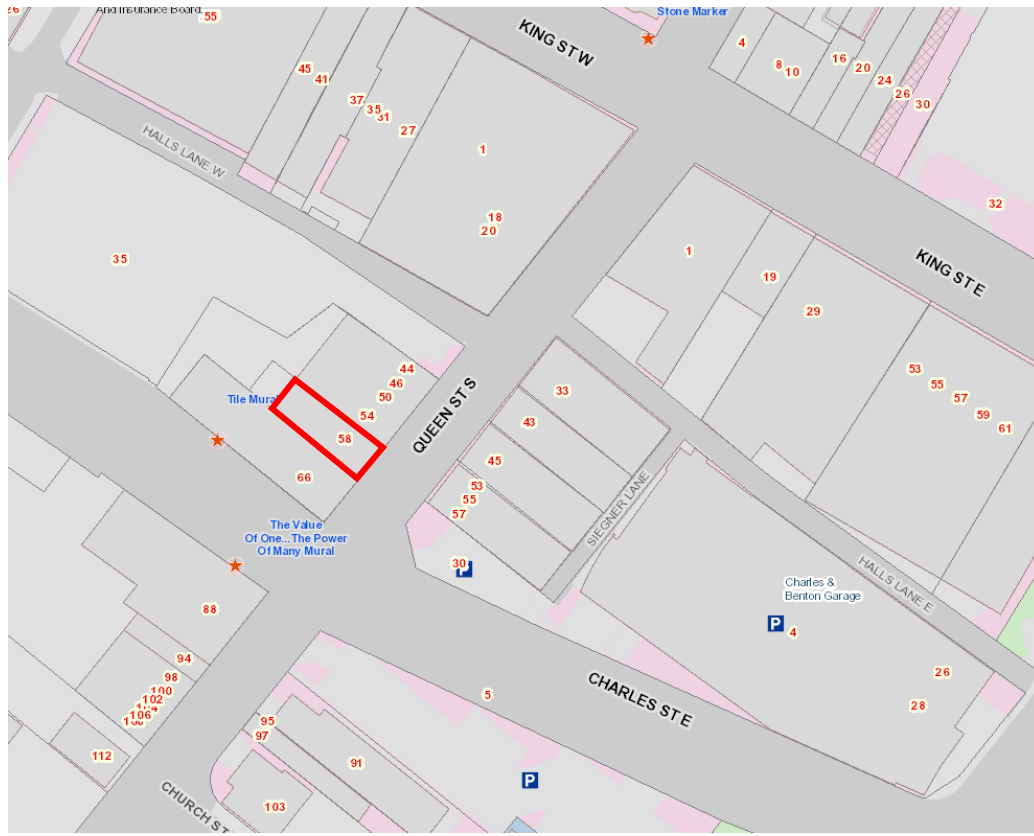


# STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## 58 QUEEN STREET SOUTH



### Summary of Significance

- Design/Physical Value
- Historical Value
- Contextual Value

- Social Value
- Economic Value
- Environmental Value

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**Municipal Address:** 58 Queen Street South

**Legal Description:** Plan 391 Part Lot 6 RP 58R-9667 Part 3-5

**Year Built:** c. 1900

**Architectural Style:** Renaissance Revival

**Original Owner:** Weber Hardware

**Original Use:** Commercial

**Condition:** Good

### Description of Cultural Heritage Resource

58 Queen Street South is a late 19th century building built in the Renaissance Revival architectural style. The building is situated on a 0.06 acre parcel of land located on the west side of Queen Street South between Charles Street East and King Street 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 commercial building.

## **Heritage Value**

58 Queen Street South is recognized for its design/physical, significant historical/associative and contextual values.

### **Design/Physical Value**

The design and physical values of 58 Queen Street South relate to the Renaissance Revival architectural style that is in good condition with many intact original elements. The building features: a rectangular plan; brick construction; decorative brick work; and, paired 1/1 hung windows with transom and stone headers and sills.

#### **East (Front) Façade**

The existing three-storey building is constructed of brick and has a flat roof. The ground floor of the front façade is currently occupied by The Working Centre, and includes floor-to-ceiling windows with a recessed entry. The second and third storeys include three windows each with decorative stone headers and sills. The windows are not original and have been recently replaced. Above the third storey windows are three rectangles with decorative brickwork. This façade also has a brick buttress on the left side that extends all the way up to the roof of the building.

#### **North (Side) Façade**

This façade abuts the neighbouring building at 54 Queen Street South.

#### **West (Rear) Façade**

This façade has been extensively altered since it was first constructed. On the first storey, there is a door with multiple building system units installed. The second storey contains three row windows in a one-on-one orientation with stone sills and brick soldier course on the left side of the building, and on the right side there is a single window with stone sills. The third storey contains three windows placed at an equal distance from each other with stone stills and brick soldier coursing. The window on the right-most side has a small balcony.

#### **South (Side) Façade**

This façade abuts 66 Queen Street South to the left, and only a portion of the third storey is visible. This façade contains brick construction and another brick buttress towards the end of the façade.

## **Historical/Associative Value**

The historical and associative values of 58 Queen Street South relate to the original owner and use of the property and buildings, as well as the contributions made to the history of Berlin (now Kitchener). This building has significant historical/associative value because of its historic and current use.

### **John Fennell**

The building was once used as a hardware company. The hardware company was founded on June 1, 1863 by John Fennell and carried his name for 60 years. John Fennell was born on August 8, 1837 in Coburg, Ontario. He arrived in Kitchener (formerly known as Berlin) on June 1, 1863 as a young hardware merchant. He became a prominent and successful businessman in the community as his hardware company sold plated ware, paint, glass, oils, etc. He was also an important member of society at the time. He was the founding president of the Board of Trade and was instrumental in preparing the by-law, some of which is still applicable today. He was also the founding organizer of the Economical Mutual Fire Insurance Company. In addition to these achievements, he also served as a Councillor on Berlin's Council from 1881-1882, as a Justice of the Peace, and as a Church Warden of St. John's Church for many years. John Fennell died in 1922, and the property and firm was purchased by Carl Nicholas Weber from John's widow, Alicia Jackson.

### Carl Nicholas Weber

After Carl N. Weber purchased the property and firm, he renamed it to Weber Hardware Co. Ltd. in 1923. Carl N. Weber was born on January 19, 1899 in Elmira. For many years he operated Weber Hardware Co. Ltd. In addition to his business interests, he was also a long-time member and President of the Kitchener Board of Trade and was also elected as a chairman of the Kitchener Urban Renewal Committee in 1971. He served as a Director for Canada Trust, the Equitable Life Insurance Company, and the Economical Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Beyond his business interests, he also served Kitchener's community as a member of the K-W Hospital Commission for 22 years, and was chairman for 20 of those years. He was a member of the Board of Governors at the University of Waterloo from the time it was founded in 1957 until his death in 1978.

Carl N. Weber was also an active member of the Lutheran Church. He served as a Canadian delegate to the World Council of Churches in India in 1961, representing Kitchener and Canada on a global platform. He was also a member of the executive council of the Lutheran Church in America, a member and chairman of its board of publications, and a member of its pension board.

The Weber Hardware Co. Ltd. operated out of the building at 58 Queen Street South from c. 1918 until 1927 when it moved to the building at 66 Queen Street South. The company moved to the building at 675 Queen Street South in 1987. The company still operates today as C.N. Weber Ltd. and is one of the rare businesses surviving from the time when Kitchener was still Berlin.

### The Working Centre

The existing use of the building at 58 Queen Street South is for The Working Centre. The Working Centre has been operating out of this building since the mid-1980s. According to its website: "*The Working Centre was established in the spring of 1982 as a response to the unemployment and poverty in downtown Kitchener. The Centre grew roots in the Kitchener downtown through the dedication of Joe and Stephanie Mancini, a young married couple who had just graduated from St. Jerome's College at the University of Waterloo. They saw the potential for building a community of interest around responding to unemployment and poverty, developing social analysis and engaging in creative action.*"

### Contextual Value

This building has contextual value as being built in the downtown commercial core of Berlin, before it became Kitchener, and is part of a group of buildings that were built at a time when industrial and commercial development was occurring. Today, these buildings are located in the downtown commercial core of Kitchener and greatly contribute to the character of the area. The building is in its original location, and maintains historical and visual links to its surroundings.

### Other Values

#### Economic Value

The existing building has economic value given its history and contribution to the economic development that was taking place initially in Berlin, and then in Kitchener, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **Heritage Attributes**

The heritage value of 58 Queen Street South resides in the following heritage attributes:

- All elements related to the construction and Renaissance Revival architectural style of the building, including:
  - A rectangular plan;
  - Flat roof;
  - Brick construction;
  - Decorative brick buttresses;
  - Decorative brick work; and
  - Window openings with stone headers and sills; and
- All contextual elements related to the building including:
  - Its original location on the Queen Street South streetscape and its contribution to the Kitchener downtown commercial area.

## Photographs



58 Queen Street South – Front (East) Façade



58 Queen Street South – West (Rear) Façade



58 Queen Street South