

MOORHOUSE, Walter Norwood (1884 – 1977)

A distinguished architect specializing in Georgian revival buildings, Walter Moorhouse helped to create an architectural firm that found great popularity among Toronto's elite first by designing their residences and then the businesses and institutions with which they were associated.

A life long resident of Toronto, Walter Moorhouse was born in 1884 and attended the Toronto Church School on Alexander Street graduating in 1901. He then attended the University of Toronto and received, when he graduated in 1904, the Kennard Thomson Prize. From 1908-1913 he worked as a draftsman for the architectural firm Sproatt and Rolph. He left this position to join into partnership with Allan George which lasted until 1921. At this time a partnership was formed with Cecil King called George, Moorhouse and King. This arrange-

ment lasted under 1936 when the business reverted to its original partnership of George & Moorhouse.

Among the important early residential commissions Moorhouse received were for John Gibbons (1929-30) at 19 Rosedale Road and Gerald Larkin at 8 Castle Frank Road (1926). Both are designed in the Georgian revival style for which the firm was noted but the Larkin house stands out as a beautiful palladian design and one of Toronto's most handsome houses. Later works included St. Hilda's College, 20 Devonshire Place (1928), the 1940 addition to Trinity College, 6 Hoskin Avenue, and in a departure from their usual style the landmark art deco former Toronto Stock Exchange building (with S. H. Maw) 234 Bay Street (1937). George & Moorhouse continued practicing until after 1950.

Important work:

George & Moorhouse

Toronto Stock Exchange (with S.H. Maw), Bay St. Toronto	1936-37
St. Hilda's College, Devonshire Place, Toronto	1937-38
Strachan Hall & residence, Trinity College, University of Toronto	1940-41

George, Moorhouse & King

Christ Church, Deer Park, Heath Street, Toronto	1922-23
Residence of Gerald Larkin, Castle Frank Road, Toronto	1926
Danforth Public Library, Pape Ave., Toronto	1929
Residence of James. S. McLean (with Eric Arthur), Bayview Ave., North York	1931-32