Ward Wellington Ward
Resources

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Onondaga Historical Association
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The Arts & Crafts Society of Central New York
P.O. Box 6035
Syracuse, New York 13217
www.acscny.org

Onondaga County Public Library
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The Galleries of Syracuse
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Ward Wellington Ward
in Syracuse, New York

In 1909, the architect Ward Wellington Ward (1875-1932) left his New York City practice for Syracuse, his wife Maude's hometown. Maude's father, Harvey E. Moyer, owned the Moyer Carriage Factory on the corner of Wolf and Park Streets. When he decided to manufacture the Moyer automobile, he commissioned his son-in-law to design the factory. Moyer's business and social connections helped Ward get started and he soon prospered.

He was a prolific architect, designing more than two hundred projects, mostly residences, including his own home, LeMoyne Manor, as well as four factory buildings, an apartment building, a Masonic lodge in Baldwinsville, two fraternity houses, a creamery, several camps, and two auto showrooms, all in upstate New York. Two-thirds of these buildings are in greater Syracuse. They can also be found in, Ilion, Watertown, Manlius, Oneida, Oswego, Brighton, Pittsford, and Rochester. Twenty-six in Syracuse are on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of Ward's superior talent. Many are more are eligible. Most of these works stand today as eloquent testimony to his skill.

Ward had studied architecture at MIT in Boston just as the American Arts and Crafts movement came into flower. Though his career was regional, he was a distinguished member of a generation of architects who became leaders of this design reform movement. They moved away from Victorian fussiness to designs that reflected the movement's ethos: the use of natural materials of brick, wood, and slate; honest construction; and fine craftsmanship that extended to every detail of the house, its exterior, interior, and even its garden. Especially important, Ward used hand-made decorative tiles for fireplace facings and pavings designed by Henry Chapman Mercer's Moravian Tile Works in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, and windows from the Henry Keck Stained Glass Studio in Syracuse. Ward was a master of proportion and detail as well as an extremely talented draftsman. Syracuse is fortunate to have not only many of his buildings but also most of the drawings for them, originals now housed at the Onondaga Historical Association (OHA).

Ward's houses bear certain characteristics that distinguish them as Arts and Crafts architecture but they don't all look alike. The movement was an attitude toward living more than it was a "style" and even though some of Ward's houses follow an English "cottage" look, they also reflect other sources such as Classical, English Tudor, New England Colonial and Shingle styles, the Dutch Farmhouse, California Spanish Mission, and the Midwest Prairie School championed by Frank Lloyd Wright. A complete list of Ward's work, published by the Arts & Crafts Society of Central New York, is available at the OHA and the Onondaga County Public Library, as well as from the Society.

This selected list is a guide through the three areas of Syracuse that feature the largest concentrations of Ward's best work. Most of the buildings are residences and demonstrate a surprising variety of styles. Some houses have been altered and some need work. For the most part they are in good condition, considering that they date from 1911 to 1926. Please respect the privacy of the owners while you enjoy the tour.

— Cleota Reed

211 Summit Avenue, built for H.D. Sanford in 1913. Photograph and drawing courtesy of the Onondaga Historical Association.