



William Clayton was an architect. He was born in Tasmania, the son of a farmer and merchant. In England he was articled to a prominent architect and in 1848 arrived back in Tasmania where he and his wife and family remained for the next 15 years – and during which time he designed over 300 buildings, including churches, mansions, and commercial buildings. He arrived in

Dunedin in 1863 and joined William Mason under the style of Mason and Clayton. During his six years in Dunedin he designed the Colonial Museum (Wellington), All Saints' Church, Edinburgh House, the Otago Provincial Government Buildings, and the Bank of New South Wales (Christchurch). In 1869 he was appointed New Zealand first (and only) Colonial Architect – and during a period of rapid economic development and immigration found himself responsible for the design of all manner of public buildings – custom houses, immigration and quarantine barracks, court houses and prisons, schools, post offices, and hospitals and he devised standard plans. But he was also responsible for the design of the Government Buildings in Wellington – still the largest wooden building in the southern hemisphere – for Government House, old Parliament Buildings, and general government buildings in Invercargill, Lyttelton, and Christchurch. He designed his own home – the first concrete house in New Zealand, the first in Wellington to have hot and cold running water – and now part of Queen Margaret College. His daughter Mary married Julius Vogel – and was with her in Dunedin while his wife and family were visiting England when he died following the amputation of his lower leg. The headstone was erected by his daughter, Mary Vogel.