

[Archivist's note: The photos referred to here would have been returned to Mr. Benes at the time he was accepted.]

APPENDIX B.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP,
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

To the Secretary of the American Institute of Architects: _____ 18

SIR: I respectfully apply for Associate membership in the American Institute of Architects. I have carefully examined the Constitution and By-Laws of the Institute and agree, if elected, to honorably maintain and obey them.

My full name is *W. Dominick Benes*

My address is *New England Building*

I am employed by _____

I am a member of the firm of *Hubbell & Benes*

I began the study of architecture in the year *1873.*

I began the independent practice of architecture in the year *1884.*

The accompanying photographs show buildings or other work designed by me.

No. 1 is *Historical Society Building Cleveland O.*
(Give description of same.)

No. 2 is *Wade Memorial Chapel and Crypts " "*

No. 3 is *Citizens' Building Cleveland O.*

The accompanying drawings are _____

(Give description of any drawings the applicant may choose to submit.)

Respectfully submitted,

(Signature of applicant.)

We, the undersigned Fellows or Associates of the American Institute of Architects, have carefully examined the above statement, and believe it to be accurate. We know Mr. *W. Dominick Benes* personally, are familiar with his professional work and practice and desire his election as an Associate Member of the American Institute of Architects.

(The signatures of three Institute Members are here required.)

C. F. Thompson
Gen. T. Crofield
J. M. Richardson

We, the undersigned residents of _____ know Mr. _____ personally, and believe him to be capable in his profession and honorable in all his dealings.

(Here the candidate may secure the signatures of residents in the city or town wherein he is at present practicing. The address of each indorser must follow his name.)

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☐ W. DOMINICK BENES ☐

ARCHITECT

F. A. I. A.

1610 EUCLID AVENUE · PROSPECT 520

CLEVELAND

September 21, 1927.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS

SEP 22 1927

RECEIVED

Mr. Frank C. Baldwin, Sec'y
The American Institute of Architects,
Octagon House,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Baldwin:

How many Architects, members of
the Institute, that have worked 54 or more
years back of the drafting board, still
making their own preliminary sketches, scale
drawings, full size details, etc.

If not asking too much, I surely
would appreciate getting this data.

Sincerely yours,

W. D. BENES, Archt.

By *W.D. Benes*

WDB:RE

Formerly with -

Coburn, Barnum & Benes
Hubbell & Benes, and the past 2 1/2 years
W. D. Benes

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

COPY

W. D. BENES

MEMBER

September 21, 1927.

September 26, 1927.

Mr. W. D. Benes,
The American Institute of Architects,
October 1, 1927.

Dear Mr. Benes:

Your letter of September 21st is at hand, and I am sorry to say we cannot give you even an approximation of the number of members of the Institute, that have worked 15 or more the Institute who have worked fifty or more years back of a drafting board, making their own preliminary sketches, scale drawings, full size details, etc.

The 54 sounds like a record to me but there is no way of knowing would appreciate getting this data, positively except by personal check with every member of the Institute.

Am bringing your letter to Mr. Baldwin's attention when he returns about October 1st, in case he wishes to supplement the above.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. W. D. Benes,
1610 Euclid Avenue,
Cleveland, Ohio.

K-6

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FOR THE INSTITUTE ANNUARY OF 1929-1930

In the Annuary there appears after each Member's name the name of his firm— if he is associated with others as a partner or legal member of the firm. We hope to have the new Annuary entirely correct in this respect.

Please fill in and return this card not later than March 15th. Its non-return will indicate to the Secretary's Office that you are practicing as an individual, and that your address hereon is correct.

Name and address now on all records at The Octagon:

I retired from active business on Nov. 1st 1927.

Enclosed please find article which appeared in Cleveland Plain Dealer

Mr. W. Dominick Benes,

Address is O.K. → North Miles Rd.,
Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

Name of firm of which you are a partner or member:

(Give complete legal name of your partnership or firm)

Notes
MD

BENES RETIRES TO SEE MARCH OF ART

Architect, 70 and Robust,
Praises U. S. Trend in
Buildings.

W. Dominick Benes, after watching American taste develop for 54 years from the "jig-saw" houses of the Gilded Age to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, turned the key in his office at 1610 Euclid Avenue yesterday and retired from business as a practicing architect.

Today, at 70, he is free. Best of all, he is robust and in excellent health. He retires to the sidelines to watch architecture develop, to read his enormous collection of books on religion, history and art, and to travel—on foot.

"We are getting better buildings in this country today than we ever had before," he said. "And we'll have still better buildings in the future. The skyscraper is here to remain, but in the future we shall stop building one high building up against another so that none has light and air.

"Popular magazines and the newspapers have been chiefly responsible in improving American taste. Today even the man on the street has some conception of line and symmetry.

"It wasn't always thus. One of the big battles of my life was trying to build a decent house for a Cleveland millionaire. I took my drawings out and showed them to his wife and daughter. They were perfectly satisfied. Then the millionaire called me in.

"Your drawings are a lot of junk," he said. "I'm paying for this house, and I intend to have it like I want it."

"He took a piece of wrapping paper and sketched out his scheme. It was hideously impossible.

"There," he said, "that's the kind of a house you are going to build."

"I'll be damned if I do," I said, and I took my drawings back to the office. Later we reached a compromise and I built the house. But even today I shudder when I have to pass it."

For 40 years Benes was the personal architect for the late J. H. Wade. For Wade he designed a music room in the house at Euclid Avenue and E. 40th Street, the yacht Wadena, the Wade Memorial Chapel in Lake View Cemetery, and the residences and farm buildings on the Wade estates at Thomasville, Ga., and Gates Mill.

Benes was born in Prague and

Tells Tribulations in Architect's Life



W. DOMINICK BENES

came to Cleveland with his parents at the age of 10. He attended Brownell and Mayflower Schools and the old Oberlin Academy, which he left in his second year to study architecture under his uncle, John V. Benes of Chicago.

He was associated for twenty years with the firm of Coburn & Barnum, then with Coburn, Barnum & Benes, then with Coburn, Barnum, Benes & Hubbell. In 1897 this firm name became Hubbell & Benes, a partnership dissolved in 1925.

Benes has toured Europe several times, always wandering around cities on foot with a note book in hand.

Mr. and Mrs. Benes have four children, Mrs. Grace Robertson, Rochester, N. Y.; Miss Clara Benes, Jerome H. and Mrs. Herman W. Doll, all of Cleveland.

Recently Benes bought 35 acres on North Miles Road, near Chagrin Falls, where he will spend much of his time.

His house is a copy of the home of John Howard Payne, the "Home, Sweet Home" of the song, adapted to modern needs.

☐ W. DOMINICK BENES ☐

ARCHITECT

F. A. I. A.

1610 EUCLID AVENUE · PROSPECT 520

~~CLEVELAND~~ North Miles Rd. Chagrin Falls Ohio

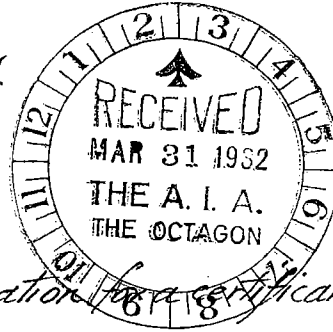
Moreland Hills.

March 30-1932

Mr. Frank C. Baldwin Sec. A.I.A.

The Octagon - Washington D. C.

Dear Sir-



In making my application for a certificate to practice Architecture (license for which has become a law in Ohio this year) I referred to the A.I.A. Annuary for certain data - Having retired from active business as an architect on Nov. 1st 1927 - I placed my name in the certificate as consulting architect - as I have since retiring been asked to do.

Will I be obliged to give up as consulting Architect, in order to come under the class as given in the by-laws - p. 106 - Annuary -

Sec. 2. Special Conditions -

A. Any person who has been a member of the American Institute of Architects in good standing for 10 yrs. upon attaining the age of 70 - shall on his application, be exempted from the payment of dues, and shall retain all the privileges of the Institute.

Under membership my name: W. Dominick Benes (Cleve) A. 1901 - F. 1912.

Kindly return newspaper clipping.

Very truly Yours

W. Dominick Benes

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

April 7, 1932.

Dear Mr. Benes:

We have your letter of March 30th, addressed to Mr. Baldwin, in which you point out that you were retired in 1927, and inquire whether it will be necessary for you to give up your work as a Consulting Architect, in order to retain your membership in the Institute.

We do not believe that there will be any question raised in regard to acting in the capacity of Consulting Architect, in so far as it relates to your Membership in the Institute.

Probably most retired architects, because of their experience, are frequently consulted, and we do not believe that your case would be an exception. However, if you desire a ruling on the question you raise, we will present it to the Board of Directors.

We will not do so, however, unless you specifically request.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. W. Dominick Benes, F. A. I. A.,
North Miles Road,
Chagrin Falls, Moreland Hills,
Ohio.

K:H:B

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

2-3
COPY

April 13, 1932

Dear Mr. Benes:

In our letter to you of April 7th, responding to yours of March 30th, we find that we failed to return to you, the newspaper clipping which accompanied your letter, as you requested.

We hope you will pardon this oversight.

The clipping is returned, herewith.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. W. Dominck Benes,
North Miles Road,
Chagrin Falls, Moreland Mills,
Ohio.

K/fhg

Enc.

14

23

☐ W. DOMINICK BENES ☐

ARCHITECT

F. A. I. A.

~~1610 EUGLID AVENUE - PROSPECT 520~~
~~CLEVELAND~~

North Miles Road
Chagrin Falls - Ohio
Moreland Hills

April 25 - 1932

Rate Board

Mr. Edward C. Kemper
Executive Sec. A.I.A.
The Octagon 1741 New York Ave. Washington D.C.



Dear Mr. Kemper.

I have at hand your letters dated April 7th 1932 together with the newspaper clipping, for which I thank you. In my letter dated March 30 - I referred to Section 2 Special Conditions - A. to this you did not reply. I therefore make application to be exempted from the payment of dues and still retain all the privileges of the Institute.

Sincerely yours

W. Dominick Benes

*Paia for 1932
dues*

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

COPY

June 14, 1932

Dear Mr. Benes:

The Minutes of the April meetings of the Board of Directors are in the process of preparation, and we shall soon be in a position to write the formal letters.

With regard to your application to be placed on the retired list of members in The American Institute of Architects, and exempted from the future payment of annual dues, in order to clear our record we would like to have a statement from you to the effect that you are seventy years of age, or over.

May we not hear from you soon on this point?

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. W. Dominick Benes,
North Miles Road,
Moreland Hills, Chagrin Falls,
Ohio.

K/fhg

☐ W. DOMINICK BENES ☐

ARCHITECT

F. A. I. A.

~~1610 EUCLID AVENUE · PROSPECT 520~~

~~CLEVELAND~~

*North Miles Road
Moreland Hills
Chagrin Falls — Ohio*

June 17 — 1932

Mr. Edward C. Kemper Ex. Sec. A. I. A.

Dear Mr. Kemper

*In response to your letter dated June 14/32
will say that I was born June 14 — 1857 — having
just passed my 75th year Tuesday of this week.*

Sincerely Yours

W. Dominick Benes



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

2-3
COPY

June 22, 1932.

Dear Mr. Benes:

Thank you for your letter of June 17th, advising that you are seventy-five years of age.

May we not take this opportunity to extend to you the congratulations of the American Institute of Architects and its Officers, upon your recent anniversary.

The Minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors have been approved, and we wish to advise that the Board, by resolution, placed you on the retired list of the Institute, effective December 31, 1932.

This makes no change in your status as an active member, except that it relieves you of the payment of Institute dues.

By direction of the Secretary.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. W. Dominick Benes,
North Miles Road,
Moreland Hills, Chagrin Falls,
Ohio.

K/fhg

23

December 9 - 1935

The Octagon
A Journal of
The American Institute of Architects
1741 New York Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C.



Dear Sirs:

Mr. W. Dominick Benes passed
away in May -

Please discontinue sending The Octagon.

Yours very truly
Mrs. Matilda J. Benes

North Miles Rd., Moreland Hills,
Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

Noted - JMT

noted
JMT

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2-3
COPY

Handwritten: A journal of
The American Institute of Architects
New York, N.Y.
Washington, D.C.
Office to write



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Dear Mrs. Benes
Mr. W. Dominick Benes passed away in May

January 9, 1936.

Please acknowledge sending The Octagon

My dear Mrs. Benes:

Yours very truly

This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter of December 9th, response to which has been delayed on account of Board and other meetings.

North Miles Rd. Moreland Hills

It is with deep regret that we learn of the death of Mr. W. Dominick Benes, Institute Member of the Cleveland Chapter. May we take this opportunity to extend to you the sympathy of the Officers and Directors of The American Institute of Architects.

If available, we would greatly appreciate for the permanent files of the Institute a short sketch or article on the life and work of Mr. Benes.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mrs. Matilda F. Benes,
North Miles Road, Moreland Hills,
Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

K*B

COPY TO
FILES

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER