

ARNOLDI, King McCord (1843 – 1904)

King Arnoldi was a prolific architect who designed many buildings in the Ottawa area. He excelled in the interpretation of the principles of the Gothic Revival style which he applied in his numerous commissions for the Anglican Church. He made important contributions to the Ontario Association of Architects in the Association's early years and served as a representative from Ottawa on its first Council of 1890.

Born in Montreal on October 3, 1843 he came to Ottawa at the age of 17 to work as a draftsman for Thomas Fuller, the Dominion Architect, during the construction of the Parliament Buildings. By 1869 he had his own practice in Ottawa, designing buildings noted for their "artistic" spirit. Over the years he and his partners executed many smaller commissions throughout the Ottawa River Valley.

Christ Church Cathedral (1872-73) at Sparks and Bronson Streets in Ottawa is one of his finest works in the Gothic style, gracefully echoing the

fine work of the Parliament buildings nearby. His other designs in Ottawa include; St. Albans Church, Daly at King Street (1867-68), the Great Northwest Building; the Isolation Hospital (1901-02) and Topley's Studio, Metcalfe at Queen (1875). Topley a well-known photographer, and the studio Arnoldi designed for him was a striking three-storey second empire mansion with a large tower and huge two-storey window on the upper floors surmounted by his name. He built the Caledonia Springs Hotel (1875), at Caledonia Springs, Ontario with its massive four-storey verandas resembling the resorts at Mackinac, Michigan.

In 1889 Arnoldi entered into partnership with A. M. Calderon and in 1895 struck a new alliance with J. A. Ewart which lasted until 1900. With Ewart he designed Ottawa's Board of Trade Building, Elgin St. at Albert (1902) of which he was an active member.