features a typical 19th Century storefront, with a distinct feature of excellent brick work throughout.



## 6 Knell Hardware (Peter Martin's) 45 King Street W.



Built in 1893, and purchased in 1910 by William Knell, this building served as Knell Hardware for 79 years. The architectural style is Renaissance Revival, with intricate ornamentation throughout the façade

at each storey.

## 7) Weber Block – 35-39 King Street W.

Built circa 1910 by I. S. K. Weber it served as the Wanless Music Store and later as Kabels, a formal wear store. The architectural style of the building is Classic Revival. Large free standing Ionic Columns and the wooden and concrete



detailing make this elevation one of the grandest in the Downtown.

8) Walper Terrace Hotel - 1 - 11 King St. W.

An Inn of some sort has always been situated at this site, considered to be the historic



crossroads of the City. C.H. Walper took over the former Commercial Hotel in 1886 which was later destroyed by fire in 1892. The Walper Terrace Hotel was built the following year at a cost of \$76,000 as a high class hotel. It is undoubtedly the best example of hotel architecture in Kitchener, with its detailed cornice and brick work over arched windows.

## 9 Germania Block (CIBC) – 1 King Street E.

Built in 1885, this building has functioned as a bank since 1893. It is an excellent



example of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Italianate Commercial architecture. Notable features include the elaborately bracketed cornices, and exterior brickwork. The bank was restored in the 1980s and is Kitchener's only example of a building continuously used as a bank since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

## (10) MacKenzie King Manor – 43 Benton St.



Built in 1928 as a Pentecostal Church and designed by W.H.E. Schmalz, who

also designed the 1924 City Hall; this building stands on the site of the birthplace of former Prime Minister William Lyon MacKenzie King. The building features the solid construction Kitchener is famous for, with special attention given to architectural detailing on the Benton Street façade.

### 11 Toronto Dominion Bank (Former) - 70 King Street E.

Built in 1959, and designed by Bruce Etherington this building has been identified as



one of the best examples of modern movement architecture in Waterloo Region. It expresses both solidity through its use of limestone and marble; and motion through the unique inflection of the facades and roofline, and tapering metal fins along the windows.

## 12 Lippert Block / MayFair Hotel (Former) - 11 Young Street



Built in 1905 in the Renaissance Revival style by Edward Lippert, owner of a furniture retail business. In 1929

a 3 storey art deco addition was added, and the building was converted into a hotel. This building and 156-158 King St.W. next door will be rehabilitated into the "Centre Block" redevelopment complex.

