

## TYRRELL (WILLIAM) Papers. 1836-ca.1928

25  
The papers of William Tyrrell (1816-1904), building contractor in the Weston area and reeve of Weston for many years, were willed to the University of Toronto Library by his son Joseph Burr Tyrrell who died in 1957.

Papers include both private family correspondence and business papers. The business papers contain material relating to William Tyrrell's acquisition of various properties and to his work as a contractor for private and public buildings in the Weston vicinity. In addition there is material documenting his activities as a Justice of the Peace and as a constant member of the county and township councils. The papers include material from 1836 to 1904, the year in which William Tyrrell died, and some later biographical attempts.

Extent: 23 boxes and volumes.  
approx. 9 ft.

J.B. Tyrrell bequeathed copyrights and literary rights to the library with the papers.

An index to most of the individual items has been compiled on cards which are filed separately in the manuscript section of the Rare Books public card catalogue.

### Biography

William Tyrrell was born in 1816, son of Adam Tyrrell of Grange Castle, County Kildare, Ireland. In 1836 he emigrated to Toronto where he worked for a short period as a cabinet maker with his cousin Edward Tyrrell. In 1837-38 he oversaw the building of a flour mill on the Humber River for William Gamble. His success as a contractor in this first project led to other jobs as a building contractor up and down the Humber valley and eventually as far afield as Kingston where he built the "Hale cottages" in 1841-42. In 1842 he built a warehouse at Pine Grove, Ont. and spent some months boarding with Rowland Burr there. In 1844 William Tyrrell married Elizabeth L'Amoureux Burr (1825-1906), daughter of Rowland Burr (1798-1865) and Hester L'Amoureux (1801-1886), and built a small cottage in Weston as their first home. In 1844 Tyrrell also built St. George's Church, now in Etobicoke. In 1849 the mill built for William Gamble burned down and Tyrrell built a new one, the ruins of which stand on the site of the Old Mill Restaurant in Etobicoke today. Tyrrell continued as a builder and contractor on a variety of projects, including both public works and private houses, until late in his life. In 1884-85 he built the Weston Town Hall, called Dufferin Hall.

In 1851 William Tyrrell began his career in municipal politics as an elected member of York Township Council. By 1853 he was Deputy-Reeve and delegate to the York & Peel County Council. He became a Justice of the Peace, served on the County Council Finance and Assessment Board and in 1854 became Chairman of the Education Committee of the County. In 1864 he was elected Warden of York County Council. In 1879 he left the County Council,

TYRRELL (WILLIAM) Papers.

25

but in 1882 when Weston was incorporated, he became its Reeve and rejoined the Council in that capacity. Tyrrell ran for office in the Provincial Legislature in 1854, 1866, and 1879, but was defeated each time. He also ran for federal office in 1872 and was defeated.

William and Elizabeth Tyrrell had seven surviving children: Harriet Eliza (1852-1886); Robert Shawe (1855-1928); Joseph Burr (1858-1957); Hester Ann (1860-1911); James Williams (1863-1945); Elizabeth (1866-1944); and Henry Grattan (1867-1948).

An unpublished biography of William Tyrrell was written in 1928 by Arthur Hawkes. In 1937 a biography entitled William Tyrrell of Weston, written by Edith Lennox Morrison (daughter of Harriet Eliza) together with J.E. Middleton was published by Macmillan.

Scope and content

The extensive collection has several aspects. Much of the material is family correspondence, arranged alphabetically. Included are letters from William and Elizabeth to their children. Replies by the children, however, are to be found in the J.B. Tyrrell Collection and in the H.G. Tyrrell Collection. The correspondence includes letters written not only by the immediate family but by relatives in Ireland and by family friends. There are also a number of letters from important figures of the day who were acquaintances of William Tyrrell. (Sir John A. MacDonald and others). All this family and friendly correspondence is catalogued with cards under the name of the letter writer in the William Tyrrell manuscript catalogue section of the public catalogues.

There is also a substantial amount of material relating to William Tyrrell's career in local politics and his activities as Justice of the Peace in Weston. This material is arranged and catalogued in groups by type of material, e.g. receipts, depositions, assessment notices, and miscellaneous memoranda. Some material relates to Tyrrell's attempts to gain provincial and federal seats in various elections. Material may provide information for local histories of Weston and vicinity.

The third aspect of the collection relates to the contracting and building business at which Tyrrell made his living. The collection includes ledgers, account books, specifications, estimates, memoranda, and a collection of approximately 98 architectural plans for buildings of various types, 1856-1884. Some of this material is catalogued individually, or in groups, under William Tyrrell's name. The architectural drawings and building plans are ~~not~~ indexed separately.

Connected with both Tyrrell's business career and his duties as Justice of the Peace, are receipt books and day books, land deeds, mortgages, conveyances, and other legal documents relating to property in the Weston area and elsewhere in southwestern Ontario. These documents are catalogued under the names of the persons involved in the business transaction, with subject headings for the area.

## TYRRELL (WILLIAM) PAPERS

25

## CONTAINER LIST

## A. CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED PAPERS

Arranged by author in three sequences according to size:  
regular, oversize (i.e. legal sized), and Mapcase.

Indexed on cards in Manuscript Catalogue.

For letters to and from J.B. Tyrrell see the TYRRELL (JOSEPH BURR)  
PAPERS.

For letters to and from H.G. Tyrrell see the TYRRELL (HENRY GRATTAN)  
PAPERS.

Box 1	A - B
Box 2	C - G
Box 3	H - L
Box 4	M - R
Box 5	S - Tyrrell, Ed.
Box 6	Tyrrell, Eliz (Burr)
Box 7	Tyrrell, Eliz J. - Tyrrell, Wm.
Box 8	Tyrrell, Wm. - Tyrrell Joseph Burr
Box 9	U - Z
Box 10	A - C
Box 11	D - L
Box 12	M - Tyrrell, T.
Box 13	Tyrrell, Wm. - Z

## TYRRELL (WILLIAM) PAPERS

## CONTAINER LIST

## B. BIOGRAPHICAL PAPERS. 1928-1937

See also Box 12-13 in the TYRRELL (HENRY GRATTAN) PAPERS for typescript of unpublished biography of William and Elizabeth Tyrrell by H.G. Tyrrell and other biographical materials including family tree (in mapcase)

- Box 14      Drafts and typescript of biography entitled: William Tyrrell of Weston, by Edith Morrison and J.E. Middleton. (Toronto: Macmillan, 1937)
- Box 15      Typescripts of unpublished biography of William Tyrrell, entitled Tyrrell of York (William Tyrrell) of Weston, by Arthur Hawkes. 1928. Microfilm available.      Microfilm  
Duplicates  
187

## C. ACCOUNT BOOKS, LEDGERS, DAYBOOKS, ETC. 1839-1903.

- Item 16      Burr, Rowland. Account Book. ca. 1854-1861.
- Box 17      Tyrrell, William. Memoranda, Diary, Account, and Receipt books. Book of Poems and Rules of Carpentry. 1839-1899.      Microfilm  
Duplicates
- Item 18      Tyrrell, William. Waist Book. 1845-1851. ----->2
- Item 19      Tyrrell, William. Daybook. 1857-1862.
- Item 20      Tyrrell, William. Daybook. 1863-1875.
- Item 21      Tyrrell, William. Daybook. 1864-1895.
- Item 22      Tyrrell, William. Daybook. 1876-1890.
- Item 23      Tyrrell, William. Daybook. 1890-1903.

## D. ARCHITECTURAL PLANS. 1854-1884.

Vertical  
mapcase

Building plans and architects' drawings for private houses, churches, schools, and other buildings in Ontario. Chiefly by William Tyrrell but includes plans signed by Grand & Osborne; W.J. Stibbs; Kivas Tully; William Thomas. 103 sheets.

See itemized listing following container list.

Manuscript  
Collection

TYRRELL (WILLIAM) PAPERS

25

CONTAINER LIST

E. PRINTED EPHEMERA.

Box 24 &  
Mapcase

Includes advertisements; business cards; notices, circulars and fliers relating to elections, political parties, societies, schools, churches, railways, etc; material issued by or sent to municipal officers of Weston, York Township, and neighbouring towns and townships, including calls for tenders on building projects; other miscellaneous material. Largely focused on Toronto/Weston vicinity.

K. Martyn  
M. Steele  
July 1983

## WILLIAM TYRRELL COLLECTION

## ARCHITECTURAL PLANS &amp; DRAWINGS

25

These plans were found together in the William Tyrrell Papers. They include plans by other architects (Thomas, Tully, Grand & Osborn, W.G. Stibbs) as well as by William Tyrrell. Some are unidentified. *Approximately 98 plans*

Arrangement is by building type, then by date of plans or project, all the plans for one project filing together. Undated items are filed at the end of their appropriate section. Additional material may be found in the correspondence section of the manuscript collection (see ms. catalogue for Wm. Tyrrell collection) and in William Tyrrell's day books.

SECTION A: HOUSING

<u>Plan nos.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location in vertical mapcase</u>	
		<u>Pocket</u>	<u>Folder</u>
1-2	Project: Dwelling house for Chas. Jones, Weston. Date: July 7, 1854. Architect: Kivas Tully (signed) Type of plans: front elevation (ink on paper) floor plan (watercolour on paper) No. of sheets: 2	12	1
3	Project: Three houses on King Street, Toronto, for Honble. H.J. Boulton. Date: Aug. 28, 1856. Architect: William Thomas (signed) Type of plan: front elevation (ink on paper) No. of sheets: 1	12	1
4-6	Project: Houses on St. Georges Square, south side. Toronto Date: 1856. Architect: William Tyrrell (signed) Additional title: Houses for Mr. [?] Boulton in Toronto, near the Grange (on verso of elevation) Type of plans: elevation (watercolour on paper) 2 floor plans (ink on linen tracing paper) No. of sheets: 3	12	1
7-8	Project: House for J.S. Dennis. Date: Jan. 16, 1856. Architect: Grand & Osborne, Toronto (signed) Additional title: Proposed alterations to a house for J.S. Dennis Type of plans: section (watercolour on paper) elevation (ink on paper) No. of sheets: 2	12	1
9-10	Project: House for J.S. Dennis. Date: [1856?] Architect: [William Tyrrell?] Additional title: Plan for proposed outbuildings. Dwelling house of J.S. Dennis, esq.	12	1

*card in file*

## WILLIAM TYRRELL COLLECTION

## ARCHITECTURAL PLANS AND DRAWINGS

SECTION A: HOUSING1B upright  
mapcaseLocation in  
vertical mapcase  
Pocket / Folder

<u>Plan nos.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location in</u> <u>vertical mapcase</u> <u>Pocket / Folder</u>	
9-10	Type of plan: elevation & section (ink on linen tracing paper) floor plan (ink on linen tracing paper) No. of sheets: 2	12	1
11-13	Project: House for J.S. Dennis. Date: [1856?] Architect: [William Tyrrell?] Type of plans: details for doorway (pencil on paper) details for windows (ink on linen tracing paper; watercolour on linen tracing paper) No. of sheets: 3.	12	1
14	Project: Dwelling house for Mr. Edward Bull, Weston. Date: 1857. Architect: William Tyrrell (signed) Type of plan: elevation (watercolour on paper) No. of sheets: 1	12	1
16	Project: Building for Mr. Mathew Parsons, Township of Etobicoke. Date: [1867] supplied from tender in ms. collection. Architect: William Tyrrell (signed) Type of plan: elevation and floor plan (watercolour on paper; ink on tracing paper) No. of sheets: 2.	12	1
17-21	Project: Residence for R.S. Gurd, Sarnia. Date: Aug. 11, 1874. Architect: W.G. Stibbs, Toronto (signed) Type of plans: elevation showing gardens (watercolour on paper) front elevation (watercolour on paper) rear elevation (watercolour on paper) ground plan (watercolour on linen tracing paper) chamber plan (watercolour on linen tracing paper) No. of sheets: 5	12	1
22-28	Project: Residence of R.S. Gurd, esq. barrister of Sarnia. Date: May 1, 1875. Architect: William Tyrrell (signed) Additional title: Design ... Altered and enlarged by William Tyrrell, Weston. Type of plans: section (watercolour on paper) 4 ground plans (watercolours on paper) 2 details of front steps (watercolours on paper) No. of sheets: 7.	12	1

Manuscript  
1880-1890

WILLIAM TYRRELL COLLECTION

25 ARCHITECTURAL PLANS AND DRAWINGS

SECTION A: HOUSING

1B  
Location in  
vertical mapcase

Pocket / Folder

Plan nos.

Description

29	Project: Alterations of two houses on Adelaide St. West. Date: Sept. 1878. Architect: William Tyrrell (signed) Type of plan: front elevation (watercolour on paper) with notes on specifications. No. of sheets: 1.	12	2
30-32	Project: Dwelling house for Mr. John Little, Weston. Date: Sept. 1879. Architect: William Tyrrell (signed) Additional title: Mr. Little's Hotel. Type of plans: front elevation (watercolour on paper) ground plan (watercolour on paper) section (watercolour on paper) No. of sheets: 3	12	2
33	Project: Dwelling house for the executors of the late William Holley. Date: Jan. 14, 1882. Architect: William Tyrrell (signed) Type of plan; elevation and floor plan (watercolour on paper) No. of sheets: 1	12	2
34-36	Project: Dwelling house and store to be erected in Weston on Dufferin St. and Main St. for Mr. David Rowntree. Date: March, 1883. Architect: William Tyrrell (some plans signed) Type of plans: 3 elevations (2 watercolours on paper; 1 watercolour tracing paper) 8 floor plans (6 watercolours on paper; 2 watercolours on tracing paper) 1 detail for veranda (watercolour on paper) 1 plan of roof and section (watercolour on paper) No. of sheets: 13	12	2
47-52	Project: Two dwelling houses to be erected for J.B. Tyrrell. Date: Feb. and March 1884. Architect: William Tyrrell (signed) Type of plans: 2 elevations (watercolour on paper) 2 sections (watercolours on paper) 2 floorplans (watercolours on paper) No. of sheets: 6	12	2
54	Project: Dwelling house to be erected on Dover Court Road in Toronto for Dr. Robert Shawe Tyrrell. Date: Sept. 1884. Architect: William Tyrrell (signed) Type of plans: elevation (pencil on paper) floor plan (watercolour on paper) No. of sheets: 2	12	3



Manuscript  
Collection

WILLIAM TYRRELL COLLECTION

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS AND DRAWINGS

SECTION A: HOUSING

1B  
Location in  
vertical mapcase  
Pocket / Folder

Plan nos.

Description

Undated Plans

55	Project: Row of cottages for Smith. (title in WT's hand) Date: Architect: [William Tyrrell?] Type of plan: elevation and floor plan (pencil on paper) No. of sheets: 1	12	3
56-60	Project: Noah Barnhart's house. Streetsville, Ont. Date: Architect: Types of plans: Design for doors (watercolour and ink on paper) Design for bargeboard (pencil on ruled) legal paper) Design for cornice (pencil and watercolour on paper) Details of corbels (ink and watercolour on paper) Detail of window trim (ink and watercolour on paper) No. of sheets: 5	12	3
61	<u>Undated, unidentified plans</u> Project: [A three roomed cottage] Date: Architect: William Tyrrell (signed) Type of plan: Elevation (watercolour on paper) No. of sheets: 1	12	3
62	Project: [Two story house] Date: Architect: William Tyrrell (signed) Type of plan: Side elevation (watercolour on paper) No. of sheets: 1		
63	Project: [Two story house] Date: Architect: Type of plan: Front elevation (unfinished pen and watercolour on paper) No. of sheets: 1	12	3
64	Project: [Three story double house] Date: Architect: Type of plan: Elevation (ink on linen tracing paper) No. of sheets: 1	12	3

Manuscript  
Collection

25

WILLIAM TYRRELL COLLECTION  
ARCHITECTURAL PLANS AND DRAWINGS  
SECTION A: HOUSING

13

Location in  
vertical mapcases

Pocket /Folder

Plan nos.

Description

65 Project: [Row of one story houses]  
Date:  
Architect:  
Type of plan: elevation (ink on paper)  
No. of sheets: 1

12 3

66-74 Projects: Unidentified.  
Dates:  
Architect: William Tyrrell (some plans signed)  
Types of plans: floorplans (7 watercolours on paper; 2 ink on  
linen tracing paper)  
No. of sheets: 9

12 3

SECTION B: EDUCATIONAL: SCHOOLS

75-77 Project: Grammar School, Weston  
Date:  
Architect:  
Types of plan: 3 floor plans (watercolours on paper)  
No. of sheets: 3  
Note: Plans are stamped "Weston County Grammar School"

12 3

78-80 Project: Addition to the Common School House at Weston.  
Date: 18th July, 1861.  
Architect: William Tyrrell (signed)  
Types of plans: elevation and plan of proposed new addition  
(watercolour and ink on paper)  
elevation (watercolour on paper)  
ground plan (watercolour on paper)  
No. of sheets: 3.

12 3

SECTION C: INDUSTRIAL

81-88 Project: Addition to a factory to be erected in Weston  
for Messrs. Smith and Wilby.  
Date: 18th March, 1876.  
Architect: William Tyrrell  
Types of plans: 3 elevations (watercolours on paper)  
1 floor plan " " "  
2 sections of roof " " "  
2 details for belfry and chimney " "

12 4

No. of sheet: 8  
Note: Accompanied by sheet of description headed: Remarks. In WT's hand.

Manuscript  
Collection

## WILLIAM TYRRELL COLLECTION

## ARCHITECTURAL PLANS AND DRAWINGS

SECTION C: INDUSTRIAL113  
Location in  
vertical mapcasePocket /FolderPlan nos.Description

89

Project: [Grist mill?]  
 Date:  
 Architect: William Tyrrell (signed)  
 Type of plan: Ground plan (watercolour on paper)  
 No. of sheets: 1

12

4

SECTION D: GOVERNMENTAL

90-96

Project: Public hall and Mechanics Institute to be erected  
 by the Council of the Corporation of Weston  
 Date: 1st of August 1883.  
 Architect: William Tyrrell (signed)  
 Types of plans: 3 elevations (watercolours on paper)  
                   1 section                   "                   "                   "  
                   1 detail: Pattern for cornice (ink on paper)  
   Partially cut out. On verso is part of  
   a map showing land holdings in Weston.  
 No. of sheets: 7

12

4

SECTION E: RELIGIOUS

97-98

Project: Wesleyan Methodist Church to be erected on the  
 6th concession, Township of York  
 Date: 31st March, 1869  
 Architect: William Tyrrell (signed)  
 Types of plans: elevation (watercolour on paper)  
                   section                   "                   "                   "  
 No. of sheets: 2

12

4

99

Project: [Unidentified small church]  
 Date:  
 Architect: William Tyrrell (signed)  
 Type of plan: Elevation and floor plan (watercolour on paper)  
 No. of sheets: 1

12

4

100

Project: [Unidentified church]  
 Date:  
 Architect:  
 Type of plan: Detail of windows (pen on paper)  
 No. of sheets: 1  
 Note: Title reads: Windows in the nave.

12

4

Manuscript  
Collection

WILLIAM TYRRELL COLLECTION

25

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS AND DRAWINGS

SECTION F: PUBLIC WORKS: ROADWORKS

Location in  
vertical mapcase

Pocket / Folder

Plan nos.

Description

<u>Plan nos.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location in vertical mapcase</u>	<u>Pocket / Folder</u>
101-102	<p>Project: Culvert to be erected on the second concession from the Bay, Township of York</p> <p>Date:</p> <p>Builder: William Tyrrell (signed)</p> <p>Type of plan: 2 elevations (watercolours on paper)</p> <p>No. of sheets: 2</p>	12	4
103	<p>Project: Pier and Abutment. Eagle's Bridge, Weston</p> <p>Date:</p> <p>Builder:</p> <p>Type of plan: Elevation (ink on linen tracing paper)</p> <p>No. of sheets: 1</p>	12	4

K. Martyn  
May 1983