

CHADWICK, Col. William Craven Vaux (1868 – 1941)

Vaux Chadwick had a distinguished military career and was an architect in Toronto for nearly 40 years. The styling of his buildings was generally traditional but changed as design tastes evolved over the first half of the twentieth century.

Chadwick was born in Toronto on December 6, 1868 and was educated at Upper Canada College. Initially trained in law, he worked for his father's firm of Beatty, Chadwick for a year before deciding to become an architect. He started with the architectural office of Richard Windeyer and began his own practice in the mid-1890's with Daniel Cassells and later with Samuel G. Beckett under the name of Chadwick and Beckett. The firm designed many structures including banks, warehouses, factories, residences and churches. Both Beckett and Chadwick were members of the architectural Eighteen Club. Both served as officers in the First World War. Beckett was killed in combat in 1917.

Chadwick was retained as the architect for the Lawrence Park development in Toronto, for which the firm acted as planners and designed many of the earliest houses. Chadwick also designed the Alexandra Gates (1902, originally at Bloor and Avenue Road) now at the head of Philosophers' Walk and the Kappa Alpha Fraternity at Hoskin

Avenue and Devonshire Place, Toronto (demolished 1962). He designed many bank branches for the Bank of Nova Scotia, Royal Bank and Bank of Toronto. One of his designs of note was a branch of the Bank of Toronto on King Street West at Bathurst, Toronto which adopted an original arrangement, being residential in character and free-standing on its site.

Chadwick's Beatty Manufacturing Company, 600 King Street West, Toronto (1900-01) is a small but majestic factory of red brick with crisp details woven into its classically styled facade. He was architect for the Carnegie Library in Woodstock, Ontario (1907-09) which has a noble entrance portico supported by six corinthian columns. His design for the Dominion Public Building, Guelph, (1938) is a restrained classical composition enlivened by crisp and original decorative detailing inspired by Canadian motifs applied to the limestone exterior.

Chadwick designed many large residences in Rosedale, Toronto including: C.S. Boone House, Crescent Road, (1909) one of the largest in Rosedale; Henry S. Osler House, Rosedale Road (1909); Edward Hay House, Castle Frank Road (1907); Henry G. Kelly House, Roxborough Street East, Toronto (1906) and George E. Bryant House, Castle Frank Road (1909).