

In the Matter of the Ontario Heritage Act

Notice of Intent to Designate

The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O., 1990, c. 0.18 as amended, provides that the Municipal Council may pass a by-law designating property within the boundaries of the municipality to be of cultural heritage value and interest. The Council of the Municipality of Kingsville hereby gives Notice of Intent to designate the following:

Description of Property:

The Colonel James King House, 101 Mill Street West

The property at 101 Mill Street West is worthy of designation for its cultural heritage value and meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design, association and contextual values as described in the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest below. The Colonel James King House is a two-storey Octagon dwelling constructed in 1859 and is located on the south side of Mill Street West.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

Design Value

The Colonel James King House is a well-preserved dwelling that demonstrates the Octagon style of architecture, with exemplary examples of the Colonial style both on the exterior as well as the interior. The historic house still has many of its original features from its construction in 1859. Throughout the home is a wide variety of different architectural features that define the Colonial Octagon style of architecture; the original flooring on the second floor is the same that Colonel King walked on when he lived in the house, the millwork that is shown in the baseboards of the home, the windows that include the original shutters with shutter dogs that were commonly used in the 1850's, as well as the original fireplace that was used to heat the home during the winter. The house also features a beautiful stairwell with stair rails that lead up to the second floor of the house which still has some of the original light fixtures. Not all of the design value lies in the interior, the exterior of the home also features many historic features that encompass the Octagon architectural style. The predominant octagonal shape of the main portion of the building, is a very unique design and not seen anywhere else in Essex County. The octagonal design of the house allowed for winds from any direction to cool it down in the hot and humid summers. From the windows with their shutters to the foundation of the building to the original carriage house located on the property, this home has an abundance of historical features.

Associative Value

The property's cultural heritage value lies in its association with Colonel James King, the man in which the Town of Kingsville gets its namesake. Col. King was a scholar

from Devonshire, England who had made his journey to Canada with his wife and two sons in 1826. Their first place of residence was Montreal, which was their home until a cholera epidemic broke out and forced the family to move to Michigan. This is where they stayed until 1835, when the family was forced to make a journey back to Montreal, once again due to the Ohio-Michigan War. However, the journey did not go as planned. The winter made it very difficult to travel for James King and his pregnant wife, causing a stay in what was then known as Gosfield Township, Upper Canada. After settling, King earned the title Lieutenant Colonel in 1837, and was one of the few educated men in the area, becoming an important figure in the growing community. Soon King would lead the people into building up the area with the addition of; a school, a church, a plan for the village, along with many more. Once the community had reached a population of 100 in 1852, the people had decided to name the village Kingsville in his honour. After moving houses twice around Town, King began construction in 1856 on the house we see today at 101 Mill Street West. King was very sympathetic to those in need of shelter and took in many American Civil War survivors, as well as travelers. Col. King remained in that home for the rest of his life, where he eventually passed away in 1880, leaving the home with his son Dr. Sidney Arthur King who purchased the home four years before his father's death for \$10. Dr. King, like his father, became an important figure in the Town of Kingsville and added to the house to make it larger and fit for his family. Dr. King also founded the Kingsville Reporter in 1873, and was very influential in the expansion of the Town. Dr. King and Hiram Walker were very close and worked together in forming the Kingsville Natural Gas & Oil Company, bringing the Lake Erie and Detroit River Railroad to Kingsville, and building the Mettawas Hotel in 1891 as well. The house stayed in the King family until 1963 when Laura King, Col. King's granddaughter, sold the house shortly after her husband's passing.

Contextual Value

The home as well as the carriage house and accessory structures which comprise the Colonel James King house still occupy their original site, although smaller lot, the character of the property still remains largely unchanged. The property is surrounded by a fieldstone wall that has been there since Dr. Sidney King added the feature when he took ownership of the home. The house has always been the centerpiece of a large residential area in the Town of Kingsville. To this day the house is easily recognizable and remains one of the largest properties within the residential district in Kingsville. The house is a symbol of Kingsville's history, given it was the home of the Town founder and remained in his family for over 100 years.

Description of Heritage Attributes:

Each heritage attribute of the property at 101 Mill Street West listed below is indicative of the design value of the Octagon style of architecture, as well as Colonial features:

- Window shutters with their locks
- Large exterior doors

- Cobblestone work, including property wall
- Symmetry of windows on exterior of house
- Octagonal centerpiece of building structure
- Sill plates underneath exterior windows
- Roof moldings
- Wooden cornices supporting roof soffit
- Original carriage house on north-west corner of property
- Columns surrounding front entryway