

# Urbanizing Kitchener:

## A Historical Geospatial Perspective

*Connecting place with space*

**KLOEPFER & CO.**

DEALERS IN

**COAL AND WOOD**

YARD AT G. T. R. STATION.

Telephone No. 65. Office, 12 Queen St. North

BERLIN

VERNON'S

**BERLIN, WATERLOO and  
BRIDGEPORT**

**DIRECTORY**

1907



**RALPH COSSEY,**

**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR**

Agent for Motors and Dynamos.

Wiring for Electric Lighting, Residential  
Work, Fixtures and Electric Bells.

Estimates Furnished on Private Installa-  
tions. ELECTRICAL REPAIRS of  
all kinds promptly attended to.

Office, QUEEN ST. SOUTH.

Phone 453.

Berlin

# A digital resource providing answers to:



- **Who** worked at the Walper Hotel?  
**Who** owned it?
- **Who** used to live in my house?
- **How** many tailors where there between 1900-1930?
- **What** positions were there at Erb & Co (furniture maker)?
- **When** was this building built?
- **When** was this gown shop a bakery?
- **Where** were all the button factories?
- **Where** did the Breithaupt family work?
- **Why** does this address not exist anymore?
- **What** homes were demolished to build high-rises and street expansions?
- **How** much did a restaurant meal cost?



# BACKGROUND

The Geospatial Centre received a SSHRC grant to “spatialize” 100 years worth of KW Vernon City Directories (1900-2000)

Digital PDFs of all directories and relevant Fire Insurance Plans were obtained from the Kitchener Public Library and the Waterloo Historical Society



82	VERNON DIRECTORIES LIMITED
<p><b>Dyck</b>          " Waldemar (Justina), engr Rubber Machy Shops, h 48 Theresa          Dyer, Margt, wks Mutual Life, 22 Heins          " Mary (wid Robt), h 77 Strange          " Robt W, wks Merch Rbr, 77 Strange          Dykeman, V Lorne (Ivy W), Chief Clerk C P Tickets and Communications, h 87 Krug, Phone 659M          Dziura, John (Vera), gro and serv stn 221 Ahrens w, h 91 Blucher          " Mary, exam Wiegand &amp; Co, 91 Blucher          " Michl, wks Dumarts, 91 Blucher</p>	<p><b>Eaton</b>          " Andw J (A Irene), letter carrier, h 140 Peter          " Byron W (S Elizbth), h 144 Homewood av          " Clifford, drftsmn Dom Truck Equip 144 Homewood av          " Eric S (Marie), supt Campbell Machy Co, h 153 Weber e          " Sidney (Frances), mach Campbell Machy, h 21 Fairview av          " T, Co Ltd, (Mail Order Dept), 57-63 King w          " Violet, 21 Fairview av          Ebbage, W Harrison (Olive), opr News Record, h 455 Queen s          Ebel, Arnold, wks Beaver Furn, 36 Homewood av          " Beatrice A, bkpr Merch Prntg, h 50 College, apt D          " Jacob (Annie), floor fnshr, h 36 Homewood av          " Stuart W (Feme I), wks McBrine Co, h 36 Homewood av          Eberhardt, John, wdwkr Dom Electrohome, 22 Courtland av e          Eberle, Carl, wks Schneiders, R R 3          " Rose, wks Schneiders, R R 3          Eby, Aaron G (Hilda), wks Downing, Steen &amp; Co, h 16 Brubacher          " Ada B, tehr K &amp; W Coll &amp; Voc Schl, h 61 Benton, apt 2          " Addison, wks Wunder Furn, 25 St Leger          " Adelaide M, forldy Forsyths, h 118 College  <b>EBY, ALLAN A (Alice L), Investments and Newspaper Correspondent 410 Medical Arts Bldg 47 King w, Phone 2895, h 54 Scott, Phone 3332</b>          " Apartments, 61 Eby s          " Ben E (Florence), plmbr Wm H Peacock, 83 Lancaster w          " Carl (Mildred), wks Schneiders, h 340 Courtland av e          " Carl P, clk P Eby, 192 Queen n          " Chas (Mary), wks Kaufman Rbr, h 126 Louisa          " Donald, bicycles 112-114 Queen s, 145 Krug          " Earle L (Mary), bkpr C &amp; H Trans, lvs 22 Samuel          " Edmund (Augusta), mach hd J Kaufman Ltd, h 11 Mary          " Elizbth (wid Oscar S), h 30 Hohner          " Florence, wks Schneiders, 206 Simeon</p>
<p><b>E</b>          E S Shoe Co Ltd, Helmuth Eisfeld pres; mfrs, 150 King e          Eadie, Elmer F, clk Bk of Montreal, 34 Pearl pl          Eagar, Cyril W (Edna M), wks Merch Rbr, 19 Vernon av          " Elizbth (wid Robt J), h 56 Scott          " Fredk, ctr Merch Rbr, 38 Strange          " Walter J (Florence), btmrk Merch Rbr, h 38 Strange          " Wilfd, wks Merch Rbr, 38 Strange          Eager, Ernest, lab, 26 Adam          Earl, David (Lillian), firemn Twin City Lndry, h 36 Fischer          Eason, Arthur A, elev opr Dunker Bldg, 9 College, apt 4          " Edwd A (Marion), clk J J MacCallum, h 1 Stahl av          " Sydney A (Florence), serv stn King w, cor Breithaupt, h 187 Wilmot          Easson, Kenneth W (Edna), chf clk C N R Frt, h 222 Waterloo          Eassy, Dubran, studt, 250 King e          " Elias (Sarah), shoes 290 King e, h 7 Eby n          " Jos (Elizbth), h 250 King e          " Mamie (wid John), h 530 King e  <b>Eastman, Gerald E (Elizabeth), (Clement, Hattin &amp; Eastman), h 206 Lydia</b>          " L Regd (Eva F), clk Seagram, Harris &amp; Bricker, Baden, Ont          Easton, Edwd W (Erma), kntr Can Cons Felt, h 13 Krug          " Elsie, lvs 369 Frederick  <b>Easun, Wilfd E (Jean), Mgr S R MacKellar &amp; Co, h 42 Samuel, Phone 3901F</b>          Eaton, Albt H (Marie F), supt Woodland Cemetary, h 39 Courtland e</p>	

- SSHRC: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

- Fire Insurance Plans: Used for analyzing street name and number changes



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# BACKGROUND

The City Directories include:

- Names and addresses of residents, their occupations and places of employment

Eby, Aaron G (Hilda), wks Downing,  
Steen & Co, h 16 Brubacher  
'' Ada B, tchr K & W Coll & Voc  
Schl, h 61 Benton, apt 2  
'' Addison, wks Wunder Furn, 25 St  
Leger  
'' Adelaide M, forldy Forsyths, h 118  
College



# BACKGROUND

The City Directories include:

- Names and addresses of residents, their occupations and places of employment
- **Business addresses and business names**

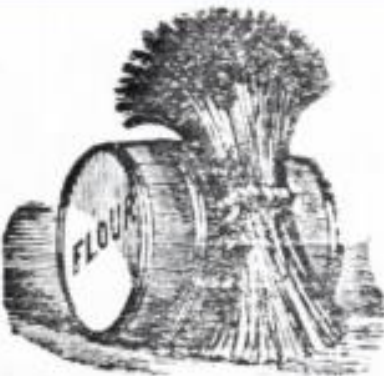
STEWART COAL CO, A J Schneider,  
Br Mgr; Coal, Coke and Wood,  
64 Wilmot, Phone 449

# BACKGROUND

The City Directories include:

- Names and addresses of residents, their occupations and places of employment
- Business addresses and business names
- **Business advertisements**

**DR. A. E. RUDELL,**  
**Dentist** • L. D. S. Royal College of Dental Surgery.  
D. D. S. Honor Graduate of Toronto University.  
MODERN DENTISTRY IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.  
✂ PAINLESS EXTRACTION. ✂  
**OFFICE: GERMANIA BLOCK, BERLIN,**  
OVER HARRISON'S TAILOR SHOP.



**LOUIS BARDON,**  
**Baker and Confectioner,**  
All kinds of Bread and  
Cakes delivered to order.  
All Dough mixed by machinery.  
Wedding Cakes a specialty.  
**BERLIN, ONT.**

**BERBERICH, Ice Cream and Confectionery**  
329 KING ST. WEST. Not the Cheapest, but Absolutely  
PHONE 1742 The Best.



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# GOAL

This project aims to collate 100 years of city directories into one database, and create an interactive online map offering:

- Lookups and Keyword searches for names, addresses, occupations, businesses, and business types
- An organized list and map of the 100-year history of all buildings (residential and business) and parcels of land in KW
- A spatial display of entries, revealing connections, relations, and local stories of the past
- Endless opportunities for historical local research

12 King St. E	1897- 1901	W. H. Becker and Co (book seller)
	1907-1912	Beck & Schell Grocers
	1919-1922	Schell Brothers Grocers
	1923-1948	Filsinger & Henry (men's furnishings)
	1949-1964	Hatland Millinery
8-12 King St. E	1965	Andrew Bros Jewellery Ltd.
8 King St. E	1971	Andrew Bros Jewellery Ltd.
	1981-1982	Athlete's Foot
	1985	Vacant
	1990-1994	Knar Jewellery
	2001	Schmid Jewellers
2 King St. W	1897-1901	Sugarman & Co., dry goods
	1907-1908	F. E. Macklin, dry goods
	1910-1911	A J Roos, Druggist
2-8 King St. W	1919-1921	Merchants Bank
	1922	Preser Bank of Montreal
52 King St. W	1897	Pearl Laundry
	1901	H. E. Schreiter, Furniture
	1907-1911	J McGillawee, M D
	After 1919	Address did not exist
45 Queen St. S	1909-1912	Residential
	1919-1920	Customs Exmg Warehouse
45-47 Queen St. S	1921-1925	Customs Exmg Warehouse
	1926	Vacant
	1928-1970	Residential
	1981-1982	No address
45 Queen St. S	1985-2001	Café Mozart



# PROGRESS

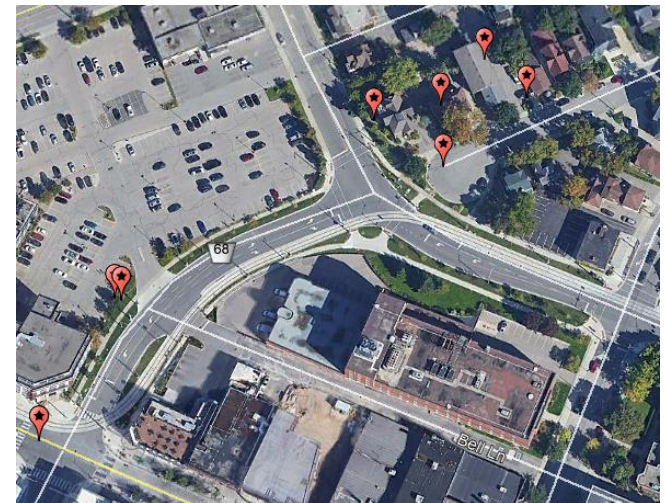
Converting text from each city directory into a geodatabase

- Cleaning up the text
- Bringing each entry, along with address info into Excel
- Geocoding (assigning latitude/longitude based on address)
- Preparing the data for mapping

FRANCIS North, w s  
22 W E Roedding  
26 Jacob Brandt  
30 Mrs L Bowman  
36 Mrs R E Liddle  
38 R F Voigt  
+Edward crosses  
42 J H Wiederhold  
48 D W Bott  
52 Elizbth Rohlender  
56 Elizbth Phelan  
58 Herman Schnarr  
60 W O Winterhalt  
64 John Dehler  
70 A E Ruby  
74 Mrs A Itter  
78 Owen Bean  
+Walter n crosses



1545	W E Roedding	22 FRANCIS North, w s
1546	Jacob Brandt	26 FRANCIS North, w s
1547	Mrs L Bowman	30 FRANCIS North, w s
1548	Mrs R F Voigt	38 FRANCIS North, w s
1549	J H Wiederhold	42 FRANCIS North, w s
1550	D W Bott	48 FRANCIS North, w s
1551	Elizbth Rohlender	52 FRANCIS North, w s
1552	Elizbth Phelan	56 FRANCIS North, w s
1553	Herman Schnarr	58 FRANCIS North, w s
1554	W O Winterhalt	60 FRANCIS North, w s
1555	John Dehler	64 FRANCIS North, w s
1556	A E Ruby	70 FRANCIS North, w s
1557	Mrs A Itter	74 FRANCIS North, w s
1558	Owen Bean	78 FRANCIS North, w s





# With one click...dozens of records will be available

**1909**

Harry Koehler, Packer, Rubber Factory  
Mannassa Thoman, tmstr

**1911**

James Blevins, Policeman

**1912**

J. Smith, Mechanic

**1919**

Albert Lang

**1920-1921**

John Warnholz, Kaufman Rubber Company

**1922**

Hy Caesar

**1923 - 1929**

Gustave Roemer, Caretaker at St. Peter Church

**1930-1931**

J. Lloyd (m: Amelia), Mechanice

**1932**

Murray Steeves

**1933**

Vacant

**1934**

Brooke Uttley  
Harold Uttley  
Jos T. (Selma) Uttley  
Lorne Uttley

**1935**

Edward Sagan, Ontario Shoes  
Brooke Uttley  
Harold Uttley  
Jos T. (Selma) Uttley  
Lorne Uttley

**1936-1939**

Ignatius (Ruth) Young, crvr Baetz Bros Furniture

**1940**

John (Evelyn) Schuller, Galloway Furniture

**1941**

John (Ludwina) Schmalz, Proprietor at Schmalz Realty Co.

**1942**

Ignatius (Ruth) Young, plshr Baetz Bros Furniture

**1945**

Thos O (Florence) Sparks, A & C Boehmer Ltd.  
Evelyn Sparks, Assembler at Marsland Radio

**1946**

Gladys Knischewski, opr Huck Glove  
Thos O (Florence) Sparks, A & C Boehmer Ltd.

**1947**

Thos O (Delphine) Sparks, Former, Lang Tanning  
Thos O (Florence) Sparks, A & C Boehmer Ltd.

**1948**

Douglas Killian, Norton's Drinx  
Thos O (Florence) Sparks, A & C Boehmer Ltd.  
Wm K Sparks, Machine Hand at Wunder Furniture

**1949**

Thos O (Florence) Sparks, A & C Boehmer Ltd.

**1950**

Thos O (Florence) Sparks, A & C Boehmer Ltd.  
Victor W. Sparks, Schneiders.

**1951**

Chas Sparks, Schneiders  
Thos O (Florence) Sparks, A & C Boehmer Ltd.

**1952**

Chas Sparks, Schneiders  
Thos O (Florence) Sparks, A & C Boehmer Ltd.

**1953**

Thos O (Florence) Sparks, A & C Boehmer Ltd.

**1954**

Chas (Dorothy) Sparks, Schneiders  
Thos O (Florence) Sparks, A & C Boehmer Ltd.

**1955 - 1979**

Thos O (Florence) Sparks, A & C Boehmer Ltd.

**1956**

1981-1982  
N. Laslavic

**1985**

R Manning

**1990**

No return

**1994**

J Johnston

**2001**

M. Groff

## Sample Residential Record

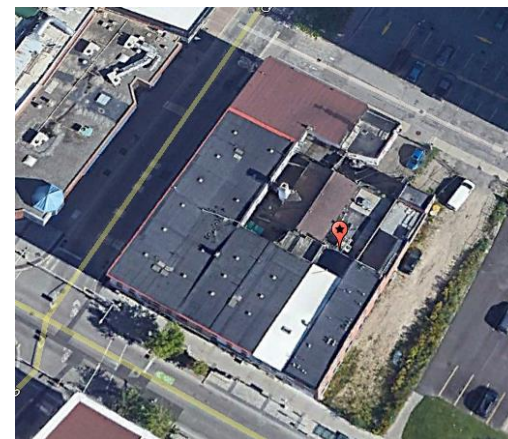


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12 King St. E.

1901-1903	W H Becker & Co, booksellers
1907	Shell & Beck, gros
1908-1909	Shell & Beck, gros
1910-1911	Beck & Schell, gros
1911-1912	Beck & Schell, gros
1919	Schell Bros, gros
1920	Schell Bros, gros
1921	Schell Bros, gros
1922-1923	Schell Bros, gros
1923-1924	Schell Bros, gros
19245-1926	Schell Bros, gro
1924-1925	Schell Bros, gro
1925-1926	Schell Bros, gros
1926-1927	Filsinger & Henry, men furngs
1928-1929	Schell Bros, gros
1930	Schell Bros, gros
1931	Schell Bros, gros
1932	Schell Bros, gros
1933	Schell Bros, gros
1934	Schell Bros, gros
1935	Schell Bros, gros
1936	Schell Bros, gros
1939	Schell & Englert, gros
1940	Schell & Englert, gros
1941	Schell & Englert, gros
1942	Schell & Englert, gros
1945	Schell & Englert, gros
1946	Schell & Englert, gros
1947	Schell & Englert, gros
1948	Schell & Englert, gros
1949	Schell & Englert, gros
1950	Schell & Englert, gros
1953	Schell & Englert, gros
1957	Englert's Gift Shop
1962	Englert's Gift Shop
1965	Englert's Gift Shop

## Sample Business Record



Google Street View, 2018

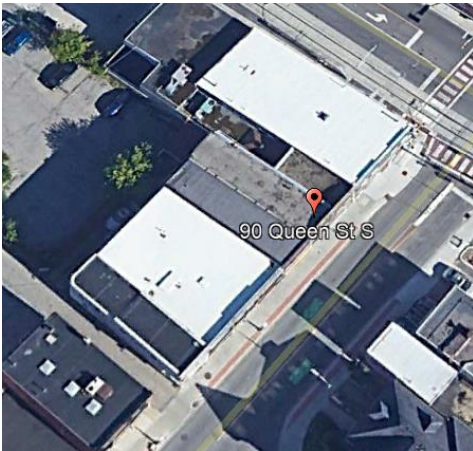
# Vernon Directory Advertisements

- Ads tell a story about the community at a given point in time
  - Reveal business or building longevity
  - Capture cost of items and inflation
  - Provide manufacturing and commercial information
  - Offer insight into the times



# Using Ads to Study Business/Building Longevity

## PEARL LAUNDRY



Google Street View, 2018

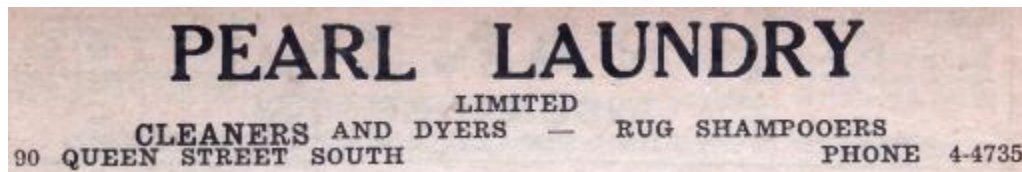
# Pearl Laundry



1901



1948



1951

# CASTLE INN





# Castle Inn

**CASTLE INN**  
DELIGHTFUL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR BRIDGE PARTIES  
Special Attention Given To Dinner Parties and Banquets  
Opp. Rockery at Kitchener Junction  
1506 KING E. (WM. F. WAGNER) PHONE 4019

1936

CASTLE INN, Wm F Wagner, Prop;  
Restaurant and Lunch Room;  
Delightful Accommodations For  
Bridge Parties; Special Attention  
Given To Dinner Parties,  
Lodge or Club Banquets; 1506  
King e, opposite Rockery at Junction;  
Phone 4019 For Reservations (see advt right bottom lines)

1936

\*SANDWICH SHOPS  
Castle Inn, 1506 King e

1936

**RESTAURANTS**  
Anne's, 2702 King e  
Annett's, 363 King w  
Bar-Ray Restr, 2149 King e  
Beese's Dairy Bar, 207 King s (Wat)  
Berkeley Square, 1405 King e  
Billie's Lunch, 129 King e  
Biltmore, 323 King w  
Breezeway Bar B-Q, 283 King e  
Bullas Coffee Shop, 78 Ontario s  
Cado Snack Bar, 331 Lancaster w  
Castle Inn, 1508 King e

1958

Swiss Castle Inn Ltd Dan Frei pres 1508 King e

1985

Castle Inn: 1508 King St. E.



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2008



2013

Google Street View: 1508 King St. E.



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# Using Ads to Study Cost of Goods

**WOMEN DELIGHT  
TO WEAR  
THE  
EMPRESS  
SHOE**

**Boots, Shoes, Clothing,  
+ HATS & CAPS. +**

Our Shoes are Leaders, right in front rank of Shoe Success. That is the place our Shoes have won.

In Men's Fine Shoes we sell the "Slater"  
at \$4.00 and \$5.00

In Ladies' we sell the Empress  
at \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00 and \$5.00

In CLOTHING we have everything a Man or Boy wears, from his Hat to his Socks, and you will find our prices and our goods satisfactory or money back.

**IT IS OUR  
SPECIALTY  
FOR WOMEN**

COME AND LET US FIT YOU.

**A. WESELOH & CO.,**

43 King St. East. Next to Sovereign Bank.

Kitchener Public Library

1907

CHOICEST LIQUORS AND  
CIGARS AT THE BAR.

SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO  
COMMERCIAL TRADE

**Clarendon Hotel**

**JOHN F. STUMPF, Proprietor.**

RATES:  
\$1 per day.

14 King St. West,  
BERLIN.

1901

**ONTARIO OCEAN GRILL**

**OLD COUNTRY STYLE**

**FISH AND CHIPS — EGGS AND CHIPS**

**15c PER ORDER, 10 A.M. TO 1 P.M.**

**24 ONTARIO STREET NORTH**

**PHONE 2175**

1935



# Exploring Local History

The Vernon City Directory provides insight into the lives of KW residents

- Where did they live?
- Where did they work?
- What were their occupations?

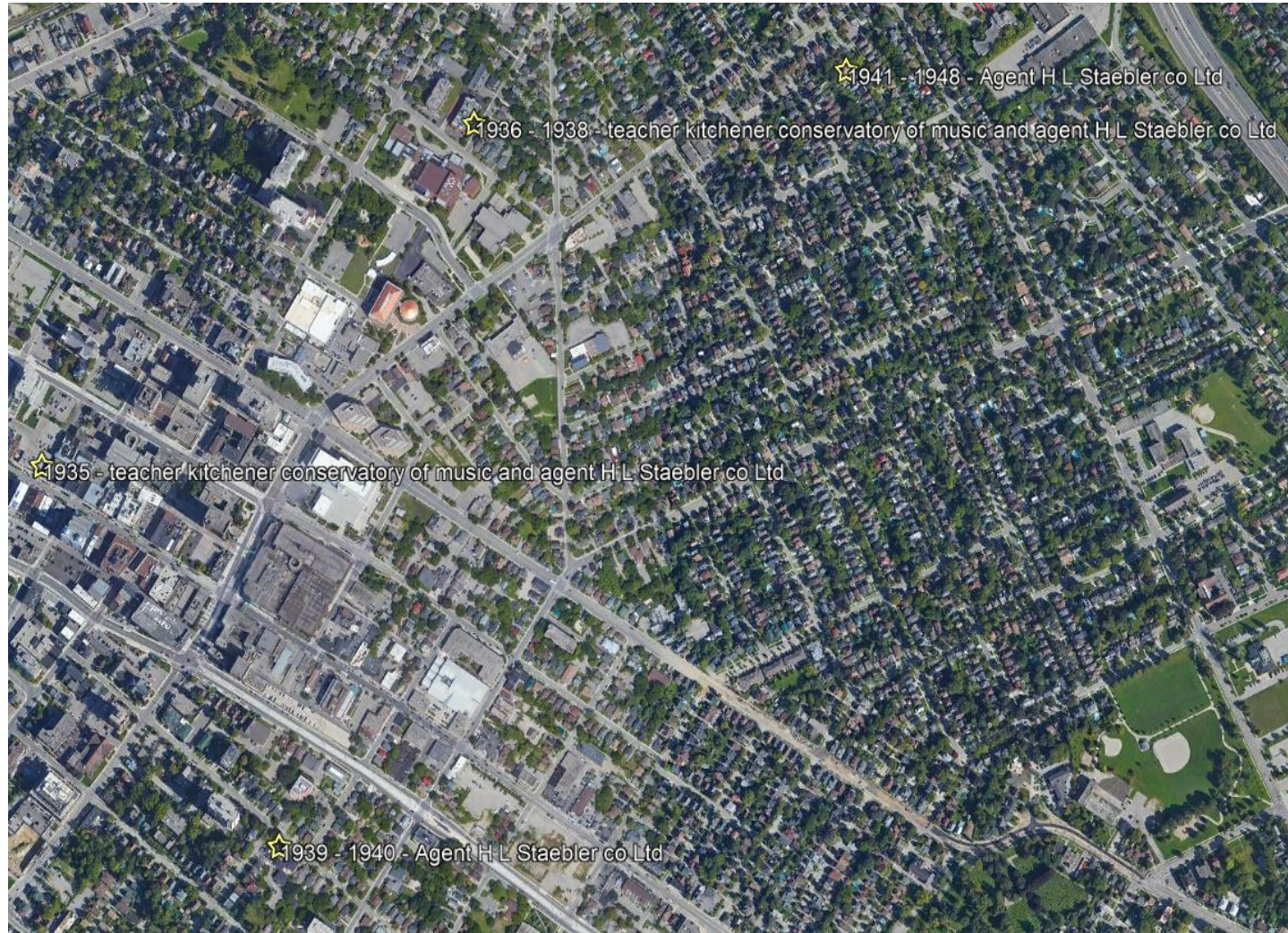
# Residential Narratives : Staebler, Norton E.

1935 : 108 King St W

1936-1938 : 24 Ellen St E

1939-1940 : 95D Church St

1941-1948 : 25 Merner Ave

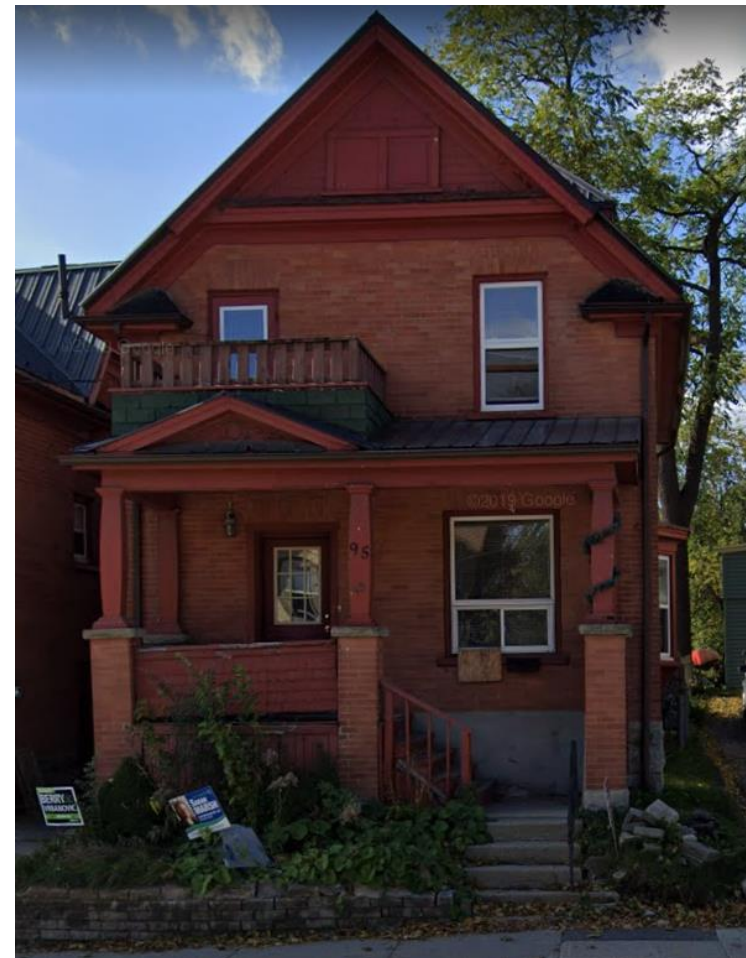




# Occupational Narrative: Louis Steppler

- 1919-1924 – Shipper, Williams Glove Company
- 1925-1930 – Sales Manager, Doering Trunk Co. Ltd.
- 1934-1936 – Goodrich Rubber
- 1937-1940 – Merchant Rubber
- 1942-1951 – Dom Truck Equipment
- 1952-1958 - Shipper, Smuck's China Shop

Lived at 95 Weber St. E





# Business Narrative: who worked for the Walper Hotel? : Employees and Positions

Fortner, John, brbr Walper Hse,  
h 40½ King e

Elsasser, Pauline, hd wtrs Wal-  
per House

Mogk, Amelia, drsmkr, 143 King  
h 143

Hummel,  
H  
" Chas,  
h

Palmer,  
H

Seip  
" Earl  
23

Strohm,  
H

Strome, Abe L, hd clk Walper  
House, h 78 St George e

Bruder, Annie, sec cook Walper  
House

Strohm, Abram R, hd clk Walper  
House, h 101 Weber e



## Walper House

JOS. ZUBER, Prop.

Cor King and Queen Sts.

Phone 1200.

The leading Commercial Hotel.

REMODELLED

FIRST-CLASS

Koopman, Annie, maid Walper  
House

Schlisser, Mary, maid Walper  
House

Kuhn, Elias, porter Walper Hse,  
h 54½ Queen s

" Leona, wtrs Walper House

" Fred, wks Walper House, h  
27 Queen s



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# Exploring Local History

The Vernon City Directory provides insight into K-W's business and manufacturing industry

1919

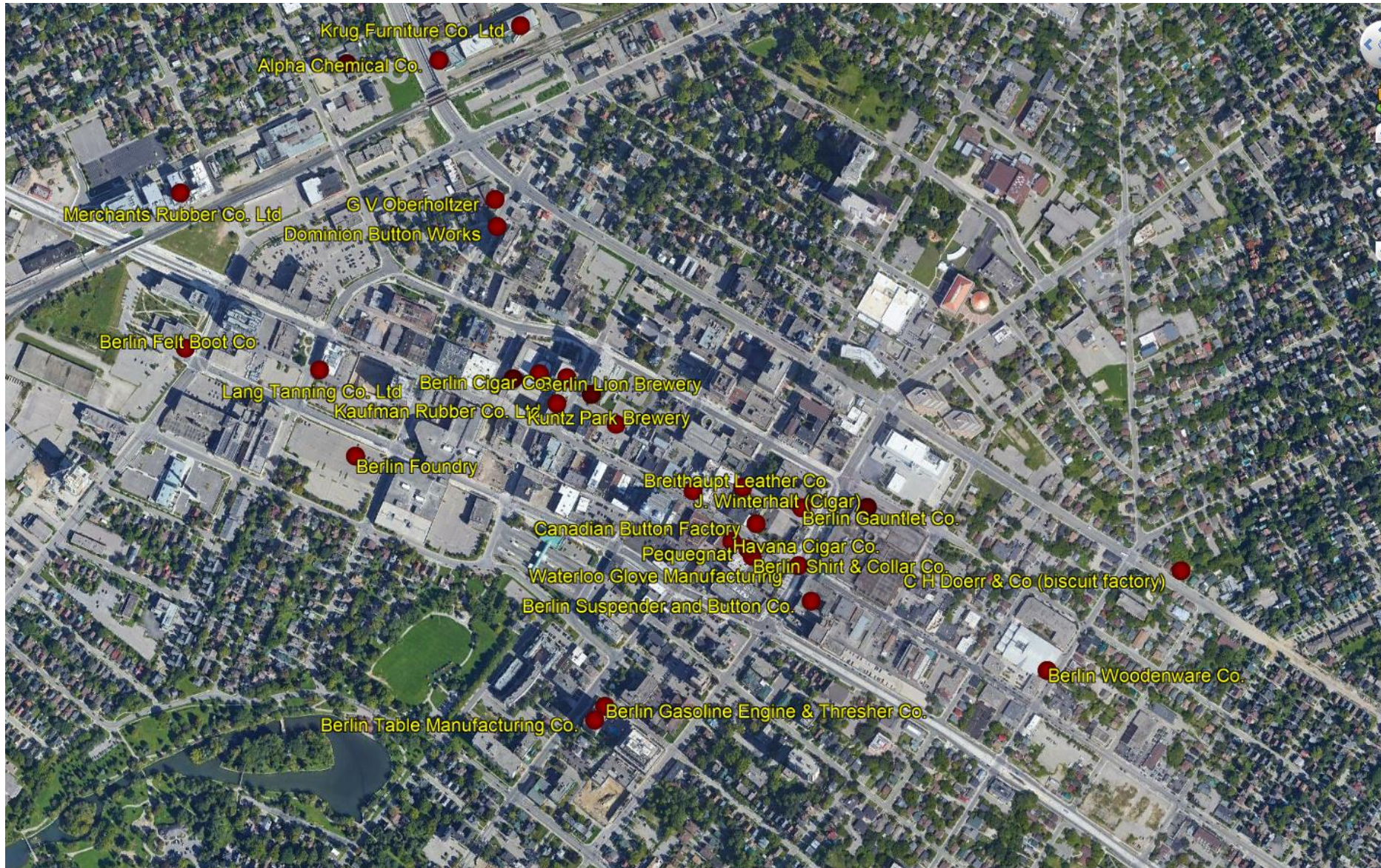
- 17 Butchers
- 9 Button manufacturers
- 1 carriage maker
- 6 cleaning and pressing
- 11 candy and ice cream shops
- 12 Dentists
- 11 dress makers
- 20 furniture makers
- 13 garages
- 3 glove manufacturers
- Over 140 insurance companies!
- 20 music teachers
- 34 nurses
- 6 restaurants
- 4 rubber manufacturers
- 7 shirt and collar makers
- 15 shoe repairers
- 12 tobacconists
- 4 vet surgeons



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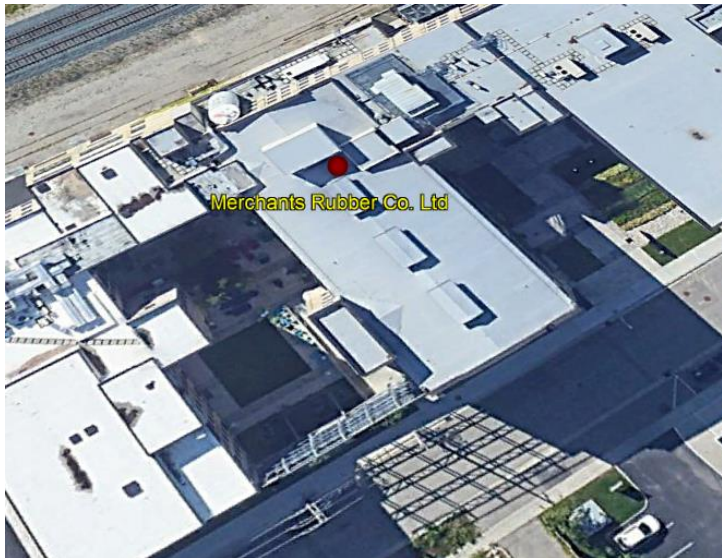
# Mapping the Manufacturers: 1912



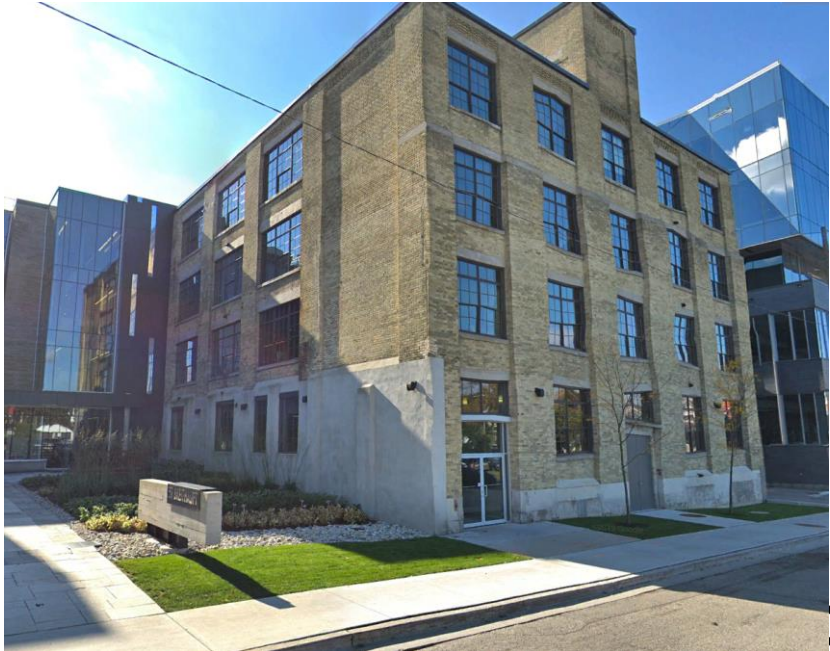




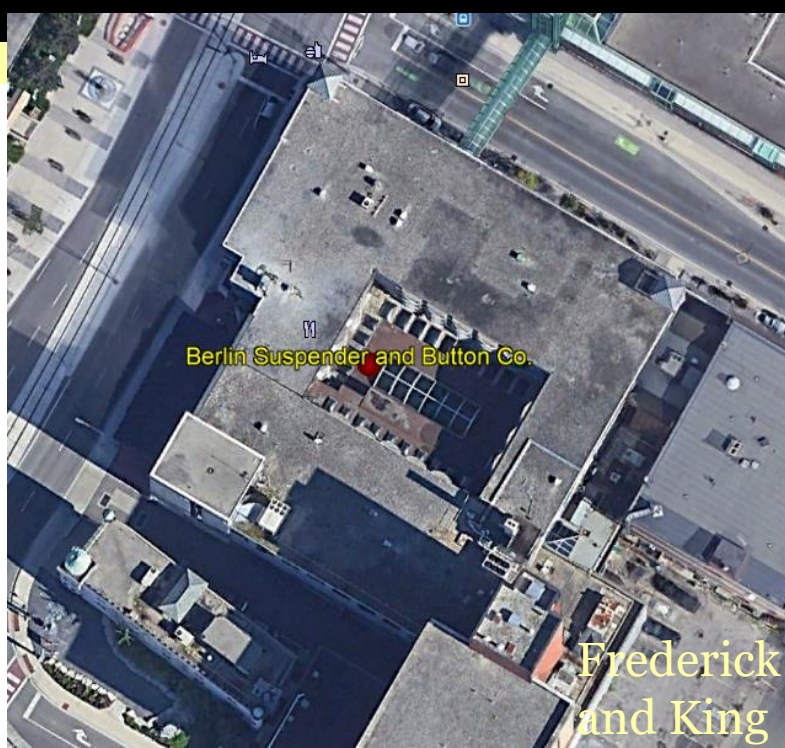
Francis, Charles, Joseph streets, Kitchener  
 Today, it is occupied by the *Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre, Palette, Dabbabi and Tannery Event Centre*



Breithaupt St., Kitchener  
 Today, it is occupied by *Google*





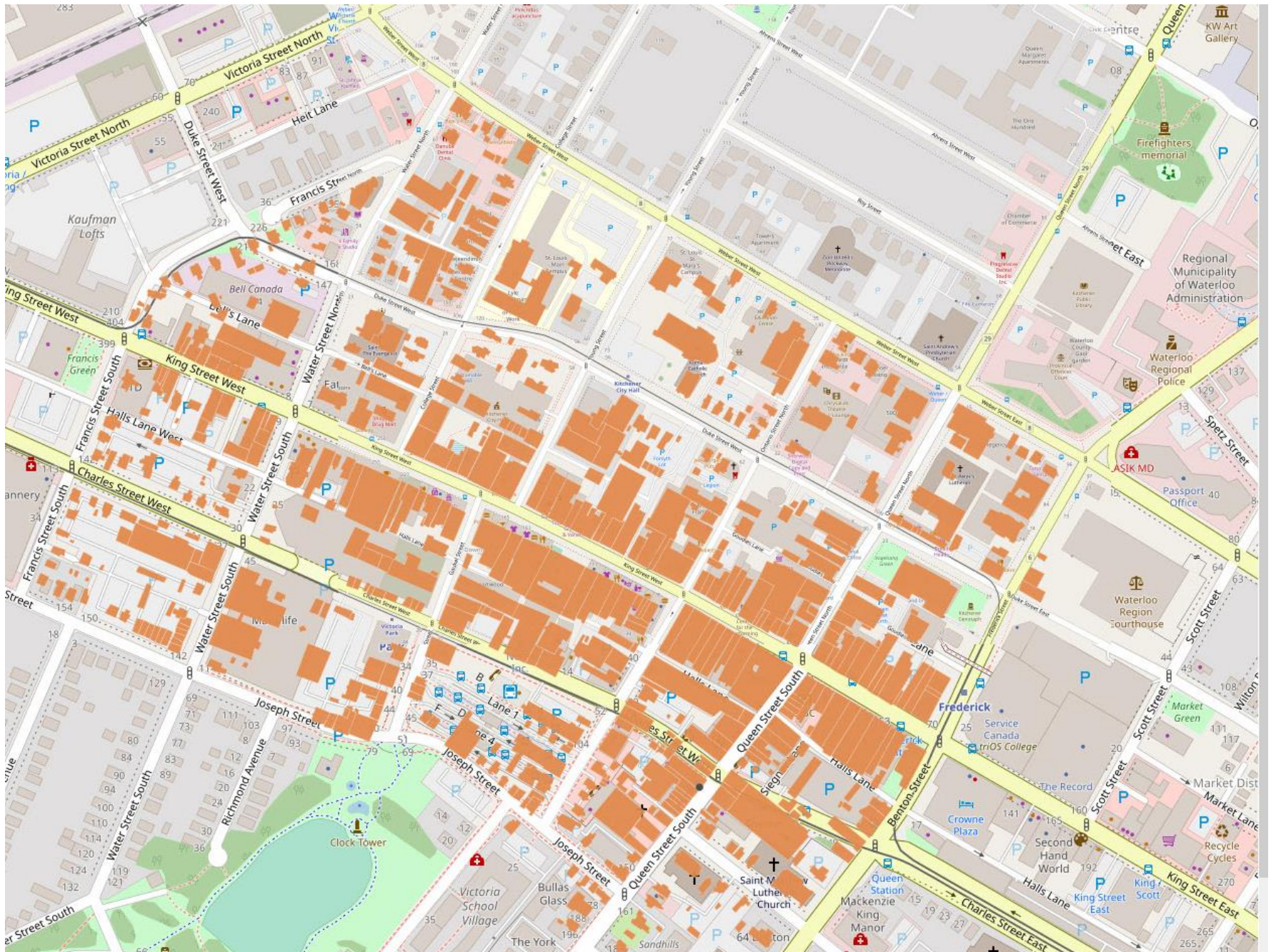


# ENDLESS RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

- The evolution of businesses in KW – which businesses existed 100 years ago? Which services and businesses thrived the longest? Which locations had the highest turnover? When did we start seeing technology entering KW?
- Occupational mobility – did workers change their occupations or places of employment frequently?
- What occupations did people have throughout the last century? What was common in the 1900s? 1950s?
- Residential mobility - Did residents stay in the same housing for long periods, or did they move often?
- City regeneration – brownfield studies (land contamination)
- Property re-development – which addresses have had buildings significantly renovated, or torn down? Which single dwellings been demolished to develop larger buildings? How has the population density or households per square km changed through time?



- Studying vacancy of buildings. Conversion of vacant buildings to open or green spaces. Studying the evolution of public spaces
- Original structures: an inventory and analysis of historically significant buildings – which historical structures still exist today?
- The study of specific establishments – locations of, and numbers of schools, churches, libraries, post offices, banks, hotels, railroad stations, saloons, entertainment, stables, etc.
- The study of increasing restaurant establishments – when did the trend of eating outside the home start occurring? Do we have diversity in ethnic restaurants? When did this start occurring, and which ethnicities? When did franchises begin? Drive-in restaurants?
- Studying neighbourhood development, street name changes
- Genealogy – following the surnames of relatives over the years and their spatial patterns
- Personal house research



# In Conclusion

Urbanizing Kitchener:  
A Historical Geospatial Perspective will offer:

A comprehensive organized portal to local historical information enabling historical narratives, while encouraging users to develop a sense of place through geospatial exploration