

**Monastery of the
Soeurs de la Visitation
d'Ottawa
114 Richmond Road**

David Jeanes, vice-president

Heritage Ottawa

31 March 2010

Heritage Ottawa supports designation



1864 House and 1913 Convent

- “The Elms” is a good example of Gothic Revival style
- represents move of wealthy businessmen to mansions along Richmond Road in mid-to-late 1800s.
- 1853 Macadamized road allowed access to Ottawa.
- no other designated house in the west end for this well-preserved style and period of development.
- Visitandine monastery represents 100 years of cloistered life within the community since 1910.
- founded by French nuns; Ottawa nuns then founded monasteries in Lévis (1922) and la Pocatiere (1959)
- Community interaction centered on the Chapel, (used initially by St. George’s Church, founded 1923)



Protected Heritage Attributes (House)

- steeply pitched roof with narrow gable-roofed dormers
- front veranda
- bay window with wooden pointed arch details
- decorative bargeboard
- tall chimneys
- stone quoins and voussoirs

The Elms in 1907





Protected Heritage Attributes (Monastery)

- tall stone walls with evenly spaced windows
- high hipped metal-clad roof with gable and triangle dormers
- bellcote
- veranda and galleries
- Chapel and its interior volumes
- the plan, including central courtyard-cloister enclosed on four sides
- the distinctive flower bed pattern in the courtyard
- picturesque setting





Chapel decoration has been painted white

Area to be designated (staff proposal)



Entire property designation recommended

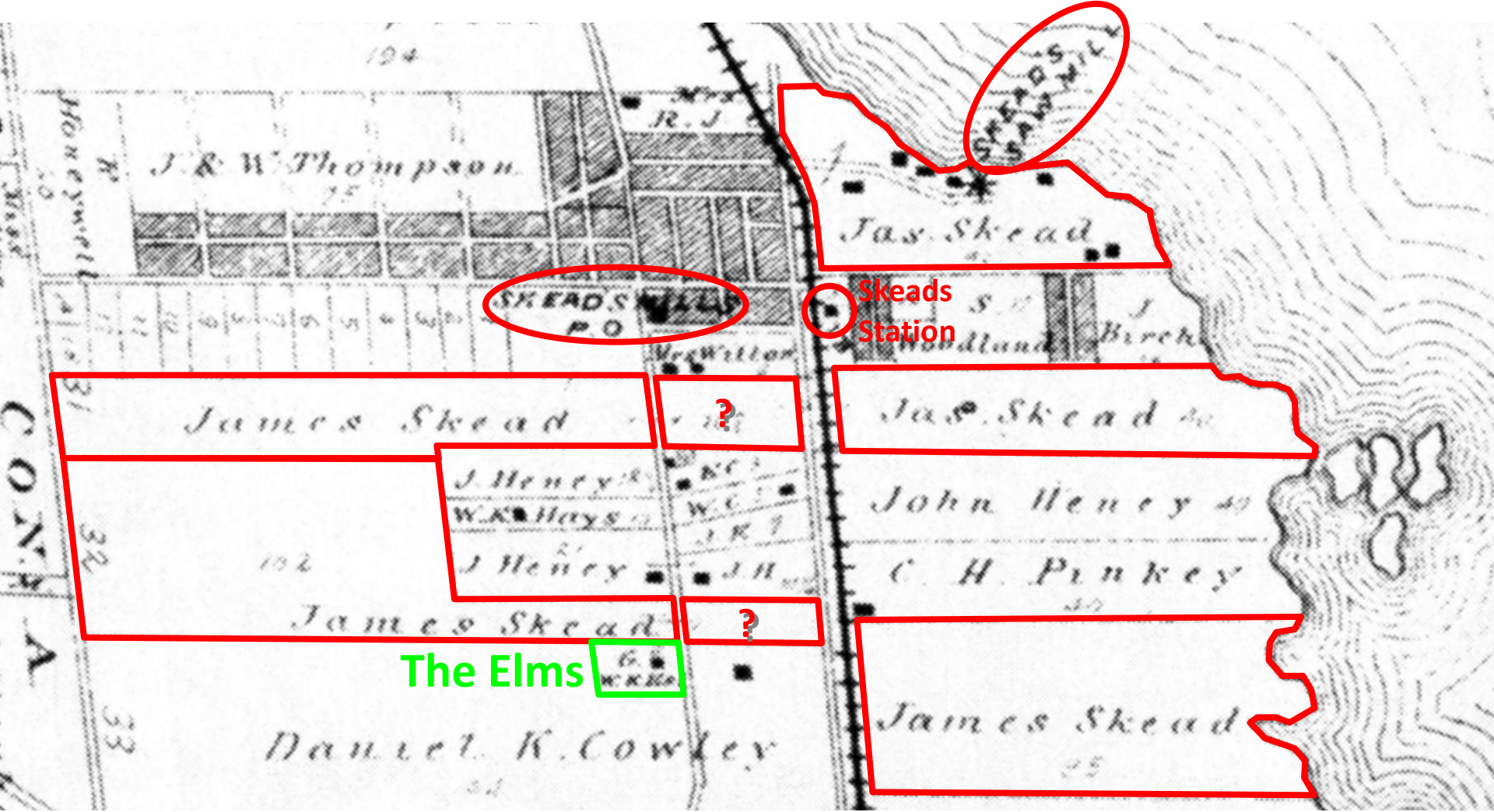


Prominent Residents at The Elms

- James Dyke: wholesale provision merchant, industrialist, accountant, (in the house 1863-1865).
- George Washington Eaton: lumberman, gentleman farmer, (in the house 1865-1880, died 1880).
- Hon. James Skead: lumberman, politician, industrialist, farmer, (1880-1887, died 1884). Role on Lebreton Flats, Ottawa River, railways, steamboats, Lansdowne Park.
- George C. Holland: newspaperman, stenographer, Hansard reporter, farmer, entrepreneur, promoter of typewriters and motion pictures, (1887-1910).

(Big families and numerous social linkages by marriage).

Westboro (Skead's Mills) in 1879



Challenges for Adaptive Re-use

- interior spaces are small but may be altered
- Chapel interior should not be subdivided
- windows are small – problem for residential use
- attic is unfinished and spacious; skylights possible?
- numerous exterior doors – not accessible

Successful adaptations include student residences, social service centres, restaurants, artist studios, music/drama, offices, community organizations.

Heritage Ottawa will assist developer and community to come up with ideas for successful re-use.