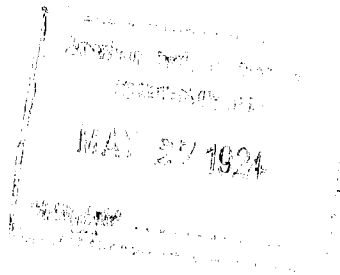


BENJAMIN WISTAR MORRIS, F. A. I. A.
ARCHITECT
101 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK

JOHN F. BACON

May 26, 1924.

Mr. E. C. Kemper,
Executive Secretary, A. I. A.,
The Octagon,
Washington, D. C.



My dear Mr. Kemper:-

I wish to express my appreciation of the customary and efficient courtesy shown by you, and your office, to me and to all of the visiting members during the stress of the Convention. It was truly remarkable.

When things have quieted down, will you be good enough to suggest to me the means whereby I may secure some photographs of the buildings, which I believe are known as the Court of Appeals, both old and new, which are on the square opposite the old red brick Pension Building in the neighborhood of Fifth and F Streets; or, if they have been published, could you indicate to me where I could find illustrations concerning them?

With kind regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

BWM/P.

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

COPY

May 28, 1924.

Dear Mr. Morris:-

Those of us who serve the Institute here greatly appreciate the word of commendation contained in your letter of May 26. It was a good Convention, and now we are making efforts to get out promptly the Proceedings and other related documents.

With reference to photographs of the Court of Appeals Building, I went there this afternoon and talked with the Superintendent of the building. He was a total loss as to photographs or information.

Have talked with Leet Brothers, the local photographer who does considerable work for the architects and they have no photographs on hand. They would be glad to take six of any exterior views you might wish at \$25.00.

Will make further investigation and if anything can be found will let you know.

Should you wish one or more photographs taken we would gladly attend to the matter for you.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. B. W. Morris,
101 Park Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.

K:VB

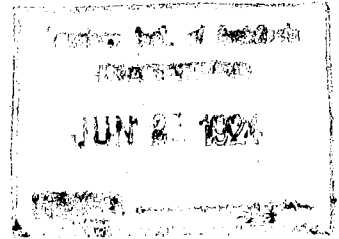
2-3
BENJAMIN WISTAR MORRIS, F. A. I. A.
ARCHITECT
101 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK

JOHN F. BACON

June 20th, 1924.

Re: Photographs.

Mr. E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary,
The American Institute of Architects,
The Octagon House,
Washington, D.C.



My dear Mr. Kemper: -

Handwritten: please see my letter of the 20th

Please accept my thanks for your kindness in arranging with Leet Brothers to make the photographs about which I have recently written to you.

I assume that they will send their bill direct to me.

Very truly yours,

B. Morris

BWM/CH

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

March 22, 1937.

Dear Mr. Morris:

The Institute is advised by Mr. Scannell, Secretary of the Westchester Chapter, that you have become an unassigned member of that chapter.

Your name will be so recorded at The Octagon.

We write this letter as a confirmation and to point out that there has been no change in your status as an assigned member of the New York Chapter.

As an unassigned member of the Westchester Chapter - at meetings of that chapter - you should not vote for delegates to Institute Conventions, nor on any matters affecting The Institute, and you will be listed in The Annuary only as a member of the New York Chapter. (See Chapter II, Article 1, Section 8 of the By-laws of The Institute.)

By direction of The Secretary.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

ECK*B

Mr. Benjamin W. Morris, F. A. I. A.,
101 Park Avenue,
New York City, New York.

Handwritten mark

Announcement
is made of the
association of

MORRIS & O'CONNOR
HARVEY STEVENSON

Architects

MARCH 15, 1940

101 PARK AVENUE · NEW YORK

BENJAMIN WISTAR MORRIS, F.A.I.A. · ROBERT BARNARD O'CONNOR, A.I.A. · HARVEY STEVENSON, A.I.A.

*same address
change of firm.*



Aetna Insurance Group

AETNA INSURANCE COMPANY
THE WORLD FIRE & MARINE INSURANCE CO.-THE CENTURY INDEMNITY CO.
STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK

HARTFORD 15, CONNECTICUT

Jan. 5, 1959

American Institute of Architects
115 East 40th Street
New York, N. Y.

Gentlemen:


Sometime in 1926 we employed the services of an architect on the planning of our Woodland Street Building in Hartford, Conn. We are unable to locate this architect nor can we find the name of his successor.

It has been suggested that you might be able from your records to furnish me this required information. The architect's name was Benjamin W. Morris, 101 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Would appreciate any assistance in this matter.
Thank you.

Very truly yours,

AETNA INSURANCE COMPANY


J. G. McLaughlin, Supervisor
Administration Department

JGM n

Deceased 12/4/44
New York Chapter
(Fellow)
(Ed of SW.)

Robt. O. O'Connor
101 Park Ave.

*P Hayes - anything in
file - application, etc?
M*

NEW YORK CHAPTER



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

January 7, 1959

Miss Florence H. Gervais, Secretary
Membership and Records
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Miss Gervais:

I wonder if you could furnish some information on Mr.
Benjamin W. Morris who was a member of the New York
Chapter until the time of his death on December 4, 1944.

Sincerely yours,

Margot A. Henkel

Margot A. Henkel
Executive Secretary

MAH:rr

2
Member
Morris, Benjamin W.

January 10, 1959

Mrs. Margot A. Henkel, Executive Secretary
New York Chapter, A.I.A.
115 East 40th Street
New York 16, N. Y.

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

Dear Mrs. Henkel:

In response to your request of January 7th, the Head of our Filing Department dug out the clipping, copies of which are attached, which was filed at the time of the death of Benjamin W. Morris, F.A.I.A.

I hope this is what you want.

Sincerely,

Secretary of Membership and Records

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

Enclosures

Benjamin W. Morris, F. A. I. A.

Benjamin Wistar Morris of Mt. Kisco, N.Y., senior member of the architectural firm of Morris & O'Connor, 161 Park Avenue, New York City, and designer of many important buildings, died Dec. 4 in the Doctors Hospital, N.Y., after a long illness.

He was born seventy-four years ago in Portland, Ore., a son of Benjamin Wistar Morris, Episcopal Bishop of Oregon; a great-great-grandson of Capt. Samuel Morris

of the First City Troop of Philadelphia in the Revolutionary War, and a descendant of the Anthony Morris of London, England, who migrated to Philadelphia a few months after William Penn.

Mr. Morris attended St. Paul's School, Concord, N. H., and Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., and after receiving a Ph.B. from Columbia in 1894 spent two years at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. In the late Nineties while in the office of Carrere & Hastings he worked on the successful competitive plans for the New York Public Library. Between 1902 and 1910 he practiced his profession independently, designing the '79 dormitory and Patton Hall at Princeton, the Connecticut State Armory and Arsenal, the Aetna Fire Insurance Company Home Office, the State Bank, and the Morgan Memorial Library, all in Hartford.

From 1910 to 1915 Mr. Morris was a partner of Grant La Farge in the firm of La Farge & Morris, which designed the country home of the late J. P. Morgan at Glass Cove, L. I. the Architects Office Building, and Brooks Brothers at Forty-fourth Street and Madison Avenue, the Williams Memorial Library at Trinity College.

Again working by himself, between 1915 and 1930 Mr. Morris designed, among other structures, the Cunard Steamship Company building on lower Broadway; the country home and gardens of Joseph C. Baldwin Jr. at Mount Kisco, for which he received the gold medal of the Architectural League of New York in 1918; the Westchester County Court House at White Plains; the home offices of the Phoenix Mutual Life and Phoenix Fire Insurance Companies in Hartford, Conn.; the Seamen's Bank for Savings, and the Bank of New York and Trust Co., New York.

Designs prepared by Mr. Morris which brought him more newspaper publicity than any others were those for projects that were never carried out. These were his drawings for the Metropolitan Opera House to fit into the late Otto H. Kahn's 1926 plan for erecting a new home for opera in West Fifty-seventh Street, and for a later and similar enterprise which would have placed the Metropolitan in what is now Rockefeller Center.

Mr. Morris was a member of the city's Art Commission, 1923-25; chairman of the board of the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, 1922-35; president of the New York chapter of the Society of Beaux Arts Architects, 1924-25; a member of the Na-

tional Commission of Fine Arts, 1927-31.

He belonged to the National Academy of Design National Institute of Arts and Letters, the boards of trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Century Association. He was president of the Westchester County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 1932-33.

He leaves a widow, who was Alice Fenwick Goodwin at their marriage in 1901; a son, Benjamin W. Jr., USNR, now in the Pacific; and a daughter, Mrs. Robert

B. O'Connor, wife of the junior member of the firm founded in 1930.

Mr. Morris was a Fellow of The American Institute of Architects.

Oregon

*Members.
Morris, Benjamin N.*

March 17, 1959

Mr. J. G. McLaughlin
Aetna Insurance Company
Hartford 15, Connecticut

Dear Mr. McLaughlin:

Referring to my letter of January 10th, concerning the whereabouts of Benjamin W. Morris. I regret the careless error I made in advising that Mr. Morris was never a member of the Institute and that no record of him was maintained. Recently I found that Mr. Morris was not only a member but also a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and the New York Chapter.

However, he passed away on December 4, 1944. I believe his successor is Robert B. O'Connor located at 101 Park Avenue, New York, New York, who was a Junior Partner of the firm of Morris & O'Connor at the time of Mr. Morris's death.

I hope this information proves to be helpful to you and once again, please accept my apologies for my previous error.

Sincerely yours,

Maureen K. Kochis
Assistant Secretary of Membership and Records