

# Hellmuth Boys' College Heritage Interpretive Sign

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London Advisory Committee on Heritage  
June 13th, 2018

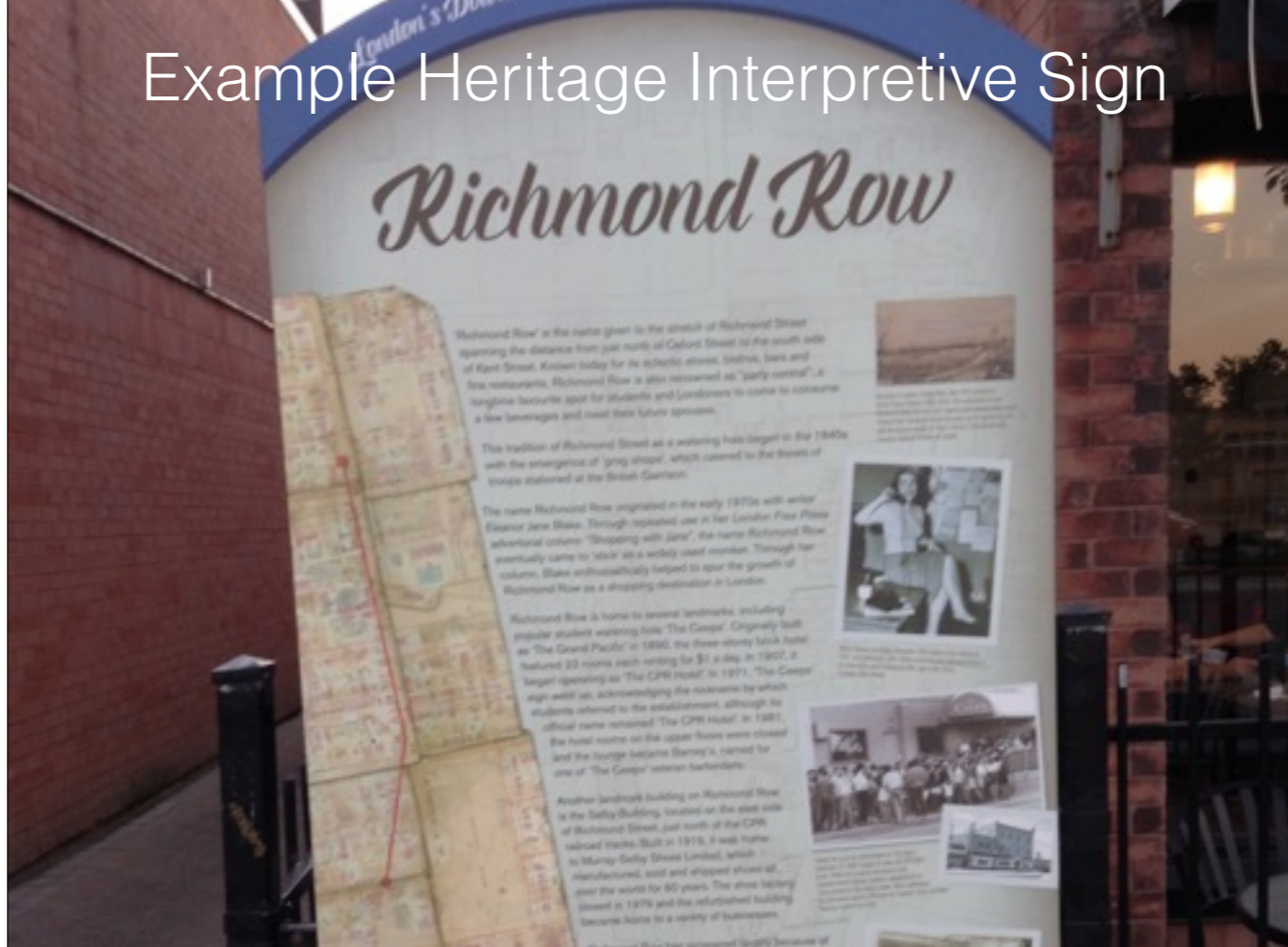
Good evening. I'm here tonight to tell you about a prospective Heritage Interpretive Sign about Hellmuth Boys' College being developed by the Culture Office at the City of London. Our hope in bringing this project to your attention is that the Education sub-committee of LACH would be willing to look at the draft text for the sign when it is ready. My name is Mark Tovey. I am a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of History at Western University, working in partnership with the Culture Office. My postdoctoral study area includes the Bishop Hellmuth Heritage Conservation District.



This is the Bishop Hellmuth Heritage Conservation District.

It was so named because it sits on the grounds of the former Hellmuth Boys College, which was for a time, the first home of Western University.

# Example Heritage Interpretive Sign



The Bishop Hellmuth Neighborhood Association has requested a Heritage Interpretive Sign, similar to this interpretive sign for Richmond Row, for which I did the research. As you can see, interpretive signs include both images and text. I have been asked to do the research for the Hellmuth Boys' College Interpretive sign, which I am undertaking under the umbrella of my postdoctoral research.

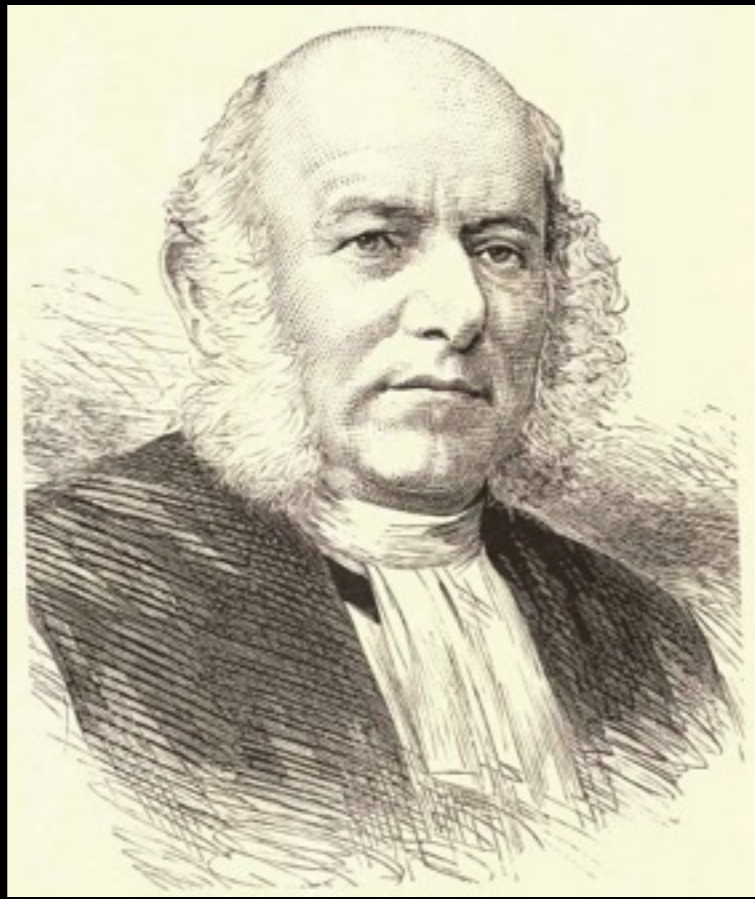


**Detail from Lithographic Plan and Bird's Eye View of the City of London, Ontario. William Greenwood and Edward Robert Richards, London, Ont., 24th January, 1890. Courtesy: Map Library, Western University.**

To further help situate the Boys College building, for a time, St. John the Evangelist Church (built in 1888) and the College (demolished in 1894) were both situated on the block bounded by Wellington, Waterloo, Grosvenor, and St. James. Detail from Lithographic Plan and Bird's Eye View of the City of London, Ontario. William Greenwood and Edward Robert Richards, London, Ont., 24th January, 1890. Courtesy: Map Library, Western University.



Again, to situate the Boys College, this is the view looking south from Hellmuth Boys College shortly before the College became the first campus of Western University. In the foreground on the left is the College's circular drive, exiting onto St. James Street. The muddy street that emerges from the bottom right corner is Wellington Street. In the distance on the left is the Crystal Palace Barracks. In the centre distance is the Infantry Barracks of the British Garrison. On the right in the distance can be seen St. Paul's Cathedral. Image: View of Central London including Crystal Palace, Military Barracks (now Victoria Park) from Hellmuth Boys College. Courtesy: Western Archives, Western University, RC60179.



**"Principal Hellmuth was a remarkable man, his personal magnetism was immense. He had a wonderful pair of dark brown eyes – large, mobile, luminous, penetrating, yet kindly." – Dr G. J. Low, an early student at Huron (Gwynne-Timothy, 64).**

Isaac Hellmuth was the Principal of Huron College before founding the Hellmuth Boys and Girls Colleges and Western University.

Courtesy: London Room Photograph Archives, PG L22.



Situated on 10 acres (Gwynne-Timothy, 67), the College was a “four-storey white brick building .... and could accommodate 150 students and staff in more than 70 rooms.” (Turner).  
c. 1875.



Courtesy: London Room Photograph Archives, PG E164.  
(<http://images.ourontario.ca/london/76529/data>)

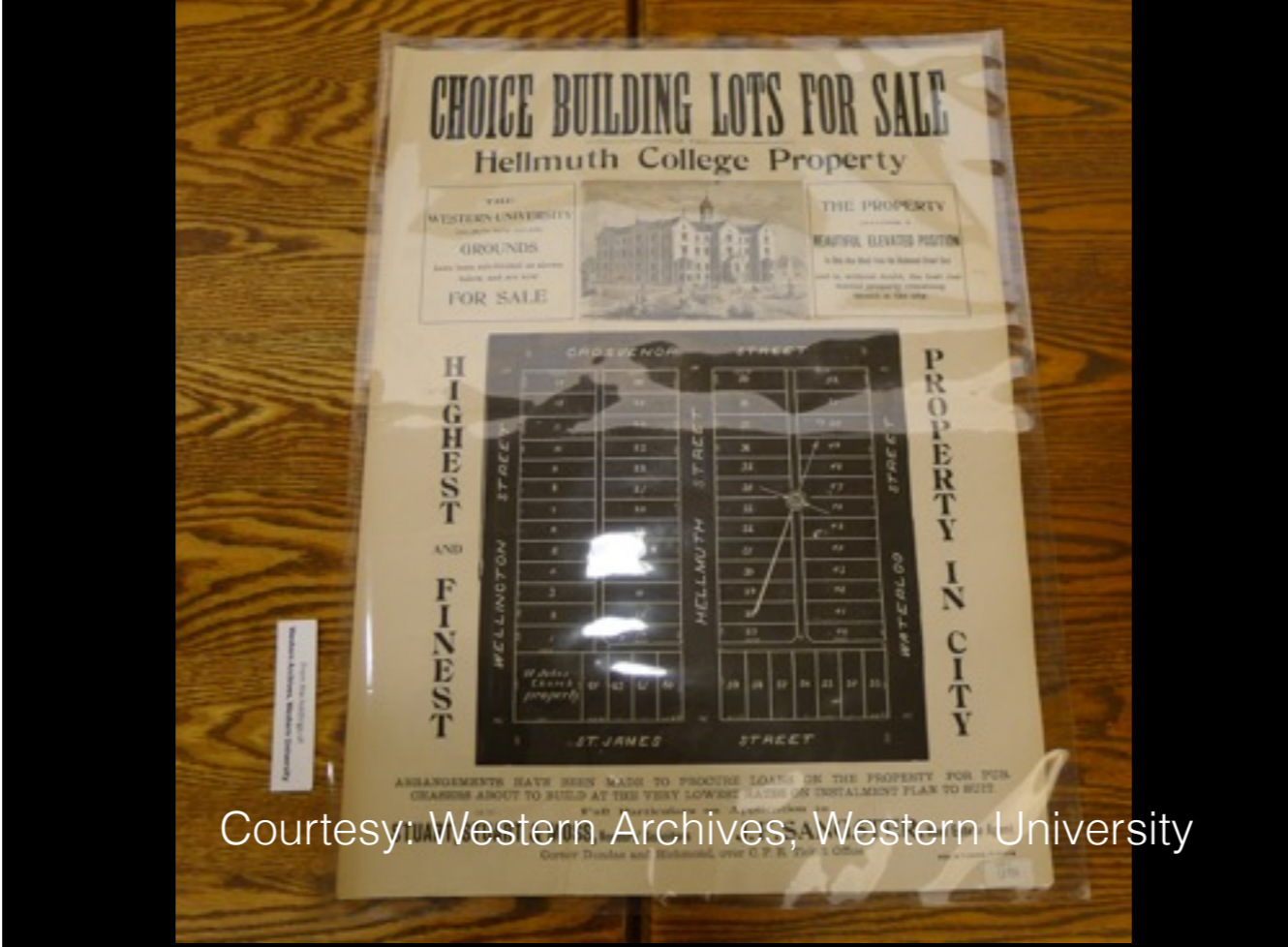
Pictured is a young Arthur Sweatman, around the time he was Principal of what became Hellmuth Boys College. Rev. Sweatman (1834 –1909) later served as Archbishop of Toronto, and Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.





Detail. Courtesy: Western Archives, Western University, RC40847.

Here we can see cricket being played on the lawn of Hellmuth Boys College. Apart from a cricket field, the school's amenities included a gymnasium, a racket court, and a pond for swimming. (Joyce, *At the Close of Play: The Evolution of Cricket in London Ontario, 1836-1902*, 77).



Courtesy: Western Archives, Western University

In 1894, the College was demolished, and its property was subdivided. This area now forms the core of the Bishop Hellmuth Heritage Conservation District.

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When the draft interpretive sign is ready, we would like to request feedback on it from the LACH subcommittee. Thank you for your attention. I'd be happy to answer any questions.