

POWER, Joseph William (1852 – 1925)

An active and efficient worker in the Ontario Association of Architects, Joseph Power operated one of the most important architectural firms in Eastern Ontario.

Joseph Power was said to be an architect by birth, association and education. His father, John Power was an English architect who came to Canada in 1847 and established his residence and practice at Kingston, Ontario. His son, the subject of this sketch, was born in 1852, graduated from college as a civil engineer and entered his father's office, becoming a partner after completing his apprenticeship. When his father died in 1881 Power continued the practice under the same name Power & Son. When Kingston's main thoroughfare was substantially destroyed by fire, Power designed and oversaw the construction of most of the replacement structures.

The firm designed many of the important buildings in Kingston and Power's own works include the Kingston Opera House, the additions and alterations which added baroque embellishments to the Greek revival St. George's Anglican Cathedral (1891 and 1899), the Richardsonian Romanesque St. Andrew's Church, the Kingston Collegiate Institute, the Central School and numerous residences. By the turn of the century Power was designing using primarily classical vocabulary as evidenced by his extensive work in Cobourg including the second Collegiate (1902), the Central Public School (1904), the Jail (1905), and the Union Cemetery Mortuary Chapel (1906).

Power was a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts and was President of the Ontario Association of Architects in 1897.

Important work:

Queen St. Methodist Church, Kingston	1882
United Empire Loyalists Memorial Church, Adolphustown, Ont.	1884-85
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kingston	1888-89
Rebuilding of St. George's Anglican Cathedral after fire, Kingston	1890
Pump House, Kingston	1890
Kingston Collegiate Institute, Frontenac St., Kingston	1892
Grand Opera House, Kingston	1896
First Methodist Church, Picton, Ont.	1898
Collegiate Institute, Cobourg, Ont.	1902
Central School, Cobourg	1906
Biological building, Queen's University, Kingston	1907