## 143 King St. (Lot 2 south side of Kent St.)

## Architectural Description:

The house which stands at 143 King St. (Lot 2 on the south side of Kent St.) was built by Salvatore (sometimes referred to as the anglicised "Sylvester") Shickluna, a ship's carpenter, in approximately 1897. The rear addition was built in 1904. Although a ship's carpenter, he also did a lot of building work, and probably was responsible for much of the work on this house.

The house at 143 King St. is a two-and-a-half-storey building with a red brick veneer exterior. It features decorative quoined corners and a decorative concrete frieze that runs around the entire house under the eaves. The home has undergone some exterior alterations since it was built. The original windows have all been replaced, and a small porch on the northeast corner of the house has been removed (See Appendices 2 through 4). The unusual arrangement of original windows in the gable on the front of the house may have been Shickluna's own design. (See Appendix 2 and 3). A gabled window has also been added to the upper half storey on the north side (See Appendix 3 where it is absent; the 1979 survey photos do not include the roof on this side). A photograph taken in 1908 shows that the front porch originally had low brick walls, with pillars supported by concrete block bases (See Appendix 2). Since the 1979 survey photos were taken, the brick wall around the porch has been replaced with a modern railing, the porch floor has been replaced with wood, and the pillars have been either replaced or covered though the original block bases remain (See Appendix 3). A covered wooden staircase from the southeast corner of the building has also been removed, though the door to which it led on the second storey is still visible (See Appendix 2).

## Historical Significance:

In 1858, Samuel Jacob Wintermute, farmer, bought lot 2 on the south side of Kent St. from William H. Merritt Jr. (See Appendix 1). Shortly after purchasing the land, in 1863, Wintermute sold it to Owen Finn, a blacksmith, who lived and ran his business on the property until his death (ca. 1879). Then, in 1890, Finn's widow, Bridget Finn, sold the property to Salvatore Shickluna, ship carpenter and business owner (1835-1932) who rented the property out until the current home was built, likely by Shickluna with the help of members of his family.

The Shicklunas were a very prominent local family during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Originally from Malta, many of the Shicklunas were in the shipbuilding trade. Louis Shickluna, Salvatore Shickluna's uncle, became the largest shipbuilder in pre-Confederation Canada (*Port Colborne Leader*, March 5, 1997), the main shipyard located on the Twelve Mile Creek in St. Catharines. Upon the death of the former, Salvatore took over the Port Colborne branch of his business. Salvatore ran a very successful business, building a number of tugs, yawls, and other vessels, as well as completing ship repairs, together with family members, including his

children. He also began an Anglo-American tender business in 1896. In November 1897, at the age of 62, Salvatore Shickluna moved into the newly-completed King St. residence, and lived there until the 1920s. Salvatore's descendants also went on to run successful businesses, notably Louis Joseph Shickluna, who operated the King St. Service Station, now a historical landmark as one of the oldest purpose-built stations in the country.

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Appendix 2 1979 Heritage Inventory and Assessment Project Contact Prints

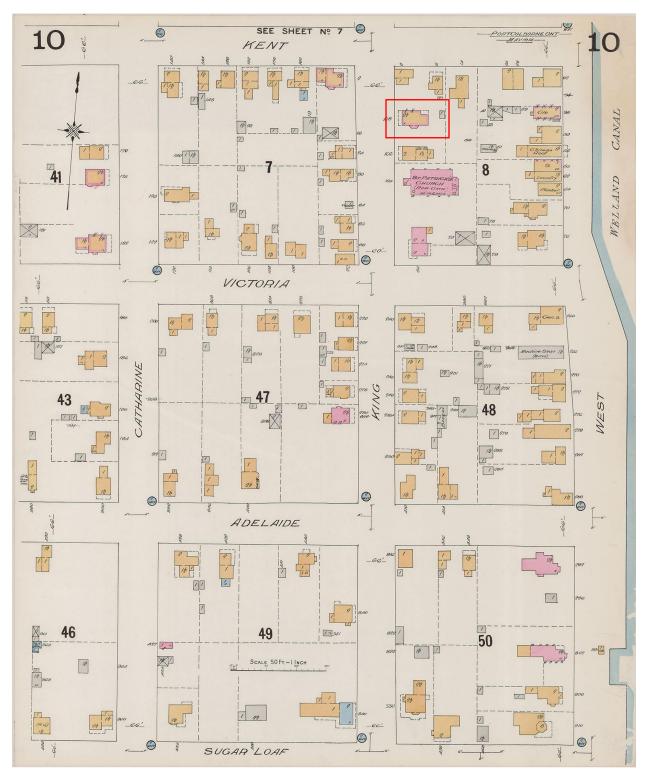








Appendix 3 143 King St., 1908 (2015.3.7.4)



Appendix 4 1914 Fire Insurance Map

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