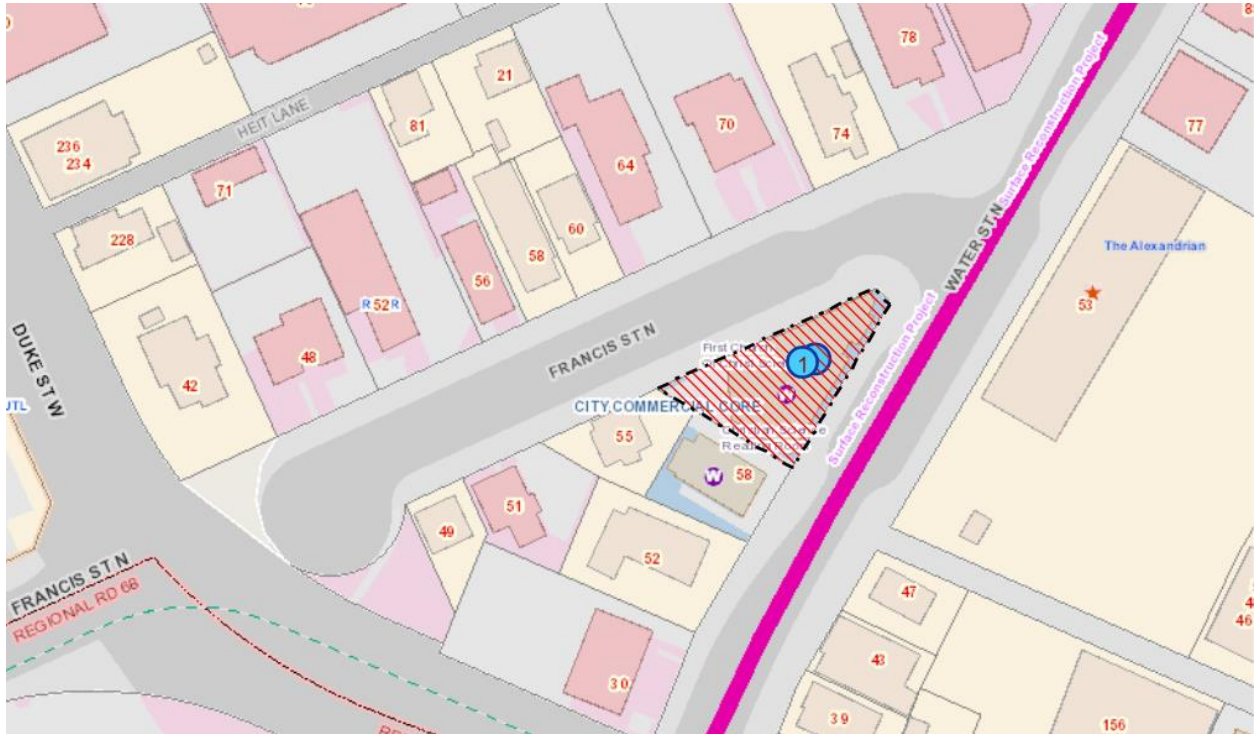


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

64 WATER STREET NORTH



Summary of Significance

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Design/Physical Value | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Value |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historical/Associative Value | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Value |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contextual Value | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Value |

Municipal Address: 64 Water Street North

Legal Description: Plan 41, Part Lots 14 & 15

Year Built: 1899-1900

Architectural Style: Shingle Style, Arts and Crafts, Tudor Revival Style,

Architect: Joseph H. Taft

Original Owner: First Church of Christ, Scientist

Original Use: Church



Condition: Excellent

Description of Cultural Heritage Resource

64 Water Street North is a late 19th century unique church built by blending a variety of architectural styles together, including the Shingle Style, Tudor Revival Style, Arts and Crafts, American Craftsman Style, and Old English Style of architecture. The building is situated on a 0.13-acre parcel of land located on a prominent triangular lot at the corner of Francis Street North and Water Street North in the City Commercial Core Planning Community of the City of Kitchener within the Region of Waterloo. The principal resource that contributes to the heritage value is the church building and the triangular plot of land.

Heritage Value

64 Water Street North is known for its significant design/physical, historical/associative, and contextual values.

Design/Physical Value

The design and physical values relate to the architectural style that is in excellent condition with many intact original elements.

Exterior

The existing church has been designed blending a variety of architectural styles together – which is rare and unique in the context of Kitchener. These architectural styles include the Arts and Crafts style, Tudor Revival style, American Craftsman style, Old English Style and the Shingle style. This church was not built in the Gothic style, which was the norm at the time in Berlin, which makes this church even more unique. The church was built in 1899-1900, and still retains almost all of its original elements, and is in excellent condition. This church was the first Christian Science church that was built in what was then known as the British Empire.

The foundation is high and made of large pieces of rough rubblestone, laid with very fine joints. The style of rough rubblestone is very unique, as most buildings do not have a foundation design that is neither this high, nor made with such large stones. On the front façade, above the foundation, the exterior of the building is clad with ‘half-timbered’ stucco, drawing from the Tudor revival architectural style, with shingles at the main gable peak on the front façade.

The building is irregularly shaped, with a low but complex cedar roof. The main entrance portion of the building has a gable end with a large semi-circular original stained-glass sunburst window – which depicts a ‘rising sun’. The complex roofing system with the use of gable roofs with shingles and the prominent circular tower are representative of the Old English and Shingle styles. Two sets of heavy double oak doors with large decorative



black iron hardware and surmounted by semi-circular transom windows provide access to Water Street, with a similar single door leading to Francis Street on the rear facade. A wide variety of leaded and colored glass windows contain small diamond-shaped panes. The sanctuary inside is illuminated from the east by a large semi-circular sunburst window of leaded amber glass. The complex cedar shingle roof dominates the building as does the prominent round tower, positioned at the apex of the triangular lot at the corner of Francis and Water streets. The round tower also includes a granite corner date stone inscribed '1899' was quarried in Concord, New Hampshire, the home of Mary Eddy Baker, founder of the Christian Science Society, and laid on October 12, 1899. All the doors and windows of the church are original and operational.

The building has two corner towers, one located towards the front corner on the building which extends all the way to the rear façade, and one located on the rear façade, which partially extends to the front. The rear façade of the building is also rich in architectural details. It includes a flat-topped, five-sided turret to the circular tower on the right side of the building. Next to this is a small balcony supported by wooden columns on the upper storey, with a rectangular arch and the other corner tower and a chimney towards the other end of the building.

The design was adapted to fit on this tight triangular building site, with the principal facades facing onto two streets. Turn-of-the-20th-century examples in major cities like Toronto, New York and Chicago resulting in triangular-shaped structures are often known as “flat iron” buildings. Not only can this church be compared to the “flat iron” design found in other major cities, but it is also similar in its siting on a triangular lot to the Christian Science Mother Church in Boston built in 1894

Interior

The interior of the church retains all of its original elements – including all the original woodwork inside the entrance hall of the church (Fig. 5 & 6). The design reflects closely the practice of Christian Science and the interior spaces function well. The sanctuary is wide and open with pews aligned in an arc around the dais. Adorned by black ash wainscoting, it can hold up to 400 people and contains a 1,000-plus-pipe Casavant Frères organ built in St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, installed in 1911 and electrified in 1953. The Christian Science Reading Room was originally located on the ground floor of the circular tower with the board room above. The Reading Room found a new home next door in the 1950s (now known as 58 Water Street North). A Sunday School with a rusticated granite fireplace was established in the lower storey in 1936.

Historical/Associative Value

This building has significant historical and associative value. This church was the first Christian Scientist church built in what was then known as the British Empire. The faith



was established by Mary Baker Eddy in the late 19th century, who was from New England. It followed a “set of beliefs and practices” that were formalized by Eddy, who, through her own personal experiences, believed in an alternative method of Christian healing. The First Church of Christ, Scientist, was built in Boston, Massachusetts. It was also built on a triangular plot of land.

Meetings of the Christian Science Society were first held in Berlin in 1892. This was triggered by Sarah and Samuel's move to Berlin after the birth of their first child. Prior to this, they had been living in Toronto and were sure to have attended the first Christian Science meeting that took place in Toronto (it was also the first meeting to take place outside of the United States) at the home of John Stewart and his wife Isabella Hendry Macmillan Stewart at 83 Denison Avenue. For the next 18 months, Sarah Williams hosted regular Bible study lessons in her home, where she was joined by Angora Greene, Christina M. Hall and Mary E. West.

The church was organized on December 25, 1894, which the first public meeting being held in a small office on Queen Street, a former law office. Once the formal organization has taken place, the congregation established a reading room in that building where it held regular services on Friday evening and on Sunday. Through these regular meetings and with time, the congregation began to grow quickly. By 1896, the Queen Street room had become too small for gatherings, so the congregation started meeting in the Judge's Chambers at the Court House, which was provided to them free of cost. Furthermore, a building fund was also established in May 1896 and within a year, the congregation moved to a house at 11 Roy Street.

It took just six years for the fast-growing congregation to donate the land and funds in order to begin construction on this site at a cost of \$6,000. 1899 was an important year for the congregation as on March 11, three members of the church – Sarah Williams, Elinor Edwards and William Greene Jr) traveled to London, Ontario to attend a Christian Science lecture. Less than three weeks later, that lecturer, Mr. Carol Norton of New York City, arrived in Berlin to deliver another lecture and stayed with Sarah and Samuel Williams. Mr. Norton was a very popular Christian Scientist and had been appointed by Mary Baker Eddy herself, as one of the first five members of the Board of Lectureship. His services in Berlin and Toronto were extremely well-received. Sarah Williams, building on this momentum, went ahead with implementing her plans to build a Christian Scientist Church and appeared before the Council on May 29, 1899. She spoke to Council regarding the triangular plot of land at the corner of Francis and Water Streets. Her request was readily granted with the Council minutes noting:

“Moved by Karl Mueller and seconded by Mr. A.L. Breithaupt that the request of Mrs. S. J. Williams secretary of First Church of Christian Scientist [sic] re transferring a certain lot registered in Deed 13286 be granted and the necessary transfer of the lot mentioned be made at once. Carried.”



The readiness to approve Sarah Williams request on the part of Council indicates the interest in Christian Science at that time.

The cornerstone was laid on October 12, 1899, and was quarried from Concord, New Hampshire, the hometown of Mary Baker Eddy. Dedication services were held August 2, 1900. It was the “first entirely new house of praise erected in the British Empire by the Christian Scientists.” The church in Kitchener was the first church to be built outside of the United States, and at a time when present day Kitchener came within the British Empire. At the dedication services were visitors from various Christian Science churches in Ontario, the United States, and even London, England. Mr. Carol Norton also sent a special letter greeting in response to a special invitation to attend. Not only was this the first Christian Science church to be built in present-day Canada, but of note are the influential people who brought the faith to Berlin in the first place; Sarah and Samuel Williams and the architect who designed it – Andrew H. Taft.

Sarah and Samuel Williams

Sarah Williams was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1860, and Samuel Williams was born in Madison, Indiana in 1853. They moved to Toronto in 1880 upon their marriage and were part of the first Christian Science meeting that was held in Toronto (it was the first Christian Science meeting to be held outside of the United States). They brought Christian Science with them to Berlin when they moved upon the birth of their first child. Once in Berlin, they founded the church along with other prominent members of the society at the time that included Agenora Greene, William Greene Jr, Elinor Edwards, Christina M. Hall and Mary E. West. In the initial days of the church, Mrs. Williams also acted as First Reader.

It was in Berlin that Samuel Williams established many successful businesses and became a prominent member of society at that time. His businesses and contributions to Berlin included the William, Greene and Rome Co. manufacturing company, that was at one on Queen Street South, and the Arrow Shirt Factory.

It was Sarah Williams that led the efforts of retaining land for the church, and also retained architect, Joseph H. Taft, to design the church, as their families might have become acquainted while their time in New York.

Joseph H. Taft

The task of designing the church was given to the one of the most successful architects and firms of that time – Joseph H. Taft who worked at McKim, Mead & White. Taft designed this building blending different styles of architecture together, but also bringing the “Shingle Style” to Kitchener, which was an American style made popular by the New



England school of Architecture. Casper Braun, a local builder was the contractor, and Charles Knetchel prepared the working plans.

Andrew Taft is also known for designing many Manhattan brownstone terraced townhomes (many of which are now designated and protected), shingled seaside homes in New England, and even laboratories for Thomas Edison. Taft first appears in New York City in 1887 and continues to practice there until 1909. He was a member of the Architectural League of New York, and an Associate of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts & Sciences.

Contextual Value

The church also has significant contextual value because of its location. The church still exists in its original location, on a triangular plot of land located at the intersection of two streets at a sharp angle. This plot of land was purposely chosen to mimic the Mother Church in Boston. Furthermore, because of its prominent but unique architecture, this building has been recognized as a landmark in the community.

Social Value

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, has significant social value as a place of worship that has been Kitchener for over a century. This building has been providing these services for over 100 years and as mentioned in its contextual value, has become a landmark and a place of importance in the community. Places of worship often provide intangible community value as a place where people gather during, and is often a central piece of a community.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of this building are:

- All elements related to the construction, architecture, and style of the building including:
 - Exterior Elements:
 - Rugged Fieldstone raised foundation;
 - Half-timbered upper-storey with roughcast stucco panels;
 - Prominent Round Towers and smaller half tower (on the rear façade);
 - Granite cornerstone inscribed '1899';
 - Complex Cedar shingle roof;
 - Cedar shingle gable end on the front façade;
 - Window and window openings, including: semi-circular transom windows, large semi-circular sunburst window of leaded amber glass, and leaded and coloured glass windows containing small diamond-shaped panes;



- Door and door openings, including: single and double oak doors with decorative black iron hardware;
- Flat-topped five-sided turret;
- Tall yellow brick chimney; and
- Balcony supported by wooden columns.
- Interior Elements:
 - The 1911 Pipe Organ located in the central hallways;
 - Interior woodwork trim and wainscoting, specially in the entrance hall and the central hallway of the church;
 - Tudor-esque detailing surrounding the Pipe Organ.
- All elements related to its historical and associative values as the first purpose-built church for Christian Science in present-day Canada; and
- All elements related to its contextual value including:
 - Its original location;
 - The prominent triangular piece of land at the corner of Water and Francis Streets.

References

Kessler, K. (2022) *Playing All Angles: Kitchener church puts own spin on famous flatiron design*, Grand Design

Mavor, S.S. (2019), *Christian Science, Commerce and Culture: The Experience in Berlin/Kitchener 1982-1943*, Waterloo Historical Society vol. 107, pp. 115-148

Moser, P. (2000), *First Church of Christ Scientist – Eclectic Architecture an International Blend*, The Record, accessed at Kitchener Public Library Archives

Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada, Taft, *Joseph H.*, 1800-1950, accessed <http://www.dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org/node/2092>

Wolfhard, D. (1983), *Historical Sketch of First Church of Christ, Scientist*, Kitchener, Ontario, accessed from Kitchener Public Library Archives

Photos



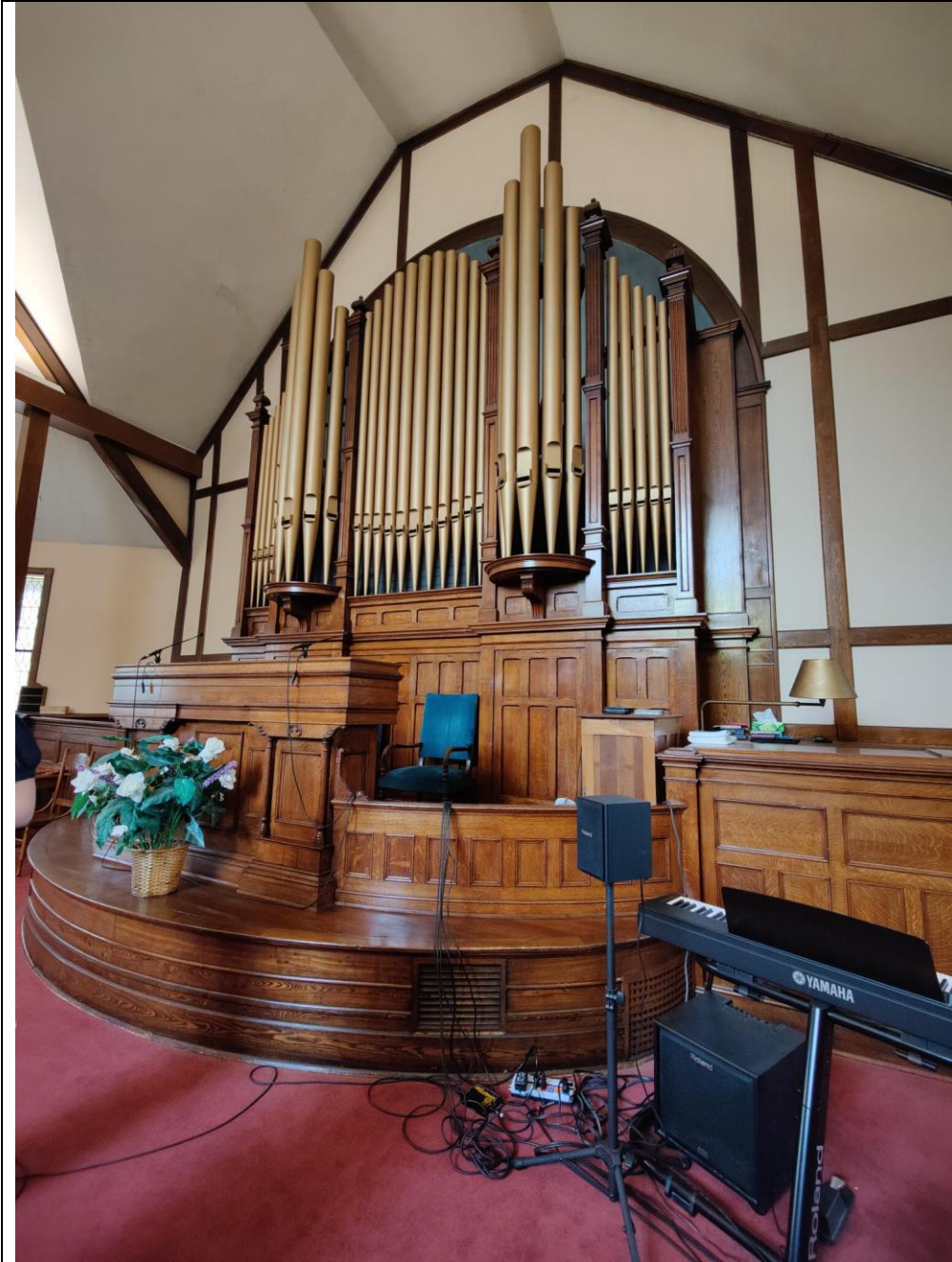
Water Street North Elevation



Turret at Corner of Water Street North and Francis Street North



Rear Façade of 64 Water Street North facing Francis Street North



Original Pipe Organ in the Sanctuary



Central Hallway in the Church



Stained Glass window depicting the Rising Sun.



'1899' Cornerstone.



CULTURAL HERITAGE EVALUATION FORM

Address: 64 Water Street North Recorder: Deeksha Choudhry

Description: First Church of Christ, Scientist Date: May 31, 2023

(date of construction, architectural style, etc)

Photographs Attached:

Front Façade Left Façade Right Façade Rear Façade Details Setting

<i>Designation Criteria</i>	<i>Recorder – Heritage Kitchener Committee</i>	<i>Heritage Planning Staff</i>
1. This property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

<p><i>* E.g. - constructed with a unique material combination or use, incorporates challenging geometric designs etc.</i></p>		
<p>4. The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.</p> <p><i>* Additional archival work may be required.</i></p>	<p>N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5. The property has historical or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.</p> <p><i>* E.g - A commercial building may provide an understanding of how the economic development of the City occurred. Additional archival work may be required.</i></p>	<p>N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>6. The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder,</p>	<p>N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

<p>designer or theorist who is significant to a community.</p> <p><i>* Additional archival work may be required.</i></p>		
<p>7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.</p> <p><i>* E.g. - It helps to define an entrance point to a neighbourhood or helps establish the (historic) rural character of an area.</i></p>	<p>N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>8. The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.</p> <p><i>* Additional archival work may be required.</i></p>	<p>N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>9. The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.</p> <p><i>*within the region, city or neighborhood.</i></p>	<p>N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Notes

This building is a significant cultural heritage resource in Kitchener.

Additional Criteria	Recorder	Heritage Planning Staff
Interior: Is the interior arrangement, finish, craftsmanship and/or detail noteworthy?	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Completeness: Does this structure have other original outbuildings, notable landscaping or external features that complete the site?	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Site Integrity: Does the structure occupy its original site? <i>* If relocated, is it relocated on its original site, moved from another site, etc.</i>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alterations: Does this building retain most of its original materials and design features? Please refer to the list of heritage attributes within the Statement of Significance and indicate which elements are still existing and which ones have been removed.	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alterations: Are there additional elements or features that should be added to the heritage attribute list?	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Condition: Is the building in good condition? <i>*E.g. - Could be a good candidate for adaptive re-use if possible and contribute towards</i>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<p><i>equity-building and climate change action.</i></p>		
<p>Indigenous History: Could this site be of importance to Indigenous heritage and history?</p> <p><i>*E.g. - Site within 300m of water sources, near distinct topographical land, or near cemeteries might have archaeological potential and indigenous heritage potential.</i></p> <p>Could there be any urban Indigenous history associated with the property?</p> <p><i>* Additional archival work may be required.</i></p>	<p>N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Research Required</p> <p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Research Required</p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Research Required</p> <p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Research Required</p>
<p>Function: What is the present function of the subject property?</p> <p><i>* Other may include vacant, social, institutional, etc. and important for the community from an equity building perspective.</i></p>	<p>Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Office <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> - _____</p>	<p>Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Co mmercial <input type="checkbox"/> Office <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - _____Place of Worship_____</p>
<p>Diversity and Inclusion: Does the subject property contribute to the cultural heritage of a community of people?</p> <p>Does the subject property have intangible value to a specific community of people?</p> <p><i>* E.g.- Waterloo Masjid (Muslim Society of Waterloo & Wellington Counties) was the first established Islamic Center and Masjid in the Region and</i></p>	<p>N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Research Required</p> <p>N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Research Required</p>	<p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Research Required</p> <p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Research Required</p>



<i>contributes to the history of the Muslim community in the area.</i>		
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Notes about Additional Criteria Examined

Recommendation

Does this property meet the definition of a significant built heritage resource, and should it be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act? (Does it meet two or more of the designation criteria?)

N/A Unknown No Yes

If not, please select the appropriate action for follow-up

- Keep on the Municipal Heritage Register
- Remove from the Municipal Heritage Register
- Additional Research Required

Other: _____

General / Additional Notes

TO BE FILLED BY HERITAGE PLANNING STAFF:

Date of Property Owner Notification: _____