

## CRAIG, James Henry (1888 – 1954)

**J**ames Craig was one of the principal partners in the firm of Craig and Madill. The firm's work included the design and construction of elementary and high school buildings throughout the province. The firm was awarded the Massey Medal for Educational Buildings in 1952 for the design of the High School at Marmora, Ontario (1950). Craig also served on the provincial Committee on the Design and Construction of School Buildings in Ontario. He was active in the development of the architectural profession and was a member of the Council of the Ontario Association of Architects serving as President in 1931 and 1932. As Chairman of the Association's Legislation Committee, he played an important role in developing the Architects' Act of 1931 and having it passed into law. The act established the profession's Registration Board on which Craig served as chairman.

Born in Owen Sound, Ontario on October 24, 1888, Craig attended public schools in Toronto and later Owen Sound Collegiate Institute before entering the University of Toronto. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and Science in architecture in 1912. He spent a year on the staff of the University of Toronto before he entered practice as a partner in the firm of Craig & Madill. With the exception of a break of four years during each of the two world wars, when both partners were in the army, this firm continued in practice until Craig's death.

Some of the firm's major works include the Windsor Court Apartment Building, Ouelette Street, Windsor, Ontario (1926-27); Pembroke Collegiate

Institute, Pembroke, Ontario (1925-26) and Earl Haig Collegiate Institute, Princess Street, North York (1929-30, additions 1947). Craig and Madill also designed a number of churches including: Glebe Road United Church, Toronto (1925); Willowdale United Church, Doris at Church Street, North York, Ontario (1932) and Lansing United Church, Bogert Avenue, Toronto (1949-50). The design for the Thomas Foster Memorial Mausoleum and Temple, Uxbridge, Ontario (1935-36) is illustrative of the firm's skill. Here they were inspired by Byzantine and Indian forms and transformed them into an geometrically harmonious work which when combined with its refined materials, hilltop site, rich detailing and systematic massing, create a highly original design of great beauty.

In 1927 Craig and Madill built the famed Palace Pier at Sunnyside Park, Toronto, which was destroyed by fire in the early 1960's. Their design for the Dominion Public Building which housed Postal Station D and Customs Department on Keele at Annette Street, Toronto (1935-36) was featured in the Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute in Canada as a model of the type of building required by the government during the depression. It is a reworking of the classically inspired form adapted to brick, using stone trim to give it a monumental presence. In 1936 the firm designed the Canadian National Exhibition Bandshell using rounded plastic Art Deco forms. Many hospital, industrial, governmental, and residential buildings were also designed by Craig and Madill throughout their long association.