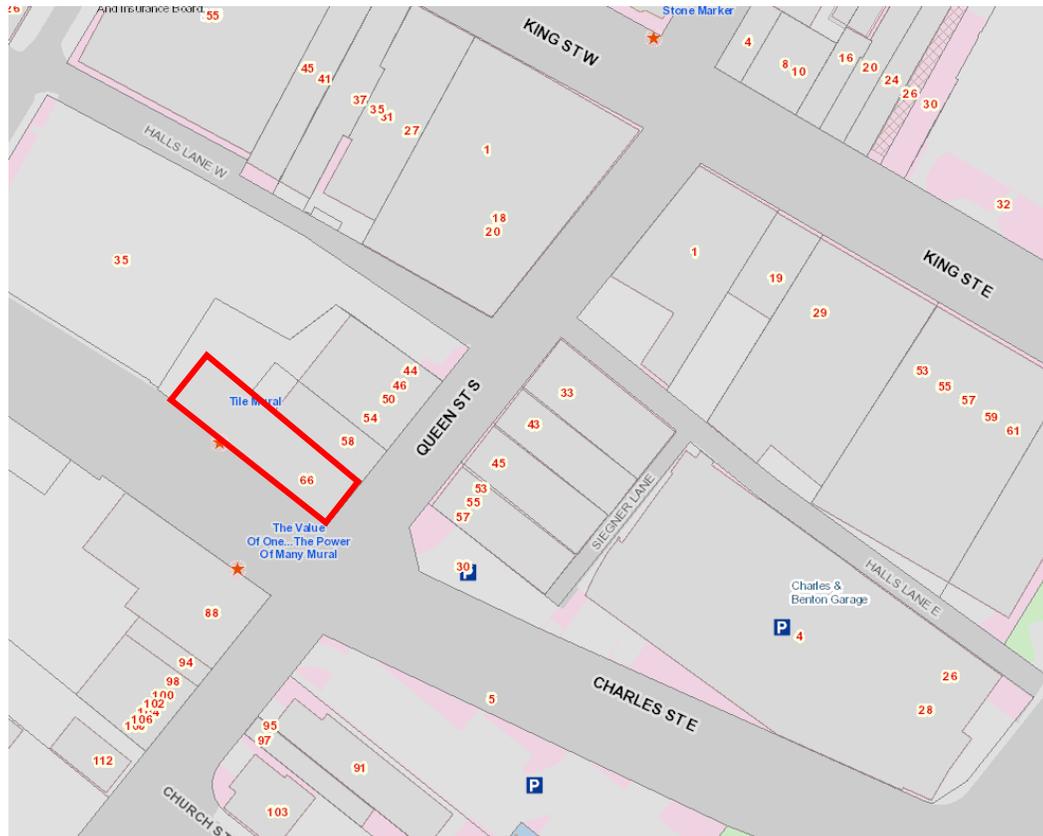


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

66 QUEEN STREET SOUTH



Summary of Significance

Design/Physical Value

Historical Value

Contextual Value

Social Value

Economic Value

Environmental Value

Municipal Address: 66 Queen Street South

Legal Description: Plan 391 Part Lot 6 RP 58R-9667 Part 1 & 2

Year Built: c. 1898

Architectural Style: Renaissance Revival

Original Owner: Randall & Roos

Original Use: Commercial

Condition: Good

Description of Cultural Heritage Resource

66 Queen Street South is a late 19th century building built in the Renaissance Revival architectural style. The building is situated on a 0.12 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

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

Design/Physical Value

The design and physical values of 66 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; central entrance flanked by windows; three upper storey semi-circular window openings with brick voussoirs; and stone sills.

East (Front) Façade

The existing building is two storeys in height in red and yellow brick construction and has a flat roof. The building is currently occupied by The Working Centre, and the ground floor includes a large one-on-one window on both ends with a central entry. Between the windows and doors are two red brick columns and the ends of the façade includes yellow brick columns. Above the ground floor is a decorative green and beige cornice with decorative brackets on either side of the façade. The second storey includes three semi-circular windows each with yellow decorative brick headers and yellow stone sills or stone band that extends through the length of the façade. Above the windows there is decorative yellow brick work.

North (Side) Façade

This façade partially abuts the neighbouring building at 58 Queen Street South. The rear north façade is of red brick construction and includes two doors and a small single hung window with yellow brick voussoirs on the ground level. The doors might have been altered from windows. There is an additional single-hung window on the ground floor, but that has been filled in. The upper floor also includes three single-hung windows with yellow voussoirs. These windows do not seem to be original.

West (Rear) Façade

This façade has been extensively altered since it was first constructed. The ground floor includes three single-hung windows with yellow brick voussoirs, out of which two have been filled in. There is one window, which has been altered and now includes a smaller window opening with yellow voussoirs. The upper floor also has three windows with yellow brick voussoirs and stone sills. The windows do not seem to be original. This façade also includes pipes and other building systems.

South (Side) Façade

The south façade is long and includes an irregular fenestration pattern. On the ground floor, towards the rear, there is a door and an artistic installation with three small single-hung windows with yellow brick voussoirs. There is also a pair of single-hung windows next to the art installation that does not appear to be original. Some original window openings have been filled in or altered. Between the ground level and the upper level, there are four pairs of single-hung windows that don't look original to the building. The upper storey includes four single-hung windows with yellow brick voussoirs.

Historical/Associative Value

The historical and associative values of 66 Queen Street South relate to the previous and current owners and uses of the building.

The building was once owned by Randall & Roos and used a Wholesale Grocers. An advertisement in the "*Berlin, Canada: A Self-Portrait of Kitchener, Ontario Before World War One*" indicates that Randall & Roos is the "*largest distributing firm in wholesale groceries, cigars, tobaccos, etc. between Toronto and Winnipeg.*" Randall & Rood was established in 1884 by George Randall and William

Roos of Waterloo in the Ahrens block of King Street in Berlin. The two-storey red brick building at 66 Queen Street South was built in 1898 for \$6,000.00 by Aaron Bricker for Randall & Roos.

The ownership and history of this building is similar to the abutting property, 58 Queen Street South. Ownership of the building transferred to John Fennell and Carl N. Weber, respectively, for their hardware companies.

George Randall

George Randall was born on April 16, 1832 in Chesterfield, Cheshire, New Hampshire. He immigrated to Ontario in 1854 with his uncle Marshall H. Farr, who had contracts for station buildings from Guelph westward on the Grand Trunk Railway, as well as some on the Great Western Railway. George Randall and his brother took over the contracts after Farr's death. George Randall was on the committee that was charged with the responsibility of building the region's first "poor house" – which eventually came to be known as the County House of Industry and Refuge. When it opened on June 15, 1869, it became the first of its kind in Ontario. In 1870, for the next three years, George Randall served as the village magistrate, and when Waterloo officially became a town in 1876, Randall became the mayor in 1878. In 1884, George Randall opened the Randall & Roos Wholesale Grocers with William Roos.

William Roos

William Roos was born in Preston (present day Cambridge) on April 18, 1842. He was a businessman in Berlin and operated the Randall & Roos Wholesale Grocers for many years. He was the brother-in-law of George Randall.

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 19th and early 20th century.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage value of 66 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;
 - Brick construction, including:
 - Decorative brick work;
 - Original remaining yellow brick voussoirs above window openings;
 - Three upper storey semi-circular window openings with brick voussoirs; and
 - Stone 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



66 Queen Street South – Front (East) Façade



66 Queen Street South – West (Rear) Façade



66 Queen Street South – South Façade



66 Queen Street South – North Façade



66 Queen Street South – Decorative Brick Voussoirs