

## GOUINLOCK, George Wallace (1861 – 1932)

**G**eorge Gouinlock was a well known Toronto architect who had an influential practice for more than 40 years. He executed many notable public buildings and contributed to the development of architectural practice. In 1909 he served as President of the Ontario Association of Architects.

George Gouinlock was born in Paris, Ontario on August 1, 1861. He studied architecture in Winnipeg with architects Barber, Bowes and Barber, before coming to Toronto in 1888 to establish private practice, which included a brief partnership with George W. King.

Gouinlock was a skilled designer as evidenced by the Temple building, a commission he won in competition. His Temple building built for the International Order of Foresters at Richmond St. W. at Bay St., Toronto (1895; demolished 1970) was considered to be one of the finest Richardsonian Romanesque office buildings in the country with its wonderful carving and structurally expressive design. When it was built it was the tallest building in the British empire.

Until World War I, Gouinlock was architect to the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) where he completed 12 buildings. The Edwardian pavilions contributed substantially to the image the CNE presents as a "Great Fair". The north or library wing of the Ontario Legislative building facing Queen's Park, was designed by Gouinlock in a refined Romanesque style to blend with the original building.

Gouinlock also designed the Ontario Hydro administration building on University Avenue (1915), the first in a series of handsome office structures erected by the utility. The building is executed in a fine Beaux Arts design with a particularly audacious portico. In 1902 Gouinlock designed the fashionable Alexandra Palace Apartments, University Avenue at Ord St. (with F.S. Baker), a significant multi-level residence billed at the time as "Canada's finest apartment house" (demolished). Perhaps one of his more festive buildings is the Greenhouse in Allan Gardens (1911), executed in the style of the Crystal Palace, as were many of his pavilion structures for the CNE.

For the Canadian National Exhibition Gouinlock designed the Administration building (1904-05), Art gallery (1909), Fire hall (1912), Gooderham fountain, Grandstand (1907; burned 1947), Horticultural building (1905-06), Farm implement building (1905-6), Manufacturers building (1902; burned 1961), Police station (1912), Transportation building (1909-10), Women's building (1911), Dufferin gates (1911), Live stock building (1913), Dominion building, Machinery hall (1914-15), and Poultry building (1914).

He also designed the Canadian Birkbeck building at 10 Adelaide Street East (1908), National Trust Company, King Street East (1900; demolished), 109 Bay Street (1899), and Warwick Brothers and Rutter, 68-70 Front Street West (1904; demolished).