

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE PURSUANT TO THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Waterloo intends to designate the hereinafter mentioned Property for its cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to Section 29, Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18, as amended:

Municipal Addresses and Legal Descriptions:

1. 131 William Street West

LT 17 SUBDIVISION OF LT 22 GERMAN COMPANY TRACT CITY OF WATERLOO;
WATERLOO

(the “Property”)

Description of the Property:

The Property is located at 131 William Street West at the southeast corner of William Street West and Roslin Avenue South. The lands are located within the territory of the Between the Lakes Treaty (Treaty No. 3) lands that were surrendered to the Crown by the Mississaugas in 1792 and the Haldimand Proclamation (Treaty 106) granted to Joseph Brant and his allies in 1784.

The Property is part of the historic Westmount Neighbourhood cultural heritage landscape, a low-density residential neighbourhood southwest of Uptown Waterloo. 131 William Street West is located on lot 17 of the subdivision of lot 22 of the German Company Tract. The property contains a two-storey painted brick vernacular house with Italianate details.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

The Property meets Criterion 1 of O. Reg. 9/06 as a good representative example of a vernacular residence with Italianate details, which include the masonry walls, low pitched hip roof and wide wood eaves with decorative painted wood brackets. The full-width single-storey porch with flat roof, square wood posts and decorative scrollwork and brackets are also common Italianate details.

The Property meets Criterion 4 of O. Reg. 9/06 in its association with the Snider family of Waterloo, who were part of the early Mennonite settlement of Waterloo through the German Company Tract. The Sniders, through their ownership of land and mills, were prominent members of the Mennonite Conference of Ontario.

Noah Stauffer, who was connected to the Sniders through the marriage of his daughter, Ida, was directly involved in the Schism of 1889 that led to the separation of the Old Order Mennonites from the Mennonite Conference of Ontario.

Ida Snider was also the first president of the first Women's Charity Circle in Ontario. This was the first official group in the Mennonite Church that not only permitted women to participate but was solely theirs. In a time where it was controversial for women to be officially involved in church business, Ida was a leader who devoted much of her life to church activities, some of which took place at her home at 131 William Street West.

The Property meets Criterion 5 of O. Reg. 9/06 as it was built and owned by Mennonites for many years. The house has the potential to yield information about Mennonite values and building techniques, which contribute to the understanding of the community.

The Property meets Criterion 8 of O. Reg. 9/06, as it is visually and historically linked to area and as such it serves as a reminder of its late 19th to early 20th century residential development. The house was one of the first residences built on William Street West, while it was still part of the original German Tract Company Lot 22. The Snider family, who built the house, also built other homes in the neighbourhood, including the property next door. Architecturally, the house helps to maintain the historic character of the area, which features a range of late 19th and early 20th century vernacular homes. The structure's height and massing are sympathetic to, and in keeping with, surrounding properties.

Description of Heritage Attributes of the Property:

Each attribute contributes to the design, associative, and contextual value of the Property – Criteria 1, 4, 5 and 8 of O. Reg. 9/06.

Key heritage attributes which contribute to 131 William Street West's overall cultural heritage value or interest include:

- its placement in a prominent location at the southeast corner of William Street West and Roslin Avenue South
- its vernacular Italianate style, exemplified by its:
 - rectangular storey massing
 - brick exterior walls
 - low pitched hip roof
 - wide overhanging eaves with decorative brackets
 - tall segmentally arched windows
 - front porch with decorative wood trim and brackets, square posts and wood pickets inset into railing
 - side porch (now enclosed) with trim and posts to match the front

Further Information:

A copy of this Notice of Intention to Designate may be found on the City of Waterloo's Heritage Notices webpage (pursuant to By-law No. 2024-055): www.waterloo.ca/heritage-notices

The complete cultural heritage value report and evaluation of this Property may be obtained by contacting heritage@waterloo.ca.

Further information and inquiries about the intention to designate may be directed to Susan Schappert, Senior Policy Planner - Heritage: 519-747-8546 or susan.schappert@waterloo.ca

Notice of Objection:

Notice of objection to the intention to designate the Property may be served on the City Clerk of The Corporation of the City of Waterloo within 30 days after this Notice has been published on the City's Heritage Notices webpage (www.waterloo.ca/heritage-notices). Any notice of objection shall indicate the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. The last day for filing an objection is **November 6, 2026**.

DATED at Waterloo this 7th day of October, 2026.

Julie Finley-Swaren, City Clerk
clerkinfo@waterloo.ca
City of Waterloo
100 Regina Street South
Waterloo, Ontario N2J 4A8