

WATTS, John William Hurrell

(1850 – 1917)

Architect, painter and designer, Ottawa resident John Watts was an artist who expressed his talent in a number of mediums besides architecture including furniture and stained glass design, oil painting and engraving. He was Custodian of the National Gallery of Canada to 1907.

Watts was born in England and studied architecture at the Architectural Association in London. In 1874 he emigrated to Canada when he was 24. He lived at Cumming's Bridge, Ontario until 1882 when upon his appointment as Assistant Chief Architect of the Department of Public Works he moved to Ottawa. He worked for Public Works under Chief Architect Thomas Fuller, architect of the Parliament Buildings, until 1897 when he retired to private practice. Watts was known for his

schools and large solid and comfortable residences such as the turreted stone house at 500 Wilbrod Street, Ottawa.

As an artist, Watts exhibited in many media including stained glass, furniture design, and oils largely of Canadian landscapes and etchings of urban centers such as Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec. Watts exhibited in numerous American cities including St. Louis and Chicago. As a black and white illustrator of current news events Watts' engravings appeared in the *Canadian Illustrated News* and *The Dominion Illustrated*.

Besides numerous artists' associations, Watts was for many years treasurer for the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and member of the Ontario Association of Architects. He was married to Elizabeth Morris.

Important work:

St. Matthew's Anglican Church, First Ave., Ottawa	1898
Glebe Presbyterian Church, First Ave., Ottawa	1904-05
Jewish Synagogue, King Edward Ave., Ottawa	1911
Residence for Andrew Fleck, Wilbrod St., Ottawa	1901-02
Anglican Church, Renfrew, Ont.	1900
Anglican Church, Iroquois, Ont.	1901