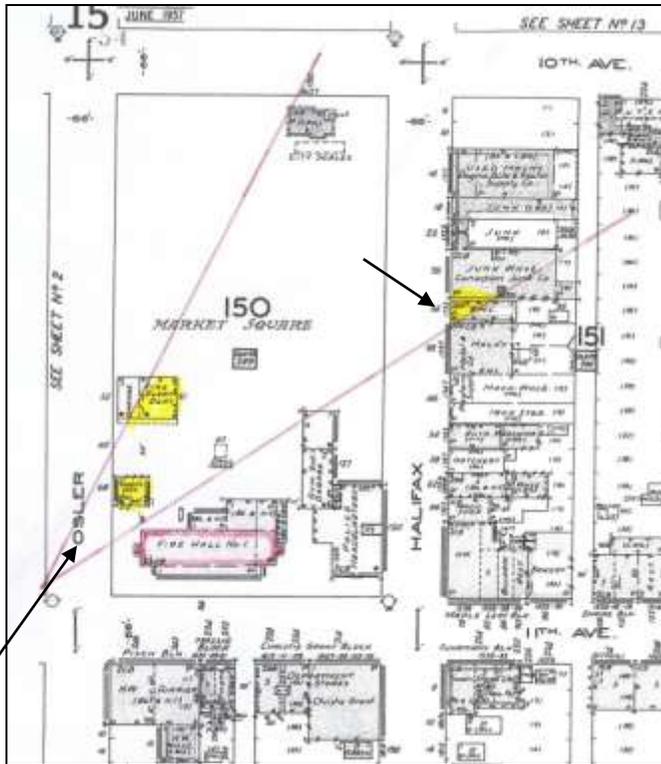




The Fire Alarm Building, as photographed to the NE from Osler Street, just north of 11th Avenue, by E.C. Rossie. (Photo Reference: Sask. Archives Board: R-B 914.). A garage for the Fire Alarm program stands behind the brick building; while the Fire Drill Tower, evident on plans and air photos, is not visible because Rossie was too close to the Fire Alarm Building. The Farmers Rooms hotel in the right background used to cater to the Farmers Market. The Market was converted into Fire Hall #1 in 1921, and is not visible, but stands to the right of this photo. The joint name and datestone over the front door indicates that the structure was built in 1928.

Details: The Fire alarm wires strung across the roof of the Fire Alarm Building and down into the side window. As well, the brick pattern – alternating rows of headers and stretchers is an extremely unusual brick-laying pattern in Saskatchewan.

Regina Fire Alarm Building



Fire Insurance Plan: Photographer E.C. Rossie stood on Osler Street, just north of 11th Avenue (left arrow on plan) and aimed his camera to the NE when taking the Fire Alarm Building photo shortly after the building was completed in 1928-29. The pink lines show his approximate view plane. The 1957 Fire Insurance Plan (left) shows the Fire Alarm Building then in use as the Chief's Office; while the garage is now called the Fire Alarm Dept and Garage. The Farmer's Rooms building is located in the distance, on the east side of Halifax Street (right arrow). The outline of the Farmers Market (in pink) has been superimposed over the Fire Hall footprint.

Air photo: shows the same area in 1929. The Fire Alarm Building and Garage (in yellow) are visible directly north of the Fire Hall (right arrow); the Farmers Rooms hotel near the left arrow.

Architect: Francis H. Portnall, Regina. The Regina architectural firm of Clemesha and Portnall were commissioned in 1921 to transform the Farmers Market into a Fire Hall. As some masonry detail on the Fire Alarm Building looks similar to elements of Portnall's other designs, it was surmised that this was another of his projects. However, on these two facades, the buildings lacks his characteristic name-stone found on many of his other structures. Confirmation of the designer came from a Call for Tenders Notice in the Regina Leader, dated May 10, 1928. (Ref: Sask Archives Board: Accession R1222, File V.5)