

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

DESCRIPTION

Municipal Address: 325 Main Street

Legal Description: Plan 87, Lot 26, Village of Schomberg, Township of King

Brief description: 2-storey vernacular institutional hall

OVERVIEW

The cultural heritage value of the property known as 325 Main Street meets the criteria set out by the *Ontario Heritage Act* under Province of Ontario Regulation 9/06 for the categories of design/physical, historical/associative and contextual value.



Name: Schomberg Community Hall

Date Built: c. 1907

Location: South of Highway 9, west of Highway 27, on the west side of Main Street

Condition: Good

DESIGN OR PHYSICAL VALUE

The Schomberg Community Hall at 325 Main Street is a representative example of an early vernacular 2-storey institutional building of civic architecture. It was originally constructed in 1907 as a single-storey market hall and was enlarged to include a second storey in 1922.

Community Halls in Ontario reflect a wide range of architectural styles depending on their era, location, and function. However, they share common traits often rooted in civic utility, modest design, and community identity. Ontario's early civic buildings, including town halls, market halls, and courthouses, established an architectural vocabulary that later influenced community halls. Shaped by evolving civic needs and stylistic traditions, often emphasizing symmetry, classical references, and utilitarian design, these buildings are commonly simple rectangular massing with gabled or hipped roofs and restrained ornamentation, reflecting the practical priorities of rural villages and small municipalities. These traditions inform the modest, functional design of many 20th-century community halls in small rural villages such as Schomberg.

HISTORICAL / ASSOCIATIVE VALUE

325 Main Street

The subject property, now legally described as Lot 26 of Registered Plan 87, originated as part of the 200-acre Lot 34, Concession 9, which was first patented from the Crown in 1844 by Joel Lloyd, a prominent early settler and the namesake of the Hamlet of Lloydtown. Later that same year, the property was sold to Thomas Brown for £400.

In 1859, Brown sold a portion of Lot 26, concession 9, to Joel Phillips, a prominent farmer, Deputy Reeve, and councillor of King Township, for \$1.00 with remarks indicating an association with a Temperance Hall. This early hall, referred to historically as the "Music Hall," served as a local gathering place and later as the venue for the original Schomberg Market.

Over time, the original 200-acre parcel was gradually subdivided and conveyed through successive transactions, reflecting the intensification and evolving settlement patterns of the area. In 1903, Plan 87 was formally registered, creating a subdivision of smaller residential and commercial lots within the former Lot 34. The subject property then became known as Lot 26 of Plan 87.

Following the earlier sale to Joel Phillips, Lot 26 of Plan 87 was sold to William Brereton, John Walsh, and Milton Sloan, noted as Trustees, for \$25.00. On January 1, 1907, these trustees then entered into a lease with the newly formed Schomberg Market Association Limited for a cost of \$1.00 per year for a term of 31 years. The Association had been organized earlier that same year at a meeting held in the original "Music Hall," where local residents resolved to incorporate under the Companies Act and to construct a new, purpose-built market hall on the leased site, the subject structure of this statement.

Market day was originally held on Wednesday mornings in the Music Hall. Archival records recall market day as a busy weekly event in the Village of Schomberg. Following the arrival

The property continued to serve community functions throughout the 20th century. In 1959, ownership of Lot 26 was formally transferred to the Township of King, marking the transition of the site from trustee-held community land to municipal ownership.¹

Schomberg Community Hall (Former Market Hall)

Following the establishment of the Schomberg Market Association, the new quarters proved satisfactory for many years, and the market continued to grow and prosper. Archival records recall that producers would come from neighbouring municipalities to dispose of their commodities every week. Come 1922, it became apparent that Schomberg would benefit from a dedicated community space. It was decided that the existing Schomberg Market Hall would be enlarged and renovated to accommodate this desired use. The result was a second-storey addition which included a commodious auditorium.²

In 1959, the Schomberg Market Association was discontinued. The property was then transferred to the ownership of the Township of King, and the building became known as the Schomberg Community Hall, which it is still called at the time of writing this statement.

CONTEXTUAL VALUE

Over time, the Schomberg Community Hall has evolved into one of the village's primary gathering places, supporting a wide range of civic, cultural, and social activities. The hall has long served as a flexible venue for community meetings, recreational programming, public open houses, local club activities, private celebrations, and seasonal events associated with Schomberg's strong agricultural and small-town traditions. Its continued use as a multi-purpose community hub reinforces its longstanding role as a focal point of village life. It contributes significantly to the social and cultural identity of Schomberg.

The Schomberg Community Hall is important in defining, maintaining and supporting the historic fine-grained late 19th and early 20th century character of Schomberg's Main Street and the broader village core. Constructed as the new Market Hall in 1907, the building reflects Schomberg's early identity as a rural service centre and agricultural hub. Through its scale, form, and continued public use, the building contributes meaningfully to the established character of Schomberg's historic core.

Furthermore, the hall is historically and functionally linked to its surroundings through its origins as the community's Market Hall, serving as a venue for a highly regarded produce market north of Toronto. Its placement on Main Street reflects the traditional siting of civic and commercial institutions within the village core, where markets, fairs, and public gatherings historically occurred. The building's continued use as a community hall preserves this functional relationship, as it remains a venue for public events, local organizations, and cultural activities. Its modest vernacular civic architecture complements the surrounding historic streetscape, reinforcing its physical and contextual relationship to the area.

The Schomberg Community Hall can also be considered a longstanding community landmark due to its prominent location on Main Street and its enduring association with major local traditions.

¹ Ontario Land Registry Abstract/Parcel Register Book. York Region, Plan 87, Lot 34, King Township.

² Love, Jean Catharine, and Herbert H. Sawdon. *Schomberg and Its School (S.S. No. 14, King)*. 1928 (Pg. 33). King Township Archives.

As the successor to the original “Music Hall” and the purpose-built home of the Schomberg Market Association, the building symbolizes the village’s agricultural heritage and its reputation for hosting one of the region’s most notable small-town markets. Since 1959, its role as a municipal community hall has further cemented its identity as a recognizable and widely used public gathering place. Its visibility, continuous civic function, and deep-rooted associations with community life make it a landmark within Schomberg.

SUMMARY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

Physical/Design Value

- Two-storey rectangular massing and symmetrical façade
- Gabled roof
- Shed-roofed wrap-around verandah with stone-supported wooden posts and decorative brackets
- Central entrance with sidelights
- “Schomberg Community Hall” applied lettering

Historical/Associative Value

- Connection to early Ontario settlers and vernacular civic/institutional architectural styles.
- The property has had continuous community use since the late 1800s and is still used for community use today.
- Direct associations with the earlier “Music Hall” structure and the Sons of Temperance traditions
- Direct association with one of the most notable small-town produce markets north of Toronto.
- Continuous use as a civic facility since its inception

Contextual Value

- The subject property reflects some of the earliest settler architecture and siting in King, giving insight into early settler practices
- The subject property is contextually linked to King’s agricultural and rural village/community history
- The subject structure has contextual value as it is historically linked to the lot and concession it was built upon
- The subject property contributes to the historic village streetscape through its prominent location on Main Street
- The property is visually and functionally linked to its surrounding residential, civic, and commercial buildings
- The property contributes to the identity and character of Schomberg as a small rural village and agricultural hub
- Continuous use as a civic facility since its inception