

STORM, William George (1826 – 1902)

In 1849 a disastrous fire destroyed the St. James Anglican Church in Toronto. A young architect, William Storm, who was preparing to leave Toronto for California, was offered an opportunity to work on the design for a new church. Storm accepted the offer which had come from Frederic Cumberland and thus began one of the city's most fruitful architectural partnerships.

Born in England, Storm emigrated with his parents to York in 1830. His father, Thomas, a builder, erected a number of fine buildings in the growing city of Toronto and was Councilman for St. David's Ward. William apprenticed with his father, acquiring a practical knowledge of construction. He demonstrated great mechanical ingenuity and had a strong interest in architecture.

In 1844 Storm joined the office of William Thomas, considered the best architect in Toronto at the time. In 1848 he worked for Frederic Cumberland, whose attractive offer to design his firm's entry in the competition for the new St. James Cathedral dissuaded Storm from moving to California. Cumberland and Storm were a very complementary pair, with Cumberland in charge of engi-

neering and administration and Storm in charge of design. They formalized their partnership in 1852. In 1863 Cumberland left the practice and Storm continued independently until his death in 1892.

As well as St. James Cathedral (1863), Storm designed many significant buildings in historical revival styles. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (1874), in a Scottish medieval style was thought of as one of the most beautiful buildings in North America. Other notable commissions included Victoria College (1889); University College (1856); the rebuilding of the central section of Osgoode Hall, opened in 1860 by the Prince of Wales and referred to as the finest law library building in the world; St. James Cemetery Chapel (1857) and several residences such as the Cawthra House (1883). Cumberland and Storm also designed buildings in St. Catharines, Whitby, Windsor, Ottawa and Lindsay.

William Storm was a prominent freemason and temperance advocate as well as a great but anonymous philanthropist to Toronto's helpless and needy. He was a prime motivator in the founding of the OAA and in 1890 served as its first president.

List of major works:

Cumberland and Storm

Mechanics Institute, Church St., Toronto	1853
University College, University of Toronto	1856-59
Central Wing, Osgoode Hall, Toronto	1857
Chapel of St. James the Less, St. James Cemetery, Toronto	1861

Storm

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, King St. W., Toronto	1875
Mrs. William Cawthra House, Jarvis St., Toronto	1883
Victorian College, Toronto	1890-1891