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TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH FRONTENAC

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2021
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**Notice of Intention to Pass a By-Law to Designate
Stewart House at 3981 Harrowsmith Road
To be of Cultural Heritage Value and Interest Pursuant to the Provisions of the
Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O 1990, Chapter 0.18)**

Take Notice that the Council of the Township of South Frontenac intends to pass a by-law under Section 29, Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18, to designate the following property to be of cultural heritage value and interest:

Description of Property: 3981 Harrowsmith Road (Part Lots 1 to 4, Block A, Plan 57, District of Portland, Township of South Frontenac, County of Frontenac), known as The Stewart House.

Short Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property being called the Stewart House, includes a good example of a mid-19th century Georgian influenced stone dwelling, including its symmetrical front façade with gable roof, rough-hewn, regularly coursed, squared limestone and three bay windows. The corners of the house have raised ashlar quoins. On the east side of the stone house, a limestone one and a half story carriage house abuts at a right angle to the main house at the back corner featuring a later addition of machine lath versus the hand riven lath of the main house. The two-storey dwelling, built c.1846, has direct association with former owners Samuel and Isabella Stewart, prominent figures in the former Township of Portland. Samuel Stuart was Reeve of Portland Township in the later half of 1850's and also a Postmaster. Together Samuel and his daughter Isabella operated the general store. The Stewart House contributes to the heritage character of Harrowsmith Road as it is one of the many stone houses remaining in former Portland village.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Cultural Heritage Attributes associated with the property include:

- Stonework for the main house and carriage house
- Windows
- Exterior Doors
- Fascia & Soffit
- Attic Trusses and Framework

Additional Information, including a full description of the reasons for designation is available upon request from Anna Geladi, Planner, Development Services at 613-376-3027, extension 2350 or at heritage@southfrontenac.net during regular business hours.

Any notice of objection to the Intention to Designate the property at 3981 Harrowsmith Road must be submitted in writing, include the reason(s) for objection(s), all relevant facts, to Angela Maddocks, Clerk by end of business on **Monday June 7, 2021**. Should no objection be received, the designation bylaw will be presented to Council on June 15, 2021, and a decision on the passing of the designation bylaw will be made.

Dated at the Township of South Frontenac, this 6th day of May, 2021

Angela Maddocks
Angela Maddocks, Township Clerk

Heritage Designation Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest 3981 Harrowsmith Road “The Stewart House”

The subject property has been researched and evaluated in order to determine its cultural heritage significance under Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* R.S.O. 1990. A property is eligible for designation if it has physical, historical, associative or contextual value and meets at least one of the nine criteria set out under Regulation 9/06 of the Act. Staff have determined that 3981 Harrowsmith Road, also known as the Stewart House, has cultural heritage value or interest and merits designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Design or Physical Value

3981 Harrowsmith Road is a representative example of a two and a half story stone dwelling with an attached one and a half story stone carriage house. This imposing limestone house sits prominently on the streetscape of Harrowsmith near the main intersection of the Village Constructed circa 1846, it is representative of a housing type that was popular in area in the mid nineteenth century. This mid-19th century Georgian influenced stone dwelling, includes a symmetrical front façade with gable roof, rough-hewn, regularly coursed, squared limestone and three bay windows. The stonework is coursed rough ashlar on all four sides of both the main stone dwelling and the stone carriage house. The facades of both buildings is one colour of stone, while the remaining three sides have alternating courses of darker and lighter stone, a style that is unique to Harrowsmith and Portland Township. There are a number of similar executions in this style in the vicinity, however the Stewart House is the largest and best proportioned.



Photo of 3981 Harrowsmith Road 1

Description of the Exterior Elements of the Stone House

The two storey house has a gable roof with a stone chimney at each gable end. A gable is a triangular section of wall at the end of a pitched roof. A soffit and fascia terminates the roofline.



Front Facade of Stone House

The main facade of the building consists of rough-hewn, regularly coursed square limestone walls. It has three bays, with the main entrance in the central bay. The main entrance is attached to a crosspiece separating the door from the window above. The windows over the cross piece, also known as the transom light, have four vertically divided panes. The solid main door has two conforming vertical raised panels.

An existing 19th century photograph (circa 1880s) of the house indicates that the original windows were casements.

The window openings are large, with a one over one glazing pattern, double sash. The windows are separated by a vertical moulding. The window openings, and the front door recess, are topped by voussoirs of a distinctly different colour of limestone than that of the main body of the house. Voussoirs are the wedge-shaped stones used in constructing an arch. The side elevations have two bays with similar window placement and description to those on the front facade. The attic storey is signified by quarter round windows on either side of the interior chimney flue.



Central Bay of Stone House



Windows and Attic Storey of Stone House



Ashlar Quoins of Stone House

All corners of the house have smooth pronounced raised ashlar "quoins". Quoins are masonry blocks typically located at the corner of a wall. The side elevations have a distinctly different masonry units, or coursing, than that of the front elevation. The side elevations depict the ashlar courses are wide then narrow. The wide courses (masonry units) are a lighter coloured limestone, and the narrow courses are of darker coloured limestone. The treatment of the courses results in a horizon striped "pattern". There are other buildings in the surrounding area with this similar distinctive "striped pattern" of ashlar coursing. It was likely a trademark of a particular stone Mason/Builder. One can speculate that stone was brought from two different quarries.

Description of the Exterior Elements of the Carriage House

On the east side of the house, a limestone one-and-one half storey "carriage house" abuts at a right angle to the main house at the back corner. The manner by which this structure connects to the house indicates that it was a later addition. A wide, plain soffit and fascia terminates the roofline with a stone chimney at the west gable end.



Carriage House



Carriage House Front Facade



The north elevation (façade) of the carriage house is constructed of a similar style to the main house with rough-hewn, regularly coursed, squared limestone. The remaining side elevations are identical to the side elevations of the main house with alternating courses of light and dark, narrow and wide, limestone. The principal fenestration of the building are the large central doors for carriages on both the north and south elevations. Smaller doors, at the west end of the façade as well as the west side, are recessed in a similar manner to the doors of the main house. The windows of this building are sash, the large window on west side is a remaining original window to this building. The window openings and door recess are similar to the main house and topped by voussoirs of a distinctly different colour of limestone.

Description of the Interior Elements of the House

The interiors contains elements of period joinery that are unique to the Harrowsmith area such as doors with two panels (rather than the more common four or six panels). The window returns of the main house have panels that match the moulding profile of the doors. The millwork in the main house is of three distinct styles, increasing in size and detail to correspond with the use of the room. The main house contains a central staircase with railings of turned butternut and walnut balusters.



Millwork. Window Return (above) and Door (below)



Millwork (above) and Staircase (below)





Attic Details

The attic of the main house has two trusses with large hand-hewn beams that divide the attic space into thirds at waist height. These trusses bear the weight of the rafters. The carriage house is constructed in a similar manner. The rafters of both buildings are small trees, some still bearing their bark, squared on one side. Similarly, the cross beams in the cellar of the main house are large trees, squared on one side.

Historical / Associative Value

3981 Harrowsmith Road, the Stewart House, has good historical and associative value as an upper-middle class house in Harrowsmith from the mid nineteenth century. Built in 1846, it was constructed as part of the building boom from this period. The Stewarts lived in the stone building and were a prominent family in the Portland Area. Samuel was a village merchant and had significant land holdings. He served a number of terms as Mayor of Portland in the latter half of the 1850's. He also operated a general store (the stone building on the corner of Harrowsmith Road), was the postmaster for the village and owned a number of farms. When Samuel died, his daughter Isabella Stewart continued to operate the store until 1922. The Stewart House and the general store were then sold to the Gallagher family.

Contextual Value

This imposing limestone house sits prominently on the streetscape of Harrowsmith near the main intersection of the Village. It is the largest residence constructed of limestone in the area. The carriage house is larger than the main house although it is clearly a secondary building to the main house because of its position and elevation. This building contained the servant quarters and kitchen. Food was brought to the main house through

a cellar tunnel or through the outside. It contrasts to similar buildings in the City of Kingston.

Cultural Heritage Attributes

- Stonework for the main house and carriage house
- Windows
- Exterior Doors
- Fascia & Soffit
- Attic Trusses and Framework