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The Architecture of William Thomas

by
T. Ritchie



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The Architecture of William Thomas

T. Ritchie

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William Thomas

William Thomas, an English architect, came to this country in 1840, when Canada was a small, rapidly-developing country, but one in which, fortunately, prevailing conditions encouraged the full employment of his great talents as an architect. The period from 1840 until 1860, the year of his death, made up the last third of his lifetime. During it William Thomas designed some of the most important buildings erected in Canada. Many still stand today and provide evidence of his considerable skill in the art of building design. For this valuable legacy his name should occupy an important place in the history of architecture in Canada. In addition, however, recognition should be given to his development of the architectural talents of his students, who, as a result of his training, came themselves to occupy important places in the early history of the architectural profession of Canada.

His Life Before Coming to Canada

Little detailed information appears to have been published on the life and work of William Thomas. Of his career in Canada a reasonably detailed account can be prepared from scattered information which appears in general accounts of building in Canada in the middle decades of the 19th century, and many of the buildings he designed are known. Of his life before

coming to Canada and of his personality, little appears to have been recorded.

The place of his birth has been given as Stroud, in Gloucestershire, England, and the date was 1800. When he came to Canada about 1840 he was then therefore forty years of age, and probably had already about fifteen years of experience in the architectural profession. Colvin's "Biographical Dictionary of English Architects" refers to William Thomas as having practiced in Birmingham, where he designed the church of St Matthew, Lister Street, Duddeston, built in 1839; and refers to his brother John Thomas (1813-62) who assisted William for a time. Later John became well known as a sculptor and practiced also as an architect. The dictionary makes reference to William Thomas of Leamington Spa, who designed Lansdowne Crescent and Circus and other houses and villas there, and who published in 1843 a book "Designs for Monuments and Chimney-Pieces." These references to William Thomas identify him as the architect who came to Canada, since the "Canadian Gazetteer", published by William Smith in Toronto in 1846, mentions the architect William Thomas as having been "late of Leamington Spa", and the obituary of his son (W. T. Thomas, who died in Montreal in 1892) refers to William Thomas as the architect who came to Toronto from England, and whose brother John had "won wide distinction as a sculptor and architect, having been chosen by Sir Charles Barry, the architect of the Houses of Parliament . . . to execute the statuary about that building".

The reason why Thomas gave up his practice in England for a new life in Canada is not known. Perhaps insufficient demand for his services in England, and therefore insufficient scope for the development of his abilities, prompted him, like many other architects of that period of time, to come to North America.

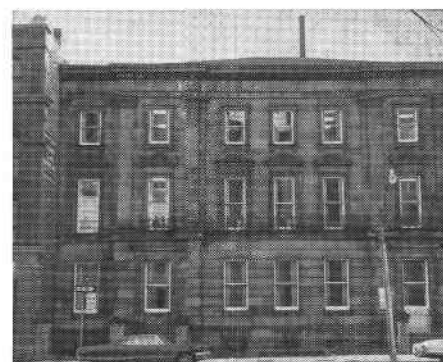
Thomas settled in Toronto and most of his work was carried out there and in Hamilton, although he also received commissions to design buildings in other communities

including Cobourg, Guelph and London. All of these towns were relatively small in those days and in the early stages of their development. Ten years before Thomas came to Toronto its population was less than 3,000 persons; that of Hamilton was probably about a thousand; and only a few years had passed since London had been laid out as a town, so it consisted of only a few houses and log cabins. At the end of the next decade, however, when Thomas arrived on the scene, Toronto had been incorporated as a city and had a population of close to 15,000 persons, Hamilton had about 5,000, and London about 3,000. This rapid growth of Upper Canada continued in the next two decades at an even greater rate than before. Conditions were such as to require a considerable program of building construction and accordingly provided architects with an important role in the development of the new country.

The Work of William Thomas

The earliest building that Thomas designed in Canada may have been the Commercial Bank Building at 15 Wellington Street West in Toronto, which was constructed in 1842 and still stands. Originally built for the Commercial Bank, it was taken over by another banking company, and later still by firms who have used it as an office building (Figure 1).

In 1845 construction was started on another



1
Commercial Bank Building, 15 Wellington Street West, Toronto
Edifice de la Banque Commerciale, 15 rue Wellington ouest, Toronto

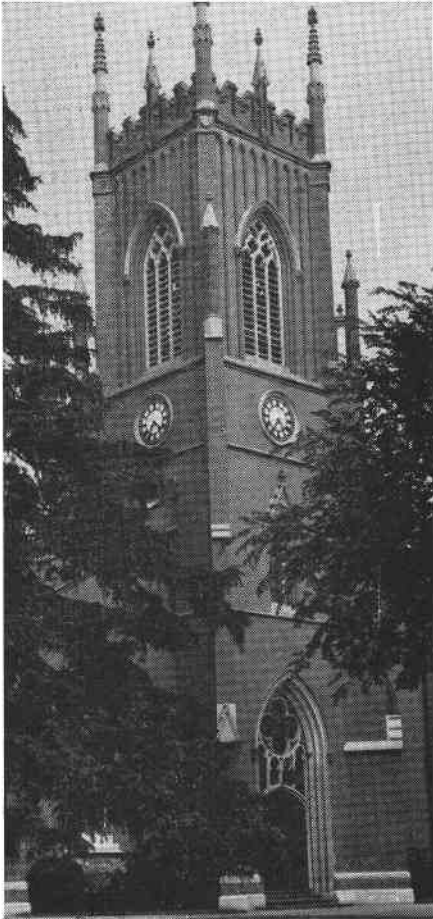
2
St Paul's Church, London
Eglise St Paul, Londres

3
Oakham House, Toronto
Maison Oakham, Toronto

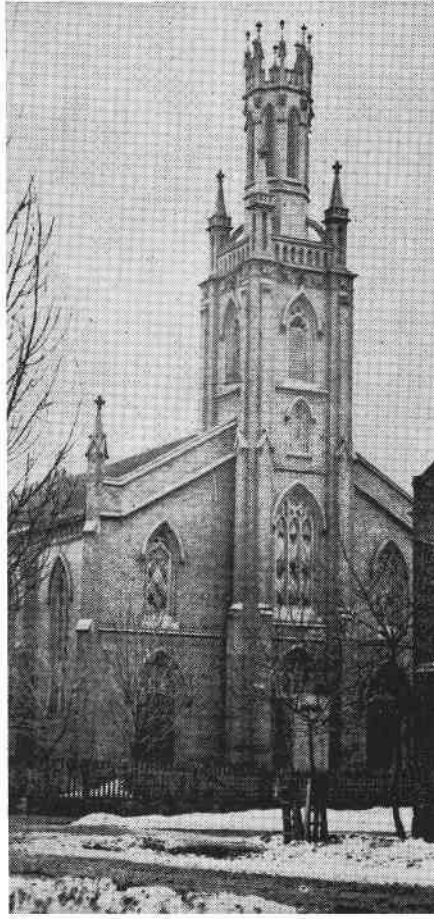
4
Bay Street Presbyterian Church, Toronto
photographed by O. Thompson in 1868
(Public Archives of Canada)
L'Eglise Presbytérienne de la rue Bay,
Toronto, photographiée par O. Thompson
en 1868 (Archives Publiques d'Ottawa)

5
St Lawrence Hall, Toronto (Toronto Public
Libraries)

St Lawrence Hall, Toronto (Bibliothèque
Publique de Toronto)



2



4



3



5

of his Toronto projects St Michael's Cathedral and Palace at Bond and Church Streets. These buildings were opened in 1848. The spire, however, was not built until after his death, and it was built to the design of Messrs Gundry and Langley.

About the time of the start of construction of St Michael's Cathedral the building of a new church was undertaken in London to replace the Episcopal Church (St Paul's) which had burned down in 1844. William Smith, in his "Canadian Gazetteer" of 1846, mentioned Thomas as the architect of the new church in London (Figure 2). Smith also mentioned Thomas in connection with the construction in Toronto of "new stores at present erecting in King Street". It would seem, therefore, that not long after his arrival in Toronto, Thomas had established a successful practice in architectural design and had received commissions for the design of important buildings.

A directory of Toronto for 1843 listed two architects, J. G. Howard and Kivas Tully, in addition to Thomas. Howard and Thomas had come from England, Tully from Ireland. Smith in his "Gazetteer" of 1846 gave the number of architects in Toronto as four (without their names). He also mentioned that there were among the trades and professions in Toronto two surveyors, five artists and portrait painters, four engravers, two drawing masters, one nail maker, sixteen builders and twenty-five cabinet makers, which indicates the development taking place in Toronto.

In Smith's later book on Canada, published in 1851, the business directory for Toronto listed the names of nine architects, the partners Cumberland and Ridout, W. W. Fraser, J. G. Howard, Joseph Shenod, John Tully, Kivas Tully, Thomas Young, and William Thomas, whose address is given as "Oakham House, Church St". In the same book the business directory for Hamilton listed William Thomas, "architect and surveyor, King St", and it also listed G. F. Thomas, a surveyor also on King Street, who may have been a brother, son or other relative of William Thomas. By the year

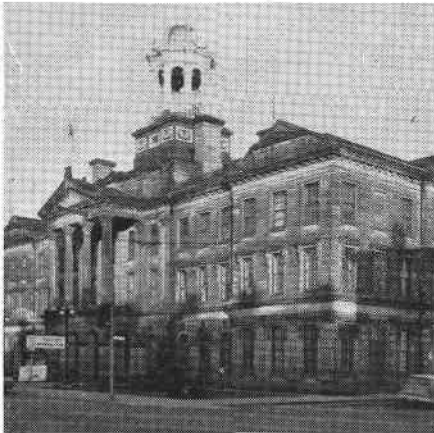
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Victoria Hall, Cobourg

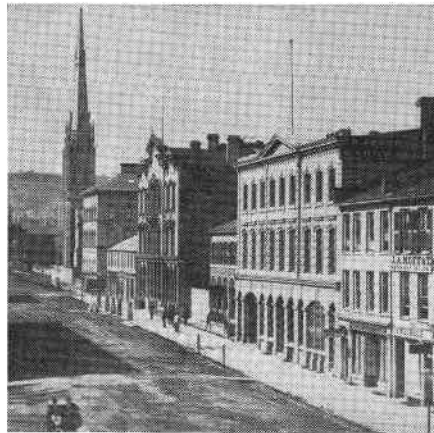
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*City Hall, Guelph**Hôtel de Ville, Guelph*

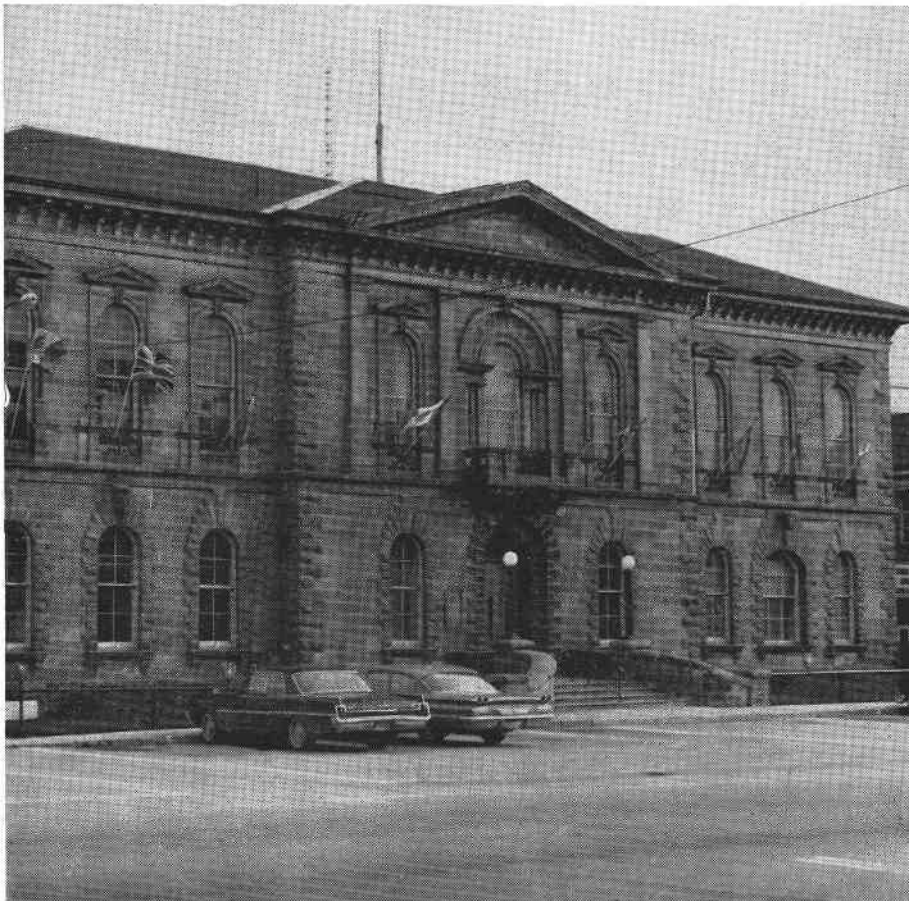
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*St Paul's Presbyterian Church, Hamilton
(Toronto Public Libraries)**Eglise Presbytérienne St Paul, Hamilton
(Bibliothèque Publique de Toronto)*

6



8



7

1851, therefore, the practice of Thomas required the maintenance of two offices. Two of his sons, W. T. and C. P. Thomas, trained with him and probably practiced with him. An articled student William G. Storm, son of a Toronto builder, had joined the office in 1844, when eighteen years of age.

Of three buildings designed by Thomas and constructed in 1848, one remains, his own house and office which he called "Oakham House", at Church and Gould Streets in Toronto (*Figure 3*). Of the two others, the Presbyterian Church at Bay and Richmond Streets was demolished in 1886, and Knox's Church on Queen at James Street was taken down in 1906. The former is shown in the "photographic views of the principal buildings in the city of Toronto", published in 1868 by O. Thompson, "Photographic Publisher" (*Figure 4*, from the Public Archives of Canada). It shows fine Gothic detail, especially in the tower. Thompson described the church as being of Kingston stone and white brick, with Ohio stone for facings and carved work.

One of the most important works of Thomas was St Lawrence Hall, which was completed in 1850. For many years thereafter it served as Toronto's principal concert and lecture hall. World-famed artists of the time, including Jenny Lind, "the Swedish Nightingale", performed in St Lawrence Hall, which still stands, and is at present being renovated for continuing use as a concert hall. It is shown in *Figure 5*, an early photograph.

A somewhat similar building, which also remains in use, was designed by Thomas for the town of Cobourg (*Figure 6*). This building is the Town Hall, also called Victoria Hall, and it contains "a complete opera house which was opened by a grand ball with the Prince of Wales, later King Edward, in attendance on September 6, 1860". The design of Victoria Hall has been variously attributed to William Thomas and to Kivas Tully. There is no doubt that Thomas was associated with the building, since the local paper in 1858 noted that "the carvings

Zion Church, corner Adelaide and Bay Streets, Toronto, photographed by O. Thompson in 1868
 (Public Archives of Canada)
Eglise Zion, carrefour des rues Adelaide et Bay à Toronto, photographiée par O. Thompson en 1868

Cooke's Church, Toronto
photographed by O. Thompson in 1868
 (Public Archives of Canada)
Eglise Cooke, Toronto,
photographiée par O. Thompson en 1868

on the spandrels of the chief entrance are exceedingly fine. They comprise . . . the rose, the thistle and the shamrock disposed on either side of an ancient lyre. These carvings, together with a fine bearded face which forms the keystone of the arch, are the work of Mr Thomas, contractor for the stone-cutting and certainly do him great credit" (J. A. S. Evans, *Hamilton Spectator*, March 25, 1961).

In 1852 a school on Louisa Street in Toronto was built to Thomas' design. In the next year he was appointed engineer of the city of Toronto, an appointment illustrating that engineering and architecture were then considered to be the same profession. In the following year a monument to General Brock, designed by Thomas, was erected at Queenston Heights near Niagara Falls. The lofty tower of the monument, surmounted by Brock's statue, overlooks the spot where Brock was fatally wounded when leading an attack on American forces in a battle of the War of 1812.

In 1856 another of the works of Thomas was brought to completion, the Guelph City Hall (*Figure 7*), which continues in use today. He had earlier designed a small Anglican church for Guelph which was never completed, and torn down 20 years after the start of its construction. Thomas also designed the Market Building, in Guelph after completion of the City Hall.

In 1856, St Paul's Presbyterian Church in Hamilton (originally St Andrew's) and still in use (*Figure 8*) and Zion church in Toronto were completed to his design. The latter church was demolished. It appeared in Thompson's photograph of 1868 (*Figure 9*), and he described it as being in the Lombard style of architecture. Also erected in 1856 was an office building at Yonge and Colborne Streets in Toronto which Thomas originally designed as a dry goods store. It later became a bank building and finally an office building before it was demolished.

Another church described by Thompson as being "in the Lombardian style of architecture" and from the designs of "William

Thomas and Sons, Architects" was constructed in 1857 at the corner of Queen and Mutual Streets in Toronto. Called Cooke's Church, it had twin spires (*Figure 10*, by Thompson in 1868; Public Archives of Canada).

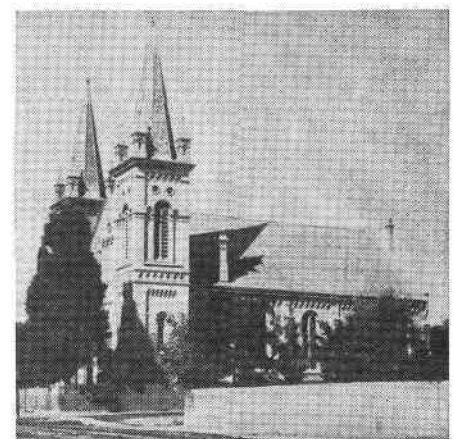
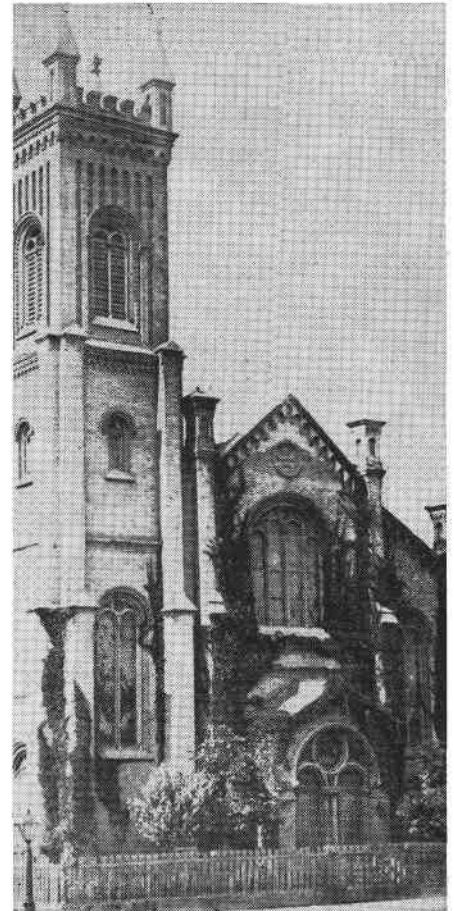
There are undoubtedly houses and other buildings in Toronto, Hamilton and elsewhere designed by Thomas but not yet been identified as his work. The last of his buildings of which there is a record is the jail on Gerrard Street in Toronto, which he designed in 1858, but construction of the building was not completed before his death in 1860.

Assessments of his Work

William Thomas must certainly rank as one of the leading architects of the middle decades of the 19th century in Canada, not only in regard to the number of buildings he designed but also in the high quality of their designs. He was an architect of an age in which style was undoubtedly one of the most important aspects of building, and style meant either Classic or Gothic. Thomas was a master of both. He has been described as an architect "of great taste and skill", and as one who was "a pioneer of Gothic architecture in Canada, and even on this Continent".

His work at once attracted favorable attention in Canada. In 1846, even before the stores on King Street he designed were completed, it was said that they "will be when finished the handsomest buildings of the kind in Canada, and equal to anything to be seen in England". His church in London received praise from the same writer: "London can now boast of possessing the handsomest Gothic church in Canada West", and St Lawrence Hall and Market were referred to as "a magnificent pile of buildings".

Of his work in Toronto, it was said on his death in 1860 "To him we owe some of the finest buildings of which our city can boast. He was one of the first to discover the use which might be made of the white brick peculiar to Toronto."



More recent assessments of his work have also been favorable. His halls at Toronto and Cobourg have been described as "imposing but reserved and dignified", while his work in general was "uniformly good, well proportioned and refined". St Paul's Church in Hamilton, "with its curvilinear tracery and graceful spire . . . is one of the best monuments of the Gothic Revival in Canada".

His Influence on Canadian Architecture

As a successful architect Thomas attracted artied students to his office, one of whom was William G. Storm, who later became a leading architect in Toronto. The partnership of Storm and F. W. Cumberland produced many important buildings. Storm's skill in architectural design was undoubtedly formed and developed under the guidance of William Thomas.

Two of his sons, William (?) T. and Cyrus (?) P. Thomas (and perhaps another son) were also trained in his office, and they apparently worked with him until his death. Many of the buildings attributed to Thomas were probably designed, at least in part, by his sons. It is recorded that they moved to Montreal in 1864 and worked in partnership for a short time, then C. P. Thomas moved to Chicago. W. T. Thomas continued his practice in Montreal and became a leading architect there, rising at once to the first rank among his confreres. He died in 1892. Like his father, he was responsible for a number of tastefully designed buildings, many of which reflect his father's skill. In open competitions his designs for St George's Church in Montreal and Trinity Church in Saint John were accepted. Several large houses in Montreal, including those of Thomas Workman, Lord Mount Stephen and Duncan McIntyre were designed by Thomas in a "scholarly treatment of classic details", which appreciation was also applied to a four-storey office building of his design erected in 1870 at St Helen and Notre Dame Streets. St Martin's Church (1874), the Caverhill block on St Peter Street (both in Montreal), and the Prescott Town Hall are other buildings designed by W. T. Thomas.

Conclusion

The architecture of William Thomas occupies an important place in Canada's architectural history. His was an age in which, even in the newly developing Canada, a high level of taste and competence in architecture prevailed, and his was also an age in which the most important aspect of building design was style, of which the Classic and the Gothic predominated. Many of his buildings which remain are of interest since they reflect so well the best qualities of that age of architecture, and they illustrate not only the good taste and skill with which he carried out his work but also his mastery of the art.

It is fortunate that in coming to Canada he found conditions which encouraged the employment of his considerable architectural skill, and which made his life in Canada such a productive one. His influence on the next generation of Canadian architects was undoubtedly important, at least two of his students becoming in their own rights leading architects of the day. It would, therefore, not be inappropriate to designate William Thomas as one of the founders of the Canadian architectural profession.

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L'Architecture de William Thomas par T. Ritchie du Conseil National des Recherches, Ottawa. Page 41

Un architecte anglais, William Thomas, est venu au Canada en 1840 à une époque où le pays se développait rapidement et, heureusement, les conditions encourageaient le plein emploi de ses grands talents en architecture. De 1840 jusqu'à 1860, l'année de sa mort, Thomas a créé quelques uns des plus importants édifices construits au Canada, dont beaucoup existant toujours nous montrent son habileté en architecture. Sa renommée devrait occuper une place importante dans l'Histoire de l'architecture canadienne et on devra reconnaître aussi la contribution indirecte qu'il a fait en formant les talents de ses étudiants-apprentis qui, en conséquence de leurs études faites avec lui ont contribué eux-mêmes à l'histoire de la profession au Canada.

On ne sait pas grande chose de la vie de William Thomas avant son arrivée au Canada. Il est né en 1800 à Stroud en Gloucestershire, Angleterre, avait 40 ans au début de sa carrière canadienne, dont probablement 15 ans d'expérience professionnelle. Il a exercé à Birmingham où il fait l'Eglise St-Mathieu à Duddeston en 1839, selon le Dictionnaire Biographique des Architectes Anglais de Colvin qui mentionne aussi que son frère, John Thomas, sculpteur et architecte, l'a assisté. Plus tard, ce dictionnaire fait mention d'un William Thomas de Leamington Spa qui a dessiné le Cirque et Crescent de Landsdowne, plusieurs maisons et villas et qui a publié un livre en 1843 intitulé "Dessins pour Monuments et Cheminées". La preuve que ce William Thomas est celui qui a émigré au Canada se trouve dans le "Canadian Gazetteer" de 1846 qui parle de l'architecte William Thomas "récemment de Leamington Spa". A la mort de son fils, W. T. Thomas à Montréal en 1892, les journaux font référence à son père, William Thomas, venu d'Angleterre, le frère duquel s'était distingué comme sculpteur et architecte ayant été choisi par Sir Charles Barry l'architecte du Parlement pour l'exécution des statues de cet édifice.

Ses raisons, d'avoir quitté l'Angleterre pour commencer une nouvelle vie au Canada, ne sont pas connues. Peut-être ses services n'étaient pas assez demandés et l'occasion de développer ses capacités était insuffisante comme pour bien d'autres architectes-émigrés de l'époque.

Thomas s'est établi à Toronto; la plupart de ses oeuvres se trouvent à Toronto et à Hamilton, bien qu'il ait reçu d'autres commandes à Cobourg, à Guelph et à Londres en Ontario. A l'époque, toutes ces villes étaient relativement petites et au début de leur développement. Dix ans avant l'arrivée de Thomas à Toronto, la population n'aurait pas été plus de 3000; Hamilton comptait probablement 1000 âmes, Londres venait d'être établi et consistait de quelques maisons et des cabanes en bois. Mais en 1840, Toronto avait été incorporé comme ville et comptait près de 15,000 résidents, Hamilton 5000 et Londres 3000. Le Haut-Canada grandissait même plus rapidement durant les deux décades suivantes et les conditions étaient telles qu'un programme de construction considérable était nécessaire. En conséquence, le rôle de l'architecte dans l'exploitation de ce nouveau pays devenait d'une importance majeure.

Les Oeuvres de William Thomas

Le premier édifice que Thomas a conçu au Canada est probablement l'Edifice de la Banque Commerciale (Commercial Bank Building) à 15 rue Wellington ouest, construit en 1842 et qui existe toujours à l'usage des bureaux (voir Fig. 1). En 1845, la construction de la Cathédrale et du Palais de St-Michel, également conçu par Thomas, était en cours aux rues Bond et Church. La flèche fut ajoutée après sa mort d'après les dessins de Messrs. Gundry et Langley. Vers la même époque, Thomas a entrepris la construction d'une nouvelle église à Londres, remplaçant l'église anglicaine de St-Paul, détruite par un incendie en 1844. Dans son "Canadian Gazetteer" de 1846, William Smith cite Thomas comme l'architecte de la nouvelle église à Londres (Fig. 2), ainsi que des "nouveaux maga-

sins en cours de construction sur la rue King". Il semblerait donc que peu après son arrivée à Toronto, Thomas avait établi une bonne clientèle et avait reçu d'importantes commandes.

Un annuaire de 1843 de Toronto a énuméré deux autres architectes, J. G. Howard et Kivas Tully ainsi que Thomas. Howard et Thomas venaient d'Angleterre et Tully d'Irlande. Smith cite quatre architectes dans son "Gazetteer" de 1846 sans donner leurs noms, deux arpenteurs, cinq artistes et portraitistes, quatre graveurs, deux maîtres de dessin, un fabricant de clous, seize constructeurs et vingt-cinq ébénistes, ce qui montre bien le train du développement de Toronto.

Un livre ultérieur de Smith sur le Canada, publié en 1851, liste les noms de neuf architectes à Toronto, dont William Thomas de "Oakham House, Church St.", ainsi que G. F. Thomas, également un arpenteur de King St. qui pourrait être soit un frère, soit un fils ou autre parent de William Thomas. Son succès exigeait deux bureaux en 1851. Deux de ses fils, W. T. et C.P. qui ont reçu leur formation dans ses bureaux, probablement pratiquaient avec lui, ainsi qu'un étudiant-apprenti, William G. Storm, fils d'un constructeur torontois.

Des trois édifices conçus par Thomas et construits à Toronto en 1848, il en reste un, sa propre maison et son bureau, "Oakham House" aux rues Church et Gould (Fig. 3). Des deux autres, l'Eglise Presbytérienne aux rues Bay et Richmond a été démolie en 1906 (Fig. 4, Archives Publiques du Canada). Les détails gothiques, surtout de la tour, sont remarquablement fins. O Thompson, dans son livre de 1868, "Vues Photographiques des Edifices Principaux de Toronto", décrit l'église faite en pierre de Kingston et briques blanches avec revêtements et sculptures en pierre d'Ohio.

Un des plus importantes oeuvres de Thomas est le St-Lawrence Hall. Achievé en 1850, il a servi pendant bien des années comme la salle principale de concerts et de conférences

de Toronto. Des artistes de renommée internationale telle que Jenny Lind, y ont donnés des concerts. Cet édifice existe toujours. Il est l'objet de rénovations considérables comme projet centenaire et redeviendra éventuellement une salle de concerts, comme dans le passé. (Fig. 5) Un autre édifice semblable toujours existant et conçu par William Thomas pour la ville de Cobourg (Fig. 6) est l'Hôtel de Ville, quelquefois appelé Victoria Hall. Il comprend "une salle d'Opéra complète, dédicacé par le Prince de Galles le 6 sept. 1860". Le dessin de l'édifice Victoria a été attribué à Kivas Tully aussi bien qu'à Thomas, mais il n'y a pas de doute que Thomas a été associé à l'édifice puisque le journal régional de 1858 a noté que "les sculptures de tympan de l'entrée principale sont extrêmement belles. Elles comprennent la rose, le chardon et le trèfle disposés à chaque côté d'un lyre ancien. Ces sculptures, avec un beau visage barbu formant la clef de la voûte, sont les oeuvres de M. Thomas, l'entrepreneur de la maçonnerie, et certainement lui rendent honneur." (J. A. S. Evans, Hamilton Spectator, le 25 mars, 1961).

En 1852 une école de la rue Louisa à Toronto a été construite d'après un dessin de Thomas. L'année suivante, il a été nommé ingénieur de la ville de Toronto, une nomination illustrant que l'architecture et le génie étaient considérés comme la même profession. L'année suivante le monument au Général Brock dessiné par Thomas a été érigé à Queenston Heights près des Chutes de Niagara. L'Hôtel de Ville de Guelph, (Fig. 7), dessiné par Thomas, a été achevé en 1856 et peu après, les Halles de Guelph également.

Deux églises par Thomas ont été achevées la même année: l'Eglise St-Paul à Hamilton et Zion à Toronto (Fig. 8). Zion a été démolie mais elle paraissait dans la photo de Thompson de 1868 (Fig. 9) où il l'a décrite comme exemple du style "Lombard". Également en 1856, Thomas a dessiné des bureaux aux rues Yonge et Colborne, maintenant disparus. Une autre église du style "Lombard", dessinée par "William Thomas and Sons, Architects" (Thompson) a été construite en 1857 au coin des rues Queen et Mutual.

Appelée "Cooke's Church", elle s'est distinguée par ses flèches jumelles. (Fig. 10).

Sans doute il existe d'autres maisons et édifices à Toronto, Hamilton et ailleurs conçus par Thomas mais pas encore identifiés comme faits par lui. Le dernier de ses édifices connu est la prison de la rue Gerrard à Toronto. Thomas l'a conçu en 1858 mais il n'a pas vécu pour voir son achèvement.

Évaluation de Son Oeuvre

Certainement William Thomas doit être considéré comme un des plus grands architectes du milieu du dix-neuvième siècle, non seulement à cause du nombre d'édifices qu'il a dessinés mais aussi pour la bonne qualité de leurs dessins. Il vivait à une époque où le style était un des plus importants aspects d'un édifice, ce style étant soit Classique, soit Gothique. Thomas était maître des deux, "de grandes distinctions et capacités. . . un pionnier de l'architecture Gothique au Canada et même de tout le Continent".

Ses oeuvres attiraient un intérêt favorable au Canada. En 1846, même avant l'achèvement des magasins de la rue King, on a dit que "lorsque finis, ces édifices seraient les plus beaux au Canada, égaux à tous ceux qu'on peut voir en Angleterre". Et de l'église à Londres: "Londres peut se vanter maintenant qu'elle possède la plus belle église gothique de tout l'ouest du Canada". St-Lawrence Hall était désigné "un magnifique amas d'édifices".

À sa mort, un des hommages rendus à William Thomas dit que "nous lui devons quelques uns des plus beaux édifices dont notre ville peut se vanter. Il était un des premiers à découvrir les possibilités de l'usage de la brique blanche unique à Toronto."

Plus récemment, les évaluations de ses oeuvres ont été également favorables. Les édifices de Toronto et de Cobourg ont été décrites comme "imposants mais réservés et pleins de dignité", pendant qu'en général, son oeuvre était "uniformément bonne, de belles proportions et raffinée."

Son Influence sur l'Architecture Canadienne

Son succès comme architecte a attiré de jeunes étudiants à son bureau et l'un d'eux, W. G. Storm, a continué pour devenir un des architectes les plus connus de Toronto. Les partenaires Storm et Cumberland ont créés plusieurs édifices importants qui montrent l'influence du style de Thomas. Deux de ses fils, William (?) T. et Cyprus (?) P. Thomas, peut-être même un troisième, qui ont étudiés et travaillés avec lui, ont probablement dessinés quelques édifices attribués à Thomas. Ils se sont établis plus tard à Montréal, et puis C. P. Thomas est allé à Chicago. Un concours ouvert à Montréal pour l'Eglise St-George, et un autre pour l'Eglise de la Trinité à St-Jean ont été gagnés par W. T. Thomas et refléchissent l'habilité de son père. Plusieurs maisons importantes, telle que la résidence de Lord Mount Stephen, des bureaux aux rues Ste-Hélène et Notre-Dame, l'Eglise St-Martin, le bloc Caverhill sur la rue St-Pierre, et l'Hôtel de Ville de Prescott ont été dessinés par ce fils de William Thomas.

En conclusion, on peut constater que l'architecture de William Thomas occupe une place importante dans l'histoire de l'architecture canadienne. Son époque voyait l'agrandissement du pays à un moment où les niveaux de bon goût et de compétence étaient très élevés, où le style comptait pour beaucoup, le Classique et le Gothique prédominant. Beaucoup de ses édifices qui existent toujours sont d'un grand intérêt parce qu'ils refléchissent si bien les meilleures qualités de cet époque d'architecture et illustrent non seulement le bon goût mais aussi l'habilité de son oeuvre.

Heureusement, lorsqu'il est venu au Canada, Thomas a trouvé des conditions encourageant l'emploi de ses capacités architecturales et qui rendaient sa vie au Canada fructueuse. Son influence sur les générations futures fut importante. Donc, on peut bien désigner William Thomas un des fondateurs de la profession d'architecture au Canada.

Voir le texte anglais pour la bibliographie.