

MILLER, George Martell (1854 – 1933)

In a practice which spanned nearly half a century, George Martell Miller demonstrated great ability in mastering a wide variety of styles. Well known and respected he worked throughout Ontario on commissions which included commercial and school buildings, factories and landmarks such as The Gladstone Hotel (1888) in Toronto.

Born in Port Hope, Miller received his early education there and in Peterborough. He then studied at the School of Practical Science at the University of Toronto and taught for several years at the Mechanic's Institute in Toronto. From 1883 to 1885 he worked for Charles Walton, an Englishman who had apprenticed in Canada and worked in several American cities including Detroit and Chicago. In 1886 he ventured into practice on his own.

Among the notable buildings designed by George Martell Miller are several buildings for the University of Toronto including the jacobean Annesley College and the neoclassical Lillian Massey Building (1908), now the Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario; The Canadian General Electric offices and plant in Peterborough; and the Ontario Ladies College and House of Industry in Whitby. Miller was also the supervising architect for Massey Hall and worked for the Massey family on many of their residences, factories and philanthropic endeavors. Many of his drawings are now in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto.

One of George Martell Miller's interests was the Yonge Street Mission, an institution which helped and still helps the needy.

Important work:

Parkdale Collegiate, Toronto	1887
Gladstone Hotel, Queen St. W., Toronto	1889
Massey Music Hall (with S.R. Badgley), Shuter St., Toronto	1892-1894
Annex to Albert College, Belleville, Ont.	1895
Addition for Ontario Ladies College, Whitby	1895
Havergal Ladies College, Jarvis St., Toronto	1898
Ridley College, St. Catharines, Ont. (lower school)	1899;
(upper school)	1904-05
Canadian General Electric plant and factory, Peterborough	1900, additions 1910
MacDonald Institute building O.A.C., now Guelph University, Guelph, Ont.	1902-03
Annsley Hall, Victoria University, Queen's Park Cres., Toronto	1902
Toronto General Trusts, Bay St. at Melinda St., Toronto.	1909-1911