

## EWART, John Albert (1872 – 1964)

**J**ohn Albert Ewart was one of the most prominent Ottawa architects throughout his long career, which lasted more than 60 years. Among his most distinguished achievement was the design of all schools for the Collegiate Board of Ottawa, from 1907 to 1959, in addition to major commercial buildings and churches. He was also a member of the Federal District Commission, the precursor of the National Capital Commission from 1938 to 1956.

Albert Ewart was born in Ottawa on April 20, 1872, being the eldest son of the former Chief Dominion Architect, David Ewart. He was educated in local schools and graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Applied Science in 1895. He trained in Ottawa with the architectural firm of Arnoldi & Calderon until 1887. The partnership of Arnoldi and Ewart was formed in 1895 and lasted until 1900, when Ewart established practice on his own.

One branch of his work as architect for the Ottawa School Board, held his special interest. He was appointed the board's architect in 1915 and over the years he designed many of Ottawa's High School's including: Glebe Collegiate Institute, Glebe Avenue (1922-23); High School of Commerce, Percy at Glebe streets (1929); Technical High school, addition (1938); Fisher Park High School, Holland Avenue (1947-59) and the Memorial Hall for Lisgar Collegiate (1950-52) and many others.

He designed many fine commercial buildings in

the Ottawa area with perhaps his most distinctive designs being those for the Transportation Building, Rideau Street and Sussex Drive (1916-17). It's exterior walls were clad in white glazed terra cotta and the distinctive tri-partite composition was decorated in the Venetian Gothic style with a particularly striking screen suspended at the roof-line, contrasting with the heavier semi-elliptical arches used at the street and cornice level.

Other designs of note include the R.J. Devlin Store, (with Arnoldi and Ewart, 1890); Victoria Building (1928), Booth Building (1919-21); Ottawa Hydro-Electric Building, Sparks at Queen streets (1926-27); Metropolitan Life Insurance Building, Wellington Street (with J.E. Waid of New York City, 1925) and the American Banknote Company, Wellington Street (1913).

Ewart also designed many fine public buildings in Ottawa including: Registry Office (1909); Masonic Temple, St. Patrick's Hall (1901); Protestant Home for the Aged (1928); Ottawa South Public Library (1948-50) as well all the designs and improvements for the Ottawa Civic Hospital (1922-23) and the Royal Ottawa Sanatorium (1932); his churches in the Ottawa area included: St. James Church in Hull, Quebec (1900); Southminster United church, bank Street, (1931); St. Paul's Eastern United Church (1929-31), Knox Presbyterian Church (with Sproatt and Rolf, 1932) and Carleton Memorial United Church (1953-54). In addition he designed numerous factories throughout the Ottawa valley.