

HUTTON, Gordon Johnston (1881 – 1942)

Gordon J. Hutton was a prominent Hamilton architect who practiced in that city and throughout the Niagara region for over 35 years, 25 of them in partnership with William R. Souter in the firm of Hutton and Souter. The firm designed many fine works demonstrating a range of capabilities over the years.

Gordon Hutton was born in Hamilton, June 4, 1881 and received his education in the local schools and Hamilton Collegiate Institute. He served an apprenticeship in architecture under Charles Mills, a well known Hamilton architect. In 1902 Hutton went to Chicago where he spent three years in the employ of the architectural firm of Frost and Granger. In 1905 he returned to Hamilton and again was associated with Mills, forming a partnership from 1907 until 1914 when Mills retired. Mr. Hutton then worked alone until 1921 when he entered into partnership with William Russell Souter.

Some of the buildings he designed with Mills include the Hamilton Terminal Building, the Bank of Hamilton building, the Lauder Banking and Loan Company Building, and the Young Women's Christian Association of Hamilton. Also in Hamilton Hutton and Souter designed the Basilica of Christ the King (1931-33) which has an unusual

plan with a massive octagonal belltower adjacent to the nave of the church with its planar walls. Hutton and Souter also designed the Dominion Public Building, Hamilton (1934-36) executed in Queenston Limestone in a flat Classical style with the entrance bay decorated and emphasized to give it a monumental quality. The firm also designed the Royal Connaught Hotel (1931-32) and the Loretto Academy (1933) both in Hamilton.

Hutton and Souter designed many school buildings in the Collegiate Gothic style which utilized terra cotta embellishment to achieve a high degree of refinement distinctive to their work. These include Delta Collegiate Institute (1923-24), Cathedral Separate School (1928), Memorial School of Hamilton (1918), Guelph Collegiate Institute (1922), Oshawa Collegiate Institute (1923-24).

The firm also did many factories and plant buildings including: Canadian Westinghouse Company (1937), Steel Company of Canada (1937), and Otis-Fensom Elevator Company (1929). Hutton and Souter executed the plans for the H.J. Heinz Company plant at Leamington, Ontario (1936), the Windsor plant of the Chrysler Corporation of Canada (1928) and the Oshawa (1927) and Regina, Saskatchewan (1928) plants of General Motors of Canada.