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ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

NOV 18 2020

RECEIVED

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

November 13, 2020

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

To whom it may concern:

**Re: Designation of property of architectural and heritage significance.**

Please be advised that Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of St. Marys has published a notice of intent to designate a property at 345 Wellington Street South, St. Marys, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Please find attached a copy of the statements of designation and of the published Notice of Intent.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Amy Cubberley".

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



## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PLACE OF CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL VALUE

Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Separated Town of St. Marys intends to designate as a place of cultural and historical value the following property in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act, Section 29, Part IV:

### **345 Wellington Street South (Lot 34, East Side)**

The house at 345 Wellington Street South (Lot 34, 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.

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. Elliott purchased Wellington Street, East Side, Lot 34, (345 Wellington Street South) on May 30, 1864. In addition to operating his quarries, Elliott provided stone for local construction and shipped it by rail throughout southwestern Ontario.

James Elliott was also a builder – what was called in his native Scotland, a master mason. Elliott constructed the limestone, two-storey section of 252 Queen Street East, was responsible for the stone work in the Garnett House, in 1874 was awarded the contract for the brick and stone work for the original St. Marys Collegiate building, and in 1879 erected the St. Marys Opera House using stone from his quarry and lime from his kiln.

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.

Detailed reasons for designation of this property can be seen or obtained from the Clerk's office, St. Marys Town Hall, Box 998, St. Marys, ON N4X 1B6 during normal office hours (9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Friday).

Any person who objects to this intended designation must within 32 days of the publication of this notice serve on the Clerk a notice of objection in writing, setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. The Ontario Heritage Act provides that where a notice of objection has been served, the Council shall refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing.

Dated at St. Marys, Ontario, this 19th day of November, 2020.

Signed: Jenna McCartney, Clerk



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

345 Wellington Street South, Lot 34, East Side  
St. Marys, Ontario



*345 Wellington Street South, March 2020*

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



### **Identification of Property:**

The house at 345 Wellington Street South (Lot 34, 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.



*Elliott Quarry, East Side, Water Street, ca. 1905*

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 dormer 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.



*345 Wellington Street South, Winter 1982/1983*

### **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.



*345 Wellington Street South, March 2020 (West and South Facades)*

### **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.