

# The art of Fred Gardner

**F**red Gardner — artist, architect and teacher — was born on April 16, 1880, and graduated as a member of the first class of the new Jamesville High School in 1899.

After graduating in 1905 from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, Gardner started a career as an architectural planner and designer for the New York City Board of Transportation in 1907. He spent the next 34 years working in the design office that planned and built much of New York's subway system.

From 1908 to 1933, he also taught evening architectural drawing classes at the Brooklyn Technical Evening School and other New York high schools. In one of his classes he met Adelaide Morris, whom he later married. Morris displayed her paintings in many of the same exhibitions as her husband.

In 1941, Fred retired, and he and Adelaide moved back to Jamesville. They joined the Associated Artists of Syracuse and the Syracuse Printmakers Society. Gardner won prizes for his works at the Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts (the precursor to the Everson Museum of Art), as well as awards in the Onondaga Historical Association Museum's Historic Art Exhibitions.

Gardner died on Nov. 27, 1952, in Syracuse. At the time of his death, the OHA was exhibiting several of his artistic works. In 1954, Adelaide presented a major retrospective of her husband's oils, watercolors and prints at the Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts. Unfortunately, in 1989, most of Gardner's artwork was destroyed in a fire. However, the OHA retains 23 of Gardner's paintings. Two are on display at Parisa, a restaurant next to the OHA museum. ♦

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Fred and Adelaide Gardner add the final artistic strokes to one of their many paintings around 1940.



In this painting by Fred Gardner, various transportation modes converge on Washington Street in Syracuse as a passenger train hugs the tracks. Until 1936, Syracuse was one of the few American cities where passenger and freight trains traveled through the heart of the downtown area.



"JAMESVILLE CROSSING"

*Painting by Fred Gardner courtesy of the Onondaga Historical Assn.*