

STRICKLAND, Walter Reginald (1841 – 1915)

Toronto architect Walter Strickland, architect of the 1893 second Union Station additions, was a member of the celebrated Strickland family of Lakefield whose most famous members were Strickland's literary aunts Susannah Moodie and Catherine Parr Traill.

Born at the family homestead at Lakefield, Ontario, Strickland trained as an architect under his brother-in-law Kivas Tully. He opened his Toronto office in 1871 and four years later entered into a six-year partnership with William Stewart. When this arrangement ended he practiced on his own until forming a partnership with W. Symons and W. Rae in 1887. At some point this combination was dissolved leaving Strickland & Symons. This partnership lasted until Strickland's retirement to Lakefield in 1898.

Strickland's major body of work was in the Toronto area. With Stewart he was involved in the laying out of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition with its Crystal Palace (1879). Other important commissions included Toronto's only remaining totally iron-fronted wholesale warehouses, 45-49 Front Street East, (1871); Consumer's Gas Purifying Houses, Front Street East, (1887) and Upper Canada College, Deer Park (1889). Strickland was well versed in the fashionable architectural styles of the day as evidenced by his Gothic revival design for the Ottawa Normal School and for St. Paul's Church, Wingham, Ontario and the Romanesque second Union Station additions (1873).

In 1887 Strickland was a founding member of the Architectural Guild of Toronto.

Important work:

(by Stewart and Strickland)

Canadian Institute, Richmond St. E., Toronto	1876
New Buildings at the Exhibition grounds, C.N.E., Toronto	1878-79

(by Strickland and Symons)

St. Matthew's Anglican Church, First Ave., Toronto	1889
Second Union Station, Front St. W., Toronto	1893

(by Strickland alone)

Central school, Guelph, Ont.	1873-76
Normal school, Elgin St., Ottawa, Ont.	1874-75