

HERBERT, Frederick Henry (1865 – 1914)

Frederick Herbert was one of Toronto's well known architects who successfully practiced for over 25 years. Herbert designed many elaborate Queen Anne style residences with corner towers, steep roofs and fanciful decoration, setting a new standard in residential architecture in the city.

Frederick Herbert was born in Bath, England in 1865 and studied the architectural profession in Toronto as a pupil of Mr. Ough, a notable architect at the time. In January 1889 he started his own practice.

Herbert designed the Woodbine Racetrack, Queen Street East at Kingston Road, Toronto (1903) and the Nordheimer Building on Yonge Street at Albert (1914). In Belleville he designed the Corby Public Library which was originally the Merchants Bank (1907).

He was the designer of many manufacturing buildings which include the Corby Distillery, Belleville (1907); the King Radiator Company, King Street, Toronto (1907); the Sunbeam Lamp Company, Dufferin Street, Toronto (1908) and the Canada Metal Company, Fraser Avenue, Toronto (1908-10). Herbert also did a number of fine warehouse designs including those at 334-344 King Street East Toronto for the Aluminum Crown Stopper Company (1911-12) with its fine Edwar-

dian Baroque entrance angled towards the corner. He also did buildings for the Consumers' Gas Company including the Purifying House, Front Street East at Parliament Street Toronto, (1900-1904) and the Boiler and Condenser Buildings, Eastern Avenue (1907).

Herbert also designed a number of fine residences in the Annex area of Toronto. The McKee Residence, Walmer Road (1897) was highly decorated Queen Anne style with a flattened onion dome on the corner turret and garlands applied to the porch, dormer and window lintels. His Horn residence on St. George Street, Toronto (1898) is a wonderful design in the Romanesque revival style with rough cut walls forming a stone skin with an oriole window rising three stories at one end and a carved out recessed entrance arch with an intimate loggia above, on the other wall. The roof tiles undulate into the different shapes of the dormer and conical tower.

Herbert also designed a number of designs for banks in Toronto including the Bank of Commerce at Church and Carlton Street, (1895) which was originally a Romanesque revival design for the Somerset House Hotel. He also designed the Bank of Montreal, Queen Street West at Portland Street (1899) which is a memorable corner bank with fine terra cotta details and brick work.