

Moorehead, Singleton Peabody

BALDWIN MEMORIAL ARCHIVE
of American Architects

NO. _____

Name: SINGLETON PEABODY MOOREHEAD of (address) WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Born: OCTOBER 15, 1900 at SARANAC, N.Y. Died: DEC. 12, 1964 at WILLIAMSBURG, VA.

Parents: WARREN K. MOOREHEAD (DECEASED) and MRS. WARREN K. MOOREHEAD (DECEASED)

Married: CYNTHIA BEVERLY TUCKER COLEMAN of WILLIAMSBURG, VA. on APRIL 16, 1930
(DECEASED)

Children: NONE

Education: PHILLIPS ANDOVER ACADEMY, 1918; HARVARD COLLEGE, A.B. DEGREE 1922;
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY, MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
DEGREE 1927.

Training; and practice as Principal: (Firm Names, Places, Dates, Specialization) KILHAM, HOPKINS AND GREELEY,
BOSTON, MASS (SUMMERS OF 1925 & 1926); STRICKLAND AND BLODGETT AND LAW,
BOSTON, MASS. (SEPT. 1927-SEPT. 1928); PERRY SHAW AND HEPBURN, WILLIAMSBURG,
VA., SENIOR DRAFTSMAN AND DESIGNER (OCT. 1928-1934); COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG,
ARCHITECTURAL DEPT. 1934-1943, CHIEF DESIGNER; ACTING DIRECTOR 1943-44;
DIRECTOR 1944-48; CONSULTING ARCHITECT 1948 UNTIL RETIREMENT 1963 DUE TO
POOR HEALTH.

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

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS 1946; FELLOW, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
ARCHITECTS 1962; SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF ARCHITECTURAL BIBLIOGRAPHERS AND ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
VIRGINIA ANTIQUITIES.

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

HONORARY PHIP BETA KAPPA FROM HARVARD.

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

(SEE ATTACHED SHEETS)

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

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG: ITS BUILDINGS AND GARDENS

THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS OF WILLIAMSBURG

THE EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY HOUSES OF WILLIAMSBURG

(OVER)

4/27/65

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

TRAVELED IN FRANCE, ITALY, ENGLAND, BELGIUM AND HOLLAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF VISITING AND STUDYING THE PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENTS FOR USE IN HIS WORK WITH COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG.

(FURTHER BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ATTACHED)

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

Compiled by: NANCY E. QUENSEN, EXECUTIVE SECTY. Date: APRIL 26, 1965

Acknowledgements: A. EDWIN KENDREW, FAIA, COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG, VA.
MRS. MARGARET MILLER, SECRETARY TO MR. KENDREW, WILLIAMSBURG, VA.

BRIEF PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
SINGLETON PEABODY MOOREHEAD, A.I.A.
OF
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

At present, Architectural Consultant in the Department of Architecture of Colonial Williamsburg, Incorporated with previous professional experience as listed below:

- 1922 - Restoration drawings at Cicuye Pueblo, Pecos, N. M. for Peabody Museum of Andover.
- 1925 - Pecos Expedition.
- 1926 - Summer work in office of Kilham, Hopkins and Greeley, Architects, Boston, Mass.
- 1927-28 - Office of Strickland, Blodgett & Law, Architects, Boston, Mass.
- 1928-34 - Office of Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, Architects, Williamsburg, Va.

During this period he served as one of the chief designers for the restoration and reconstruction of colonial buildings in Williamsburg. He served as job captain on many affiliated projects, including the Williamsburg-James City County Courthouse, several buildings in the new business blocks, and the Craft House adjacent to the historic area.

- He also engaged in a very intensive study of colonial buildings in Virginia and the neighboring states. His enthusiasm and the great knowledge gained of the buildings of this period made him one of the key designers of this office on the first phase restoration work in Williamsburg.
- 1934-44 - Upon the completion of this first phase of the restoration work the architects, Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, retired to a consulting basis and A. E. Kendrew and S. P. Moorehead were retained as resident architects to carry on the work in the future. Under this arrangement, Mr. Moorehead served as Chief Designer. As additional properties became available and the donations of the sponsor, Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. were increased, the Department of Architecture was greatly enlarged and engaged upon an extensive program, including not only restoration work but additional visitor facilities such as hotels, information centers, etc., and Mr. Moorehead served as the leading designer.
 - 1944-48 - He served as Director of the Department of Architecture in charge of administration as well as design. During this post-war period a number of major projects were undertaken, such as the reconstruction of the King's Arms Tavern as a large 18th century tavern, expansion at the Williamsburg Inn and the Williamsburg Lodge, the construction of warehouse buildings, laundries, dormitories for employees, etc. He resigned as Director upon the advice of physicians.
 - 1948 to Date - He has served as Consulting Architect, not only on the restoration and reconstruction work but in advisory capacity on matters of interpretation, presentation of the project and a wide variety of publications.
 - December 5, 1941 - Became an Associate member of the American Institute of Architects.
 - April 30, 1946 - Became a Corporate member of the American Institute of Architects, and served as a member of the Public Relations Committee for a period of two years.
 - December 5, 1951 - Licensed to practice architecture by the Va. State Board.

His long experience and knowledge in the field of colonial architecture has been recognized not only in Williamsburg but in connection with a number of outside projects on which he has served as consultant. These include:

- Phillipsburg Manor, Tarrytown, N. Y.
- Sunnyside, Tarrytown, N. Y.
- Van Cortlandt Manor, Croton, N. Y.
- Mulford House, East Hampton, Long Island, N. Y.
- Newport, R. I., Preservation Society, Member of Committee on Newport Tower
- Moore House (Surrender House), Yorktown, Va.
- Adam Thoroughgood House, Princess Anne Co., Va.
- Archaeology and reconstruction of Shadwell, Charlottesville, Va.
- Merchants Hope Church, Prince George Co., Va.
- Rolfe House, Surry Co., Va.
- Bacon's Castle, Surry Co., Va.
- The Third State House, Jamestown, Va.
- The Governor's Mansion, dependencies, Richmond, Va.
- Trinity Church, near Cambridge, Maryland
- Adena, Chillicothe, Ohio

His many other qualifications and achievements include:

- 1918 - Graduated from Andover Academy.
- 1922 - Graduated from Harvard College, Bachelor of Arts.
- 1927 - Graduated from Harvard School of Architecture, Master of Architecture
- Architectural research travel in the United States.
- Several trips to Europe, including France, Italy, England, Belgium, Holland.
- Lecturer on history of colonial period, principles and procedure of restoration work.

Preparation of materials for the general interpretation of the Williamsburg restoration work.

Literary work in the preparation, consultation and editing of articles on Colonial Williamsburg for such magazines as Art in America, Antiques Magazine, Theatre Bibliography, Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, and the Virginia Record.

Important editorial work and assistance to various authors who have been engaged to prepare books, such as Colonial Williamsburg: Its Buildings and Gardens and The Public Buildings of Williamsburg. He prepared all of the graphic illustrations of the latter book which are particularly outstanding.

Miscellaneous assignments include special research studies on the arts, crafts and industries of the 18th century, and the writing of numerous reports on such subjects for the use of others and for publication.

Served on many local activities, including: Chairman of the Red Cross Fund Drive, 1943, for James City County and Williamsburg; and Chairman of the Williamsburg Arts and Crafts Society, 1936 and 1937.

Has been a member of: Society of Architectural Historians, American Association of Architectural Bibliographers, Association for the Preservation for Virginia Antiquities, National Audubon Society, American Wildlife Society, Harvard Club of New York City, and the Fox Club and Signet Society at Harvard.

In summary it should be noted that Mr. Moorehead has had one of the key roles in the restoration movement in America and the importance of his excellent service on the restoration work in Williamsburg for more than thirty years cannot be emphasized too greatly.

September 6, 1961