



DAVID KILPATRICK : ARCHITECT

David Kilpatrick (1852-1902): A Talented Young Architect from St. Thomas, Ontario

Paul Baldwin

St. Thomas and Elgin have significant architectural assets that need to be known as more than just well-built stylish houses, commercial blocks or public institutions. They need to be recognized as an expression of an era and often of an individual who made architecture not only a career but a public art. And while we have a host of buildings that were the work of architects whose offices were not in St. Thomas or Elgin, we have many more that were by local architects now largely forgotten. The purpose of my research is to recover the details of these dedicated artists, their personal and professional lives and the works they wrought and to publicize what I discover so that both current owners and the general public will be more appreciative of our built heritage. David Kilpatrick (1852–1902) was one such local architect and the first St. Thomas-raised architect to practice there.

What is known of David's early life is to be found in the Canadian Census of 1861. By then, his family were residents of St. Thomas, his father, Aaron, 33, a joiner, his mother, Jane Rae, 28 and the mother of 4 children. David was 9, born in Ireland in 1852. His siblings, Margaret, Phebe and Elizabeth were all born in Upper Canada. So, Aaron, Jane and David emigrated from Ireland between 1852 and 1854 and were in St. Thomas at least by 1861,

Aaron working as a carpenter. The Census of 1871 affirms these facts, Aaron by then 45 and both a carpenter and a contractor, Jane, 37 and now the mother of 6. David was 18 and listed as a carpenter.

But just over a year later, at only 20, David Kilpatrick was advertising himself as an architect and, in 1873, is credited with the design and supervision of two substantial houses, the Talbot Street block that housed St. David's Masonic Lodge #302 and St. David's Wesleyan Methodist Church. How could that be? What prepared him for such a prodigious leap?



David Kilpatrick's listing in the *St. Thomas Journal*, June 13, 1879.

130 Centre Street,
designed in 1873
for William McKay,
merchant and first clerk
(administrator) of the
County of Elgin.



71 Metcalfe Street, designed
in 1873 for George Kains,
a brewer.



St. David's Ward Wesleyan
Methodist Church, Balaclava Street,
St. Thomas, c. 1873
*Cameron Collection,
Elgin County Archives*



First, let me say that David was talented. While his initial plans were somewhat academic, perhaps copied from available British and American architectural texts or modelled after the work of another architect, they also had such artistic appeal that for a time his work was very much in fashion. His 1873 and 1874 designs at 71, 72 and 92 Metcalfe Street, St. Thomas demonstrate both sides of that coin, stylish and well-planned even if not entirely original.

He might also have had a mentor: London architect George Watson (1812-1907). Of this suggestion, there is no proof although a coincidental presence in St. Thomas and their mutual use of the Italianate style do connect them. Mr. Watson did have 7 projects in St. Thomas in 1871 and 1872 as well as the highly-praised Aylmer Town Hall in 1873: the Hutson store on Talbot Street West; the Free Trade Buildings on the corner of Talbot and St. George Streets; two Talbot Street business blocks east of the London and Port Stanley for John E. Smith; the stately home of Alfred Allworth on Margaret Street; a residence for James Denison on Talbot Street West and the addition to the Central School. Not only would David be well-aware of Watson's work, he was also on site at the Central School as his father was the contractor. So, if at 19, he was considering a career in architecture and seeking a model, George Watson might have been it.

He was also, I assume, well-trained in the details of specifications and construction by his father. Along with numerous other jobs listed



Smith Block, now
625 Talbot Street, c. 1903
*Cameron Collection,
Elgin County Archives*

These buildings were part of larger block that housed the Masonic lodge rooms. They are still standing.

in the Journal's annual summary of the town's "Building Operations" and the Central School, Aaron was also the building contractor for many of David's projects: in 1873, the homes of William McKay at 130 Centre Street and George Kains at 71 Metcalfe Street as well as the 3-storey Masonic Hall block for the St. Thomas Reading and Lecture Room Association and, in 1874, John McLean's complement to the Free Trade Buildings and Mr. Ermatinger's new Post Office. As evidenced by the many projects they tackled together and Aaron's leaving St. Thomas in 1884 to join David in Winnipeg, father and son were very close and David undoubtedly learned much about carpentry, specifications and supervision from his dad.



St. Thomas
Central School,
Wellington and
Elgin Streets,
c. 1895
*Cameron
Collection, Elgin
County Archives*

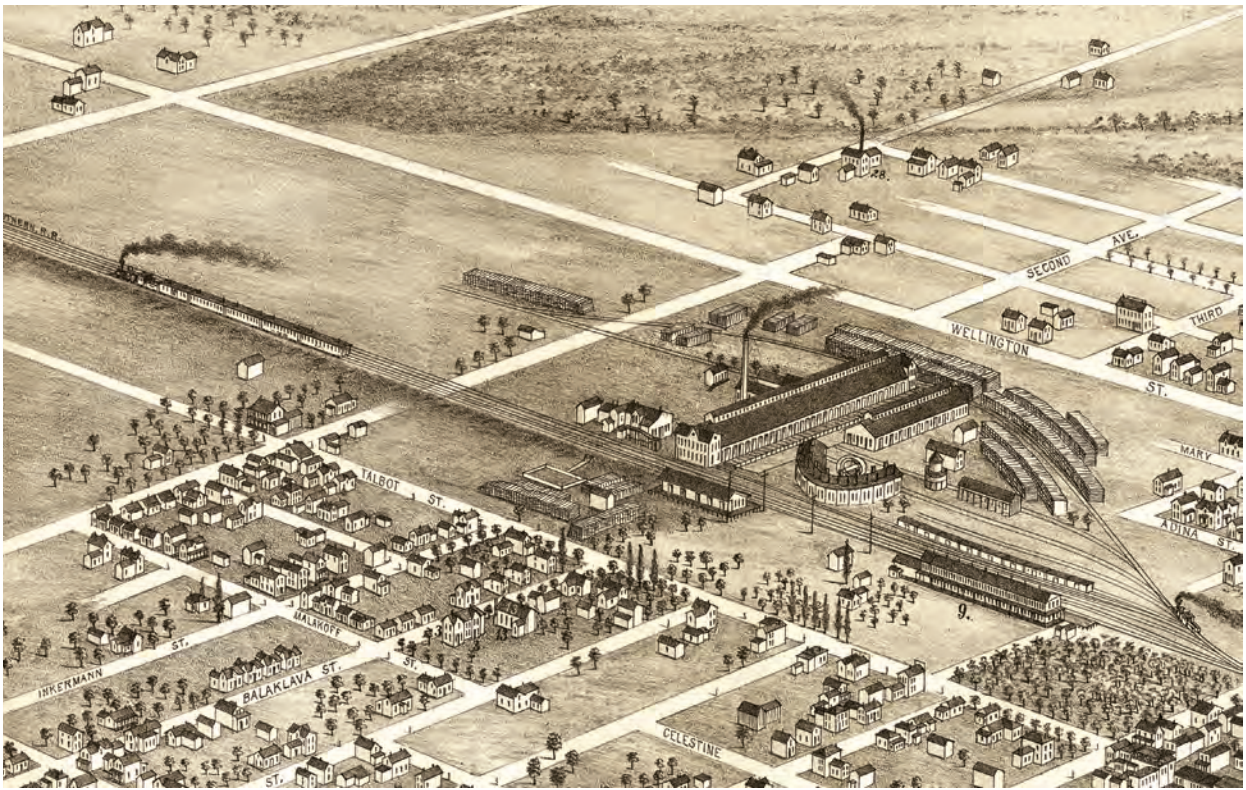
The Free
Trade Building,
designed by
George Watson
and completed
by David
Kilpatrick,
Talbot Street
at St. George,
c. 1875

*Cameron
Collection,
Elgin County
Archives*



251-253 Talbot
Street, Free
Trade Buildings,
2019





Detail, Bird's Eye View of St. Thomas, 1875.

Building number "9" is the CASO station.

Without work, established architects suffer and budding architects switch careers. So, it was also most opportune for David that, just at this time, St. Thomas experienced the arrival of two railways, the Canada Southern Railway (later New York Central) and the Great Western Air Line (now Canadian National). The Canada Southern built its station, roundhouse and shops due east of the village while the Airline built its facilities to the northeast of the village both creating exponential growth in population, in business generally and building in particular.

Initially, this work of architects was done by the newcomers. After completing the grand Canada Southern (CASO) station, Edgar Berryman (1839-1905) offered engineering services to the town and then did the plans for a Gothic dwelling on Stanley St. for Richard

Horsman. After his work as an inspector on the Air Line, William T. Waters shifted his focus to architecture, designed the Victoria Block for Mr. Hodge, rearranged one of the stores in the Metcalfe Buildings for Molson's Bank and then "built for himself after plans of his own devising...both neat and comfortable" the brick cottage that still stands at 57 East Street. Meanwhile, another new arrival, William Phillips, opened an office and ran ads for his architectural services from January 3, 1872 to July 3, 1874 but seems he only had one client for two Talbot Street stores, a Mrs. Pringle. Finally, as noted, George Watson was very active while in 1873, his former partner, London architect Samuel Peters (1822-1882), completed the Merchants Bank. But by 1874, all this competition had left St. Thomas, leaving the field to David.



Talbot Street, south side, looking east from Queen Street, c. 1875
Cameron Collection, Elgin County Archives

Mrs. Pringle's Jewellery store and the residential-looking Merchants Bank are on the corners of Talbot and Queen Streets. In the centre of the block is Kilpatrick's Arkell Block built in 1874. Thomas Arkell was a dry goods merchant, Mayor of St. Thomas from 1865 to 1872 and Member of Parliament for the riding of East Elgin from 1878 to 1882. At the far left is the Metcalfe Buildings.



Arkell Block, 250-264
Talbot Street, c. 1875
*Cameron Collection,
Elgin County Archives*

In just his third year, David's output in 1874 was significant. In that year alone, his portfolio included the St. David's Ward school, the St. Thomas Post Office, the Arkell Block¹, a two-bay complementary addition to George Watson's Free Trade Buildings for John McLean, a full two-storey residence for Sturgeon Sharon and American Gothic-styled dwellings for

James Hutchison at 72 Metcalfe Street and his parents at 92 Metcalfe Street. He also built a villa for himself at the top of the St. George Street hill, just north of the tracks leading to the Air Line trestle, likely in anticipation of his May 17, 1875 marriage to Miriam Hill, the 23-year-old daughter of William and Mary Hill, farmers on Wellington Road, just north of St. Thomas.

¹ In an editorial in his *Canadian Home Journal*, Archibald McLachlin was most praise-worthy of David's Arkell Block. "We had occasion several times to notice David Kilpatrick as the architect or designer of houses and buildings in progress in town. The more his plans come under notice, the more his ability commends itself. The block of stores now in course of erection between the Merchants Bank and the Metcalfe Block (the Arkell Block) are after plans and designs by him. While avoiding extravagant ornament, his lines are so managed as to give a bold, striking and harmonious appearance to the building. What is equally important, in some instances more so, is the practical character of his designs. His estimates have invariably come within contract prices, and his plans have needed no subsequent modification involving claims for extras." *Canadian Home Journal*, July 10, 1874, p. 5.



72 Metcalfe Street, designed in 1874 for James Hutchison.



92 Metcalfe Street, designed in 1874 for Aaron and Jane Kilpatrick.



102 Wellington Street, designed in 1874 for Sturgeon Sharon, gentleman.



St. Thomas Post Office, Talbot Street, and the home of J. M. Green (at right), c. 1875

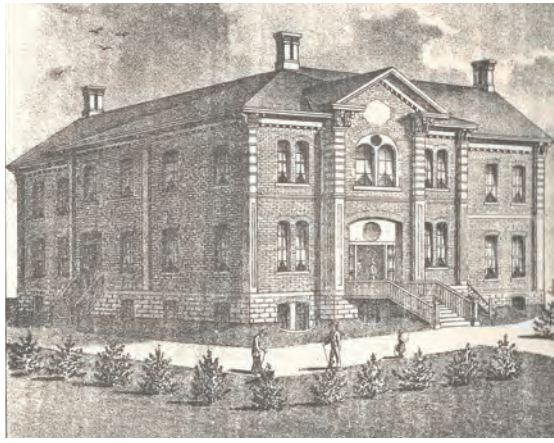
Cameron Collection, Elgin County Archives

John McNabb Green built and lived in the house on the right. It was removed in the late 1870s to make way for the Grand Central Hotel and relocated to 73 Metcalfe Street. Green, Kilpatrick's partner for about a year in 1877, was a draughtsman, contractor and successful entrepreneur. He operated the large planing mill that was where Green's Parkette is now located, built a number of private homes, business blocks and Neil Darrach's City Hall. He was also one of the driving forces behind the building of the Grand Central Hotel.



The rebuilt J. M. Green house at 73 Metcalfe Street.

1875 was not so busy with just one contract that year, the County of Elgin's House of Industry, David's largest and highest profile



County of Elgin's House of Industry, from the Historical Atlas of Elgin County, 1877

project to date. But that respite was followed by another big year in 1876 with four 3-storey Talbot Street blocks, St. Thomas residences for Edward McCrone and Matthew Penhale, a small frame church at McBride in Southwold

Township and, as made public by a "Tender Call" in the Journal's April 21, 1876 edition, another Southwold project for an unnamed client. More on that in a moment for before the completion of the latter, David entered into a partnership with J. M. Green (1845-1904), a successful local contractor with previous drafting experience received in Mr. Watson's office.



19 Wellington Street, designed in 1876 for Edward McCrone, a hardware merchant.

Matthew Penhale residence, Talbot Street, south side between White and Princess Streets, c. 1910

*Robert Moore Post Card Collection,
Elgin County Archives*

The house was a YMCA between 1900 and 1914.



The partnership of Kilpatrick & Green, Architects was announced in the Journal on September 19, 1876; it ended less than a year later on August, 10, 1877. But in the 11 months of their joint venture, five of their designs were built: a remodeling of the John Street Bible Christian Church; a transept addition to St. David's Church; a Methodist Church in Union; a residence for C. O. Ermatinger at 48 Stanley Street and a manse for St. Thomas' Knox Presbyterian Church. The manse was perhaps the most artistic, most appealing work of their partnership and deserves special mention.

Trowel used at the laying of the corner stone for both Union Churches, 1877 and 1948.

South Yarmouth Women's Institute Tweedsmuir, Elgin County Archives

Inscribed: "Presented to George E. Casey, Esq. M.P. on the occasion of his laying the corner stone of the Methodist Church, Union, May 24th, 1877"



Union Methodist Church,
c. 1910

*Cameron Collection,
Elgin County Archives*

This church which burned in 1948, was located on the site of the present church, 6008 Stone Church Road, Union. The rails in front of the church belong to the Traction Line, an electrified line that ran from London to Port Stanley.

After outgrowing their first church built in 1837 at the head of New Street, the area's Presbyterians built a new church at the north-west corner of Talbot and Mary Streets in 1866. The minister of the day, Rev. George Cuthbert, then had Aaron Kilpatrick build him a house at the corner of Curtis and East Streets, a short walk from the church. When, in 1876, the Knox pulpit was given over to Rev. Mungo Fraser, a new manse was built behind the Talbot Street church on Mary Street. Kilpatrick & Green were the architects. It seemed to be designed to make a statement of the prominence of St. Thomas' Presbyterians and perhaps, also, to indicate the esteem the congregation had for their ministers. A large, stately house on an expansive corner lot, its floor plan mirrors

a church's nave, transept and tower all under steeply-pitched roofs. Many of the windows use Gothic and Romanesque styling while the bay windows have a Scottish baronial flair. The gable end of the transept contains more Gothic styling and spherical triangle windows with stained-glass and is framed by brick pilasters and a brick cornice 'supported' by small brick buttresses. But then, when a third, even larger church was needed and the present Knox Presbyterian Church was built on Hincks Street, the Mary Street manse must have been judged too distant from that church or, perhaps, too elaborate for Presbyterians and therefore sold. It was a private residence until 1928 when it was demolished and replaced by the Y.W.C.A. designed by John Findlay (1887-1947).

Knox
Presbyterian
Church manse,
southwest corner
of Mary and
Curtis Streets,
c. 1885

*Courtesy, Steve
Peters Collection*

It was
demolished c.
1927-1928 to
make way for the
present YWCA
building.



St. David's Ward/
Grace Wesleyan
Methodist Church
with 1877 additions.
This building was
razed in 1909 and
replaced with
a larger Grace
Methodist (United)
Church.

*Cameron Collection,
Elgin County Archives*



48 Stanley Street,
known as Bella
Vista, designed
in 1877 for
C. O. Ermatinger,
a lawyer and, later,
county Judge.



Despite its successes, Kilpatrick & Green did suffer one known setback. When in 1877, they learned that the St. Thomas School Board was interested in building a new High School, they submitted unsolicited plans to the Board's next meeting. According to the Journal of April 3, 1877, the Board reserved its decision at that time, called for plans on May 18th and on June 15th, approved the plans of Albert E. French (1848-1927) of Detroit. David tried a similar approach to the Board of Management of the proposed Alma College a year later, offering to provide plans at no charge. But the Alma Board awarded the contract to James Balfour (1854-1917) of Hamilton and made Edwin Ware (1823-1900) Clerk of Works. Perhaps local decision-makers thought that big jobs were beyond local architects; on the other hand, perhaps David's designs were not as fashionable as they had been.

After the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Green moved on to build his own business block, play a major role in the establishment of the Grand Central Hotel and take on and successfully operate a bankrupt planing mill. David returned to his former office and continued his practice, completing the Southwick Block at 261-275 Talbot Street for Dr. George Southwick.

Meanwhile, what was undoubtedly David's most elaborate undertaking, known locally as the Casey House, was nearing completion. Although the house has been more closely associated with the name George Elliott Casey, it was really the project of his mother, Sarah, the Widow Casey, reputedly Elgin's

wealthiest resident. George was the Member of Parliament for West Elgin, the youngest Member in the House, Party Whip for the ruling Liberals and the fiancé of Sarah Biggar, daughter of the Member for Northumberland, James Biggar. So, in 1876, it seems that a residence appropriate to his stature was conceived and although there is no direct link to connect the Casey House and David, there is enough circumstantial evidence for me to conclude that David Kilpatrick was the architect.

As noted earlier, a call for "Sealed Tenders" appeared in the Journal of April 21, 1876 "for certain additions to and the renovation of a brick dwelling in the Township of Southwold.

D. Kilpatrick, Architect." Thereafter, however, there was neither a report of the awarding of the tender nor word of the completion of the project in either the Liberal Journal or the Conservative Weekly Dispatch. In itself, that is surprising as the Casey House was the most lavish dwelling in the district. But if the local press was negligent or reports

were intentionally discouraged, it is then even more surprising that a full-page, patron-paid sketch of the residence of George E. Casey was included in H.R. Page & Co.'s 1877 Historical Atlas of Elgin County. The sketch shows a grand Italianate addition to an existing, plain 2-storey brick house so recently completed that the pines in the front yard were newly planted. Why the architect and contractor of that new house were never named, I do not know but I do know that the Casey House would have had an architect and the timing, architectural style and the tender call of April 21st tell me that that architect was David Kilpatrick.



George E. Casey
Elgin County Archives



Residence of George Casey, Middlemarch, from the Historical Atlas of Elgin County, 1877



George Casey House,
37015 Fingal Line,
1989

Wallacetown Tweedsmuir
History, Volume Four
Elgin County Archives

By 1878, the steam of the railway boom had largely been spent and David had local competition for many of the contracts to be had. Edwin Ware, who already had the commission for Archibald McLachlin's new home, was retained by Fred Ermatinger for services in the building of 5 Wellington Street, Neil Darrach (1850-1926) and partner John Baikie (1837-1891) were favoured with the Margaret Street dwelling of M. A. Gilbert, the Talbot Street McLarty business block, Centre St. Baptist Church and the Grand Central Hotel while two new architects had



Jabel Robinson, c. 1900
Elgin County Archives

opened offices, J. Z. Long (1848-1891) and J. A. Mathews. David did provide services for "a three-story brick dwelling to be used as a dwelling-house and office by Dr. Southwick alongside and uniform in design with the block belonging to him", a stylish and well-placed residence for George Wegg at the corner of Pearl and Curtis Streets and in 1879, just west of Middlemarch, a stately house for Jabel Robinson, a former St. Thomas constable and lumber merchant, the leader of Elgin's Grange Movement and the Independent Conservative who would topple George Casey in the election of 1900.



37447 Fingal Line designed in 1879 for Jabel Robinson, a farmer and MP.



27 Curtis Street, designed in 1878 for George Wegg, a carriage maker.

Following the success of his Union church, he also seems to have been the Methodists' architect of choice with new Methodist churches in Talbotville, Fingal and Thorndale and, in 1880, alterations and improvements to First Methodist Church, St. Thomas. The Presbyterian Church in Delaware Township, the Congregational Church in Shedden, a Wallacetown school and almost assuredly a modest home for his parents at 7 Isabel Street and the grand dwelling of friend and patron, John McLean, at 32 St. George Street were also his as well as, quite possibly, the Roman Catholic school house and convent Father Flannery had built on Talbot Street, adjacent to his church.



Thorndale Methodist (United) Church, built 1879, 245 King Street, Thorndale.



Former Congregational Church, built 1879, 35888 Talbot Line, Shedden.



Talbotville Methodist (United) Church, built 1878, 10734 Sunset Road, Talbotville.

But a lack of work and sustenance might have been a problem in these years as the Journal of May 3, 1878 has an ad offering the Kilpatrick home for rent while the issue of May 31, 1878 includes notice that the brickyard operated by David and partner, Richard Ching, was insolvent. The paper of June 7, 1878 reports that his plans were one of four still under consideration in a design competition for Hamilton's Central Baptist Church but good news did not follow. And while he and Miriam must have been delighted by the birth of their son on June 7, 1879, the boy's presence was not recorded thereafter and, like their daughter, Bertha, must have died early.

Little wonder, I think, that an ad for David Kilpatrick, Architect, appeared in the St. Thomas Journal on April 5, 1881 recommending that all communications be addressed to D. Kilpatrick in care of G. W. Lloyd, Architect, Detroit, Michigan. G. W. Lloyd (1832-1904) was the architect of St. Thomas's Trinity Anglican Church. David had been his Clerk of Works on that project and obviously sought work in Lloyd's office on his first stop heading west. By 1882, he was in Winnipeg, the proprietor of the North Star Planing Mill, a partner in a brick making enterprise and thereafter a construction firm as well as an architect with the firm of Barber & Barber. The Winnipeg City Directory of 1885 lists him as both a contractor and a partner in the architectural firm of Kilpatrick & Goddard

(S.M. Goddard 1843-1904) while in 1886-1887, the listing is only for Kilpatrick & Goddard, Architects.

The Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada 1800-1950² notes that David left Winnipeg in 1887 and that he reconnected with Samuel Goddard in Southern California, completing projects from 1897 to 1900 in Jerome, Arizona and Wittier and Los Angeles, California. The U.S. census agrees with the year of his emigration while a California Voters Registration of 1894 notes that he was a Superintendent with San Bernardino County. That document also gives us our only physical description of him: 5' 8", light complexion with auburn hair and blue eyes, attractive as well as ambitious and generally fortunate. But in June of 1902, returning from a business trip to Vancouver Island, he also tasted fatal misfortune. Struck down with food poisoning, he was taken to a hospital in Port Townsend, Washington, where, at 50, he died on June 4th. He was buried in a cemetery in Los Angeles. Miriam stayed on in California and died there on August 17, 1953.

David Kilpatrick was not the first architect in Elgin but he was the first architect from Elgin. Even though he did want for work in his last years in St. Thomas and had to seek opportunity elsewhere, the work he did do here was noteworthy and should be appreciated.

² See www.dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org

The local architectural legacy of David Kilpatrick, St. Thomas architect 1873-1881

David Kilpatrick 1873-1876

Residence of William McKay, 130 Centre St., St. Thomas; still standing – CHJ Oct. 3, 1873, p. 5.

Residence of George Kains, 71 Metcalfe St., St. Thomas; still standing – CHJ Oct. 3, 1873, p. 5.

St. David's Wesleyan Methodist Church, Balaclava St., St. Thomas; demolished – CHJ Sept. 12, 1873, p. 4, CHJ Oct. 3, 1873, p. 5.

Masonic Hall of St. David's Lodge #302 et.al., 605-609 Talbot St., St. Thomas; demolished – CHJ Oct. 3, 1873, p. 5, CHJ Oct. 17, 1873, p. 8, CHJ Jan. 2, 1874, p. 1.

St. David's Ward School, Balaclava St., St. Thomas; demolished – CHJ December 25, 1874, p. 1. In 1876, builder W. C. Reid added 2 rooms – CHJ Sept. 12, 1876, p. 4, STJ Jan. 2, 1877, p. 5 – and on July 18, 1879, David Kilpatrick published a Tender Call for "enlarging and remodeling St. David's Ward School." – STJ July 18, 1879, p. 4.

The Arkell Block, 254-264 Talbot St., St. Thomas; demolished – CHJ July 10, 1874, p. 5, CHJ Dec. 25, 1874, p. 1.

Residence for Sturgeon Sharon, 102 Wellington St. St. Thomas; still standing – CHJ Dec. 25, 1874, p. 1.

Residence for Aaron and Jane Kilpatrick, 92 Metcalfe St., St. Thomas; still standing – CHJ Dec. 25, 1874, p. 1.

Residence for James Hutchinson, 72 Metcalfe St., St. Thomas; still standing – CHJ Dec. 25, 1874, p. 1.

A two-bay, two-storey complementary addition to George Watson's Free Trade Buildings (1871) for John McLean, 251-253 Talbot St., St. Thomas; still standing – CHJ Dec. 25, 1874, p. 1.

Residence for himself, 9th concession of Yarmouth, N part, Lot 2, St. George St., St. Thomas; demolished – CHJ Dec. 25, 1874, p. 1.

St. Thomas Post Office for F. E. Ermatinger, 344 Talbot St., St. Thomas; altered – CHJ Sept. 18, 1874, p. 5, CHJ Dec. 25, 1874, p. 1.

Elgin County House of Industry; demolished – CHJ July 9, 1875, p. 5, CHJ Sept. 21, 1875, p. 4, CHJ Nov. 12, 1875, p. 4, CHJ Jan. 4, 1876, p. 4.

Business block for C.O. Learn and Graham Bros. & Co., 350-352 Talbot St., St. Thomas; altered – CHJ Jan. 11, 1876, p. 4, CHJ Jan. 28, 1876, p. 5, CHJ Feb. 29, 1876, p. 4.

McBride Church in SS #3, Southwold, West Magdala Rd., Southwold; demolished – CHJ Jan. 28, 1876, p. 5, CHJ Feb. 11, 1876, p. 4.

Oddfellows Hall and J. M. Green Block, 296-300 Talbot St., St. Thomas; demolished – CHJ Feb. 29, 1876, p. 4, STJ Jan. 2, 1877, p. 5.

Residence for Edward McCrone, 19 Wellington St., St. Thomas; still standing – CHJ Feb. 29, 1876, p. 4, STJ Jan. 2, 1877, p. 5.

Residence for Matthew Penhale, 560 Talbot St., St. Thomas; demolished – STJ Jan. 2, 1877, p. 5.

Southwold residence for Mrs. Sarah Casey and her son and daughter-in-law George and Sarah Casey; still standing – CHJ April 25, 1876, p. 6, 1877 Elgin County Atlas, p. 4.

Hay and Turner Block, 307-311 Talbot St., St. Thomas; altered – CHJ Sept. 8, 1876, p. 4, STJ Jan 2, 1877, p. 5.

Kilpatrick & Green 1876-1877

Refitting and remodeling of Bible Christian Church, John St., St. Thomas; demolished – STJ Dec. 12, 1876, p. 5

Union Methodist Church, Union, Ontario, 1877; burned – St. Thomas T-J Nov. 13, 1937, Second Section p. 1.

Residence for C. O. Ermatinger, 48 Stanley St., St. Thomas; still standing – STJ Feb. 23, 1877, p. 5.

Knox Presbyterian Church Manse, Mary St., St. Thomas; demolished – STJ Feb. 23 1877, p. 4, STJ April 6, 1877, p. 4.

Grace/St. David's Methodist Church extension, Balaclava St., St. Thomas; demolished – STJ March 28, 1877, p. 5, St. Thomas Item Nov. 24, 1877, p. 2, STJ April 13, 1877, p. 4.

David Kilpatrick 1877-1881

Southwick Block, 261-275 Talbot St., St. Thomas; demolished – STJ Aug. 31, 1877, p. 5, St. Thomas Item Sept. 8, 1877, p. 2, STJ Nov. 9, 1877, p. 5.

Talbotville Methodist Church, Talbotville, Ontario; still standing – STJ March 19, 1878, p. 7, STJ Oct. 8, 1878, p. 5.

J.M. Green Block, 298-300 Talbot St., St. Thomas demolished – CHJ Sept. 29, 1876, p. 5, STJ Nov. 22, 1878, p. 1.

Residence for George Wegg, 27 Curtis St. St. Thomas; still standing – STJ May 3, 1878, p. 4, STJ June 7, 1878, p. 5, STJ Nov. 22, 1878, p. 1.

Residence and Office for Dr. G. Southwick, 261-275 Talbot St., St. Thomas, “a three-storey brick dwelling to be used as a dwelling-house and office by Dr. Southwick, alongside and uniform in design with the block belonging to him”; demolished – STJ June 28, 1878, p. 5.

Fingal Methodist Church, Fingal, Ontario; altered – STJ July 9, 1878, p. 4, STJ August 27, 1878, p. 4.

South Delaware Presbyterian Church, Delaware, Ontario; demolished – London Advertiser, Nov. 14, 1878, p. 4.

Residence for Jabel Robinson, Middlemarch, Ontario; still standing – STJ March 7, 1879, p. 5.

Thorndale Methodist Church, Thorndale, Ontario; still standing – STJ April 8, 1879, p. 4, SGTJ Nov. 21, 1879, p. 5.

Congregational Church, Shedden, Ontario; altered – STJ Nov. 4, 1879, p. 5, STJ Dec. 26, 1879, p. 1, Shedden Women’s Institute Lady Tweedsmuir’s Village History of Shedden, County of Elgin, p. 43.

Wallacetown School, Wallacetown, Ontario; demolished – STJ May 14, 1880, p. 5.

First Methodist Church alterations and improvements, St. George St., St. Thomas; burned – The Daily Advertiser, London, Ontario, Aug. 6, 1880, p. 5.

CHJ – Canadian Home Journal, STJ – St. Thomas Journal

Attributed to David Kilpatrick

John McLean added three additions to George Watson’s original Free Trade Building. David Kilpatrick was the architect of the first complementary addition. The second addition is also complementary while the third was of the same height but in a plainer style. As the Kilpatrick’s offices and yard were directly across St. George Street from the Free Trade Buildings and Aaron was the builder of John McLean’s residence at 32 St. George Street, I think it likely that David Kilpatrick was the architect of the second addition to the Free Trade Buildings, the adjacent building that John McLean built, and the McLean home at 32 St. George Street. All are still standing. – STJ Nov. 22, 1878, p. 2.

Residence for Aaron and Jane Kilpatrick, 7 Isabel Street, St. Thomas – see Ontario Land Records, Elgin County, reel 11#132, p. 111. David was noted as the architect of the

Kilpatrick house built in 1874 on lot 10 at 92 Metcalfe Street, St. Thomas. The house at 7 Isabel Street is on the west half of the same lot. In January, 1877, Aaron, Jane and David arranged a \$3,100 mortgage from the Southern Loan Co. of St. Thomas, I assume to finance a new house at 7 Isabel. The house at 92 Metcalfe Street was sold on 31 December, 1878 and the mortgage discharged. As David was a third party to the mortgage and the discharge and Aaron was noted as the builder of the house at 7 Isabel Street and the Kilpatrick’s were residents there until 1884, I think it safe to say that it was a family project and that David was the architect. The house is still standing.

Roman Catholic school house and convent, 504 Talbot Street, St. Thomas; demolished – STJ Nov. 8, 1878, p. 5. A photo of this building shows a style similar to David Kilpatrick’s work.

Holy Angels
Catholic Church
and School, c. 1880
*Cameron Collection,
Elgin County
Archives*



32 St. George
Street, c. 1885
*Cameron Collection,
Elgin County
Archives*



DAVID KILPATRICK : ARCHITECT

Elgin County Heritage Centre

January 18 – April 4, 2020

Curator: Mike Baker

Guest curator and essayist: Paul Baldwin

Photography: Jan Row

Design: Erna Coffin

Installation: Bob Ostoff, Ally Shelly, Mike Baker

Lenders: Union United Church, Steve Peters

Front cover: Odd Fellows Hall and Green Block, c. 1900

Don Cosens Collection, Elgin County Archives

In the centre is the IOOF Building, and to the left is the J. M. Green block, both designed by Kilpatrick, 1876-77. During their brief partnership (1876-77), Kilpatrick and Green had their offices in the Odd Fellows Building.

