

The Corporation of the Town of Kingsville
By-law **-2020

Schedule "A"
107 Elm St., Kingsville, Ontario
The Cowan-Valentine House

Description of Property: The Cowan-Valentine House

Constructed in 1902, the Cowan-Valentine House is a 2 ½ storey brick house in the Queen Anne academic style located in the Town of Kingsville.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

The cultural value of the house lies partly in its association with two prominent Kingsville citizens: Alexander Cowan and William Valentine.

Alexander Cowan (1853-1913) was born in Olinda, Ontario. Cowan served as clerk and purser on the steamer, 'City of Dresden' which began its regular route between Windsor, Amherstburg, and other lake shore ports on March 29, 1886. Cowan next became purser on the steamer 'Lakeside'. By 1894 Cowan started a career in commerce as a general merchant. In the fall of 1901 Cowan proposed establishing a regular boat service to run between the mainland and Pelee Island. The steamer, 'Greyhound', built in 1888 was also known as 'Lincoln' and 'Premier'. Due to Cowan's efforts it provided a ferry service operating between the Lake Erie Canadian mainland north shore and Pelee Island for the season of 1903. In 1904 'Lincoln' provided a longer service operating from Windsor to Pelee Island and Sandusky, Ohio. Alexander Cowan died on April 11, 1913 at the home of his brother-in-law, Mr. E. R. Scratch.

William Valentine (1868-1961) was born in Pickering, Ontario but lived most of his life in Kingsville. He was the bookkeeper for the Ontario Gas Company. He also served as secretary of the Hodge Tobacco Company Ltd. for 27 years and was a member of St. George's Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 41. William Valentine died suddenly at his Elm Street residence on July 16, 1961.

The cultural heritage value of the Cowan-Valentine House also lies in it being a particularly fine example of the Queen Anne Academic style of private dwelling Kingsville, Ontario. The 2 ½ storey brick house has a gable/hip roof, eaves in the gables, spindle work, flat arches, smooth faced sills, open round tower, Doric columns, decorative capitals on the columns and a two-storey partial porch with a peaked roof. The house is constructed of red brick from the local Jack Miner brickyard. The foundation is cut fieldstone. There is a stepping stone near the curb; this is a block of stone placed near the edge of the street usually in line with the front doorway of a home to help passengers as they climbed in and out of carriages.

Description of Heritage Attributes:

Key attributes that embody the heritage value of the Cowan-Valentine house include several examples of fine and/or unique craftsmanship. The main entryway/foyer includes the original wooden staircase made of ash. An area of wall and sloped ceiling constructed with ash in a parallel board pattern contribute to the refinement of the entry. Nine inch ash baseboard surrounds the living room walls. There is an arched stained glass window on the wall leading up the stairs and 2 rectangular stained glass transom windows in the living room.

