

## MORTON, J. Gibb (1876 – 1949)

**F**rom the halls of commerce to the halls of Christ, J. Gibb Morton spent 16 years as a staff architect of the Canadian Bank of Commerce before devoting the remainder of his professional career to the houses of God.

A native of Scotland, Morton did not come to Canada until he was a mature adult. He received his education at Andersonian College, Glasgow, the Glasgow Art School and studied architecture with Sir John Burnett, Aston Webb and John Hamilton. Before he came to Canada in 1910 numerous buildings of his design had been built on his native soil.

Once he received his calling to design churches his creations were soon found all over Canada. Among his larger works are Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Beaches Presbyterian, St. John's Anglican Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Corpus Christi, St. Clair Baptist Church and St. John's Anglican

Church, Norway all of Toronto. Outside of Toronto were built among others Melrose United Church, Hamilton; St. Joseph's, and the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Ottawa and St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.

The rebuilding of the "Cathedral of Methodism", Metropolitan Wesleyan Methodist later United Church, Queen Street East (rebuilt after fire 1928) was considered Morton's greatest work. Although not as richly decorated as the original it is considered notable for its space and volume. The sophisticated art moderne Cloverhill apartments, 26 St. Joseph Street (1939) are one of the few non-sectarian buildings Morton squeezed into his largely theological practice.

Morton was a member of the Ontario Association of Architects and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. He was married twice, first to Jesse Cameron and secondly to Nellie Foley Brennan.

### Important work:

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| Waverley Road Baptist Church, Toronto  | 1921    |
| St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Church,<br>Wolverleigh Blvd., Toronto                      | 1926-27 |
| Metropolitan Methodist Church, Queen St.<br>East, (reconstruction after fire), Toronto | 1928-29 |
| Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic<br>Church, St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto        | 1929-30 |
| Cloverhill Apartments, St. Joseph St.,<br>Toronto                                      | 1939    |
| Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church,<br>Percy St., Ottawa                          | 1932    |