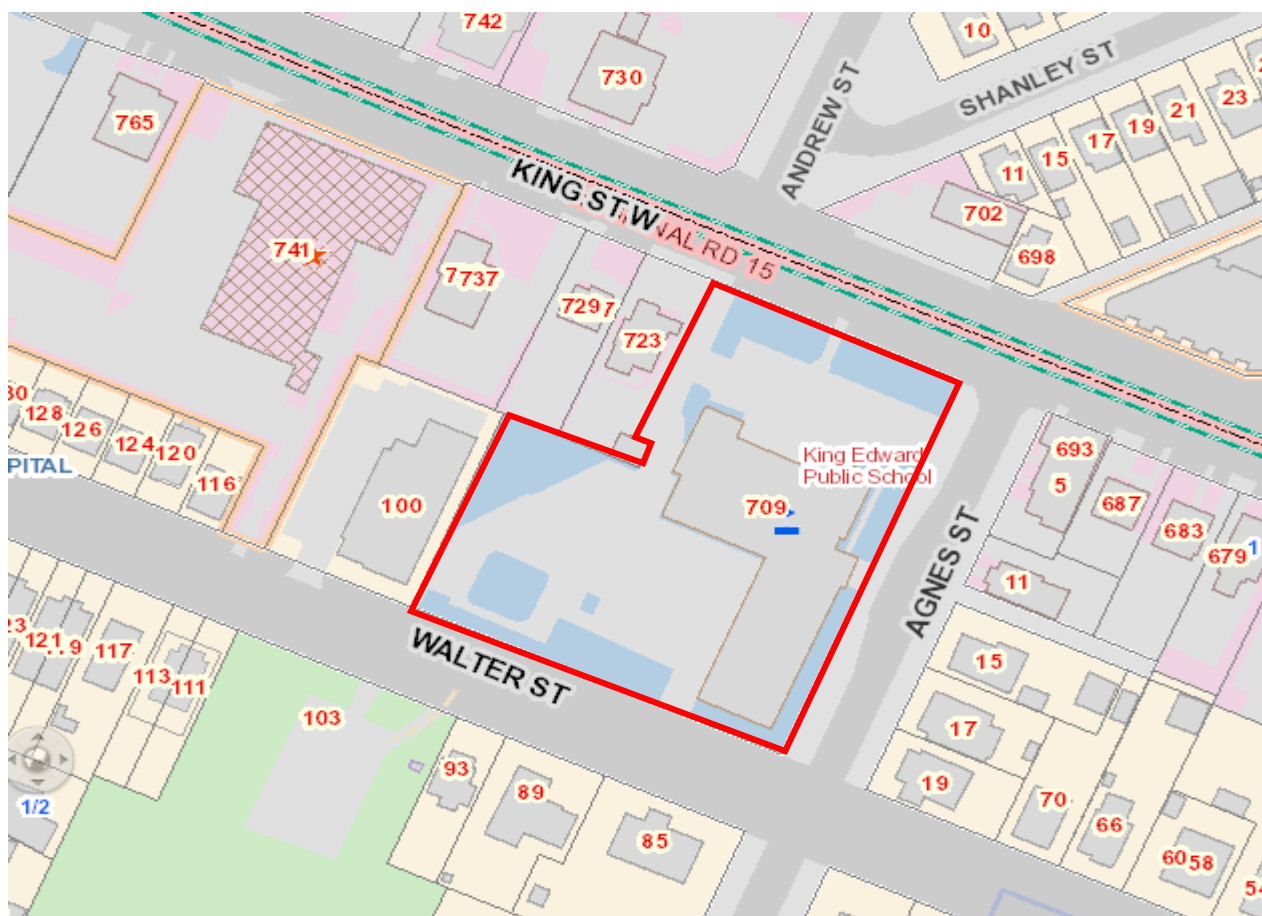


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

709 KING STREET WEST



Summary of Significance

Design/Physical Value

Historical Value

Contextual Value

Social Value

Economic Value

Environmental Value

Municipal Address: 709 King Street West

Legal Description: Plan 377 Lot 39 & 40, Lot 82-85,
Part Lot 86

Year Built: c. 1887 (addition 1921 and 1962/63)

Architectural Style: Neo Classical

Original Owner: NA

Original Use: Institutional

Condition: Good

Description of Cultural Heritage Resource

709 King Street West is a two storey early 20th century brick school building built in the Neo Classical architectural style. The school building is situated on a 1.81 acre parcel of land located on the block bounded by King Street West, Agnes Street and Walter 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 school building.

Heritage Value

709 King Street West is recognized for design/physical, historical/associative, and contextual values.

Design/Physical Value

The building is located on a corner bounded by King Street West, Agnes Street and Walter Street. The existing portion of the school which fronts onto King Street West is a representative example of the Neo Classical architectural style. The building is in good condition with many intact original elements. The original school build c. 1887 fronted onto Agnes Street and was later modified by the Neo-Classical frontage in 1921, changing the orientation towards King Street West.

The 1921 façade is constructed of red brick with white mortar and features:

Front (King Street West) Elevation:

The front façade can be visually divided into three sections, with projecting end bays and a tiered central massing. The end bays have 2/5 casement windows with a 4-pane transom, flanked with flat pilasters with an upper section of vertical grooves to represent capitals and topped with a triangular pediment; the existing casement windows replaced 18/18 single-hung windows c. 2018. Each end bay also has a venetian window with 6/6 section flanked by 3-paned sidelights on the top floor and 6/6 windows to the basement level.

The central section of the school contains the primary entrance, which is comprised of 12-paned doors surrounded by an architrave, and topped by a projecting cornice visually supported by a bracket at each end. There are two 8/8 windows flanked by 2/5 sidelights on either side of the door. Above are a row of 2/5 casement windows topped with a two-pane transome and moulded panels. This storey also features moulded columns and the King Edward Public School sign. The top floor is recessed with one large 15/15 window in the center flanked by two triple 9/9 windows.

The roofline features a projecting cornice with dentil row and plain frieze.

Side (Agnes Street) Elevation:

The side elevation of the 1921 portion of the building that fronts onto Agnes Street features two doors surrounded by an architrave, flanked by pilasters, with a cornice above carrying a wrought iron railing to simulate a balcony; moulded panels; 6/6 window separated from 4-paned sidelights by half-round pilasters with vertical grooves forming capitals and topped with a wooden fan; 8/8/8 double hung windows and venetian window.

Side (Interior) Elevation:

The interior side elevation features two doors surrounded by an architrave, flanked by pilasters, with a cornice above carrying a wrought iron railing to simulate a balcony; moulded panels; 6/6 window separated from 4-paned sidelights by half-round pilasters with vertical grooves forming capitals and topped with a wooden fan; 8/8/8 double hung windows, and venetian window.

Historical/Associative Value

The school building was built in 1886 for a total cost of \$4000 and was originally known as the Agnes Street Public School. It is the second-longest operating grade school within Kitchener. The construction of the school was essential, as the City (then known as Berlin) was experiencing rapid population growth which was resulting in overcrowding at the sole elementary school Central (now Suddaby Public School). Agnes Street Public School was opened under head teacher Maggie Hyndman in 1887, prior to Jennie Thomson being appointed principal in 1889.

Over the next 10 years the City's population continued to grow rapidly, so four additional rooms were added to the school in 1897 for a cost of \$5000. Janet Metcalfe was named principal this same year; 15 years earlier she had established Canada's first kindergarten class at Central School. By the turn of the century the school was full again, with approximately 750 pupils between kindergarten to grade 8 attending. In 1905 the school board adopted the name King Edward Public School, to honor the monarch King Edward VII.

In 1921 a neo classical frontage was built onto the school, turning the eight classrooms to be oriented towards King Street and providing the building with its current appearance. In 1962 the school underwent further major construction, with portions of the original 1886 and 1897 building being demolished and replaced by a new wing which is comprised of a mostly-glass façade and set at a right angle to the King Street façade, oriented along Agnes Street.

Contextual Value

709 King Street West has contextual value as it is physically, functionally, and historically linked to its surroundings. The building exists in its original location, occupying a large corner lot on the prominent King Street. It maintains its original use as an elementary school. The building also maintains and supports the character of the area, being surrounded by residential family homes which have occupants who may utilize the school, and further being in proximity to other institutional uses including the Kitchener Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School located to the west at 787 King Street West. Further, the schools distinctive and attractive façade make is easily recognizable within the local area.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage value of 709 King Street West resides in the following heritage attributes:

- All elements related to the construction and Neo Classical architectural style of the building, including:
 - Roof and roofline;
 - Windows and window openings;
 - Doors and door openings;

- Red brick with white mortar;

Front (King Street) Elevation

- projecting end bays with multi-pane windows, flanked with flat pilasters with an upper section of vertical grooves to represent capitals and topped with a pediment;
- large multi-pane windows
- two venetian windows with 6/6 section flanked by 3-paned sidelights;
- projecting cornice with dentil row;
- plain frieze;

- entrance with 12-paned doors surrounded by an architrave, and topped by a projecting cornice visually supported by a bracket at each end;

Side (Agnes Street) Elevation

- Two doors surrounded by an architrave, flanked by pilasters, with a cornice above carrying a wrought iron railing to simulate a balcony;
- moulded panels;
- 6/6 window separated from 4-paned sidelights by half-round pilasters with vertical grooves forming capitals and topped with a wooden fan;
- venetian window;

Side (Interior) Elevation:

- Two doors surrounded by an architrave, flanked by pilasters, with a cornice above carrying a wrought iron railing to simulate a balcony;
- moulded panels;
- 6/6 window separated from 4-paned sidelights by half-round pilasters with vertical grooves forming capitals and topped with a wooden fan; and
- venetian window.

Photographs



Front Elevation



Side Elevation (Interior)



Side Elevation (Ange's Street)