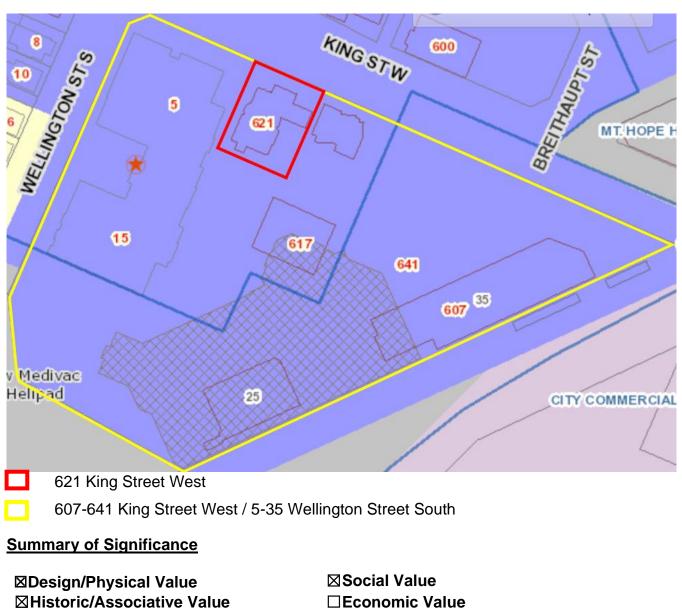
# STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE 607-641 KING ST W/5-35 WELLINGTON ST S



**⊠Contextual Value** □Environmental Value

**Municipal Address**: 607-641 King Street West/5-35 Wellington Street South (Yellow Outline)

Address for Designation Purposes: 621 King Street West (Red Outline)

Legal Description: Plan 377 Lots 67 to 73 and 109 PT Lots 22 to 30 and 489 Streets and Lanes Lot 112 PT Lot 32 RP 58R-3202 PT Part 1 RP 58R-3390 PT Part 5 RP 58R-3594 PT Part 1 RP 58R-

19198 Parts 1 TO 3 Year Built: 1897

Architectural Style: Romanesque Original Owner: Jacob Kaufman

Original Use: Residential

Condition: Good

# **Description of Cultural Heritage Resource**

The address for designation purposes is 621 King Street West. The subject property is a late 19<sup>th</sup> century brick building built in the Romanesque architectural style. The building is situated on large parcel of land associated with a multi-building redevelopment. The subject property is located on the south side of King Street West between Wellington Street South and Victoria Street South in the K-W Hospital Planning Community of the City of Kitchener within the Region of Waterloo. The principal resource that contributes to the heritage value is the two-and-a-half storey late 19<sup>th</sup> century brick building.

# **Heritage Value**

The subject property municipally addressed as 621 King Street West is recognized for its design/physical, historical/associative, and contextual values.

# Design/Physical Value

The design and physical value relate to the style and material of the building. The building is a rare and unique example of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century building built in the Romanesque architectural style and a rare example in Berlin/Kitchener of the use of tooled red sandstone as a building material. The building plan is primarily rectangular with a hip roof, two projecting bays, three gable dormers, and two turrets. The building has many intact heritage attributes in good condition.

#### Front (North Elevation) Facade

The front façade of the building faces King Street West. The original 1896 building is three bays wide.

The central bay is two-storeys and forms part of the main rectangular building plan with hip roof. The central bay features: red brick; 1/1 hung window with rusticated stone header and sill; corbelled rusticated red sandstone; copper flashing; and, hexagonal slate tile hip roof.

The left bay is a three-storey square tower with a pyramidal turret. The tower features: red brick; tooled red sandstone; ribbon of three windows with continuous rusticated stone header and sill; ribbon of three stained glass windows with continuous rusticated stone header and sill; decorative rusticated sandstone blocks; carved stone gargoyle; ribbon of three semi-circular 1/1 windows, including stained glass, with continuous header and sill separated by half-round stone columns with Corinthian capitals and a simple base; moulded cornice, plain frieze, fascia, and soffits; and, hexagonal slate tile roof with finial.

The right bay is two-and-a-half storey square tower with a pyramidal turret. The tower features: red brick; tooled red sandstone; 1897 date stone with ostrich feather motif; two 1/1 hung windows with brick voussoirs; a 1/1 hung window with stained glass; round red brick brick buttresses with a decorative stone pointed cap; decorative red brick below the eaves; corbelled rusticated red sandstone; copper flashing/trim; and, hexagonal slate tile roof with finial.

#### Side (West Elevation) Façade

The side façade is an interior elevation that faces a new multi-storey residential building. The original building consists of three bays.

The left bay is two-and-a-half storey square tower with a pyramidal turret. The tower features: red brick; tooled red sandstone; round red brick brick buttresses with a decorative stone pointed cap;

decorative red brick below the eaves; corbelled rusticated red sandstone; copper flashing/trim; and, hexagonal slate tile roof with finial.

The middle bay is a two-and-a-half storey projection with a gable roofline that transitions to a half-hexagon roofline. This bay features: three window openings on the main floor; three 1/1 hung windows with rusticated stone headers and sills on the second floor; a stone band between the second and third storey; three 1/1 hung windows with rusticated stone headers; and, hexagonal slate tile roof with chimney.

The right bay is two-storeys. The second storey features four different window sizes with rusticated stone headers and sills; corbelled red sandstone; a hipped roof dormer clad with siding (no window); and, a hipped slate tile roof.

# Side (East Elevation) Façade

The side façade faces East looking towards the former Kaufman Rubber Factory (now the Kaufman Lofts). The original building consists of four bays.

The left bay is two-storeys with features that include: the hipped slate tile roof; the hipped roof dormer; decorative corbelled red brick; three window openings on the second-storey with 1/1 windows with rusticated stone headers and sills; and, a rusticated stone foundation. The first-storey appears to have undergone some changes.

The next bay features a front facing gable. The gable is clad with horizontal siding and features a semi-circular archway with vertical planks acting as a guard rail. Like the west elevation, the first and second storey project forward in a hexagonal shape. The projecting bay features: decorative corbelled red brick; three 1/1 hung windows with rusticated headers and sills on both the first and second storey; and, a rusticated stone foundation.

The next bay is two-storeys and narrow. This bay features: decorative corbelled red brick; window with rusticated stone header and sill; large double door opening; and, rusticated stone foundation.

The right bay is a square tower with a pyramidal turret. The tower features: red brick; tooled red sandstone; ribbon of three windows with continuous rusticated stone header and sill; ribbon of three stained glass windows with continuous rusticated stone header and sill; rusticated decorative red sandstone blocks; carved stone gargoyle; ribbon of three semi-circular 1/1 windows, including stained glass, with continuous header and sill separated by half-round stone columns with Corinthian capitals and a simple base; moulded cornice, plain frieze, fascia, and soffits; and, hexagonal slate tile roof with finial.

# Rear (South Elevation) Façade

The majority of the rear façade was covered with an addition. This addition has been removed. The rear facade features that remain are the slate tile roof; the hipped roof dormer; decorative corbelled red brick; and, at least three window openings with rusticated stone headers and sills.

#### Interior

The most important interior features are the entry parlour and staircase, the office with visual connection to the former Kaufman Rubber Factory (now the Kaufman Lofts), and the stained glass.

# Historical/Associative Value

The historical and associative values relate to the subject properties direct associations with the Kaufman family, Jacob and Mary (nee Eidt Ratz) Kaufman, the architect Menno Schlicter Detweiler, Alvin Ratz (A.R.) Kaufman (son of Jacob Kaufman), the rubber making industry, the Ratz-Bechtel funeral home, and Barnett and Rieder-Hymmen architects.

The building was built by Jacob Kaufman as his residence in 1897. The residence was built as a 2 ½ storey house of red sandstone and red brick for a total cost of \$13,000 (Berliner Journal, 1897). At the time, red sandstone was a rare building material and the building featured some of the most ornate stone and woodwork (interior) in the Region. The total cost was almost double the cost of the Lang residence and at least six times the cost of the average house built in 1897. Both Jacob and his son A.R. Kaufman resided in the building at 621 King Street West.

The building was designed by Menno Schlicter Detweiler (1868-1907) who began his career in Berlin (now Kitchener). Detweiler was born in Blair, Ontario and may have trained with local architects. He changed the spelling of his last name to Detwiler post 1900. He studied at the Chicago Art Institute and opened his first office in Columbus, Ohio. Later he moved to Minneapolis before relocating to Austin, Minnesota where he died at age 39. His only known work in Canada was the design of a mansion for Jacob Kaufman at 621 King Street West in 1897. His most significant commission by Bell & Detwiler was the refined Beaux-Arts design for the monumental State Capitol Building in Pierre, South Dakota, built in 1907 and still standing in 2024.

The residence overlooked Kaufman Rubber Company Limited located east of the residence on King Street. Jacob Kaufman (1847-1920) founded the Kaufman Rubber Company Limited, later known as Kaufman Footwear, in 1907. A.R. Kaufman was instrumental in convincing his father, Jacob Kaufman, to begin Kaufman Rubber Company and was an integral part of the company's management from the beginning. The facility opened for production in 1908 with 350 employees and immediately became one of the largest industries in Berlin. The company's first products consisted of a variety of rubber footwear for the Canadian trade and for export to England, Australia, New Zealand and other countries. As production grew, the building expanded in 1911, 1920 and again in 1925 covering an entire city block and then employing some 700 employees. Under A.R. Kaufman's leadership, the company significantly expanded its line of rubber products. After Jacob Kaufman's death in 1920, A.R. Kaufman (1885-1979) became President and General Manager of the Kaufman Rubber Company. Following World War II, he founded Kaufman Furniture in Collingwood, Ontario. When A.R. Kaufman retired as President and became Chairman of the Board in 1964, his son William H. Kaufman succeeded him as President, having previously managed the Collingwood furniture division. William H. Kaufman continued diversifying, introducing new manufacturing, and marketing techniques and some of the company's most successful product lines such as the Sorel line of winter sport boots. In 1967, with over 800 employees at the King Street plant, a 100,000 square foot warehouse was constructed at Wellington Street and Shirley Avenue. In 1986, William H. Kaufman relinquished his position of President but remained Chairman of the Board of Directors. A fourth generation of Kaufman's continued to be directly associated with the management of the company with Tom Kaufman, William H. Kaufman's son, serving as Executive Vice-President of Kaufman Footwear. Kaufman Footwear declared bankruptcy in 2000. Kaufman Footwear not only had a significant influence on Kitchener's industrial heritage but also had a major impact on the local economy as the workplace of thousands of Kitchener residents over the years, often successive generations. The factory building has been a physical landmark in Kitchener for over a century, dominating the intersection of King Street and Victoria Street South (formerly Wilmot Street) and

serving as a gateway to the downtown. The original Kaufman Rubber Company Limited still stands but has been converted to residential condominium units.

As a family, the Kaufman's are one of Kitchener's most prominent, well regarded for their business acumen, their innovation, their public service, and their philanthropy. The Kaufman family is famed not only for their entrepreneurial genius, but also for their commitment to community involvement and public service. Generations of Kaufman's have contributed in many significant ways to the YMCA, YWCA, K-W Hospital, and other organizations, and have served on numerous community and City Boards. Of note is the diversity of their influence, from directing the construction of the first sewage disposal system in Berlin (Jacob Kaufman); to supporting the YWCA and the Berlin Hospital (Mary Kaufman) to serving 38 years as Chairman of the City's Planning Board and founding one of the first birth control information centres in Canada (A.R. Kaufman); to receiving National recognition for volunteer service for health and welfare issues (William H. Kaufman). The A.R. Kaufman Charitable Foundation was established in 1973 and upon A.R. Kaufman's death in 1979, \$1 million was distributed to local charitable organizations over a five-year period (K-W Record, 1979). As an example, the Foundation funded the first Electrocardiogram Cardiac Analysis Monitor for Twin City doctors at a cost of \$77,000 (K-W Record, 1980).

The Ratz-Bechtel funeral home was first known as the Orton S. (O.S.) Bechtel funeral home in 1925 on Queen Street South. The Queen Street South building was demolished for the extension of Charles Street. In 1928, Edward Ratz, then mayor of Kitchener (previously an alderman 1917-1925), joined the funeral business with O. S. Bechtel and they formally changed the business name to Ratz-Bechtel Ltd. They operated out of 178 Queen Street South in 1930 until they moved to 621 King Street West in 1949 (K-W Record, 1967). Edward Ratz died in December 1954. O.S. Bechtel sold half his interest of the Ratz-Bechtel funeral business to Lewis Hahn of New Hamburg in 1967 (K-W Record, 1967). A year later, in 1968, both Bechtel and Hahn announced the plans to double the size of its building with an 8,500 square foot expansion (K-W Record, 1968) to add a chapel that would accommodate 150 people. These plans were designed by Barnett and Rieder-Hymmen and constructed by Brandon Construction Limited (K-W Record, 1968). The plans proposed a Georgianstyle building constructed of red brick with a steep hip roof and exposed ceiling beams, along with the enclosure of the verandah of the Kaufman house with red brick to blend with the chapel, and a columned entrance between the Kaufman house and the new chapel (K-W Record, 1968). In 1971, the Ratz-Bechtel funeral business was sold to Richard J. Cline of Burlington, in 1989 the business is amalgamated with the Loewen Group Inc of Burnaby B.C, and in 2006 the business was acquired by Service Corporation International (Canada). After operating for 66 years at 621 King Street West, the Ratz-Bechtel funeral business performed its last funeral and offered a final public viewing in December of 2015 (K-W Record, 2015).

The chapel and column entrance were demolished circa 1920 to facilitate the redevelopment of the lands. The enclosed verandah remains along with the rest of the Kaufman house.

The architectural firm of Barnett and Rieder (later known as Rieder, Hymmen and Lobban) designed some of Kitchener's most important public buildings of the 1950s and 60s, including the main branch of the Kitchener Public Library, the Duke Street parking garage, Centre in the Square, Eastwood Collegiate and Highland Baptist Church (Waterloo Region Record, 2016).

# Contextual Value

The contextual values relate to the visual and historic link to its surroundings. The location for the Kaufman House was chosen so that Jacob could see the Kaufman Footwear Company Limited from

his office on the second floor of 621 King Street West. As part of the redevelopment of the lands surround the Kaufman House, the approved HIA recommends that open space be used to maintain a view corridor to continue to visually connect the house to the factory (mcCallum Sather, 2018).

# **Heritage Attributes**

The heritage value of 621 King Street West resides in the following heritage attributes:

- All elements related to the design/physical value of the Kaufman House built in the Romanesque architectural style, including:
  - All elements of the three-bay front (south) façade, including:
    - Two-storey central bay with hip roof features: red brick; 1/1 hung window with rusticated stone header and sill; corbelled rusticated red sandstone; copper flashing; and, hexagonal slate tile hip roof.
    - Three-storey square tower with a pyramidal turret features: red brick; tooled red sandstone; ribbon of three windows with continuous rusticated stone header and sill; ribbon of three stained glass windows with continuous rusticated stone header and sill; decorative rusticated sandstone blocks; carved stone gargoyle; ribbon of three semi-circular 1/1 windows, including stained glass, with continuous header and sill separated by half-round stone columns with Corinthian capitals and a simple base; moulded cornice, plain frieze, fascia, and soffits; and, hexagonal slate tile roof with finial.
    - Two-and-a-half storey square tower with a pyramidal turret, which features: red brick; tooled red sandstone; 1897 date stone with ostrich feather motif; two 1/1 hung windows with brick voussoirs; a 1/1 hung window with stained glass; round red brick buttresses with a decorative stone pointed cap; decorative red brick below the eaves; corbelled rusticated red sandstone; copper flashing/trim; and, hexagonal slate tile roof with finial.
  - o All elements of the three-bay side (west) façade, including:
    - Two-and-a-half storey square tower with a pyramidal turret, which features: red brick; tooled red sandstone; round red brick buttresses with a decorative stone pointed cap; decorative red brick below the eaves; corbelled rusticated red sandstone; copper flashing/trim; and, hexagonal slate tile roof with finial.
    - Two-and-a-half storey projection with a gable roofline that transitions to a half-hexagon roofline. This bay features: three window openings on the main floor; three 1/1 hung windows with rusticated stone headers and sills on the second floor; a stone band between the second and third storey; three 1/1 hung windows with rusticated stone headers; and, hexagonal slate tile roof with chimney.
    - Two-storey bay, which features four different window sizes with rusticated stone headers and sills; corbelled red sandstone; a hipped roof dormer clad with siding (no window); and, a hipped slate tile roof.
  - All elements of the four-bay side (east) façade, including:
    - Two-storey bay, which features: hipped slate tile roof; hipped roof dormer; decorative corbelled red brick; three window openings on the second-storey with 1/1 windows with rusticated stone headers and sills; and, a rusticated stone foundation.

- Two-and-a-half storey hexagonal shaped projecting bay, which features: front facing gable clad with horizontal siding; semi-circular archway with vertical planks acting as a guard rail; decorative corbelled red brick; three 1/1 hung windows with rusticated headers and sills on both the first and second storey; and, a rusticated stone foundation.
- Two-storey bay, which features: decorative corbelled red brick; window with rusticated stone header and sill; large double door opening; and, rusticated stone foundation.
- Three-storey square tower with a pyramidal turret features: red brick; tooled red sandstone; ribbon of three windows with continuous rusticated stone header and sill; ribbon of three stained glass windows with continuous rusticated stone header and sill; rusticated decorative red sandstone blocks; carved stone gargoyle; ribbon of three semi-circular 1/1 windows, including stained glass, with continuous header and sill separated by half-round stone columns with Corinthian capitals and a simple base; moulded cornice, plain frieze, fascia, and soffits; and, hexagonal slate tile roof with finial.
- o All elements of the rear (north) façade, including:
  - slate tile roof; hipped roof dormer; decorative corbelled red brick; and, at least three window openings with rusticated stone headers and sills.
- o The interior heritage attributes are limited to the following:
  - the entry parlour and staircase, the office with visual connection to the former Kaufman Rubber Factory (now the Kaufman Lofts), and the stained glass.

# **References**

Berliner Journal. (1897). *Berlin's Progress: 213 New Buildings and Improvements*. Berliner Journal: Berlin (now Kitchener), Ontario.

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Kitchener-Waterloo Record (1964). *A.R. Kaufman retires at age 79*. Kitchener-Waterloo Record: Kitchener, Ontario.

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K-W Record. (1968). Ratz-Bechtel Ltd. to Double Facilities. K-W Record: Kitchener, Ontario.

mcCallumSather. (2018). Heritage Impact Assessment – Stage 2, 16040, 621 King Street West. mcCallumSather: Hamilton, ON.

MSA Making Sustainable Architecture Prime Consultant. (2016). Heritage Impact Assessment – Stage 1, 16040, 621 King Street West (SIXO Development). MSA: Hamilton, ON.

Thompson, C.. (2016). *An architect who shaped modern Kitchener*. Waterloo Region Record: Kitchener, Ontario.

# **Photographs**



Front Elevation (North Façade) – 621 King Street West



Side Elevation (East Façade) – 621 King Street West



Side Elevation (West Façade) – 621 King Street West



# **CULTURAL HERITAGE EVALUATION FORM**

621 King Street West Address:		Michelle Drake Recorder:	
	Former Kaufm Description:  (date of construction, architectural Photographs Attached:  □Front Facade □ Left Fa		Date:
	Designation Criteria	Recorder – Heritage Kitchener Committee	Heritage Planning Staff
	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 □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes ⊠
	2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes ⊠
	3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown ⊠ No □ Yes □



	scientific achievement.  * E.g constructed with a unique material combination or use, incorporates challenging geometric designs etc.				
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.	N/A □ Yes □	Unknown □ No □	N/A □ Yes ⊠	Unknown □ No □
	may be required.				
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.  * E.g - A commercial building may provide an understanding of how the economic development of the City occured. Additional archival work may be required.	N/A □ Yes □	Unknown   No	N/A □ Yes ⊠	Unknown   No
6.	The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or	N/A □ Yes □	Unknown □ No □	N/A □ Yes ⊠	Unknown □ No □



reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.  * Additional archival work may be required.		
7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.  * E.g It helps to define an entrance point to a neighbourhood or helps establish the (historic) rural character of an area.	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No ⊠ Yes □
8. The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.  * Additional archival work may be required.	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes ⊠
9. The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.  *within the region, city or neighborhood.	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No ⊠ Yes □



Additional	Recorder	Heritage Kitchener Committee
Criteria		
Interior: Is the interior arrangement, finish, craftsmanship and/or detail noteworthy?	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes ⊠
Completeness: Does this structure have other original outbuildings, notable landscaping or external features that complete the site?	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown ⊠ No □ Yes □
Site Integrity: Does the structure occupy its original site?  * If relocated, is it relocated on its original site, moved from another site, etc.	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes ⊠
Alterations: Does this building retain most of its original materials and design features? Please refer to the list of heritage attributes within the	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes ⊠



Statement of Significance and indicate which elements are still existing and which ones have been removed.		
Alterations: Are there additional elements or features that should be added to the heritage attribute list?	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No ⊠ Yes □
Condition: Is the building in good condition?  *E.g Could be a good candidate for adaptive reuse if possible and contribute towards equitybuilding and climate change action.	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes ⊠
Indigenous History: Could this site be of importance to Indigenous heritage and history?  *E.g Site within 300m of water	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □ □ Additional Research Required	N/A □ Unknown ⊠ No □ Yes □ □ Additional Research Required
sources, near distinct	$N/A$ $\square$ Unknown $\square$ No $\square$ Yes $\square$	$N/A$ $\square$ Unknown $\boxtimes$ No $\square$ Yes $\square$



topographical land, or near cemeteries might have archaeological potential and indigenous heritage potential.	☐ Additional Research Required	□ Additional Research Required
Could there be any urban Indigenous history associated with the property?		
* Additional archival work may be required.		
Function: What is the present function of the subject property?	Unknown □ Residential □ Commercial □ Office □ Other □ -	Unknown □ Residential □ Commercial □ Office □ Other ⊠ - Vacant: To be determined as part of a redevelopment project
* Other may include vacant, social, institutional, etc. and important for the community from an equity building perspective.		
Diversity and Inclusion: Does the subject property	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □ □ Additional Research Required	N/A □ Unknown □ No ☒ Yes □ □ Additional Research Required
contribute to the cultural heritage of a community of people?	N/A □ Unknown □ No □ Yes □ □ Additional Research Required	N/A □ Unknown ⊠ No □ Yes □ □ Additional Research Required



Does the		
subject		
property have		
intangible		
value to a		
specific		
community of		
people?		
* E.g Waterloo		
Masjid (Muslim Society of		
Waterloo &		
Wellington		
Counties) was the		
first established Islamic Center		
and Masjid in the		
Region and		
contributes to the history of the		
Muslim		
community in the		
area.		
Notes about Addit	ional Criteria Examined	
_		
<u>Recommen</u>	dation	
	ty meet the definition of a significant b nder Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act eria?)	_
N/A 🗆 Unknov	vn □ No □ Yes ⊠	
N/A L UIKIOV	vii 🗀 100 🗀 165 🖾	
f not, please sele	ect the appropriate action for follow-up	
$\Box$ Keep on the	e 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: