

WICKSON, Alexander Frank (1861 – 1936)

One of Toronto's prominent architects A. Frank Wickson was noted for his contributions to the architectural profession. To him the Ontario Association of Architects was as much a part of his professional life as his office. He was President of the Ontario Association of Architects in 1900, 1910 and 1911 and President of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada from 1918 to 1920.

Wickson was a lifelong resident of the Queen City, born there in 1861 and educated in private schools, at Jarvis Collegiate and Upper Canada College. Subsequently he attended the Central School of Art before he began the study of architecture with Smith & Gemmell and later with Darling & Curry. In between offices Wickson spent some time in the United States furthering his architectural studies. He formed his first partnership with Norman B. Dick but the latter's death in 1895 ended a short but successful collaboration. After practicing alone for a number of years Wickson formed a new firm with Alfred H. Gregg. This

partnership lasted many years, ending this time with Wickson's own death.

Wickson and his firms designed in the popular styles of his day. The success of many 19th century and early 20th century architects depended on how versatile they were with mastering the era's eclecticism. Wickson's firm designed in many styles including the beaux-art classical, John C. Green Company building, Wellington St. West, Toronto (1907) or the former Toronto Public Reference Library, (with Alfred Chapman) 214 College Street (1906); the Georgian revival, "Ardwold" the residence of Sir John C. Eaton, and collegiate Gothic, the Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto (1915).

Other Toronto buildings he designed were the Sherbourne Street Methodist Church, the Copp-Clark Company's warehouse and factory and "Donalda" the residence of D. A. Dunlap.

Married to Annie Fisher, Wickson was involved in many activities during his life including acting as a director of the Canadian National Exhibition.

Important work:

(by Wickson alone)

Carnegie Library, Paris, Ont.	1903-04
Fire Hall, Berkely St., Toronto	1903-04

(by Wickson & Gregg)

"Ardwold", residence of Sir John C. Eaton, Davenport Rd., Toronto	1909-10
"Donalda", residence of David A. Dunlap, York Mills Rd., North York	1921
"Villa Fiori", residence of Lady Eaton, King, Ont.	1928-29
Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, St. Clair Ave. West, Toronto	1913-14
St. Clair Ave., Methodist Church, Toronto	1924

(with A.H. Chapman)

Toronto Public Library, College St. at St. George St., Toronto	1906-09
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