

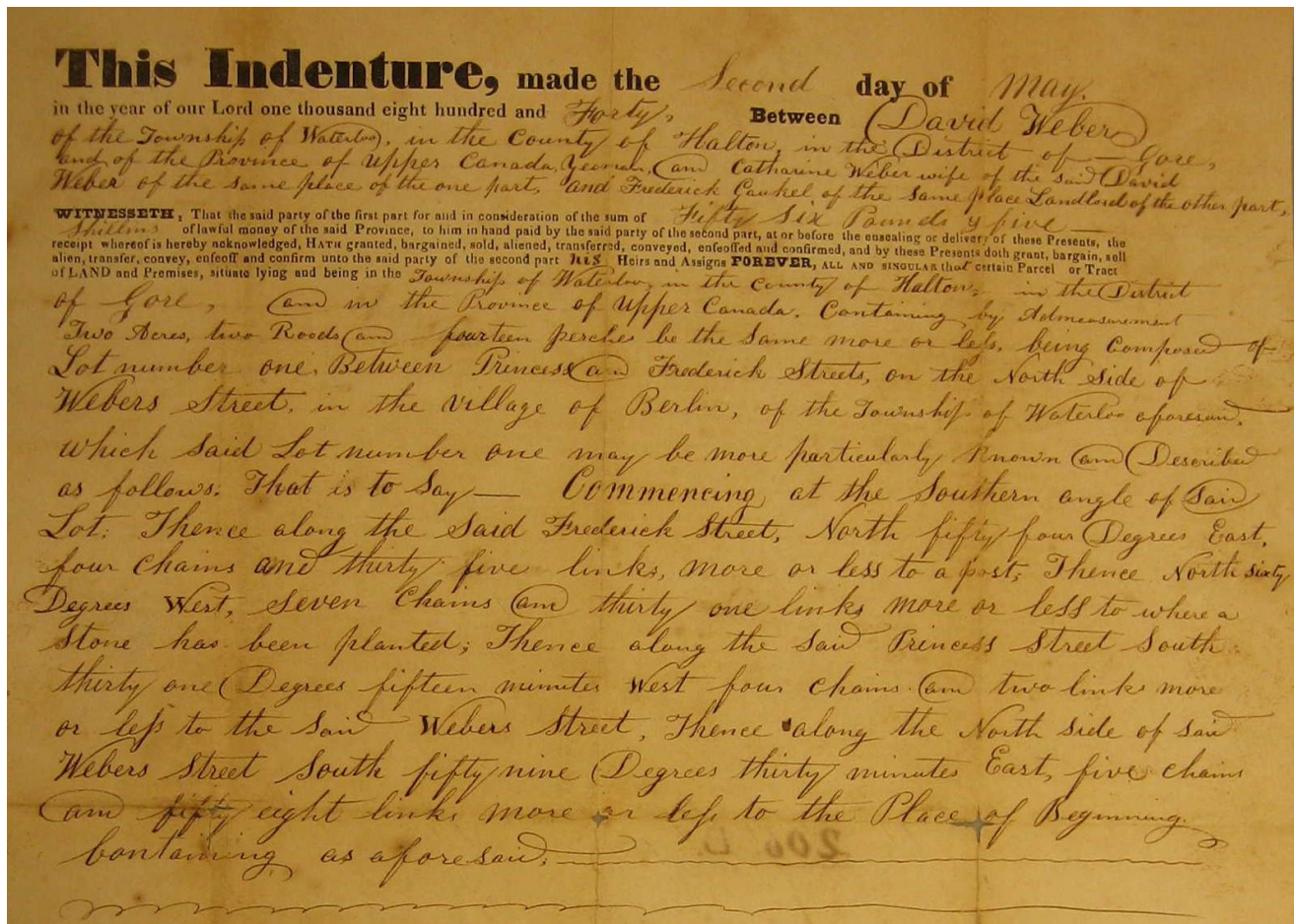
Law and Order in Waterloo County

Why is the County Gaol Significant?

In order to establish a county in the 1850s, a gaol and court house had to be built. On June 14, 1852, the Provisional Municipal Council of the County of Waterloo passed By-Law #2: "to provide for the erection of a Court House and Gaol in and for the County of Waterloo."

Frederick Gaukel presented Waterloo County council with a free deed of land for the property between Queen, Weber and Frederick Streets upon which the gaol now stands. Gaukel was motivated to donate the land to the council to ensure that the County of Waterloo was administered from Berlin (now Kitchener). The gaol is the oldest remaining County building having opened on January 23, 1853.

Once the gaol and court house were built, the County of Waterloo became a legal entity and officially separated from the United Counties of Wellington, Waterloo and Grey.



Deed of sale between David Weber and Frederick Gaukel for part of the land which Gaukel deeded to the County of Waterloo to construct a gaol and court house

Waterloo County Gaol Timeline



Iron grating on the windows and doors in 1978



Governor's house in 1962

Gaol.

Hall upstairs	2 drops. 2 switches.
Four corridors	1 light & 1 switch each.
Hospital	1 light & 1 switch.
Hall down	1 drop light
Kitchen	1 drop light
Bath room	1 " "

Wiring to be open elect work.

1909 specifications for electric wiring

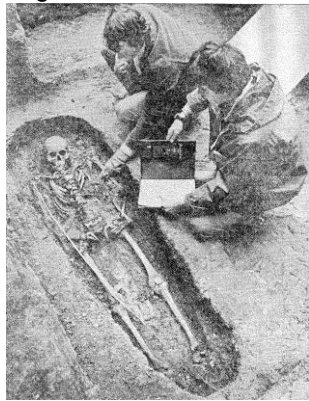


Basketball courts ca. 1978

1852	Gaol was built
1853	Iron grating was added to the windows
1855	A water closet was added at the north end of the hall
1856	The locks were upgraded after an inspection of the gaol
1861	A stone yard wall was built 14 feet high around the gaol yard
1866	D.S. Bowldy of Berlin was appointed the first surgeon to the gaol
1876	Bathtubs were installed inside the gaol
1878	Governor's house was built
1893	Judge's chambers was built
1898	James Allison was executed by hanging on February 4 th
1909	Electric wiring was installed in the gaol
1920	Stoyko Boyeff was executed by hanging on February 26 th
1930	The Turnkey's residence was transformed into extra cells
1940	Reginald White was executed by hanging on April 25 th
1950's	Turnkey's cell block was turned into a female cell block
1965	A basketball court was installed into Yard 4



The governor's house in 1978



Excavation of Stoyko Boyeff
-Kitchener-Waterloo Record, November 3, 1984

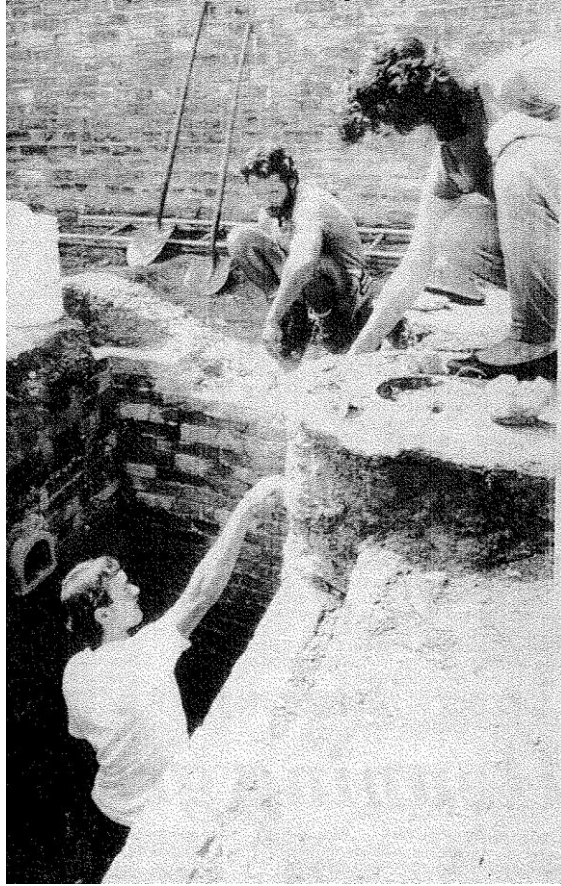


Construction to refurbish the gaol in 2001

1978	Gaol is closed and prisoners are transferred to a facility in Cambridge
1984	Two of the three bodies buried at the gaol were excavated and removed
1984	A feasibility study was conducted to determine if the gaol and governor's house could be reused and incorporated into a new building
1986	Excavations to find the remains of Reginald White were not successful
2002	The Provincial Offences Court opens in the refurbished gaol building

Archaeology at the Gaol

With the closure of the gaol and the discussion of what to do with the building taking place, the Region of Waterloo embarked on a number of archaeological investigations throughout the 1980s to locate the three bodies that were reported to be buried in the gaol yards. For the results of these excavations please see the permanent exhibit on the archaeology of the gaol located in the Provincial Offences Court (77 Queen Street north, Kitchener).



Excavation of the gaol supervised by the Foundation for Public Archaeology
Source: Cambridge Daily Reporter, August 1, 1984

Who was buried? What were their crimes?

James Allison: was executed for the murder of Emma Orr, his employer's wife. James worked for Anthony Orr, a farmer who lived on Roseville Road, west of Galt. It has been suggested that James may have been upset at Anthony for repeated comments about his appearance and past offences. James was pushed over the edge when Anthony refused to allow him to accompany his family on a trip to Niagara Falls. James decided to have his revenge by killing Emma when he found her alone on the farm. James was hanged at gaol on February 4, 1898. His unmarked grave was found and removed during an archaeological excavation on October 31, 1984.

Stoyko Boyeff: was hanged for the murder of John Sorokaty on February 26, 1920 and buried in a coffin he purchased. Stoyko's grave was rediscovered and removed on August 16, 1984 during an archaeological investigation. An analysis of the skeleton showed that Stoyko was a Caucasian between the ages of 23-28 years old.

Reginald White: was hanged at the gaol on April 25, 1940 for confessing to killing John Milroy and his sister, Annie. Reginald's body was reportedly buried in the central courtyard; however, extensive archaeological testing has not been able to locate his grave.

Original Court House and Additions

The original County court house built by Mellish and Russell of Brantford was a rectangular two-story Italianate brick structure with a wing on either side. The building faced Weber Street and was decorated with stone lintels, high arched windows and topped with a domed cupola (removed in 1928). It was painted red with three coats of paint in 1898.



Detail of the court house showing the cupola from the 1861 Tremaine map

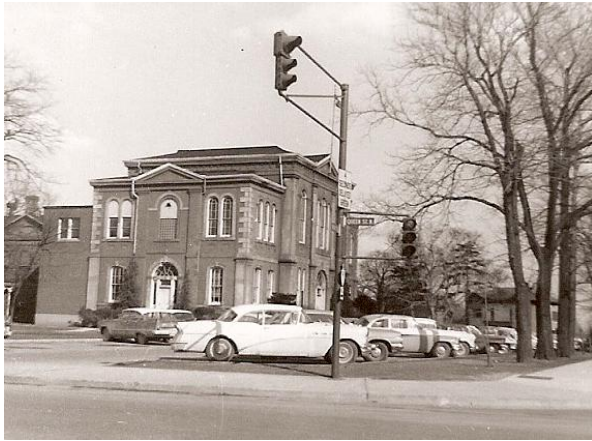
The court house was used as a meeting place for Waterloo County Council and for administering justice. It was also used by a variety of community groups and festivals such as the local mechanic's institute, Queen's birthday, public lectures, musical recitals and theatre productions.

A land registry office was built next to the court house on the corner of Weber and Frederick Streets in 1864. An additional land registry office was built on Frederick Street next to the original in 1938 (now the Registry Theatre). The governor's house was built in 1878 and a judge's chambers was built next to the court house in 1893. An addition to the court house in 1906 created more space for the registry office and judge's chambers.



Second land registry office in 1962

The continued growth of Waterloo County necessitated the demolition of the original court house, land registry office and judge's chambers in 1964 and the construction of a much larger, modern court house which officially opened on September 22, 1965.



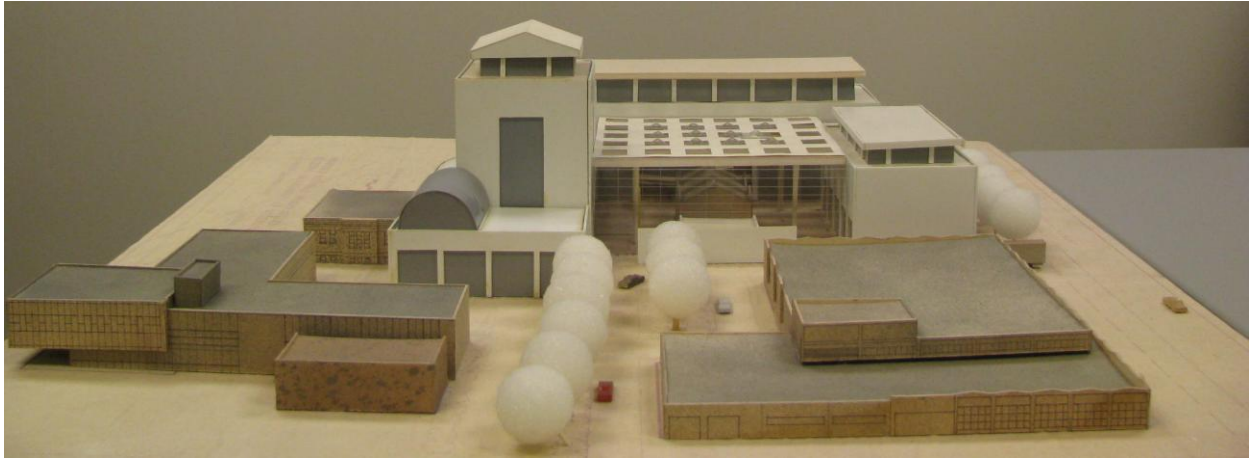
1962, two years before the original court house was taken down

What Might Have Been?

The Waterloo County gaol closed in 1978 with the transfer of its prisoners to a new correctional facility in Cambridge. At this time discussion began about what to do with the governor's house and gaol, the two oldest remaining Waterloo County buildings. A number of very different ideas were proposed:

- Regional archives
- Regional museum of archaeology and natural history
- Heritage resource centre
- Recreational use e.g. night classes, day care, senior centre
- Winter garden
- Boutiques
- Restaurant
- Offices
- Convention centre
- Regional headquarters
- Half-way house
- Police parking
- Sale of property for private development

The proposal supported by Regional Council, the owners of the property was to construct a regional administrative headquarters that incorporated the governor's house and gaol. Designs were explored that linked the gaol, governor's house and registry office with a contemporary building and another which included the gaol and registry but required the removal of the governor's house. The plans resulted in an administration centre that would be developed along an east-west axis, with the major building entrance facing Ahrens Street.



Model of regional headquarters incorporating the gaol (in centre glass structure), 1988

In 1981, the City of Kitchener designated the gaol and governor's house as of historical value under the [Ontario Heritage Act](#). This put an end to the possible demolition of the governor's house to create a regional headquarters.

What is the Gaol used for Today?

The former County of Waterloo gaol and governor's house currently houses the [Provincial Offences Court](#), which is responsible for the administration, courtroom support and municipal prosecution of the [Provincial Offences Act](#) and municipal by-laws within the Region of Waterloo.

The *Provincial Offences Act* encompasses approximately 120 different Acts with the most common violations falling under the [Highway Traffic Act](#), the [Liquor License Act](#) and the [Compulsory Automobile Insurance Act](#).

In 1999, the [Ministry of the Attorney General](#) began transferring its responsibilities under the *Provincial Offences Act* to regional municipalities. The transfer gave local governments more control and accountability for justice issues that mainly impact the community and was in keeping with the Province's move to separate criminal and non-criminal issues.

The Provincial Offences Court officially opened in the updated Waterloo County gaol and governor's house on June 15, 2002. The gaol contains two court rooms and the governor's house is used as a prosecutors' office.

REGION OF WATERLOO
Archives