

JARVIS, Edgar Beaumont (1864 – 1948)

Beaumont Jarvis was a prominent Toronto based architect who designed a number of distinguished buildings in the city and around the province. Jarvis was involved with the Roman Stone Company, the producer of a concrete aggregate widely used as a stone substitute in the first two decades of this century.

Beaumont Jarvis, the eldest son of Edgar John Jarvis was born July 7, 1864 to one of the leading Toronto families. He served an apprenticeship with the Toronto architectural firm of Smith and Gemmell beginning in 1884 and established his own practice in Toronto in 1888. Jarvis became a partner in 1890 in the firm of Knox, Elliot and Jarvis for a year and returned to practicing alone in 1892. He remained in Toronto until 1920 when he moved to Belleville, returning in 1931 and retiring in 1937.

In 1889 he joined Wilm Knox and John Elliott in a partnership that was privileged to win the competition to design the Confederation Life Building, Richmond at Yonge Street, Toronto (1890-92) a bold, massive Richardson Romanesque structure enlivened by chateausque touches and fanciful detail.

Over the years he designed a variety of Toronto buildings including: Janes Building, Yonge Street

at King Street East (1891); Hanlan's Hotel, Toronto Island (1893); The McKinnon Building, Jordan and Melinda Street (1893); Brown Brothers Warehouse, Wellington Street West (1899) and the Art Gallery Building, Canadian National Exhibition Grounds (1902). Jarvis designed the Sheppard Apartments, Charles Street East (1907), planned in a U-shape to incorporate landscaping into the building and decorated with robust Edwardian detailing. His residence for Henry M. Pellatt was a noble design in stone with precise arrangement of windows in a Tudor style complete with a stepped tower. In 1898-1899 he designed the Chapel, Concert Hall and classroom building for Loretto Abbey, Wellington Street West. The chapel had a richly decorated Baroque interior with a coffered vault above the nave and large dome over the crossing.

Outside Toronto he designed many buildings including: Hospital, Kitchener (1894); Victoria School, Richmond Street, Brantford (1897); Royal Muskoka Hotel, Lake Rosseau (1901); Carnegie Library, Orangeville (1905); Carnegie Library, Lucknow (1906) and Albert College, Trent Road, Belleville (1922-24).