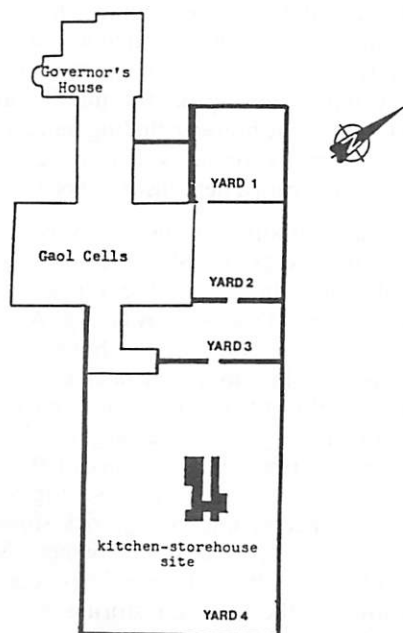


The former Waterloo County Jail and Governor's House, Kitchener

The Summer 1988 issue of ACORN (XIII-2) featured an article "Speaking of Jails . . ." by Pat McKegney, president of North Waterloo Region branch. It discussed the history of two adjoining buildings situated between Queen Street North and Frederick Streets, known as the former Waterloo County Jail and Governor's House. When the County of Waterloo came into existence in 1852, the Provisional Council established the community of Berlin (Kitchener) as the judicial seat. Subsequently, Berlin was incorporated as a village (1853) and a registry office, jail and courthouse were constructed on land donated by Frederick Gaukel, north of The Great Road (King Street).

The jail is a solid structure of squared fieldstone with a double cross-gable roof. Salmon-coloured brick forms the pediment, trims the recessed oval panel in each gable, and provides a double string course at the second-storey level. Segmental heads over the window openings have prominent keystones and haunch stones with curved arch stones between. Originally, iron gratings over all ten windows and a surrounding wooden palisade reinforced security. In 1861 walls of squared fieldstone replaced the stockade around the exercise yard and contribute even today to the solid and secure appearance of the jail complex.

WATERLOO GAOL EXCAVATIONS



The Governor's House built in 1878 in front of the jail may be the best remaining example of Italianate villa architecture in this area. Its style was chosen to complement the Italianate features of the County Courthouse (demolished in 1964) and the fashionable residences in the neighbourhood. The house was constructed in the shape of an ell, with an entrance tower in the internal corner capped by a mansard roof with small dormers. Other architectural details include prominent keystones, bracketed eaves, and a bay window.

The jail and warden's house have been closed since 1978. Kitchener LACAC designated these buildings in 1981 to prevent their demolition. For over a decade, interior and exterior deterioration has progressed while the buildings remain vacant.

Despite the closure of these buildings, archaeological activities have been taking place in four areas of the prison yard. For



East wall of jail showing stonework and brick band courses and pediment outline.

The other gable overlooks the prison yard.

Photo by J. Arndt



The Governor's House in the late 1970s, 73 Queen Street North.

Courtesy North Waterloo Region Branch Archives.

Acknowledgements:

Correspondence NWR Branch Archives

Notes for students of the Archaeological Field School 1987. (Regional Municipality of Waterloo)

The Waterloo County Gaol 1987 Excavation. Report prepared by John Triggs for the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, Archaeology Section, Planning and Development Dept. © 1987.

Archaeological excavation July 1988; site grid and tripod screen near east wall of Yard 4.

Photo by J. Arndt





Home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Burrell, 70 Albert Street, Heidelberg, Ontario.

the past few summers, an Archaeological Field School sponsored by the Region of Waterloo or the Waterloo County Board of Education has offered an interest course or a credit course, respectively, with instruction and supervision by licensed archaeologists.

In the photo above, the string grid indicated the location of a kitchen-storehouse constructed in 1861 and demolished in 1942. Students conducting a controlled excavation of this site have exposed parts of a foundation wall 20' x 40', glass and ceramic shards, animal bones and assorted hardware. Objectives of the excavation have included establishing the dimensions

of the structure; obtaining data about the structure of the building and history of prison life; developing a detailed stratigraphic sequence for the site; and locating, if possible, the remains of Reginald White, an inmate tried and hanged for murder at the jail in 1940 and allegedly buried in Yard 4. During the past decade, personnel of municipal, regional and provincial governments have successfully unearthed items of interest and the remains of two bodies interred in Yard 2, those of James Allison hanged in 1898 and Stoyko Boyeff hanged in 1920. However, the unmarked, unrecorded grave of Mr. White remains a mystery.

Joyce Arndt



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sauder, 85 Walter Street, Kitchener.

Photos by Joyce Arndt.

Spring House Tour

The branch held a Spring House Tour in May. An hotel and two houses were visited by a small group of our members. Our first visit was the former Maryhill Inn on the north-west corner of the main intersection in Maryhill, a small village north-east of Waterloo, notable also for its landmark, the Roman Catholic church crowning the knoll which forms the site. The hotel was built in 1853 by John Andrich. Originally it was a two-storey, five-bay, centre hall frame building two bays deep with a lean-to addition. A verandah with attractively turned porch posts stretched across the entire façade of the building. The building's exterior is now much altered, covered in stucco and the front verandah has been replaced by a built-in concrete block and glass addition. The present owners, Joan and David Stockhausen, no longer operate it as an hotel, but sometimes rent rooms out. The inside is also much altered, but retains some early features such as axe hewn beams and an early bar.

The second house on the tour was on Walter Street in Kitchener, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sauder. It was built between 1920 and 1923 by William Sass, founder of the Interior Hardwood Company. The exterior is buff brick and stucco with a red tile roof. The inside is quite spacious; one enters a very beautiful foyer with panelled walls and a panelled ceiling inlaid with ebony, panelling mostly black walnut. The front hall has a beamed ceiling and the walls are panelled about half way up, while the dining room is very large, with magnificent wood panelling, forming a high dado three-quarters of the way up the wall, and a beamed ceiling. The living room is beautifully decorated with a very lovely fireplace. The Sauders have been very busy working on the interior and exterior of the house including building a large stone retaining wall using granite fieldstone from a demolished 1860 house.

The last building on the tour was a red brick two-storey, three-bay, Georgian style, centre hall house on the outskirts of Heidelberg. It was built by George Ament in 1858, The "tail" of the house being earlier. The interior has attractive wooden panels below the windows in the parlour. Floor structure comprises large axe-hewn beams and tree trunks flattened on the top side only, spaced very close together. There is a very interesting brick smokehouse on the property. The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Burrell are in the process of renovating the interior, restoring the front porch and repairing the smokehouse.

Marg Rowell