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ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

JAN 25 2021

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Corporation of the Town of St. Marys  
Box 998, St. Marys ON N4X 1B6

January 18, 2021

Ontario Heritage Trust  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto ON M5C 1J3

To whom it may concern:

**RE: By-law 02 of 2021 to designate a property of architectural and heritage significance.**

Please be advised that on January 12, 2021, St. Marys Town Council passed By-Law 02 of 2021 to designate the property at 345 Wellington Street South, St. Marys, under part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Please find attached a copy of the designation bylaw for your records.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Amy Cubberley", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Amy Cubberley, Cultural Services Supervisor  
Staff Liaison to the St. Marys Heritage Advisory Committee  
Town of St. Marys

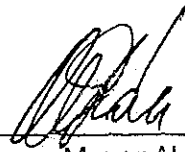
**BY-LAW 02-2021**

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ST. MARYS**

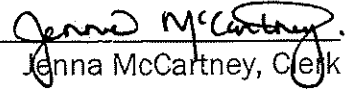
Being a By-law to designate a property at 345 Wellington Street, South, in the Town of St. Marys to be of cultural heritage value or interest.

- WHEREAS:** Section 29(4) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O. 18, as amended, authorizes that a council of a municipality may, by by-law, designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest;
- AND WHEREAS:** Section 29(2) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, as amended, requires where a council of a municipality has appointed a municipal heritage committee, the council shall, before giving notice of its intention to designate a property, consult with its municipal heritage committee;
- AND WHEREAS:** The Heritage Advisory Committee of the Corporation of the Town of St. Marys has reviewed the proposed designation and made recommendation to the Council of the Corporation of the Town of St. Marys in February 2020, to proceed with the designation of 345 Wellington Street South in the Town of St. Marys;
- 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 to intention to be published in local newspapers having general circulation in the municipality;
- AND WHEREAS:** No notice of objection to be proposed designation has been serviced on the Clerk of the municipality;
- NOW THEREFORE:** The Council of The Corporation of the Town of St. Marys hereby enacts as follows:
1. That the real property legally described in Schedule A to this By-law, is hereby designated to be of cultural heritage value or interest under section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
  2. Enactment of this By-law shall be deemed to be authorized to the solicitor for the Town to register same in the appropriate Land Registry Office, without further written authorization.
  3. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served on the Ontario Heritage Trust and the owner of the property.
  4. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in local newspapers having general circulation in the municipality.
  5. The This by-law comes into force on the final passing thereof.

Read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Strathee', written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Al Strathee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenna McCartney', written over a horizontal line.

Jenna McCartney, Clerk



## **STATEMENTS TO IDENTIFY AND DESCRIBE A PROPERTY FOR DESIGNATION**

345 Wellington Street South, Lot 35, East Side  
St. Marys, Ontario

**Prepared by Heritage St. Marys  
for St. Marys Town Council  
March 2020**

## **Identification of Property:**

The house at 345 Wellington Street South (Lot 35, East Side Wellington Street South) is a one and a half storey house, built in 1864/1865 by stonemason James Elliott, using stone from his quarry and lime from his kiln.

## **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value:**

### **Historic Value or Associative Value**

St. Marys is built in two river valleys, on an outcrop of limestone. Four years after it was founded in 1841, William Smith visited the village, while researching his Canadian Gazetteer (Toronto, 1846), and found a saw mill and grist mill and “an excellent limestone quarry close to the village.” A quarry attracts stone cutters and masons, and in the late 1840s and early 1850s Scottish, Irish, and English stone masons started settling in the area.

One of the most prominent of these was James Elliott. Born in Yarrow, Selkirkshire, Scotland on August 26, 1828, he emigrated to Upper Canada and settled in Blanshard Township in 1845. He married Jane Moore of Beverley Township in 1851. By the early 1850s, he moved to St. Marys and one of his earliest projects was the 1856 construction of a main sewer for Queen and Water Streets for which he was paid £1 19s.

James Elliott bought Lots 11 and 12, East Side, Thames Avenue in August 1857. Today, this land is in the extreme northwest corner of the fishing quarry. James purchased Wellington Street, East Side, Lot 34, (345 Wellington Street South) on May 30, 1864.

Throughout the 1860s, 1870s, and 1880s, Elliott continued to increase his holdings, to quarry, and to ship stone from what became known as his “lower quarry” (closer to the Thames and on the site of today’s fishing quarry west of Water Street) and his “upper quarry” (east of Water Street at the northerly end of today’s swimming quarry).

In addition to operating his quarries, Elliott provided stone for local construction and shipped it by rail throughout southwestern Ontario. In June 1897, Elliott purchased a stone crusher which crushed 10 to 14 tons of stone per hour and so was able to fill large orders for road material from neighbouring towns. In 1901, Elliott had orders for over 100 carloads of stone, with 60 carloads shipped to Alvinston for bridge work, 30 carloads shipped to Sarnia and an undisclosed number shipped to Stratford.

James Elliott was also a builder – what was called in his native Scotland, a master mason. According to an obituary for Ida Mae Elliott, the granddaughter of James Elliott, James Elliott constructed the limestone, two-storey section of 252 Queen Street East. (St. Marys Journal Argus, February 9, 1966.) In 1871, and to the plans of Robert Barbour, James Elliott was responsible for the stone work in the Garnett House (directly opposite the Public Library on Church Street.) Three years later, he was awarded the contract for the brick and stone work for the original St. Marys Collegiate building. (St. Marys Argus, April 30, 1874.)

In 1879, he erected the St. Marys Opera House using stone from his quarry and lime from his kiln. The Opera House was designed by Silas Weekes, a local architect and member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The cost of the stonework for the St. Marys Opera House was \$5,163.50.

By the late 1880s, the St. Marys assessment records indicate that Elliott owned about four acres of quarry land, assessed at \$1700. The St. Marys Argus, August 20, 1891, announced: “James Elliott has struck a bed of 14-inch stone in his upper quarry. Some of it was shipped to Middlemiss to be

put in a bridge being built in that neighborhood. It is said to be the best stone ever shipped from St. Marys.”

Probably the last building constructed by James Elliott stands at 179 Tracy Street, a red brick house, built in 1899 to the plans of local architect, J.A. Humphris.

In 1905 James Elliott sold his quarries to the Thames Quarry Company, owned by John Bonis. James Elliott died in April 10, 1907, predeceased by his wife, Jane, in 1902 and his step-son, John Elliott, (himself a stone mason and builder) in 1903.

### **Design or Physical Value**

The house is situated on the lot with the front entrance facing west on the east side of Wellington Street South. It has a traditional symmetrical façade – windows on either side of central door with small gable centred in the roofline over the door. The windows have been replaced but retain the original openings and placement.

The roof is a saddle back style, with centre ridge board running north to south and a front or west façade centre gable section, moderate pitch, running back to just below the centre of the north/south roof ridge board. The two limestone single flue chimneys are gable wall style on the north and south ends of the building. The limestone in the chimneys has been parged over for pointing purposes. The roofing material has been replaced by modern asphalt shingle.

The masonry walls are limestone, rough cut rubble, with full coursed patterns on the north, west and south walls and irregular coursed on the east façade all in a quarry faced finish. All four corners are quoined using small blocks of square cut ashlar in a tooled finish. The lintels are single block, square cut ashlar, full coursed, dressed finish, while the basement lintels are double coursed in size. The sills are single block, square cut ashlar, half coursed tool finish.

### **Contextual Value**

The Elliot house is one of the remaining stonemasons’ houses located in visual proximity to a quarry. While several other limestone homes built and lived in by stonemasons still stand in St. Marys, their original, adjacent quarries have been filled in and are now either the sites of other homes or floodplain.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

Character-defining elements that make this property worthy of designation include:

- Site of residence, located adjacent to original quarries owned by James Elliott.
- Saddleback style roof with small central gable on the front façade.
- Large, single-block lintels and sills.
- All four corners of the house are quoined using small blocks of square-cut ashlar in a tooled finish.
- The two limestone, single flue chimneys on the north and south ends of the building. The chimneys’ stones have been parged over for pointing purposes.
- Masonry walls are limestone, rough cut rubble, with full coursed patterns on the north, west and south walls and irregular coursed on the east façade all in a quarry-faced finish.

## **Designated Features**

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

## **Background Documentation (Sources Consulted)**

In the collection in the R. Lorne Eedy Archives of the St. Marys Museum:

- Municipal assessment rolls.
- Abstracts of property transactions, Perth County Registry Office, on microfilm
- Canadian census records, on microfilm.
- Cemetery records, prepared by the Ontario Genealogical Society, Perth County Branch.
- Reference and research material on James Elliott compiled by Ken Telfer in the Stonemasons of St. Marys fonds
- Limestone Houses, inventory project, researched and photographed by William Kilborn, for the St. Marys Museum, 2000.
- Historic photographs from the image collection of the St. Marys Museum.

Published material consulted includes:

- Early St. Marys, L. W. Wilson and L. R. Pfaff, 1979, and Historic St. Marys, Larry Pfaff, 1998, provide a useful summary of the activities of James Elliott and the importance of limestone to St. Marys.
- James Elliott's Upper Quarry, 1884, Larry Pfaff, St. Marys Journal Argus.
- Articles from the St. Marys Argus, the St. Marys Journal and the St. Marys Journal Argus.

More detailed information about this property and additional photographs are available in the archives and reference areas of the St. Marys Museum.