

MILLER (G.M. & W.J.) COLLECTION

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Collection of architectural drawings and other documentation for buildings designed by Toronto architect, George M. Miller (1854-1933) and by his son, William J. Miller. A detailed inventory of plans has been prepared by Library staff. Additional documentation includes microfilm of G.M. Miller's ledger books, 1894-1912; correspondence, specifications, and other materials for several of the buildings designed by G.M. Miller or his son; photographs of many of the buildings designed by Miller; a small amount of biographical material on G.M. Miller. Inclusive dates: 1883-1952.

Extent: 1301 plans in two mapcases; 8 vols., 8 boxes. 11 linear ft.

Provenance

The collection of original architectural drawings was acquired in 1975 from the antiquarian bookseller, Hugh Anson-Cartwright, as a gift from a group of Toronto architects and architectural historians, in response to an appeal for funds headed by George Baird and Douglas Richardson. G.M. Miller's ledger books (1894-1912) were lent for microfilming to the Fisher Rare Book Library by G.M. Miller's daughter, Mrs. M.V.L. Miller Freeman, through Lloyd Sexsmith. The originals remain in her possession.

* Restrictions

The fragility of many of the plans make handling the originals undesirable. The detailed inventory has photographs of many plans. These should be sufficient for most purposes and should save the originals from additional wear and tear. Prints can also be ordered from the negative microfilm for these plans.

Scope

G.M. Miller's practise, and that of his son, centred on Toronto and its suburbs, although he also designed buildings in Belleville, Guelph, Lindsay, and other towns in Southern Ontario. The majority of the plans in the collection are for single family houses but there are also plans for apartments, churches, educational buildings, including libraries, factories, warehouses, office and bank buildings.

The majority of G.M. Miller's plans in this collection cover the period from the late 1890's to the 1920's. His son continued to practice into the 1950's.

GRAHAM

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PRELIMINARY CHRONOLOGY (based on plans in collection and information in various journals, i.e. Canadian Architect and Builder Construction, Contract Record, Canadian Magazine, American Architect & Building News) Locations of Miller's office listed as an aid to establishing dates for plans. Dates for buildings are often approximate.

- 1854 Born in Port Hope, Ont.

Educated in Port Hope and at the School of Practical Science at University of Toronto.
- 1883-85 Employed as a draughtsman for C.A. Walton, Toronto
- 1886 Set up his own office at 31 Adelaide St. E.
- 1887-1889 Office at 55 Victoria St.
- 1888 Parkdale High School
- 1888-90 Robson House 1204 Queen St. W. Toronto (now Gladstone Hotel)
- 1889 Queen Victoria Public School annex
- 1890-92 Office at 1 Queen St. E.
- 1893-97 Office at 18 King St. East
- c. 1894 Massey Hall
wife died
- 1895 Additions to the Ontario Ladies' College, Whitby
- ca. 1897-1911 Designed houses on Jarvis St. (additions, interiors) and elsewhere, and buildings at Dentonia Park for the Massey family (housing, stables, ~~dry~~, etc.)
- 1898 Havergal College, 354 Jarvis St. (now CBC building)
- 1899-1900 Office in the Victoria Arcade
- 1899 Ballroom addition to W.D. Matthews' house, St. George St. (now Newman Centre).
- 1901-1913 Office at 59 Yonge St. in the Toronto General Trusts Building

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PRELIMINARY CHRONOLOGY

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|-----------|---|
| 1901 | Massey Hall and Library, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph |
| 1901 | House of Industry, Whitby |
| 1902-3 | Annesley Hall, Victoria College, University of Toronto |
| 1903-4 | Lindsay Public Library
Macdonald Institute and Hall, Guelph |
| 1904 | Macdonald Consolidated School Guelph (now Macdonald Stewart Art Centre) |
| 1905 | Built his own home at 11 Lamport Avenue, Rosedale |
| 1906 | Addition to Havergal College |
| 1907 | Homewood Sanitorium, Guelph |
| 1908 | Sir William Meredith's house, 41 Binscarth Rd., Rosedale.
Westmoreland Methodist Church
College St. Methodist Church
Deaconess' Home, Avenue Rd. and St. Clair Ave.
North Parkdale Methodist Church |
| 1908-1912 | Lillian Massey Building for Household Science, University of Toronto |
| 1909-1910 | Toronto General Trusts Corporation building, Bay and Melinda Sts., Toronto. |
| 1913 | Factory building for R. Crean & Co., 12-18 Balmuto St. |
| 1914-1925 | Office at 93 Yonge St. |
| 1921-1926 | Additions to Walper House, Kitchener |
| 1925 | William Flavelle's house, Lindsay |
| ca. 1926 | Took son, William J. Miller, into his practise |
| 1926-1933 | Office at 71 Mutual St. |
| ca. 1930 | Stainton & Evis Ltd., 30-34 Adelaide St. West |
| 1933 | Died April 17. |

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CONTAINER LIST

N.B. The original architectural drawings in this collection are filed in mapcases by plan numbers assigned when the plans were first processed. In order to find plans for a specific project consult the inventory under the appropriate building type or use the index (currently in preparation by K. Martyn).

INDEXES TO ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS

Inventory. 8 looseleaf binders.

Contains an entry for each drawing or group of drawings. Arranged by type of building (e.g. house, school, church, etc.) and then by name of project or client.

Classification of building types based on scheme published by the National Architectural Archives of Canada.

Entries give plan numbers and brief descriptions including (when known):

- name of client and/or building
- location of building
- date
- architect
- notes on physical condition of the plan
- photograph of original drawing (for plans 1-268 only)
- copies of original photographs of some buildings
- modern photographs of some buildings still standing (photographed by K. Taylor)

For large scale original photographs of some Miller buildings see Box 12.

Inventory prepared by Wayne Finlay and Karen Taylor, 1979-1983.

Item 1	Binder 1.	Housing.	Site plans. Single family, detached.	Clients A - J
Item 2	Binder 2.	Housing.	Single family, detached.	Clients M - P
Item 3	Binder 3.	Housing.	Single family, detached.	Clients R - W unidentified.
Item 4	Binder 4	Housing.	Duplexes and Triplexes, detached. Semi-detached houses and duplexes. Apartments Hotels Institutional housing Unidentified	Row houses.
Item 5	Binder 5.	Recreational and club buildings Sports and athletic facilities Schools Universities Libraries Theatres		

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INDEXES TO ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS (cont.)

Inventory. 9 looseleaf binders.

- Item 6 Binder 6. { Office buildings } interfiled
 { Banks and other financial institutions }
 Stores
 { Factories }
 { Warehouses and storage buildings } interfiled.
- Item 7 Binder 7. Farm and livestock buildings
 Dairies
 Service stations
 Municipal Buildings
 Hospitals, clinics
 Church buildings
- Item 8 Binder 8. Restaurants
 Funeral monuments
 Funeral homes
 Fences
 Elevators
 Residential furniture
 Landscape architecture (design for Queen's Park)
 Unidentified drawings

Index to clients and named buildings as well as locales and architects
 is in preparation. Consult K. Martyn.

ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS. 1888-1952.

- Mapcases 1301 separate drawings, plus some unidentified fragments.
 1 & 2 Chiefly the work of G.M. Miller and his son, W.J. Miller.
 2nd basement Includes a few other plans by other architects.

(MS sorting room mapcase)
 Filed by the number assigned when first processed.
 Plans for a specific project are usually, but not always,
 numbered consecutively.

To consult original plans you must use the inventory described
 above, or the index, and ascertain the plan numbers. Note that
 for plans numbered 1 to 268 photographs are available in the
 inventory and may be sufficient for examination. Originals
 should not be handled more than absolutely necessary as they
 are fragile.

Note that microfilm of plans 37 to 329 is available (see Box 8)
 Reproduction of individual plans may be made from microfilm.

- Box 9 Tracings for inscription on frieze over portico on the Lillian
 Massey Building, Household Science Building, University of
 Toronto, 1909. 4 rolls.

Oversize

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MICROFILMS OF ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS. 6 reels.

Box 10

Microfilms of plans 37 to 329. 5 reels negative film.NOT FOR USE
EXCEPT FOR MAKING
POSITIVE PRINTS.

Filmed by Robarts Library Photocopy Unit.

Prints of good quality can be made from this microfilm.

Box 10

Microfilm of architectural drawings for the Anglican Church
Deaconess' Home, Toronto. 1 reel positive film.Building was located on southeast corner Avenue Rd. and St.
Clair Ave. Built ca. 1908 by G.M. Miller.Original drawings transferred from the Toronto City Archives
to the Anglican Church Archives in 1976. Microfilm was gift
from the Toronto City Archives.

Box 11

PHOTOGRAPHS OF VARIOUS BUILDINGS. 27 photos. 1901-1930.

Oversize

Steel frame factory building under construction Aug. 9, 1901
to Jan. 9, 1902. 16 photos. Stamped on back: J.L. Davidson.Stainton & Evis Building, Toronto. 1930. 1 photo. Building by
G.M. Miller.MacDonald Institute and Hall, Ontario Agricultural College,
Guelph, Ont. 1901. 2 photos. Building by G.M. Miller.Massey Music Hall, Toronto. 1 photo. Copy of original in Public
Archives.W.E. Massey's house, 156 Jarvis St. Toronto. 2 photos (+ negs.)
Copies of originals in Public Archives of Canada. (No drawings
in collection)Hart Massey House, 515 Jarvis St., Toronto. 2 photos.
undated.Unidentified church (possibly Euclid Methodist Church).
1 photo.Unidentified university buildings. Labelled: Ryerson Lab.;
Kent Lab.; Walker Museum; Psychology and Anatomy. 4
photos. by Henry T. Adams, Chicago.N.B. Small photographs, both modern and copies of originals,
of buildings for which Miller's plans are in this
collection are to be found in the inventory with the
entry for the building plans.

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SPECIFICATIONS AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION FOR VARIOUS BUILDINGS. 1894-1952.

- Box 12 Miller, G.M. Correspondence, specifications, drawings, permits, miscellaneous material re various buildings. 1894-1931. Arranged alphabetically by name of building or client.
- Correspondents include C.D. Massey (A.L.S., 1894) and Susan D. Massey (2 A.L.S., 1908, 1916).
- Buildings documented are:
- Dentonia Park, Toronto
 - Faith Baptist Church, Toronto, 1931
 - Finnish Club, Toronto, 1921
 - Flavelle Cold Storage and Creamery, Lindsay, 1930
 - Higel (Otto) Co. Building, Toronto
 - Homewood Sanitorium, Guelph, 1907.
 - Lindsay Public Library, 1903-04.
 - Wilson (Andrew) Building, Toronto
 - Zion Methodist Sunday School, Toronto
- See also G.M. Miller's ledger books, 1894-1912, in Box 14.
- Box 12 Miller, W.J. Correspondence, specifications, drawings, miscellaneous materials re various buildings. 193- - 1952. Arranged alphabetically by name of building or client.
- Buildings documented are:
- A. Benson house, Toronto, 1945
 - C.W. Hurndale house, Toronto, 1944
 - A.G. Thomson house, North York, 1950
 - Victoria Trust and Savings Building, Toronto and Lindsay
 - A.C. Webb duplex, Toronto.
 - A. Wedlock house, Thorncrest Village, Etobicoke, 1952
 - Broadview Apartment building, Toronto
 - Apartment building at Yonge St. and Manor Rd., Toronto, 1936
 - Studio at Aurora, Ont.
- Box 13 Miller, G.M. Ledger Books, I-III. 1894-1912. ~~4 reels microfilm.~~
PKS I-III Positive + neg. 1/1/11
- Originals in possession of Mrs. M.V.L. Miller Freeman, G.M. Miller's daughter. Lent for microfilming in 1980. Loan arranged by Lloyd Sexsmith.
- Box 14 Miller, G.M. Xeroxes of correspondence, accounts, notes, etc. re various buildings. 1894-1912. Arranged alphabetically by name of building or client. Originals were laid in Miller's three ledger books which were lent to the Fisher Library for microfilming.
- Box 15 Index to G.M. Miller's Ledger books and to xeroxes in Box 15. Indexed by Ledger book (1-3) and then by name of building or client. Index prepared by Karen Taylor.

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Box 16

BIOGRAPHICAL AND RESEARCH MATERIALS. 1883-198-

- Photographs of G.M. Miller
- Xeroxes of obituaries. Xerox of telegram from first employee with offer of employment, 1883.
- Xeroxes of articles ,and clippings on various Miller buildings

K. Martyn
 April 1984
 Feb. 1986