

*Architects  
Biography  
Allison, James E.*

*ALLISON,  
JAMES*

BALDWIN MEMORIAL ARCHIVE  
of American Architects

NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Name: JAMES EDWARD ALLISON of (address) Los Angeles, Calif.

Born: Feb. 2, 1870 at Hookstown, Pa. Died: July 2, 1955 at Santa Barbara, Calif..

Parents: George Alexander Allison and Sarah Chrisy Nesbit

Married: first- 9/22/1897- 2nd 9/8/1900 of on

Children: one daughter, Elizabeth N.

Education: Grade school, Special Course at Oakdale (Pa.) Academy; and in addition Night School under private Tutor in Mathematics.

Training; and practice as Principal: (Firm Names, Places, Dates, Specialization)

James N. Campbell, Architect, Pittsburgh, Pa. three years; Pittsburgh branch office, firm of Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, one year; Adler & Sullivan office, Chicago, one year; B. P. Little, Pittsburgh, one year Partner in the firm of Allison & Allison, Los Angeles, Calif. from 1910 to 1943.

Professional Memberships and Service: (Institute and Chapter Activities; Teaching)

Past President, Southern California Chapter, A.I.A.  
Elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, April 26, 1918.

Other Affiliations: (Religious, Fraternal, Political, Social)

Presbyterian -  
Republican -  
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Masonry, 32nd.

Public Service: (Civil and Military; Community, State, National)

Corporal, National Guard of Pennsylvania

Published Material: (Articles and Addresses; Executed Work; Biographical Data)

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**(OVER)**

General Background: (Personal Characteristics and Accomplishments; Interests, Digressions, Travels, Friendships, Side-lights, Honors, and Awards.)

Santa Monica, Calif. schools, (23 buildings)  
Methodist Episcopal Church, Monrovia, Calif.  
Monrovia City schools ( 6 buildings  
Wilmington High School  
Huntington Beach Union High School (6 buildings)  
Holtville Grammar School - ~~San Jose, Colton (6 buildings)~~  
Long Beach City Schools (5 buildings)  
Gallatin Grammar School - Alhambra schools (12 buildings)  
LaCanada Grammar School - Colton Schools (6 buildings)  
Calexico schools (6 buildings) - Carnegie Library, Calexico  
Whittier College (4 buildings)  
Azusa Schools (3 buildings - Redlands schools (4 buildings)  
Corona Grammar School  
Santa Maria High School group - Van Nuys High School group  
Orange High School group - Redondo Schools  
Santa Paula Schools (4 buildings)  
Palo Alto High School group  
Chandler (Arizona) High School group  
Los Angeles, Washington Irving Branch Library  
Merced Union High School group  
Chaffey Union High School and Junior College group, Ontario, Calif.  
Pasadena Schools (12 buildings)  
Fowler, Calif. Union High School group  
Oxnard schools (5 buildings) - Glendora Schools, (3 buildings)  
Congregational Church, Claremont, Calif.  
University of California at Los Angeles (8 buildings)  
Murphy Memorial Hospital, Whittier, Calif.  
United States Post Office, Merced, Calif.  
Southern California Edison Building, Los Angeles.  
First Congregational Church " "  
First Unitarian Church, " "  
First Baptist Church " "  
Wilshire Boulevard Methodist Church " "  
Van Nuys Branch Library, Los Angeles.  
Friday Morning Club " "  
Women's Athletic Club " "  
Shakespeare Club, Pasadena, Calif. - State Teachers' College, Fresno, Calif.  
13th Church of Christ Scientist, Hollywood, Calif.  
United State Post Office, Merced, Calif.  
Church of the Messiah, Los Angeles,  
University Club, Los Angeles.

Principal Commissions: (Classified, with locations and Reference Data) (Above)

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Compiled by: Henry F. Withey, Architect

Date: October 34d. 1955

Acknowledgements: Sherman Oaks, Calif.

# PERSONAL GLIMPSSES

Pacific Coast Architect  
 V. 27, Jan. 1925, p. 47.

Professions is the individual so camera-shy as is the architect. Rarely does he receive the recognition his due. Never does he seek it. As a result, most of us see only a name or a completed creation of his whose little or nothing of the personality behind it. In this column each month we hope, in some small way, to heed the cry of "Author, Author," so far as the leading architectural craftsmen of the West are concerned, by presenting photographs of them and sketches from life. Nominations for this "small niche in the Hall of Fame" are acceptable from our readers.

[Sketches from life in this issue by Ramm]



REGINALD JOHNSON

Reginald Johnson was born in Rochester, New York, 1882. A creative genius very early in life, it is said, he was a household rumpus when his bottle was not far from him. Outgrew desire for bottle, but creative genius did not, and bore fruit, to the enrichment of the architectural profession in California. In 1895, attended prep school in New Jersey, graduated with Bachelor of Arts from Denison College in 1907, spent a year in California practicing architecture, entered Massachusetts Institute of Technology, graduated with Bachelor of Science, 1910. Degree was in architecture, of course. Extensive travels abroad both before and after he returned to California and worked with his father for a year until he started private practice in Pasadena. After distinguishing himself in industry for a decade, he became senior member of the firm of Hoffman and Coate, and is now again maintaining his own practice. In 1917, Johnson won the gold medal for primacy in architecture at the Architectural exhibit in Washington, D. C. One of his characteristics is the fact that he served in the Heavy Artillery during the war. A creative and popular member of Allied Architects, Flint Ridge Country Club, University of California Club, University Club of Pasadena, Alpha Chapter, retiring president of Los Angeles Chapter, American Institute of Architects. The personal standing of the man is high but, greater affection in which he is held by all who know him. Looking for that Artillery Corporal who first drilled.



JAMES EDWARD ALLISON

Born near Pittsburgh, Pa., at an early age. Began the practice of architecture in Pittsburgh in 1892 but fled the smoke and grime of that metropolis for the "great open spaces" of California in 1910, and has been doing everything in his power to fill those great open spaces ever since. How well he has succeeded is evidenced by the fact that Allison & Allison have designed approximately two hundred of the finest school buildings in California and the name of Allison & Allison on plans for a school have come to have the same meaning as Tiffany on jewels. Mr. Allison was elected a member of the American Institute of Architects in 1899 and was elected to fellowship in the American Institute of Architects nine years later. He is past president of the Southern California Chapter, A. I. A. He is a member of the University Club of Los Angeles, and of the Pasadena Golf Club. Also a very active member of the Southern California Chapter, A. I. A., Allied Architects' Association of Los Angeles and Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. Besides the two hundred schools which testify that neither of the Allison's has lived in vain, the noteworthy work of this firm in Southern California includes many genuine architectural achievements, among them the University Club of Los Angeles, the Southern Branch of the University of California, the Friday Morning Club, and the Women's Athletic Club. It is difficult to write of James Edward Allison, the architect, or James Edward Allison, the man, without indulging in the superlative. Suffice it to say that in his professional career and in his private life he has achieved what the humblest student draughtsman aspires to be. His hobby? Didn't we mention that he is a member of the Pasadena Golf Club?

ALLISON, JAMES EDWARD

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