

NICHOLSON, Arthur Edwin (1881 – 1945)

St. Catharines was home to Arthur Nicholson, a prominent architect of the Niagara region who designed many significant buildings in the area.

American by birth, Nicholson came to St. Catharines as a young boy when his father, a builder and contractor, moved his family there. His early education occurred in St. Catharines but deciding to pursue an architectural career, he went to Toronto in 1901 and apprenticed at the firm of Gordon & Hellwell. In 1905 he was admitted to membership in the Ontario Association of Architects and returned to St. Catharines to set up practice. The following year he married Toronto native Viola MacGregor whom he had met while in apprenticeship.

During the 1920's, Nicholson entered a partnership with Robert Macbeth which lasted until 1929 and from then until his death he practiced under the name A. E. Nicholson. He designed many of the important buildings and residences in St. Catharines among them the Y.M.C.A., the General Hospital and the Niagara Peninsula Sanatorium. Nicholson was also consulting architect for Kinnon Industries, Thompson Products and General Motors of Canada, Limited, St. Catharines.

One of his more unusual commissions was the restoration of the finely proportioned stone house at Queenston that had once been the residence of the fiery rebel William Lyon Mackenzie.

Important work:

St. Paul's Ward School, St. Catharines, Ont.	1908
Carnegie Library, Thorold, Ont.	1911
Carnegie Library, Grimsby, Ont.	1912
Holy Trinity Church, Welland, Ont.	1912
Memorial School, St. Catharines, Ont.	1920

Nicholson & MacBeth

Lincoln Co. Registry Office, St. Catharines, Ont	
High school, Beamsville, Ont.	1924
Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. building, Queen St., St. Catharines, Ont.	1928