

## STEWART, William (1832 – 1907)

**A** Toronto and Hamilton architect, William Stewart spent the early part of his career travelling throughout the U.S. mid-west and south practicing his profession in more than six states. In 1863 when the Civil War broke out, Stewart was in Cleveland. Called to active service when a Confederate raid was attempted, he was wounded and carried the rebel's bullet to his death 44 years later.

William Stewart was born in Toronto, the son of a builder and cabinet maker who was an active supporter of William Lyon MacKenzie. Stewart attended Mair's Academy, the Model School and also graduated from the Normal School. After working as a copy-boy for a newspaper his father arranged for him to apprentice with an architect. In 1857 he started his wanderings through the U.S. gaining experience as an architect. His travels took him first to Chicago, then Minnesota, and Ohio where at Cincinnati he designed numerous buildings. He then went to Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas before returning to Cincinnati in 1862 where he married Sarah Dunkley.

There he founded the firm Walter and Stewart and later moved to Covington, Kentucky.

In 1872 he returned to Toronto and developed a large practice specializing in factories, schools, heating and ventilation. Among the buildings he worked on, in Toronto, were structures for the Industrial Exhibition of 1879 and the Toronto General Hospital. In 1875 he began a three-year partnership with W. R. Strickland. Stewart moved to Hamilton, Ontario in 1885 where he spent the remainder of his life.

In Hamilton Stewart designed many structures including the Grant Lottridge Breweries; the King William Warehouse of Wood, Valance and Company; the Times Printing Office, and the alterations to Senator W. E. Sandford's residence "Wesanford". He was well versed in the various popular styles of the day as evidenced by his boldly executed proposal for the Hamilton Collegiate (1896) a chateausque/romanesque design, his more subdued Gothic design for the Brantford Central School (1890-91) and the festive Beaux Arts Sun Life Assurance Building, Hamilton (1900).

### Important work:

Hamilton Public Library, Main St. W., Hamilton	1889-90
Ryerson Public School, Queen St. S., Hamilton	1889
Central School, Brantford, Ont.	1890-91

### *(by William Stewart and Walter Strickland)*

Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway Station, Hunter St. E., Hamilton	1895
Hamilton Collegiate and Normal School, Hunter St. E., Hamilton	1896
Sun Life Assurance Co., James St. North, Hamilton	1897-98
Carnegie Library, Collingwood, Ont.	1903
Public Library, Brantford, Ont.	1903-04