

Freeland Properties Research for MHAC – November 2024 - Draft
Rosanne Lake

William Freeman House
3828 Big Rideau Lake Road – Built 1850s
Lot 26 Concession 1 Bastard Township



(Photo courtesy of My Own Four Walls, Diane Haskins, p 239)



(Photo by Rosanne Lake 2024, the William Freeland House barely visible from the road located in the background.)



(Photo of the barns from the Township of Rideau Lakes website)

History

The land on which the William Freeland farm stood was originally owned by Captain Sherwood who was granted Lot 26 in 1810. After passing through the hands of several owners, it was purchased by William Freeland in 1839 and he constructed a log cabin to live in while establishing the farm.

Twelve years later, the 1851 Agricultural Census reveals that William owned 175 acres – planted with crops, used as pasture, and wooded with three established orchards and gardens. William's sugarbush produced 100 pounds of maple syrup annually. They sure were busy – added to that was 900 pounds of butter and 65 gallons of apple cider. William and his wife, Sara, were still living in the original log cabin they had built after they bought the property.

Indeed they were living there with their two children and Elizabeth Bell, a 21-year-old Irish woman classed as a servant, as well as Michael Fahey a labourer, and a Scottish labourer who was only 14 years old, named Robert Chant.

Within 10 years, William had built the substantial stone house. This is denoted on the 1861 Walling Map of Leeds Grenville. The farm continued to flourish for more than 50 years until after the death of William Freeland Junior, his widow sold the house and farm to Samuel Gotten (Sam Colter in the registry), who did not devote much time to the farm. It was sold in 1920 to George Mattice and has stayed in the Mattice family since, even as Goodsoon Mattice was Reeve of Bastard and South Burgess Township in the early 1980s.

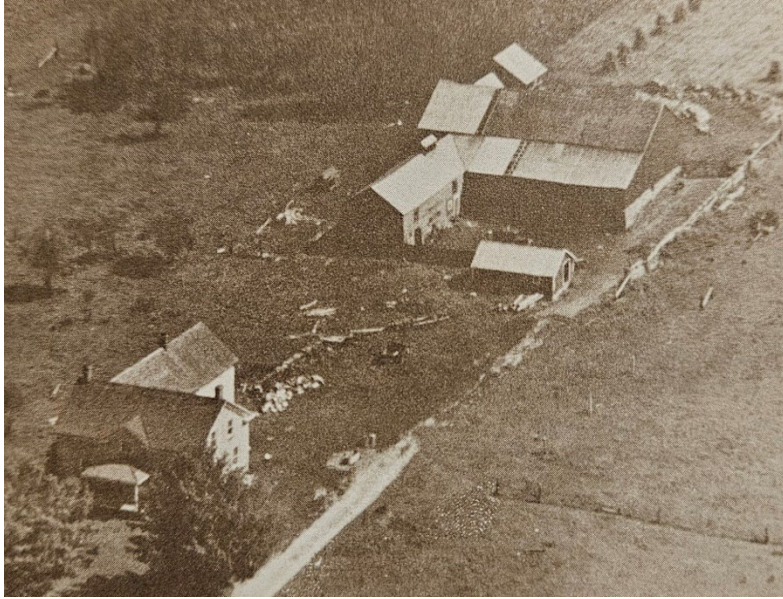
The barns are of particular note here as they are heritage barns and include a stone barn (see photo) as well as one large bank barn structure with four ridge caps. They are a testament to a time when this farm was thriving with bulls, milk cows, pigs, sheep, horses, calves and was very self-sufficient, producing everything from butter to yards of flannel on the farm.

Design

This house is not very visible from the road, so its current state is difficult to confirm. However, previous notes about it in *My Own Four Walls* state that the William Freeland House was a typical Ontario House – one and one-half storey, constructed from naturally finished sandstone set in broken courses. The first floor wall at the front is plastered and a wing at the rear has been recently covered with aluminum siding (1980s). Medium gabled roof with projecting eaves and verges with one stainless steel chimney. The windows are flat and rectangular, with stone lug sills and moulded wooden frames with a six-over-six pane arrangement on the lower floor and a 12-over-six on second floor. The original six-panelled door is recessed with moulded side panels, a moulded frame, a transom with multiple lights and side-lights. An open verandah encircles the front and south west façade of the building. In 2024, the plaster is still somewhat attached to the bottom storey, but the verandah appears to be gone on the front façade.

Samuel Poole House

3909 Freeland Road – Built 1850s - Lot 26 Concession 6



(Above, rare aerial photo of the Poole farm, c. 1940, Perspectives on a Wedge of Cheddar by Doug Bond. Below, Samuel Poole house today, owned by Diane and Keith Haskins. Photo by Rosanne Lake.)



History

The property was deeded to Thomas Myers Senior by the Crown, who sold this northern 100 acres of his lot to Samuel Poole.

Samuel built a log cabin first, to the north of the current stone home. He soon began to build the current house with stone quarried from a nearby farm. He and his wife, Mary Ann, had nine children. According to Diane Haskins' book, *My Own Four Walls*, the style and similarity of the building techniques suggests that the house was likely constructed by the same stonemason who later built the house for Thomas Myers Senior near the end of the Freeland Road. There was also a small cheese factory on site here, noted as the Poole Cheese Factory. The earliest cheese factories were built by progressive farms in the 1860s and 1870s. The Poole Farm had one, making the transition from cottage craft to factory industry. (*Bond, Perspectives on Wedge of Cheddar, p. 106*)

When Samuel Poole died in 1902 he willed the house and farm to his son, William who farmed and operated a blacksmith shop on the property. Diane and Keith Haskins bought the property from William's son, George, in 1967. The stone house has been wonderfully preserved by its present owners.

Design

Sandstone house, built on a rise of land, one-and-one-half storey. It is rectangular in shape with a long façade. The naturally finished stones are set in broken courses. A wooden extension was added at the rear is the first part of the 20th century. It includes a medium-gabled, shingled roof, with central gable. The roof trim included projected eaves and verges, a moulded cornice, a moulded frieze and a fine example of returned eaves.

The front doors is centrally located, recessed, with moulded side panels, a transom with multiple lights and side lights – the original three-panelled doors still hangs in the entryways, in the Classical Revival style. The windows are six-over-six arrangement, double hung with moulded frame. The gable casement window is a small and multi-paned.

Note the bank barn with additional L-horse stable that provided protection to the barnyard from the cold north wind off nearby Big Rideau Lake (*Bond, 90*). The small building on the near side of the barnyard was a machine shed. At the back of the main barn is the peaked roof of the silo ready to receive the corn stoked in the adjacent field for the day of the silo-filling bee. In the rare aerial photo from 1940, three apple trees can also be seen of a once extensive orchard.

**617A/B McCann Road – Rideau Lakes Country Home
PT LT 27 CON 1 South Crosby**



(Courtesy of Google Streetview, 2024)

History

This spacious house is unique along the McCann Road landscape and dates back to the late 1880s/1890.

The lot was originally given to Reuben Sherwood by the Crown in 1836 and then was bought and sold by the Ferres, Baldwins and Bulger families between 1837 and 1881. The price jumps considerably to \$1,000 when it is sold in 1891 assuming the presence of a house by that point.

Design

Many updates to this home, but still architecturally interesting. A focal point in the front façade is the two-storey bay window that extends to the roof and is capped by a half point in the roofline. Medium hipped roof with projecting eaves boasting ornate brackets. This gives the house a somewhat Second Empire appearance, although adapted for a rural environment. House is L-shaped and a front verandah is nestled in the L – decorative scroll work on the verandah has been enclosed by a screened-in porch, but still visible. Another feature is a covered front entrance, off centre, with supporting columns leading up to the same decorative trellis work. The entrance underneath the peaked overhang is a unique tall double door, including two long glass panels. *(Similar style of door to the Harmon Toffey House in Portland which also dates from early 1890s.)*

**758 McCann Road
Lot 1 Concession 1 North Crosby**



(Photo by Rosanne Lake 2024)

History

The Crown patented this land to Rachel McCartney in 1806. This is rare in terms of land grants to a woman. Benjamin Barker purchased the lot in 1838 and on the 1861 Walling Map of Leeds Grenville, there is a structure denoted at this property belonging to B.H. Barker. Although the eastern half of the lot was eventually sold off, the house and some acreage stayed within the Barker family until it was sold to John McCann in 1913 for \$5,100. In a full circle moment, members of the Barker family bought the house and property back in the 1980s. Descendants still reside there today.

Design

This L-shaped, red brick home is handsome with corner detailing in brown brick, as well as framing the windows and doors. The covered verandah has been filled in halfway, and sided; roof is medium pitched, with one chimney visible. Entrance is on the front facade and includes a transom for light. Projecting eaves. Brick houses built in the Rideau corridor after mid-century are more apt to be of the later gable-fronted style, the L-shaped plan, such as this house. (Barbara Humphreys, Architectural Heritage of the Rideau Corridor). Yellow or buff-coloured brick was produced locally alongside the red brick, but its use was restricted to the decorative trim on door and window openings, as seen here.

784 McCann Road
Lot 1 Concession 1 North Crosby



(Photo courtesy of real estate listing)

History

The Crown patented this land to Rachel McCartney in 1806. From there, the eastern half of the lot (100 acres or so) was purchased by Albert Bonestell in 1844; shortly after it was bought by Rufus Brown, who sold it to Thomas Cannon in 1858. A structure appears on this land on the 1861 Walling Map of Leeds Grenville, marked T. Cannon, so that put the build date in the late 1850s, which would match the architecture of the house. It was then sold to Henry W. Warren in 1898 for \$5,000 which was a lot of money, so the farm must have been quite established. The house then stays in the Warren family for almost a century before being sold.

Design

This is a one and one-half storey wood frame house on stone foundation. Although a one-and-one-half storey addition has been built on the back, the front façade and portion of the house is still original symmetrical Ontario Cottage look with a gothic steep peaked Gothic gable window centered above front door. Front door is accented by an unusual but handsome overhang, with a projected eave and ornate paired brackets. Door has a transom window above and side lights. Updated windows.

**4306 Cove Road
Pt Lot 21 Con 1, Bastard**



(Photo courtesy of Google Streetview, 2023)

History

This is a very confusing property register as the dates are not in chronological order. It notes first that the lot originally was granted to John Leggett by the Crown in 1890, noted as 12 acres in addition to Rock Island, also known as Island 27. William Bolton then appears on the register having a life lease on the property in 1881 until 1921 when John Leggett sells to Mark Workman. However, there is a structure that is drawn on 1861 Walling Map of Leeds Grenville, denoted as W. Bolton, in the spot where the house stands. The house style also dates it to the late 1850s so this would be possible.

Design

Symmetrical Ontario House style of frame home. Medium pitch gable window centered. Door and windows have been updated. Stone foundation. One and one half storeys with update window in gable, keeping with the semi elliptical. Roof is metal, with returned eaves which is rare for a frame house. Square in shape.

3837 Big Rideau Lake Road – Eaton House
Pt Lot 25 Con 1 Bastard c. 1860



(Photo courtesy real estate listing)

History

The Crown deeded this lot to Thomas Sherwood, a retired captain of the militia in 1801. It was 100 acres to start. It sat dormant until 1816 when it changes hands being sold to Thomas Lindsay. In the 1830s, this portion of the lot is split and Thomas sells to David Ford and John Bogert.

In 1840, it is sold to William Campbell who sells immediately to James Eaton. It stays within the Eaton Family for generations. James is listed in the 1851 Census of Canada (Canada West, Leeds County, Bastard) as being a 52-year-old farmer who was born in Ireland. Indeed, he had emigrated with his wife, Rachel, before 1830 (*My Own Four Walls, Haskins*). In the 1851 Census, they have five children ranging from 20 to 11 years old, and also a labourer living with them. It must have been a busy house! The land for Freeland School was acquired from the Eaton family. In fact, on the 1861 Walling Map of Leeds Grenville there are two structures denoted for this property – one school house and the other note as J.H. Eaton, which proves the existence of a house then.

The property at 3837 Big Rideau Lake Road is now a 55-acre recreational waterfront property, as well as hobby/horse farm and a sought-after property on the Big Rideau Lake, with more than 320 feet of water frontage. The home is well maintained, with three bedrooms, formal living and dining area, stone fireplace, floor to ceiling windows, and retains the original pine flooring. Numerous out buildings still exist including heritage barn with hay loft and drive shed, as well as an eight-stall horse barn. The land includes walking trails, mature trees. (See photos here:

<https://bteamottawa.com/property/3837-big-rideau-lake-rd-portland/>)

Design

This is a stunning two-storey house with attic room and rounded window. An abundance of windows adorn this red brick home, with brown stone lintels and stone sills. Two-storey bay window, medium hipped roof with projecting eaves and paired ornate brackets. Striking covered wrap around and elevated verandah with decorative posts and trellis work. Interesting detail on the base of the verandah. Stone foundation set in even courses. Two wood frame additions on the rear of the house – one two-storey with semi-elliptical windows and former walk-out from second storey, and the final addition a one-storey featuring a stable or Dutch door.

2751 Highway 15 –Thomas Graham Brick House Lot 25



(Photo courtesy of Google Streetview, 2023)

Design

One and one-half-storey, T-shaped built of red brick set in a stretcher course. A rear wing has been added on the north-west side and there is a full stone basement under the main house. The roof is medium-gabled with moulded wooden trim on eaves and projecting verges. The windows are crowned with curved voussiors of red and white brick. Double hung, with two-over-two pane arrangements. A window with a semi-circular head is located under the front gable. There are two main entrances to the house, topped with brick voussiors, moulded wooden trim surrounding the inner part of both openings. The verandah is open, one-storey tall and situated on the south-west side.

History

The story begins with Captain Rorison's Lots 24 and 25. Lot 25 changed owners several times before it was purchased by Richard Myers in 1828. Ten years after his purchase of Lot 25, Myers sold 100 acres in the eastern half of the property to Thomas Graham, a 36-year-old Irish immigrant. It is here that history is confusing rather than clarifying. To explain, here is an excerpt from *My Own Four Walls*:

"In 1849, Thomas acquired another piece of land, Lot 24, across the road from his original farm. It seems likely that Thomas re-erected his first home, probably log, on Lot 25. This was replaced by a frame house in which he was residing in 1851 with his son and a 22-year-old servant girl. (His wife had died two years before.) The agricultural Census of that year indicated that he was farming land in both lots. A township map of 1861 reveals that the location of Thomas Graham's home was on Lot 25.

But there now arises the mystery of the frame dwelling on Lot 24, which is also ascribed to the Grahams. Part of it appears to pre-date the brick house by 15 to 20 years. The most possible explanation seems to be that the Grahams moved the original, pre-1851 structure from Lot 25 to Lot 24 (not uncommon in those day). We know that between 1861 and 1871 Thomas married again to Mary Anne Bolton, also emigrating from Ireland. They continued to live in the frame house until early 1870s, when the Brick House was constructed on Lot 25. Was it then that the frame house was moved to Lot 24? Again, history provides no answers. We do know that Mary Anne and Thomas lived in the brick house until his death in 1879. Thomas left the brick house to his son, Homer. Although Homer continued to farm, he and his wife may have also operated the house as an inn. In 1921, it was sold to Harold Bond and his wife, Helen Poole.”

**2749 Highway 15 – Thomas Myers Junior House
Concession 1 Lot 22 South Burgess - Built 1860s**



(Photo courtesy of Google Streetview, 2023)

History

Richard Myers and his wife, Mary, emigrated from England and by 1819 Richard had met all the necessary requirements for receiving a land grant. It was not until 1824 that he was given 100 acres on Lot 11, Concession 1. The property alongside Rideau Lake proved to be unsuitable for farming so the family moved inland, with Richard purchasing all of Lot 25, Concession 2 in Bastard Township, except for five acres. In 1837 he was granted more land on the adjoining Lot 26, but his first frame house was likely on Lot 25. His son, Thomas Myers and wife Letita Poole, bought Richard's farm on the new lot in 1845 and built a log cabin where he and his family lived. The 1851 Agricultural Census shows him doing very well on this and operating one of the larger farms in the area. It covered both Lots 25 and 26 with 130 acres under cultivation and boasted three bulls, six milk cows, eight calves, 12 horses, 50 sheep and 10 pigs. It was sometime in 1860s that Thomas built the current stone house to accommodate his large family - and multiple generations of Myers have lived in the house since.

Design

The first floor of the front façade is plastered, on the second floor, alternating red and yellow bricks are set in a decorative pattern which is an unusual feature in this township. The roof is gabled and beneath the central gable is a Gothic-revival style window capped with brick voussoirs. The main entrance has a flat structural opening and the doors surrounded by a moulded frame, and a transom with multiple lights and

side lights. The verandah extended along the façade has decorative trim and is supported by posts with lattice trim.

**533 McCann Road – former Ontario Cheese Factory
PT LT 27 Concession 2 South Crosby**



(Photo courtesy of Google Streetview, 2023)

History

More than 40 cheese factories once dotted Leeds County and this was one of them. Its defining characteristic as a cheddar cheese factory is the typical “weighing-in stand” where local farmers once brought their cans of milk early each morning. This was one of 44 such cheese factories that boomed here in the north of Leeds County with its ideal climate and grasses for producing high-quality milk.

The former Ontario Cheese Factory is located on the Townline Road (now McCann Road) between the former townships of South Crosby and North Crosby. The factory building is now a set of apartments but its past life is still very evident. Lawn now grows where patrons with wagons and trucks queued to weigh in cans of sweet milk. (Doug Bond, *Perspective on a Wedge of Cheddar*, 2015)

More than 70 years ago, brothers Harry and Bill Baker, patrons of the Ontario Cheese Factory, took their milk from their respective herd to Lindon Cowan, professional cheesemaker. Though cheddar cheese factories of the early 1900s varied in shape and cladding, the common architectural feature in each one was its impressive weighing-in stand. “A verandah-like structure under which they found protection from morning rain or rising sun as their cans of sweet milk were hoisted by crane and crank; their content poured into a large tank supported on a set of scale. Here the productions of the Barker brothers herd over the previous four hours were weighed and recorded. The weighing-in stand was always an arena for bragging of the prowess of the Jersey compared to the

Holstein cows, for complaining and for debating politics.” – Doug Bond, page 110, *Perspectives on a Wedge of Cheddar*, referencing the Ontario Cheese Factory.

The property starts out as so many others so with the Crown granting the land to Reuben Sherwood, who sells to William McDonald. It changes hands numerous times between Matthie, Easton, Tobin and finally to Richard Leech in 1851. It is after this that the property gets divided up, but the Leechs are on the register for many years after.

In 1893, the Ontario Cheese Factory was one of the participating factories involved in the production of the world’s biggest cheese, put together in Perth. The mammoth cheese six feet high, was displayed at the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago and then in London, England. (Warren, 127) During 1910, The Ontario Cheese Factory reported record sales in \$16,078. During a one-year period, 1,552 pounds of the cheese were produced in the factory. However, after that, total production of local cheese gradually declined. (Warren, 127)

Ontario Cheese Factory is listed as operating in North Crosby, owned by J.H. Singleton (who also owned the Newboro Model Cheese Factory and the Westport Cheese Factory) in the 1911 national list entitled: A list of the Cheese Factories, Creameries, and Condensed Milk Plants in Canada by the [Department of Agriculture](#).

However, the only time the cheese factory is mentioned on the land register for the property is noted in 1912 when Edward G. Leech is shown as leasing a “Small part 335’ on Township line used as a cheese factory site reusable for 20 years” at \$2/year to H.R. Halladay – even though we know it was operational in the 1890s.

Sources: Perspectives on a Wedge of Cheddar by Doug Bond and Hub of the Rideau by Sue Warren.

**4101 Cheetham Road, known as the John Bolton House
PT LT 24 Concession 1, South Burgess**



(Photo Courtesy of My Own Four Walls, 1982)

Design

One and one half storey, typically Ontario house design of the 1800s, with a front gable and prominent verandah. The naturally finished stone is cut and set in even courses or irregular height. Wooden wing at the rear of the house is the same height as the main portion. The roof is gabled, medium pitch, metal with wood trim on the projecting eaves and verges. The house originally had two chimneys. The windows are flat and rectangular, double hung, with six-over-six panes. The front gable window has a semi-elliptical head. The main front entrance is flat and rectangular, capped with a plain stone lintel. A moulded wooden frame surrounds the single leaf doors. Of special note here is the verandah's trellis work.

History

In 1843, John Bolton was granted 100 acres of land on the bank of the Rideau Lake. This was originally all covered with bush except for a small space cleared by a squatter, who had built a 12-foot square shanty. John lived in the shanty for two years while he started clearing the rest of the land to farm. In 1846 he married Mary Hanna and they lived in the shanty until they built a larger log home to accommodate their growing family. By 1858, the family had nine children and the construction of the present house began. The sandstone was quarried from ledges along the Rideau Lake allowing the Boltons to build the first section of the house. An ideal location was chosen – on a hill overlooking the lake. In 1867, the back section was added. The Bolton Family continued

to live on the farm as the children grew and started their own lives elsewhere until 1904 when it was bought by William Carty.

Source: My Own Four Walls, Diane Haskins, pg. 258.

**Freeland School - 3827 Big Rideau Lake Road
Concession 1 Lot 25, Bastard Township**



(Freeland School, 1912, courtesy of Lucille Strong in My Own Four Walls)



(Freeland School, 2024)

History

In 1801 the Crown deeded 100 acres of land to Thomas Sherwood, a retired captain of the militia and a provincial land surveyor. This land in Bastard Township was bought and sold many times before James Eaton purchased a section of it in 1840.

After the School Act was passed in 1846, many one-roomed school houses were built in Ontario. Many of these buildings were heated by box stoves. Plain boards covered with black paint were used as chalkboard while pupils wrote on slates for their daily work.

James Eaton, a local farmer, leased a small piece of his property to the Freeland School Board on this property and a school was built. The first school in Freeland was constructed from logs situated about a half-mile west of the present structure. It was replaced in 1857 by the present stone structure. It is noted as a school house on the 1861 Walling Map of Leeds Grenville.

According to local resident Ferris Bolton's account of the early education of local children, he noted that in the 1850s smaller children went to school in the summer and the older ones went in the winter, with around 40 students attending the Freeland School on average. It was closed in 1947 due to declining enrolment.

Design

The Freeland School is a simple design: single-storey building, constructed from stone, rectangular in shape and short façade. The stones are cut and set in even courses of different height and are naturally finished. There is a brick chimney at the back of the building. The low-pitched roof is gabled and sheathed with metal. It has **down** roof line consisting of projecting eaves and verges, a plain fascia, and moulded soffit and plain frieze.

Returned eaves. The windows, flat and rectangular in shapes, have plain stone lugsills. On the façade, they are capped with stone voussoirs. The trim within these structural openings is plain. All of the windows are double-hung and have two-over-two pane arrangements, originally 12-over-8. The main entrance, located in the centre of the façade, is capped with stone voussoirs and has plain concrete trim along the sides. The wooden door is made from vertical boards and surrounded by a plain wooden frame. It can still be seen where an enclosed wooden porch was attached to the entrance. The porch was added to the school in 1914 and it was removed during the 1970s.

Source: North Leeds Lantern:

<https://images.ourontario.ca/lakesandislands/3238681/page/3?q=eaton+house+bastard&docid=OOI.3238681>

4303A Cove Road - The Joseph Green House - Built 1850 Lot 22 Concession 2 (?)



(at top, Joseph Green House today at 4303A Cove Road, Google Streetview; in middle house in 1911; bottom, house in 1984 showing plaster on first storey, Diane Haskins, My Own Four Walls)

History

Joseph Green came from the Oak Leaf area, and bought Captain Rorison's Lot 22 in 1838, although it had passed through other hands already by this point. By 1851 he is shown as living with a wife, Lydia, and their five children, as well as a 12-year-old girl, Ann Hanton, who was born in Ireland and classed as a servant. As noted in *My Own Four Walls* by Diane Haskins, the Agricultural Census of the same year notes that Joseph was quite a prosperous farmer: with 100 of his 127 acres cultivated and significant livestock holdings, along with a blacksmith shop. In total, he and Lydia had 10 children here, however, their happiness was short lived, as six members of the family died of tuberculosis within the next 15 years – including Joseph himself. Even so, the farm continued operating under son, Colin, and his wife, Clara Murphy. They sold it in 1891 to John Leggett, whose wife was sisters with Colin. Later on in 1921, the farm came into the possession of Louis Kennedy, who kept race horses.

Design:

One-and-one-half storey sandstone house with an attached carriage-house. The lower floor of the main house was plastered on three sides for years, but the plaster has since been removed showcasing the original stonework. Returned eaves. Windows are plain trim, double hung with two sashes, stone voussoirs trim the upper storey windows. The original five-panel door is set in a recess with moulded side-panels, rectangular transom and side lights with glass removed. The heritage verandah extends on three sides with plain posts. Original lattice work has been removed.

Also interesting to note is the one and one half storey frame former tenant house across the road.



**3968 Palmer Lane (near Portland)
Lot 24 Concession 1 Bastard**

History

Known as Edgemere, this estate is on Murphy's Bay in the Big Rideau near Portland and not visible from the road. It is surrounded by heritage snake rail fencing. This property starts out typically for Portland: the Crown granted the land to Basil Rorison who sold it to Alexander Campbell and then went to Truman Hicock. But then it gets interesting as the whole lot is actually kept together until the 1920s. What's even more interesting is that the land and house here was bought and sold for a large sum of money, starting in 1891 when it went through several members of the Murphy family and briefly the Donovans. So, presumably the house was built prior to 1890. All 85 acres were then sold to Melbourne DeWolfe for the tidy sum of \$4,150, who in turn sold a land parcel to Robert Gordon Stewart in 1912 with an additional 1 acre piece selling in 1918 for \$7,500. Of note is that Robert Gordon Stewart served in the South African War as a Lieutenant Colonel with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, for which he earned the Queen's Medal with four clasps. He eventually lost sight in one eye and was discharged back to Canada in 1923. He then went into business as a construction contractor, working large projects like the Welland Canal and Hydro-Electric in the Niagara Peninsula.

Design:

I am unable to see this house from the road. The only thing visible are two stone pillars announcing the laneway, one of which has a little plaque on it entitled, "Edgemere".