

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

2-3
23 Dec. Parsons, 1915

To the Secretary of the American Institute of Architects,
The Octagon, Washington, D. C.

SIR:

I hereby apply for Membership in the American Institute of Architects under Class [A, B, C, or D.]

I hereby certify that the following statements are correct:

Name William Edward Parsons

Address 1870 Railway Exchange, Chicago

Place and date of birth Crown, Ohio 19 June 1872

Graduate in architecture Columbia University 1898
[Give name of institutions and year—Evidence of Diploma or Certificate of graduation to be submitted with application.]

Holder of Scholarship in architecture McKim Fellowship 1899-1900
[Give name and year.]

Passed the qualifying examinations of the Royal Institute of British Architects, or the examinations for the first class of the Ecole des Beaux Arts 1900
[State which, and year—Evidence of Certificate to be submitted with application.]

If practicing architect, firm name _____

Have been in practice New York 2 years. Manila 8 years

If draughtsman, employed by _____

[State number of years.]

Collegiate and office training _____

I have carefully examined the Constitution and By-Laws of the Institute and the "Circular of Advice Relative to Principles of Professional Practice and Canons of Ethics," and I agree, if elected, honorably to maintain them.

William E. Parsons
[Signature of Applicant.]

I hereby certify that the signer of this application has been accepted as Illinois is a member of Illinois Chapter, A. I. A.

Webster Tauserson Secretary.
Illinois Chapter, A. I. A.
[To be omitted when the applicant does not reside in the territory of a Chapter.]

We, the undersigned members of the American Institute of Architects, have carefully examined the foregoing statement and believe it to be correct. We know the applicant personally, and consider that his work and practice warrant his admission to Membership.

The Illinois Chapter A.I.A. By formal ballot, has unanimously approved the application of William E. Parsons and endorses him for Institute Membership.

C. H. Hammond
Charles H. Prindiville
W. M. Sumner
[The signatures of three Institute members are here required. In the case of "official endorsement" of candidates by a Chapter, the signatures of its officers only shall be here required.]

Charles H. Prindiville Prest

Dated, Chicago

Jan. 14, 1916

Webster Tauserson Secy-

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2-3

May 5, 1916.

Dear Sir:

Acting for the Secretary, I take pleasure in advising you of your election to membership in the American Institute of Architects, effective April 18, 1916.

You will receive later, the Annuary and Proceedings for the current year. The former contains the official documents of the Institute.

In accordance with the action of the recent Convention of the Institute with regard to applicants qualifying in 1916, your initiation fee of \$25.00 has been remitted. As you have paid the preliminary fee of \$5.00, the only charge on the Institute books is for dues for the current year. For this item we enclose a formal statement.

May I take this opportunity to say that the office of the Institute at the Octagon is for the service of every Institute member. Should the occasion arise, we will be glad to give you our best cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. W. E. Parsons,
1800 Railway Exchange,
Chicago, Ill.

K:C
ENC/

OFFICERS

LÖRENZO HAMILTON, PRESIDENT, MERIDEN
P. N. SUNDERLAND, VICE-PRESIDENT, DANBURY
HAROLD D. HAUF, SEC'Y AND TREAS., NEW HAVEN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MILES H. MANN NORWICH
DOUGLAS ORR NEW HAVEN
CHAS. S. PALMER NEW HAVEN



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Weir Hall, Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut
November 13, 1939.

The Secretary,
American Institute of Architects,
1741 New York Avenue, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Mr. William E. Parsons, A.I.A., Associate Professor of Architecture at Yale University, spoke to me last spring about transferring his membership from the Chicago Chapter to the Connecticut Chapter. I was not quite certain of the procedure in such a case, but you informed me that Mr. Parsons would have to write the Secretary of the Institute requesting such a transfer and that the Secretary of the Chicago Chapter should send either Mr. Parsons or the Institute a letter stating that he was not indebted to that Chapter for dues or otherwise.

Mr. Parsons spent the summer in Manila, Philippine Islands and, during the summer, sent a check to the Chicago Chapter which was suppose to close matters with them. He has not yet heard from the Chicago Chapter, and I am wondering whether you have received any communication from them regarding Mr. Parsons. We would very much like to complete this transfer before the end of the year.

Very truly yours,

Harold D. Hauf,
Secretary.

HDH:W

THE AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
1939 NOV 14 AM 9:10
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

November 14, 1939

Dear Mr. Hauf:

Responding to your letter of November 13th, with regard to Mr. Parson's wish to transfer his chapter assignment from the Chicago Chapter to the Connecticut Chapter:

We find no request on file from Mr. Parsons to arrange for such a transfer; nor any letter from the Chicago Chapter to the effect that his chapter dues were paid and the transfer should be made.

The following is an extract from the minutes of the Chicago Chapter meeting of June 13:

"A communication from Mr. Wm. E. Parsons requesting that he be transferred to the Connecticut Chapter. The Treasurer reported that dues for the first half of this year would have to be paid before Mr. Parsons can be transferred. Therefore it was regularly moved, seconded that Mr. Parsons' request for transfer to the Connecticut Chapter be approved and authorized when the Treasurer of this Chapter had received check for dues for the first half of 1939. The motion was regularly seconded and carried. The secretary was instructed to notify the Octagon upon receipt of Mr. Parsons' check and to advise Mr. Parsons of this action."

If Mr. Parsons sent his check to Chicago for the first half of 1939, in accordance with the above action the transfer could be arranged immediately.

We are writing to the Chicago Chapter for further information and will let you know what we hear from them.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Harold D. Hauf, Secretary,
Connecticut Chapter, A.I.A.,
Weir Hall, Yale University,
New Haven, Connecticut.

Executive Secretary

K/g

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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

Approved

November 14, 1939

Dear Mr. Senseney:

The enclosed copy of our letter of this date to the Secretary of the Connecticut Chapter is self-explanatory.

Will you let us know whether Mr. William E. Parsons sent his check to the Chicago Chapter for the first half of his 1939 chapter dues?

If such payment was made, it is presumed that it will be acceptable to your chapter that The Secretary of The Institute transfer Mr. Parsons' chapter assignment to Connecticut as of July 1, 1939.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary

Mr. George T. Senseney, Secretary,
Chicago Chapter, A.I.A.,
600 South Michigan Boulevard,
Chicago, Illinois.

K/g
Enclosure

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82 WEST WASHINGTON STREET

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333 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE

2ND VICE-PRES. NATHANIEL OWINGS, A. I. A.
104 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE

SECRETARY GEORGE T. SENSENEY, A. I. A.
600 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE

TREASURER LAWRENCE B. PERKINS, A. I. A.
225 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE

INSTITUTE CHARTER
1872



STATE CHARTER
1890

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1939 - 1940

ALFRED SHAW, A. I. A. 4 YEARS

JOHN O. MERRILL, A. I. A. 3 YEARS

PHILIP B. MAHER, A. I. A. 2 YEARS

ROBERT S. DEGOLYER, F. A. I. A. 1 YEAR

REGULAR MEETINGS ON THE SECOND TUESDAY
OF EACH MONTH EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST

CHICAGO CHAPTER
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

December 6, 1939

Mr. E. C. Kemper
Executive Secretary, A.I.A.
1741 New York Ave.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kemper:

This is to notify you that Mr. William E. Parsons is in good standing with the Chicago Chapter, and is eligible for transfer to the Connecticut Chapter. I am very sorry to say that through clerical error this matter has been delayed, and I would greatly appreciate it if you could assist in carrying out Mr. Parson's desire.

Yours very truly,

GTS:VB

George T. Senseney
Secretary
Chicago Chapter, A.I.A.

THE AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
1939 DEC - 8 PM 3:17
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3
COPY

December 8, 1939

Dear Mr. Parsons:

In accordance with a letter of December 6, 1939, from Mr. Senseney, Secretary of the Chicago Chapter, we beg to advise that you have been formally transferred, as an Institute member in good standing, from the Chicago Chapter and assigned to the Connecticut Chapter, effective December 1, 1939.

Both Chapters have been advised.

The Secretary of the Connecticut Chapter is Mr. Harold D. Hauf, Weir Hall, Yale University, New Haven, and we suggest that you get in touch with him concerning the next meeting and other matters of interest.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

Mr. William E. Parsons, A.I.A.
58 Trumbull Street
New Haven, Conn.

CTI:del

Copy to Mrs. Muller

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3
COPY

Parsons

File

December 20, 1939.

Dear Mr. Hauf:

This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter of December 19th, transmitting chapter news notes of the Connecticut Chapter.

The notes are in good time for the January OCTAGON and will be included in that issue.

We learned earlier through newspaper accounts and we deeply regret the passing of Mr. William E. Parsons, so recently transferred to the Connecticut Chapter.

If you have any newspaper clippings or other data concerning the life and work of Mr. Parsons, we would appreciate receiving copies for the files at The Octagon.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Executive Secretary.

Mr. Harold D. Hauf, Secretary,
Connecticut Chapter, A.I.A.,
Weir Hall, Yale University,
New Haven, Connecticut.

PHW/jh.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1741 New York Avenue, N. W.

Washington, D. C.

THE OCTAGON

Inter-Office Communication

Miss Miller
Office Hour
note

A.I.A.

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**W. E. Parsons
Yale Professor,
Architect, Dies**

NEW HVEN, Conn., Dec. 17 (C.T.P.S.).—William E. Parsons, nationally known architect and for the last year professor of architecture at Yale University, died of a heart attack today.

Parsons designed many public buildings in the United States and the Philippines and planned a number of civic improvements, including the enlargement of the Botanical Gardens in Washington, D. C. From 1905 to 1914 he was consulting architect for the United States Government in the Philippines and directed the execution of the Burham plans for Manila and Baguio.

In 1914 he became associated with Edward H. Bennett in Chicago. The firm designed civic improvements for Chicago, St. Paul, Buffalo, Phoenix, Ariz.; Pasadena, Calif., and Palm Beach, Fla. He was also adviser for the George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission for the explorers' memorial at Vincennes, Ind.

2-3
Parsons

SERVICES HELD AT HOME FOR PROF. PARSONS

Many Friends Gather to Pay Respects to Noted Yale Architect Here

Simple funeral services for William Edward Parsons, associate professor of architecture at Yale University and one of the country's outstanding authorities on design, were held at 11 o'clock this morning in his home, 58 Trumbull Street. University colleagues and friends were present to pay final tribute to the noted architect, who was in his 68th year when death occurred Sunday. The well-attended service was conducted by the Rev. Remsen B. Ogilby, president of Trinity College, Hartford, and burial was to be at 3 P. M. today in Town Hill Cemetery, New Hartford.

Professor Parsons' death was attributed to coronary occlusion. A cousin of President Charles Seymour, of Yale University, he leaves his widow, the former Mayra Louise Matthews; a son, Seymour Parsons, of New York; and a daughter, Mrs. Francis R. Stanton, of Chicago.

Prominent nationwide for his part in the designing of public buildings, he was chiefly responsible for many structures in the Philippines, where he served from 1905 to 1914 as consulting architect for the United States Government. Only last summer, he accepted an invitation from the Philippine government to visit Manila as consulting architect on plans for proposed Capitol buildings and the University of the Philippines.

Among his outstanding work as member of the firms of E. H. Bennett & William E. Parsons, of Chicago, and Bennett, Parsons & Frost, were the designs for public improvements in many large cities, among them plans for the enlargement of the Washington Capitol grounds in an area covering 12 city blocks.

Yale Arts, 1905

Born June 19, 1872, in Akron, O., the son of William Cheney and Sarah Day Seymour Parsons, Professor Parsons graduated from Yale College in 1895, received the B. S. degree from Columbia University in 1898, and the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in architecture from Yale in 1905. Winner of the McKim Fellowship, he studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, in Paris, and, after his graduation from the Yale School of Fine Arts, immediately began his work in the Philippines.

He was recalled to Yale in 1938 to supervise the School of Fine Arts' program, broadening the scope of design in accord with the contemporary trend of architectural practice, with particular reference to the field of housing and town planning.

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W. E. Parsons, Yale Professor, Is Dead at 67

Widely-Known Architect Designed Many Public Buildings in Philippines

Special to the Herald Tribune

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 17.—William Edward Parsons, associate professor of architecture at Yale University, nationally known for contributions to the designing of public buildings, died at his home here this morning of a coronary occlusion. He was sixty-seven years old.

Mr. Parsons was chiefly responsible for designing many of the public buildings in the Philippines, where he was consulting architect to the United States government from 1905 to 1914. He directed execution of the Burnham plans for Manila and Baguio. Among the buildings he designed were the Philippine General Hospital, the University of the Philippines and the Manila Hotel. He planned the restoration of the city walls and moats of Manila and public parks, and established standards of public architecture which have been generally followed. Last summer he accepted an invitation from the Philippine government to visit Manila as consulting architect on plans for proposed new capitol buildings in Manila and for the University of the Philippines.

As a member of the firm of E. Bennett and William E. Parsons, of Chicago, he designed civic improvements at Chicago, St. Paul, Buffalo, Pasadena, Washington and other cities.

He also drew the plans of the enlargement of the Capitol grounds in Washington, the area involved covering the twelve city blocks between the Capitol and Union Station.

Mr. Parsons was born in Akron, Ohio, the son of William Cheney Parsons and Sarah Day Seymour Parsons. He was graduated from Yale College in 1895, received a Bachelor of Science degree from Columbia University three years later, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in architecture from Yale in 1905.

Awarded the McKim Fellowship, he studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. He joined the Yale faculty in 1938. He was brought to Yale to supervise the program of the School of the Fine Arts in broadening the scope of design with particular reference to the field of housing and town planning. Among other public buildings he designed was the new conservatory of the United States Botanic Gardens. He was adviser to the George Roers Clark Sesquicentennial Commission for the memorial at Vincennes, Ind., and had been consultant architect for the Resettlement Administration.

Surviving are his wife, the former Myra Louise Matthews, of New York City, whom he married in 1911; a son, Seymour Parsons, and a daughter, Mrs. Francis R. Stanton, of Chicago. Dr. Charles Seymour, president of Yale University, is a cousin.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a. m. Tuesday at his home, 58 Trumbull Street. Burial will be in New Hartford, Conn., the former summer home of his wife.

Representative Sirovich Dies; Physician and Welfare Leader

Crowds in Tenement Area Mourn Friend; Mayor Hails Him as 'Statesman'

Representative William I. Sirovich, Democrat, a member of Congress from the 14th Congressional District since 1926, died yesterday of a heart attack in his home at 539 East Sixth Street. He was fifty-seven years old.

Pauline Kolacz, housekeeper, found Representative Sirovich dead in the bathroom at noon when she investigated his failure to answer the call for breakfast. As word of his death spread among the lower East Side his four-story home in the tenement district was surrounded by friends. Police kept the crowd in bounds.

Mayor F. H. LaGuardia issued the following statement: "We were terribly shocked to hear of Congressman Sirovich's death. I served with him in the House and we were close friends. He was a hard working Congressman, giving all his time, attention and effort to legislative work. He was extremely kind and humanitarian. He saw the possibilities of our great government properly caring for our people. The city has lost a fine citizen and the country, a statesman."

Representative Sirovich, who was a practicing physician before his election to Congress, has been home since the adjournment of the special session of Congress last month and on Saturday night attended a dinner of the Rose Sirovich Relief Society, named after his mother, at the Hotel Roosevelt.

Feud With Drama Critics

A leader in Congress in behalf of social welfare legislation, Representative Sirovich also was widely known in the nation for his feud with dramatic critics in 1932 and for his advocacy of copyright revision bills and a measure for creation of a Federal department of science, art and literature.

His feud with dramatic critics, whom he referred to as "smart alecs," "destructive" and "silly," first attracted attention in 1924 when Dr. Sirovich wrote and produced a play, "Schemers," which castigated the critics. When he threatened to subpoena some critics before the House Patents Committee in 1932 for a hearing on a copyright bill the critics were quick to recall that his 1924 play had lasted for sixteen performances on Broadway.

The feud was revised in 1936 when a group of artists, led by Gene Buck as president of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, appeared before the House Patents Committee to protest a copyright revision bill introduced by Mr. Sirovich, who was chairman of the committee.

Once described as the "most versatile of all Congressmen" by the late Representative James M. Beck, Republican, of Pennsylvania, Dr. Sirovich led the legislative contest to provide greater safety insurance at sea after the Morro Castle disaster in 1934. He sponsored the former Federal theater project of the W. P. A. C.

Before going to Congress he was



Herald Tribune—Acme
William I. Sirovich

active in welfare work, serving as a member of a special committee on mothers' pensions appointed by former Governor William Sulzer, of New York. Another member of the committee was Franklin D. Roosevelt, then State Senator. The committee reported a bill which became law.

Superintendent of Hospital

From 1911 to 1929 Mr. Sirovich was superintendent of the Peoples' Hospital, 216 East Twelfth Street. He served as a member of the New York Child Welfare Board.

His election to Congress in 1926 broke a Republican rule of long standing in the 14th District, which includes the lower East Side and Greenwich Village. He increased his plurality in each election.

A native of York, Pa., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sirovich, Representative Sirovich was brought to New York by his father when he was five years old. After his graduation from the College of the City of New York in 1902, he enrolled in the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University, receiving his medical degree in 1906. He received the distinguished service medal of the Columbia University Alumni Association in 1932.

Dr. Sirovich never married. Because of his part in obtaining a state law years ago for unemployment compensation, widows' pensions and the care of orphans in private homes, he sometimes referred to himself as "the stepfather of 40,000 orphans." He was an honorary member of the Jewish Veterans of Wars of the Republic. He was a Mason and an Elk.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Sadie Rosenbaum, of 166 Second Avenue, and Mrs. Ada Breuer, of 540 West 122d Street.

Funeral services will be held at noon tomorrow at the Gramercy Park Memorial Chapel, 152 Second Avenue.

George Allison Mr. Dies; Richmond Official Was 51

Commissioner of Borough Works for Nearly Six Years Is Heart Victim

George William Allison, Richmond Commissioner of Borough Works since Jan. 1, 1934, died on Saturday of a heart attack at his home, 689 Clove Road, West New Brighton, S. I. He was fifty-one years old.

Mr. Allison had suffered from a heart ailment for two years, but had continued to carry out his duties at Borough Hall in Richmond and at City Hall, where he frequently sat as a member of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment in the absence of Joseph A. Palma, Borough President of Richmond.

Funeral services for Mr. Allison will be held at 2 p. m. Tuesday at his home. Burial will be in Moravian Cemetery, New Dorp, S. I.

Mr. Palma ordered yesterday that flags on Richmond Borough buildings be flown at half-staff.

Mr. Palma said that his office would close at noon today in respect for Mr. Allison.

"The news of Commissioner Allison's death comes as a terrible shock," Mr. Palma said. "His passing is a great loss to me, personally, and to the entire community. Commissioner Allison was a faithful, honorable, energetic and conscientious public servant."

A native of Sharps, Va., Mr. Allison attended preparatory schools in Virginia and Washington and Lee University, from which he was graduated in 1910. The following year he went to Staten Island, where he was employed as a civil engineer by Henry T. Morrison, of Port Richmond.

In 1918 Mr. Allison helped form the firm of North, Allison & Ettlinger. He was senior partner in the firm at his death.

Mr. Allison was appointed Public Works Commissioner of Richmond on Jan. 1, 1934. The title of the position was changed by the new city charter to Commissioner of Borough Works. In addition to the normal duties of the post, Mr. Allison was called upon to supervise all W. P. A. projects in Richmond during his tenure of office.

Mr. Allison was president of the board of trustees of the State Island Academy, at St. George, and was a trustee of the Staten Island Zoological Society, the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences and the Goodhue Home. He was a former president of the Staten Island Rotary Club, and an Elk.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Mary Burger Allison; a daughter, Miss Virginia B. Allison; a son, William F. Allison, and a sister, Miss Myra Allison.

Music of William Byrd Played by Philharmonic

Arrangements of Early English Works Were New to U. S.

Three pieces by William Byrd

U 4
Parsons, William E.

CONSULTING ARCHITECTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Burnham, Daniel Hudson, b. Sept. 4, 1846. d. June 1, 1912.

Architect of the Rookery, Chicago; new Wanamaker stores, in Philadelphia and New York; Flat-Iron Building, New York; Chief architect and director of works, Chicago Exposition 1890-93.

We do not find the title of consulting architect in connection with his name in the books we consulted, however, he definitely did go to the Philippines in some capacity for planning the rebuilding and modernization of Manila and to plan the new summer capital of Baguio. He arrived in Manila December 7, 1904, and left there January 17, 1905. Although we have not found that title associated with him, undoubtedly he was serving in that capacity. and his tenure would thus be 1904-1905.

References - Who Was Who in America vol. 1, 1897 - 1942; Moore, Charles - "Daniel H. Burnham, architect, planner of cities." Boston 1921, 2 vols.

✓ Parsons, William E., b. June 19, 1872, d. Dec. 17, 1939.

Consulting architect U. S. Government Philippines, 1905 - 1914. Directed execution of the Burnham plans for Manila and Baguio.

Reference Who Was Who in America, 1897 - 1942.

Fenhagen, George Corner, b. Dec. 7, 1884, d. Aug. 23, 1955.

Assisting consulting architect 1911 - 14; consulting architect 1914 - 1916.

Reference Who's Who in America vol. 29, 1956-57.

Doane, Ralph Harrington, b. Oct. 2, 1886, d. Nov. 6, 1941

Consulting architect 1916-18.

Reference Who Was Who in America, vol. 2, 1943 - 1950.

The "Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (deceased)" by Henry F. Withey and E. R. Withey, Los Angeles, California in 1956, contains biographical sketches of Burnham, Parson and Doane.

[List compiled by AIA library staff, possibly ca. 1960s]

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