

= John Douglas ( architect ) =

John Douglas ( 11 April 1830 ? 23 May 1911 ) was an English architect who designed over 500 buildings in Cheshire , North Wales , and northwest England , in particular in the estate of Eaton Hall . He was trained in Lancaster and practised throughout his career from an office in Chester . Initially he ran the practice on his own , but from 1884 until two years before his death he worked in partnerships with two of his former assistants .

Douglas 's output included new churches , restoring and renovating existing churches , church furnishings , new houses and alterations to existing houses , and a variety of other buildings , including shops , banks , offices , schools , memorials and public buildings . His architectural styles were eclectic . Douglas worked during the period of the Gothic Revival , and many of his works incorporate elements of the English Gothic style . He was also influenced by architectural styles from the mainland of Europe and included elements of French , German and Dutch architecture . However he is probably best remembered for his incorporation of vernacular elements in his buildings , in particular half @-@ timbering , influenced by the black @-@ and @-@ white revival in Chester . Other vernacular elements he incorporated include tile @-@ hanging , pargeing , and the use of decorative brick in diapering and the design of tall chimney stacks . Of particular importance is Douglas 's use of joinery and highly detailed wood carving .

Throughout his career he attracted commissions from wealthy landowners and industrialists , especially the Grosvenor family of Eaton Hall . Most of his works have survived , particularly his churches . The city of Chester contains a number of his structures , the most admired of which are his half @-@ timbered black @-@ and @-@ white buildings and Eastgate Clock . The highest concentration of his work is found in the Eaton Hall estate and the surrounding villages of Eccleston , Aldford and Pulford .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early life and training = = =

John Douglas was born at Park Cottage , Sandiway , Cheshire , on 11 April 1830 and baptised on 16 May 1830 at St Mary 's Church , Weaverham . He was the second of the four children , and the only son , of John Douglas and his wife Mary née Swindley ( 1792 ? 1863 ) . John Douglas senior was born in Northampton about 1798 ? 1800 and his wife was born in Aldford , a village on the Eaton estate in Cheshire ; her father was the village blacksmith at Eccleston , another village in the Eaton estate . John Douglas senior was by trade a builder and joiner , and also described himself as a surveyor and a timber merchant . In 1835 he acted as architect for a house at Hartford , a village between Sandiway and Northwich . At the time of the 1851 census he was employing 48 men . He owned land in Sandiway , and a house and land in the neighbouring village of Cuddington .

Nothing is known of John Douglas junior 's school education . He gained knowledge and experience in his father 's building yard and workshop which were attached to the family house . In the mid or late 1840s he was articled to E. G. Paley , of Sharpe and Paley , architects in Lancaster , Lancashire . When his articles were completed , Douglas became Paley 's chief assistant . In either 1855 or 1860 he established his own office at No. 6 Abbey Square , Chester .

= = = Family and personal life = = =

Douglas 's elder sister , Elizabeth , was born in 1827 . His younger sisters were Mary Hannah and Emma , who were born in 1832 and 1834 respectively . Mary Hannah died five months before Emma 's birth , and Emma herself died in 1848 . Douglas married Elizabeth Edmunds , a farmer 's daughter from Bangor @-@ is @-@ y @-@ Coed , Flintshire , on 25 January 1860 in St Dunawd 's Church in the village , a church he was later to restore . Initially the couple lived over the office at 6 Abbey Square , and later they moved next door to No. 4 . Their five children were born in these

houses , John Percy in 1861 , Colin Edmunds in 1864 , Mary Elizabeth in 1866 , Sholto Theodore the following year , and Jerome in 1869 . Only two of the children survived to adulthood ; Mary Elizabeth died from scarlet fever in 1868 , Jerome lived for only a few days , and John Percy died aged 12 in 1873 .

About 1876 the family moved to live at 31 and 33 Dee Banks , Chester , one of a pair of semi-detached houses overlooking the River Dee , which were built by Douglas . His wife died in 1878 from laryngitis after a year's illness . Douglas did not remarry . His son Colin trained as an architect and worked in Douglas 's office but died in 1887 at the age of 23 from consumption . His other son Sholto is not known to have had any profession but he was a heavy drinker of alcohol . During the 1890s Douglas built a large house for himself , Walmoor Hill , also at Dee Banks overlooking the river . Here he lived until his death on 23 May 1911 at the age of 81 . His funeral was held at Overleigh old cemetery , Chester , where he was buried . The following Sunday a memorial service was held at St John the Evangelist 's Church , Sandiway . His estate amounted to a little over £ 32 @, @ 000 ( equivalent to £ 2 @, @ 940 @, @ 000 in 2015 ) . Apart from his surviving buildings , only two memorials remain to his memory . One is a tablet in St Paul 's Church , Boughton , the church in which he worshipped and which he had rebuilt . The other is a plaque placed on one of his buildings in St Werburgh Street , Chester , in 1923 by his pupils and assistants .

= = Practice and personality = =

Douglas practised on his own until 1884 , when his son , Colin , became ill . He then took Daniel Porter Fordham into partnership and practised as Douglas & Fordham . Fordham was born around 1846 and had been an assistant in Douglas 's office since at least 1872 . In 1898 , having developed consumption , Fordham retired from the practice and went to live in Bournemouth where he died the following year . He was replaced as partner by Charles Howard Minshull , who had been born in Chester in 1858 and who became articled to Douglas in 1874 ; the practice became Douglas & Minshull . During the first decade of the 20th century , Douglas became less active but , for reasons which are unknown , the partnership was dissolved in 1909 . The practice returned to the title of John Douglas , Architect . Minshull went into partnership with E. J. Muspratt in Foregate Street , Chester . When Douglas died , this partnership worked from the Abbey Square address as Douglas , Minshull & Muspratt .

Little is known about Douglas 's private life and personality . Only two images of him are known to survive . One is a photograph taken in later middle age . The other is a caricature sketch made by an assistant in his office . This shows him in old age , bowed , bent and bespectacled , carrying a portfolio and an ear trumpet . According to architectural historian Edward Hubbard , Douglas 's life " seems to have been one of thorough devotion to architecture ... which may well have been intensified by the death of his wife and other domestic worries " . His obituary in the Chester Chronicle stated that he " lived heart and soul in his profession " .

Douglas was a dedicated Christian who regularly attended his local church , St Paul 's Church , Boughton , a church he rebuilt . His house , Walmoor Hill , included an oratory . He also had a " strong sense of national loyalty " , incorporating statues of Queen Victoria in niches at Walmoor Hill and in his buildings in St Werburgh Street , Chester . Douglas was not good at handling the financial matters of his practice . The Duke of Westminster 's secretary wrote of him in 1884 , " A good architect but a poor hand at accounts ! " . Delay in presenting his accounts often led to difficulties and confusion ; such delay sometimes amounted to as much as ten years . Otherwise very little is known about his personal life . No family papers have survived and none of the documents from the office at 6 Abbey Square has been found .

= = Styles and practice = =

= = = Output and patronage = = =

Douglas designed some 500 buildings . He built at least 40 new churches or chapels , restored , altered or made additions to many other churches , and designed fittings and furniture for the interiors of churches . He designed new houses , altered or made additions to others , and built various structures associated with those houses . Douglas 's works also included farms , shops , offices , hotels , a hospital , drinking fountains , clocks , schools , public baths , a library , a bridge , an obelisk , cheese factories , and public conveniences . As his office was in Chester , most of his works were in Cheshire and North Wales , although some were further afield , in Lancashire , Staffordshire , Warwickshire and Scotland .

Throughout his career Douglas attracted commissions from wealthy and important patrons . His first @-@ known independent work was an ornament , which is no longer in existence , for the garden of the Honourable Mrs Cholmondeley . She was the sister @-@ in @-@ law of Hugh Cholmondeley , 2nd Baron Delamere , and it was from the 2nd Baron that Douglas received his first major commission , a considerable rebuilding of the south wing of his seat at Vale Royal Abbey in 1860 . Around the same time , Lord Delamere commissioned him to build the church of St John the Evangelist at Over , Winsford , as a memorial to his first wife .

Douglas 's most important patrons were the Grosvenor family of Eaton Hall , Cheshire . In 1865 he was commissioned to design the entrance lodge and other structures for Grosvenor Park in Chester , and St John 's Church in the village of Aldford in the Eaton Hall estate for Richard Grosvenor , 2nd Marquess of Westminster . When the marquess died in 1869 he was succeeded by his son Hugh Grosvenor , 1st Duke of Westminster . Douglas received a large number of commissions from the 1st Duke and from his son , the 2nd Duke , throughout his career . It is estimated that for the 1st Duke alone he designed four churches and chapels , eight parsonages and large houses , about 15 schools , around 50 farms ( in whole or in part ) , about 300 cottages , lodges and smithies , two factories , two inns and about 12 commercial buildings on the Eaton Hall estate alone . He also designed buildings on the duke 's Halkyn estate in Flintshire , including another church .

Other wealthy landowners who commissioned work from Douglas included William Molyneux , 4th Earl of Sefton , Francis Egerton , 3rd Earl of Ellesmere , George Cholmondeley , 5th Marquess of Cholmondeley , Rowland Egerton @-@ Warburton of Arley Hall , Cheshire , and in Wales , the family of Lord Kenyon , and the Gladstone family , including W. E Gladstone . He also received commissions from industrialists , including John & Thomas Johnson , soap and alkali manufacturers from Runcorn , Richard Muspratt , a chemical industrialist from Flint , Flintshire , and W. H. Lever , soap manufacturer and creator of the village of Port Sunlight .

= = = Styles = = =

Although the firm where Douglas received his training was in a provincial city in the north of England , it was at the forefront of the Gothic Revival in the country . The Gothic Revival was a reaction against the neoclassical style , which had been popular in the 18th and early 19th centuries , and it incorporated features of the Gothic style of the Middle Ages . Both Edmund Sharpe and E. G. Paley had been influenced by the Cambridge Camden Society and , more specifically , by A. W. N Pugin who believed that " Gothic was the only correct and Christian way to build " . Sharpe had also been influenced by Thomas Rickman , and he had written papers on medieval scholarship himself . Paley had been influenced by his brother , Frederick Apthorp Paley , who was enthusiastic about Gothic architecture , and who had also been influenced by Rickman . During the time Douglas was working in Lancaster the firm was responsible for building and restoring churches in Gothic Revival style , one of which was St Wilfrid 's Church in the Cheshire village of Davenham , some 3 miles ( 5 km ) from Sandiway . Douglas 's first church , that of St John the Evangelist at Over , Winsford , was entirely English Gothic in style , more specifically Early Decorated .

Douglas 's influences were not from England alone . Although he never travelled abroad , he incorporated Gothic styles from continental countries , especially Germany and France . This combination of Gothic styles contributed to what has come to be known as the High Victorian style . Its features include a sense of massiveness , steep roofs which are frequently hipped , round turrets with conical roofs , pinnacles , heavy corbel tables , and the use of polychromism . Many of Douglas

's works , especially his earlier ones , are High Victorian in style , or incorporate High Victorian features . One characteristic feature of Douglas 's work is the inclusion of dormer windows rising through the eaves and surmounted by hipped roofs .

Another major influence in his work was the rise of interest in vernacular architecture . By the time Douglas moved to Chester , the black @-@ and @-@ white revival using half @-@ timbering was well under way , and Douglas came to incorporate this style in his buildings in Chester and elsewhere . The black @-@ and @-@ white revival did not start in Chester , but it did become Chester 's speciality . The first Chester architect involved in the revival had been Thomas Mainwaring Penson , whose first work in this genre was the restoration of a shop in Eastgate Street in the early 1850s . Other early Chester architects involved in the revival were T. A. Richardson and James Harrison and it came to be developed mainly by T. M. Lockwood and by Douglas . Part of Douglas 's earliest work for the Grosvenor family , the entrance lodge to Grosvenor Park , used half @-@ timbering in its upper storey ; this is the first known use by Douglas of black @-@ and @-@ white . Other vernacular motifs were taken from earlier styles of English architecture , in particular , the Tudor style . These include tile @-@ hanging , pargetting and massive brick ribbed chimney stacks . In this style , Douglas was influenced by the architects Nesfield and Shaw . Douglas also used vernacular elements from the continent , especially the late medieval brickwork of Germany and the Low Countries .

A characteristic of Douglas 's work is his attention to both external and internal detailing . Such detailing was not derived from any particular style and Douglas chose elements from whichever style suited his purpose for each specific project . His detailing applied particularly to his joinery , perhaps inspired by his experience in his father 's workshop , and was applied both to wooden fittings and to the furniture he designed . A further Continental influence was his use of a Dutch gable . The most important and consistently used element in Douglas 's vernacular buildings was his use of half @-@ timbering , which was usually used for parts of the building . However , in the cases of Rowden Abbey and St Michael and All Angels Church , Altcar , the entire buildings were timber @-@ framed .

= = Significant works = =

= = = Early works ( 1860 ? 70 ) = = =

Douglas 's earliest significant commissions were for the 2nd Baron Delamere and were very different in type and style from each another . The addition of a wing to Vale Royal Abbey ( 1860 ) was in Elizabethan style while St John 's Church at Over ( 1860 ? 63 ) was of the Gothic Revival in Early Decorated style . The Congregational Chapel , also at Over ( 1865 ) was again different , being built in polychromic brick in High Victorian style . Meanwhile , Douglas had designed a shop at 19 ? 21 Sankey Street , Warrington ( 1864 ) with Gothic arcades and detailed stone carving which Hubbard considers to be his " first building of real and outstanding quality ... in its way one of the best things he ever did " . Shortly after this came the first commissions for the Grosvenor family , consisting of a lodge and other structures in Grosvenor Park , Chester ( 1865 ? 67 ) , and St John the Baptist 's Church , Aldford ( 1865 ? 66 ) . His first commission for a large house was Oakmere Hall ( 1867 ) for John & Thomas Johnson , industrialists of Runcorn . It is in High Victorian style and includes a main block and a service wing , a large tower on the south face , a small tower with turrets , a porte @-@ cochère , steep roofs and dormer windows . Another early church was St Ann 's at Warrington ( 1868 ? 69 ) , again High Victorian in style , which is described as being " quite startlingly bold " and " a prodigy church in Douglas 's output " . By 1869 ? 70 Douglas had started to design buildings on the Eaton Hall estate . Around this time he also re @-@ modelled St Mary 's Church , Dogleston .

= = = Early mature buildings ( 1870 ? 84 ) = = =

### ===== Secular =====

Many of the secular buildings in this period were smaller @-@ scale structures . These include cottages in Great Budworth , and cottages , houses , schools and farms in the Eaton Hall estate and its associated villages . In 1872 he designed Shotwick Park , a large house in Great Saughall , built in brick with some half @-@ timbering ; it has steep roofs , tall ribbed chimneys and turrets . About the same time he reconstructed Broxton Higher Hall , incorporating much half @-@ timbering . Commissions for more large houses came in the late 1870s and 1880s . The Gelli ( 1877 ) is a house in three ranges designed for the Kenyon sisters in the village of Tallarn Green , Flintshire . Also built for the Kenyon family is Llannerch Panna in Penley , Flintshire ( 1878 ? 79 ) , which is " competent in its handling of timberwork " . An entirely black @-@ and @-@ white house with jettying is Rowden Abbey ( 1881 ) in Hertfordshire . Back in North Wales , Plas Mynach ( 1883 ) in Barmouth includes much detailed woodwork internally .

In about 1879 ? 81 Douglas built a terrace of houses on his own land in Chester , 6 ? 11 Grosvenor Park Road , the road leading to the main entrance to Grosvenor Park , in High Victorian style . About 1883 he designed Barrowmore Hall ( or Barrow Court ) at Great Barrow ( since demolished ) which was one of his largest houses . Also around this time he designed buildings on the Eaton Hall estate , including Eccleston Hill ( 1881 ? 82 ) , a large house for the Duke 's secretary , the Stud Lodge , a smaller building of the same dates , Eccleston Hill Lodge ( 1881 ) , a three @-@ storey gatehouse at the main entrance to the park , with a high hipped roof and turrets , and The Paddocks ( 1882 ? 83 ) , another large house , this time for the Duke 's land agent . In Chester city centre his designs included the Grosvenor Club and North and South Wales Bank ( 1881 ? 83 ) in Eastgate Street , built in stone and brick , with a turret and a stepped gable , and 142 Foregate Street for the Cheshire County Constabulary ( 1884 ) , with a shaped gable in Flemish style .

### ===== Churches =====

St Mary 's Church , Whitegate was restored in 1874 ? 75 for the 2nd Baron Delamere , retaining much of the medieval interior but rebuilding the exterior , adding a short chancel , and incorporating half @-@ timbering . St Paul 's Church , Boughton in Chester was Douglas 's own parish church which he rebuilt in 1876 incorporating parts of the pre @-@ existing building . Douglas 's only church built entirely in half @-@ timbering is the small church of St Michael and All Angels at Great Altcar in Lancashire . A church built in brick with half @-@ timbering is St Chad 's ( 1881 ) at Hopwas in Staffordshire . During this period Douglas built or restored a series of churches entirely in stone , incorporating mainly Gothic features together with vernacular elements . These include St John the Baptist 's Church , Hartford ( 1873 ? 75 ) , St Paul 's , Marston ( 1874 , now demolished ) , the Presbyterian Chapel ( 1875 ) at Rossett , Denbighshire , St Stephen 's , Moulton ( 1876 ) , the rebuilding of Christ Church , Chester ( also in 1876 ) , the Church of St Mary the Virgin ( 1877 ? 78 ) at Halkyn , Flintshire , and the Welsh Church of St John the Evangelist ( 1878 ) in Mold , also in Flintshire . Later in this period he built St Mary 's Church , at Pulford in 1881 ? 84 for the Duke of Westminster and in 1882 ? 85 St Werburgh 's New Church at Warburton for Rowland Egerton @-@ Warburton .

### ===== Partnerships =====

#### ===== Douglas & Fordham ( 1884 ? 98 ) =====

In 1885 ? 87 the partnership designed Abbeystead House for the 4th Earl of Sefton in North Lancashire . Hubbard describes this as " the finest of Douglas 's Elizabethan houses , and one of the largest which he ever designed " . During this time additions were made to Jodrell Hall in Cheshire and Halkyn Castle in Flintshire . In 1885 the Castle Hotel at Conwy , Caernarfonshire , was

remodelled , and in 1887 ? 88 a strongroom was added to Hawarden Castle , followed by a porch in 1890 . During this period more buildings were added to the Eaton Hall estate , and these included houses and cottages , such as Eccleston Hill , and Eccleston Ferry House , and farms such as Saighton Lane Farm . In 1890 ? 91 an obelisk was built in the Belgrave Avenue approach to Eaton Hall . The last house designed by Douglas on a large scale was Brocksford Hall ( 1893 ) in Derbyshire . This was a country house in Elizabethan style using diapered brick and stone dressings with a clock tower . In Chester city centre , 38 Bridge Street ( 1897 ) is a timber @-@ framed shop that incorporates a section of Chester Rows and contains heavily decorated carving . From 1892 the partnership designed houses and cottages in Port Sunlight for Lever Brothers . Also in the village they designed the Dell Bridge ( 1894 ) , and the school ( 1894 ? 96 ) , which is now called the Lyceum . In 1896 Douglas designed a house for himself , Walmoor Hill in Dee Banks , Chester , in Elizabethan style . Between 1895 and 1897 he designed a range of buildings on the east side of St Werburgh Street in the centre of Chester . At its south end , on the corner of Eastgate Street , is a bank whose ground storey is built in stone , and behind this leading up St Werburgh Street , the ground storey consists of shop fronts . Above this the range consists of two storeys plus an attic , which are covered in highly ornamented timber @-@ framing . On the first floor is a series of oriel windows , the second floor is jettied , and at the top are eleven gables . Pevsner considers that this range of buildings is " Douglas at his best ( though also at his showiest ) " . Hubbard expresses the opinion that " in this work , the city 's half @-@ timber revival reached its very apogee " .

During the partnership , work continued on designing new churches and restoring older ones . In 1884 ? 85 a chapel was built at Carlett Park at Eastham in the Wirral and in 1884 ? 87 St Deiniol 's Church was built in Criccieth , Caernarfonshire . Christ Church , Rossett ( 1886 ? 92 ) , St Paul 's Church , Colwyn Bay ( 1887 ? 88 with later additions ) , and St Andrew 's Church , West Kirby ( 1889 ? 91 ) followed . St John 's Church in Barmouth , Merionethshire was built between 1889 and 1895 . It is one of the largest of Douglas 's churches , although in 1891 , during its construction , the tower collapsed and had to be rebuilt . Other churches built in North Wales were Christ Church in Bryn @-@ y @-@ Maen , Colwyn Bay , and All Saints , Deganwy ( both 1897 ? 99 ) .

In about 1891 ? 92 the Church of St James the Great , Haydock , was built . This was constructed in half @-@ timber to give protection against possible mining subsidence . Other new churches built during this partnership were St Wenefrede 's Church , Bickley ( 1892 ) , St David 's Welsh Church in Rhosllannerchrugog , Denbighshire , All Saints Church , Higher Kinnerton ( 1893 ) , the Congregational Church in Great Crosby ( 1897 ? 98 ) , and St John the Evangelist 's Church , Weston , Runcorn ( 1897 ? 1900 ) . A spire was added to St Peter 's Church , Chester in 1886 ? 87 and a tower was added to Holy Trinity Church , Capenhurst in about 1889 ? 90 . In 1886 ? 87 Douglas added a bell tower to St John the Baptist 's Church , Chester and this was followed by the rebuilding of its north aisle . Other restorations , embellishments , and additions of monuments and furniture were carried out in churches during this partnership .

= = = = Douglas & Minshull ( 1898 ? 1909 ) and Douglas alone ( 1909 ? 11 ) = = = =

In 1898 the firm designed St Oswald 's Chambers in St Werburgh Street , Chester , and this was followed by further buildings in the city . In 1902 ? 03 Douglas built St John the Evangelist 's Church , in the village of his birth , Sandiway . It was built on land owned by Douglas and he paid for the cost of the chancel and the lych gate . In 1899 the Diamond Jubilee Memorial Clock , constructed in open wrought iron , was erected on the Eastgate in Chester to commemorate Queen Victoria 's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 . In 1898 ? 1901 Chester 's public baths were built ; this was an unusual work for Douglas as it involved specialist engineering work . During this period one of Douglas 's most important secular buildings was designed , St Deiniol 's Library , at Hawarden , Flintshire , for W. E. Gladstone and his family . The first phase was constructed between 1899 and 1902 , and the library was completed in 1904 ? 06 . Around this time the practice was commissioned to work on two churches in association with Gladstone ; St Ethelwold 's ( 1898 ? 1902 ) was a new church at Shotton in Flintshire , and additions were made to St Matthew 's at Buckley , also in Flintshire , between 1897 and 1905 . The other new churches built during this period were Douglas 's only

Scottish church , the Episcopal Church ( 1903 ) in Lockerbie , Dumfriesshire , and St Matthew 's Church ( 1910 ? 11 ) in Saltney , Flintshire . Alterations were made and furniture was designed for other churches . Douglas 's last major project was the addition of a tower to his church of St Paul 's at Colwyn Bay , but he died before this could be completed .

= = = Publication = = =

Douglas published no writings of his own and left no records of his ideas and thoughts . The only publication with which he was associated was the Abbey Square Sketch Book , which he edited . The book appeared in three volumes , the first dated 1872 and the others undated ; it consisted of sketches and drawings ( with some photographs in the third volume ) by many contributors . The pictures depicted buildings and furniture , mainly dating from the late medieval period and the 16th and 17th centuries , and mostly from Cheshire and northwest England . Douglas 's only contribution was a jointly ascribed plate in the third volume . It is likely that he designed the title pages , or at least the drawing incorporated in it , of the Abbey Gateway in Chester .

= = Reputation , influences and legacy = =

Douglas practised for the whole of his career in a provincial county town , and most of his works were concentrated in Cheshire and North Wales , yet he " conducted a practice which achieved national renown " . He was never a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects , but his works featured frequently in national publications , including Building News , The Builder , The Architect , and The British Architect , the last of which particularly praised many of his works . A number of Douglas 's works were exhibited at the Royal Academy and appeared in Academy Architecture . Douglas 's obituary in The British Architect referred to him as having " achieved a reputation which has long placed him in the front rank of living architects " . In the series The Buildings of England , Nikolaus Pevsner described him , without reservation , as " the best Cheshire architect " . In the companion series The Buildings of Wales : Clwyd , Hubbard expressed the opinion that he was " the most important and active local architect of the period " . Critical praise was not confined to Britain ; Douglas 's works were acclaimed by the French architect Paul Sédille , and the German architect and writer Hermann Muthesius . Despite this , the only official recognition he received in his lifetime was a medal for Abbeystead House , which was shown at an exhibition in Paris .

Many of the architects training and working in Douglas 's office were influenced by him . Perhaps the best known of these were Edmund Kirby and Edward Ould . Kirby is best remembered for his Roman Catholic churches . Ould went on to design a number of buildings in Chester and further afield in a Douglas @-@ like style , including notably Wightwick Manor and various buildings at Port Sunlight . Other architects who did not work in his office were also influenced by him ; these include Thomas Lockwood , Richard Thomas Beckett , Howard Hignett , A. E. Powers , James Strong and the Cheshire County Architect , Henry Beswick .

A large proportion of Douglas 's buildings still exist , many of them being listed buildings , in a wide variety of types and styles . Douglas is not remembered for any one building type ; his churches and houses are considered to be of equal importance . He was not a pioneer of any particular new development , but instead followed national stylistic trends while still retaining his individuality . His buildings are " anything but copyist " and they " bear a highly individual and nearly always recognisable stamp " . The major characteristics of his buildings are " sure proportions , imaginative massing and grouping ... immaculate detailing and a superb sense of craftsmanship and feeling for materials " . His work is " architecture which can be enjoyed as well as admired " .