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**Bylaw 32 of 2008**  
**Corporation of the Town of St. Marys**

*Being a bylaw to designate the property known municipally as  
322 Emily Street as being of architectural value or interest.*

**WHEREAS** Section 29 [4] of the Ontario Heritage Act authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact bylaws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of architectural value or interest; and

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the Town of St. Marys has caused to be served upon the owners of the aforesaid real property and on the Ontario Heritage Trust notice of intention to so designate this property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in local newspapers having general circulation in the municipality; and

**WHEREAS** no notice of objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Chief Administrative Officer of the municipality;

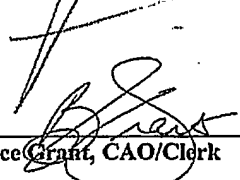
**THEREFORE** the Council of the Corporation of the Town of St. Marys ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. There is designated as being of architectural value or interest the real property known as 322 Emily Street, more particularly described in Schedule 'A' attached hereto.
2. The municipal solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this bylaw to be registered against the property described in Schedule A attached hereto in the proper land registry office.
3. The Chief Administrative Officer is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this bylaw to be served on the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of the passing of this bylaw to be published in local newspapers having general circulation in the municipality.

Read a first and second time this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2008.

Read a third and final time and passed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2008.

  
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Jamie Hahn, Mayor

  
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Bruce Grant, CAO/Clerk

**Bylaw 32 of 2008**  
**Schedule 'A'**

**Description of Property**

The house at 322 Emily Street (West Side Emily Street, Part Lot 80, Plan 220) is a two-storey white brick villa, built in 1860 for John Robinson, a civil engineer responsible for the construction of the Sarnia Bridge for the Grand Trunk Railway in 1858. It sits on spacious grounds, overlooking the Thames River with a grand view of the Sarnia Bridge itself.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value**

This is one of the earliest "grand houses" in St. Marys and is located on one of the finest building sites. Its design strongly suggests that it was the work of London architect, William Robinson; there is documentation to show that he was responsible for the house at 224 Jones Street built in 1868 for George Carter. In layout, the Carter house is a mirror image of the house at 322 Emily. Although John Robinson had the house built, he and his family only lived in it a short time. In 1863, he sold the property to Milner and Catharine Harrison, who had recently turned their successful grocery business over to an ambitious young merchant, Timothy Eaton. Milner Harrison continued to be a prominent businessman, holding mortgages for many properties in the area. William Gilpin, who built another large house further along Emily Street, and J. O Mitchell, who had a fox and mink farm on the property in the 1920s, were other well-known owners of this property.

**Description of Heritage Attributes**

This Italianate house is asymmetrical in design with high central chimneys. It has two facades: one with the main entrance to Emily Street leads into an entry hall with a grand staircase. A square bay window is on the façade beside this entrance. The other façade is to the southwest with a spectacular view over the wide valley of the Thames River. Six French doors open on this side; a deck replaces the original veranda with bell-shaped roof. Inside the house, doors lead off the hallways to principal rooms on both the first and second floors. Each of these rooms originally contained a marble fireplace; one of them remains in place and is part of this designation. The wing to the northwest was built to contain the kitchens and servants' quarters.

With its irregular plan and important relationship to the landscape, this property is a good example of the "picturesque" style of design, popular in England at the time of its construction.

**Designated Features**

This designation includes all original exterior and interior features, described above, that were part of the 19th century house.

**Background Documentation**

On file in the archives of the St. Marys Museum:

- Complete history of the ownership of this property with information from sources that include: the land registry abstract, municipal assessment rolls, census documents and contemporary newspaper articles. This record describes in detail the significance of this property and its owners to the history of St. Marys.
- Photographs of the house and property.
- Reference books, drawings, floor plans and photographs showing houses constructed in a similar "picturesque" style.