

SCHEDULE "A"

30 MAIN STREET EAST, TOWN OF KINGSVILLE

The Old Fire Hall

Description of Property:

The Old Fire Hall, 30 Main Street East, Kingsville. Constructed 1939-1942, the Old Fire Hall is a two-storey brick front and cement block building. It is located on the North East side of Main Street in the Town of Kingsville.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

The building's cultural heritage value lies in its original use as our town's Fire Hall, providing a permanent home for the town's fire truck and fire fighting equipment. In addition to the Fire Hall being the first location of the official proper Fire Department from early bucket brigades and the connection of the history of large fires that have devastated main street and the downtown Kingsville area.

Early attempts, in 1862, by James King to get grants for fire fighting equipment were denied. The first official organized department came to be in 1884 and in 1889, with the installation of a waterworks system by Hiram Walker for Mettawas Hotel, proper fire fighting could be undertaken. In 1892 Council passed a by-law defining the fire limits and prohibiting the erection of buildings of inflammable material within said limits.

Kingsville had formed a Fire and Light Committee. Two trucks were eventually purchased and were stored at various places around town along with several hose reel carts. Fire hoses were stored at a location at Chestnut and King. The construction of the Fire Hall provided a place for all fire fighting equipment to be housed. The apartments above allowed young fire fighters a home, provided a return on investment to the town and made it easier to dispatch to fire fighters' homes. Bells in their homes were activated through the telephone from the Fire Hall.

Plans for the Fire Hall were obtained by Fire Chief Clinton Fox from a station built in Detroit. The bulk of the Fire Hall was built by the fire fighters and volunteers. Saving funds was a theme throughout the building of this Fire Hall. Fund raisers were held and total construction took 3 years to complete with the town pitching in money at the end to finish up the apartments above the Fire Hall and finishing work inside the hall itself.

Description of Heritage Attributes:

The building is constructed of cement blocks that were made by members of the fire department and community volunteers. A section of the blocks are engraved with the names of the sitting council members from that time.

The buildings symmetry from early garage door entrances are maintained with large window store fronts. There is a bell tower located at the rear of the building.

The iconic setback allowed room for fire trucks to be washed and today serves as a parking area for the businesses located in the building.