

## Description of Property – Black Watch Building, 34,36, 38 Mill Street

### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The cultural heritage value of the Black Watch Building lies in the building being a good example early 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial architecture, its traditional function as part of Almonte's main street and the commercial history of the town. It contributes to the distinctive character of Almonte's historic core and is included in the Downtown Almonte Heritage Conservation District

The Black Watch Building has design value as a main street commercial structure. It is part of a streetwall featuring buildings set flush against the sidewalk running east to Bridge Street. A flat-roofed, two-storey structure, it is divided into three storefronts, each with a ground-level entrance and three large second-floor windows featuring stone sills and lintels. Brick pilasters separate the building sections, while decorative coursing defines the cornice. A pressed metal secondary cornice separates the first and second stories. The west wall is painted with a large advertisement for "Black Watch Chewing Tobacco" and there is a faint "ghost sign" with the word SHAMROCK also evident on the wall.

The Black Watch Building has historical value because of its function as part of Mill Street, Almonte's leading commercial street. As the third building on the lot, it was constructed in 1909–1910, soon after a fire destroyed the three-storey brick building previously on the site, which had also replaced a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century building destroyed by fire. The decision to rebuild quickly reflects the importance of the lost businesses to Almonte's main commercial street.

The Black Watch Building has contextual value through its location on Mill Street, Almonte's historic main street and a well-preserved cultural heritage landscape. Since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Mill Street has played an important role in the town's economic and social life. Home to a wide range of small businesses and many of Almonte's earliest mills, it has also long served as a gathering place and the setting for public celebrations such as parades.

### Description of Heritage Attributes

Key exterior elements that contribute to the heritage value of the Black Watch Building, 34, 36, 38 Mill Street as a good example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial main street architecture include:

- Two storey massing with flat roof;
- Three bay front façade, with each bay occupied by a different business;
- Simple brick pilasters dividing the upper storey into three and marking the corners;

- Red brick exterior cladding, laid in common bond;
- Remaining elements of the original storefronts in evidence at 36 Mill Street;
- Scalloped metal secondary cornice with brackets and semi-circular rosettes separating first and second storeys;
- Decorative brick coursing at the roof line;
- Painted “Black Watch Chewing Tobacco” sign, with SHAMROCK ghost sign evident underneath;
- Location on a bend in Mill Street, on the front property lot line.