

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Waterloo Pioneer Tower was built in 1925-26 in Kitchener (formerly Doon), Ontario to designs prepared by architect William Langton for the Waterloo County Pioneer's Association. It is now the property of Environment Canada. It was designated a National Historic Site by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board in August 1926. See FHBRO Building Report 88-78.

Reason for Designation

The tower was designated Classified equally for its historical value, its architectural significance and its environmental importance.

The Waterloo Pioneer Tower is a visible symbol of the rise of German Canadian nationalism during the 1920s. Its erection provided an opportunity for German-Canadians to affirm their self-worth in the years following the First World War, and to recognize the value of their pioneering contributions. The impetus for its construction and its recognition by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board may be attributed to W.H. Breithaupt, an engineering consultant and second generation leader of one of the community's most influential families.

The tower was one of the last commissions of architect William Langton, a noted critic and early contributor to the development of the architectural profession in Ontario.

Character Defining Elements

The character of the tower resides primarily in the architectural materials and forms through which the monument conveys its symbolic messages. Its random-coursed fieldstone, tapered "Swiss" copper roof, and its weathervane, depicting the arrival of the Pennsylvania settlers by Conestoga wagon, reflect the Swiss origin and agrarian lifestyle of the early Pennsylvania German settlers to Waterloo county. The observation deck incorporates astronomical and cartographical references, to both true north and the Grand River trail used by the first settlers.

The tower, its fieldstone outer wall erected around a concrete core with evident care and craftsmanship, and its copper roof have required little remedial work since construction.

Every effort should be made to preserve surviving original materials and construction systems. Where these may require replacement (e.g. repointing necessary for open or

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It is particularly important in upgrading and managing the site for visitor enjoyment, to minimize alterations to the surrounding landscape and elements within it, such as the pioneer cemetery. Introduction of any new elements in the landscape should compliment the heritage character of the building and site.

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