

From David Jeanes, this is the architect of the original St John's church on Sussex Street, Walter Darwent.

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This building was designed in 1860 by English architect Walter Darwent as the "Central Schoolroom" and "Chapel of Ease" for Christ Church in Upper Town. Darwent was briefly associated with Thomas Fuller, who would later design similar Gothic churches in Ottawa, (All Saints Westboro and St. Alban's). The chapel was enlarged with a south wing, designed by another English architect, Walter Chesterton, in 1871. When the Bishop of Ontario moved from Kingston to Ottawa in 1872, it became the "Bishop's Chapel", until 1874 when it became the first St. John's Church. In 1890, architect William Hodgson designed a brick rectory facing Mackenzie and a new Sunday school next door, above ground floor stores facing Sussex. When the land at Rideau and Sussex was originally granted to the church in 1860, it had been intended that a cathedral would eventually be built here, but Christ Church was rebuilt in 1872-73 and became the cathedral in 1896. Photo: Walter Darwent as a U.S. army captain in 1861, (Darwent family).

