

Dowler, Gress C.
Pittsburgh Pa

No fee required

Application for Membership

Nov 27, 19 20

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

SIR:

I hereby apply for Membership in the American Institute of Architects.

I hereby certify that the following statements are correct:

Name Gress C. Dowler

Address 612 Magee Bldg. Pittsburgh Pa.
[Number and Street] [City.] [State.]

Place and date of birth Porteraville Pa. Aug - 1877

Graduate in architecture _____
[If required in your case, give name of institutions and year.—Attach evidence of Diploma or Certificate of graduation.]

Holder of Scholarship in architecture _____
[If required in your case, attach evidence.]

Passed the qualifying examinations of the Royal Institute of British Architects, or the examinations for the first class of the Ecole des Beaux Arts. _____
[If required in your case, state which, and attach evidence of Certificate.]

If an Associate of a Chapter of the Institute, give name of chapter Pittsburg Chapter

If practicing architect, firm name Gress & Dowler

Have been in practice 20 years years

If draughtsman, employed by _____
[State number of years.]

Collegiate and office training 7 years prior to uncompleted Special course at University of Tenn. — 20 years Practice

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.

I further agree, if elected to membership in the American Institute of Architects, that if at any time my membership shall cease, either by my own resignation or by any action taken by the Institute, I will then, by that fact, relinquish all rights of any character that I may have acquired by reason of such membership in the property, real or personal, of the American Institute of Architects, and of the Chapter of the Institute of which I am then a member.

Gress C. Dowler
[Signature of Applicant.]

I hereby certify that the signer of this application was duly elected an Associate of the Pittsburgh
[For use when the applicant is an Associate.]

Chapter, A. I. A., on the following date June 13 1919
[Insert date of election to chapter.]

Stanley A. Roush Secretary.
Pittsburgh Chapter, A. I. A.

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.

- (1) J. Pittman
- (2) Strook
- (3) James M. Macqueen

[The signatures of three Institute members are here required unless the applicant has the unanimous endorsement of his Chapter, in which case certification to that effect should be made above by the Secretary. Unanimous endorsement is that endorsement in which each Institute member of the Chapter had an opportunity to express himself by letter ballot either for or against the member proposed. No other form of unanimous endorsement will be accepted.]

Prelim. Fee	<u>Ad \$0.00 12/4/20</u>
Initiation	<u>remitted</u>
Unan. End	<u>7.00</u>
Exhibits	<u>must send no</u>
On Priv. Ccm. of	

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS ARCHIVES For information or study purposes only. Not to be recycled, quoted, or published without written permission from the AIA Archives, 1735 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20006

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS ARCHIVES For information or study purposes only. Not to be recycled, quoted, or published without written permission from the AIA Archives, 1735 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20006

1857



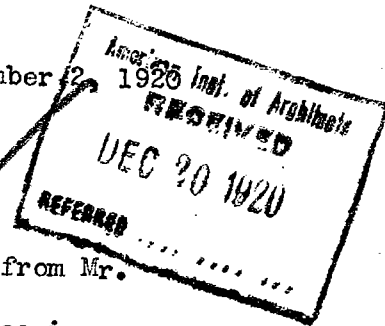
1920

HENRY H. KENDALL, PRESIDENT
CHARLES A. FAVROT, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT
WM. B. FAVILLE, 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

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

WILLIAM STANLEY PARKER, SECRETARY
D. EVERETT WAID, TREASURER
EDWARD C. KEMPER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

December 2



Dear Mr. Donn:-

I enclose herewith letter of December 1 from Mr. Billquist, Chairman of our Membership Committee in Pittsburgh and copy of a letter to Mr. Billquist from Mr. Press C. Dowler who has made out an application for membership but balks at the sending of exhibits.

The Board of Examiners has ample power to waive exhibits in any case it sees fit and in view of the endorsement by Mr. Billquist, I should think it would be justified in excusing Mr. Dowler on the distinct understanding that no precedent is established thereby.

In any event please return the correspondence with your decision at your early convenience in order that I may advise Mr. Billquist further.

Very truly yours,

E. C. Kemper
Executive Secretary.

Mr. E. W. Donn, Jr., Chairman,
Board of Examiners, A. I. A.,
Washington, D. C.

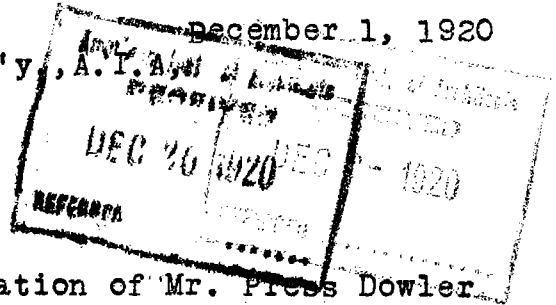
K:VB
ENCL

*OK. In reply to the suggestion
E. W. Donn*

T. E. BILLQUIST, ARCHITECT
 VANDERGRIFT BUILDING 323 FOURTH AVE.
 PITTSBURGH, PA.

December 1, 1920

Mr. E. C. Kemper, Executive Sec'y,
 The Octagon House,
 Washington, D. C.



Dear Sir:

Attached to the application of Mr. Press Dowler for Institute membership, delivered yesterday to the Secretary of the Pittsburgh Chapter, is a letter to me from Mr. Dowler. A copy of the letter is enclosed. Please let me know if Mr. Dowler's somewhat high-handed procedure of refusing to submit to the Institute rule of submitting photographs or drawings of executed work will prevent this approval and election to institute membership. Technically it would seem natural that such would be the case as the Institute is not likely to change its rules for the whim or opinion of one applicant for membership. If that is the case please let me know before final action is taken to enable me to secure from him the required photographs or plans.

Press Dowler is the type of an Architect I believe the Institute is making an effort to include in its membership. He is said to be clean in his business dealings, is quite active and does a good deal of work. Having no access to his record in applying for either chapter or institute membership, I would say he is a graduate of a local Architectural office, knows his business and has the ability to secure work. If he joins the Institute he says some other local architects (of the same type) are likely to apply for membership. Personally I believe the institute must include this type of men if it claims to represent the whole profession. I shall do nothing about applications from these architects till I hear from you or any institute officials having this matter in charge.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

T. E. Billquist

PRESS C. DOWLER
ARCHITECT
MAGEE BUILDING, 336 FOURTH AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA.

November 29, 1920.

T. E. Billquist, Arch't.,
Vandegrift Building,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Mr. Billquist :

As per your request, I enclose Institute membership blank and check as noted.

I will not ask other members to sign this application and have not enclosed photos or plans, for the reason that I am entirely out of sympathy with this method of restricting membership either in the Local Chapters or the Institute. Neither have I any desire to disparage a high standard in Architectural practice but I do not believe this high standard can be reached or Architects be given their proper place in business until the American Institute or some other representative organization gets big enough and broad enough to work for the good of all practicing architects of good moral character and reasonable training and experience. There is certainly no better answer to this than the position occupied by the Architects during the war period.

If there are those that wish to stand above the common clay I am of the opinion that it should be an order or clique entirely apart from what may be called the business organization of architects and with admission requirements as rigid as they see fit.

I do not wish to appear unreasonable in this, and please understand that I am not seeking any special action or dispensation in the matter. If the Institute see fit to admit me, I will be glad to go along, if not, it will be alright so far as I am concerned.

Thanking you for interest in the matter, I am

Sincerely yours,



AK

ESI
L. E. E

*Attach to
Dowling at*

1857



1920

HENRY H. KENDALL, PRESIDENT
CHARLES A. FAVROT, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT
WM. B. FAVILLE, 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

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

WILLIAM STANLEY PARKER, SECRETARY
D. EVERETT WAID, TREASURER
EDWARD C. KEMPER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

December 14, 1920.

Dear Mr. Kemper:-

With regard to the letter from Mr. Billquist concerning the sending of exhibits by Mr. Press C. Dowler, I am of the opinion that under the circumstances it would be entirely proper to have this come forward without exhibits. The application will be considered by the Board of Examiners with collateral correspondence and you will be advised in due course of the action taken.

This expression of opinion is intended in no way to establish a precedent and is made entirely upon the merits of the present case.

Very truly yours,

Chairman, Board of Examiners.

Mr. E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary,
American Institute of Architects,
1741 New York Avenue, City.

D:VB

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS ARCHIVES For information or study purposes only. Not to be recopied, quoted, or published without written permission from the AIA Archives, 1735 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20006

Membership in the American Institute of Architects

Objects: The objects of the American Institute of Architects are to organize and unite in fellowship the Architects of the United States, to combine their efforts so as to promote the æsthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession, and to make the profession of ever-increasing service to society.

The American Institute of Architects desires and invites the membership of every practicing architect, or architectural draughtsman, who is willing to join with his professional brothers in upholding and promoting the principles and ideals of service for which the American Institute stands.

Conditions of Membership: Any resident of the United States, who is a practicing architect, or an architect engaged in professional education, or an architectural draughtsman, is eligible to membership if able to submit the required proofs of his or her professional capacity and honorable personal and professional standing.

The Chapter Relation: Chapters of the Institute are local groups of Institute members and associates organized under a form of Chapter Constitution and By-Laws which provides a standard relationship to the Institute, with varying provisions for local organization and effort. An applicant for Institute membership is assigned, upon election, to the chapter within whose territory he has his business headquarters. If he resides in the territory of one chapter and has his business headquarters in the territory of another, he may make a choice in his application.

Initiation Fee and Dues: The initiation fee is \$20.00, of which \$5.00 must accompany the application, and of which the balance is payable three months after election. The dues are \$20.00 a year.

The Journal of the Institute is its official publication, for which the subscription price to Institute members is \$3.50 per year.

General Requirements and Proof of Professional Ability

Educational Requirements and Experience: No exhibits of executed work or technical examination are required of an applicant who can qualify under the provisions contained in the following paragraphs, but every such applicant must send with his application in lieu of exhibits of executed work, and as evidence of the proper educational equipment, his certificate of graduation, or his scholarship award, or some authoritative writing which is satisfactory proof of such graduation or scholarship award.

Those not qualifying under Group I should send exhibits as required under Group II.

Group I. Exhibits are not required: Of graduates in Architecture of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania, Cornell University, Harvard University, the University of Illinois, the University of Michigan, Carnegie Institute of Technology, the University of California, Washington University, Syracuse University, the University of Minnesota and the University of Oregon:

Or from those who have held accredited scholarships of the American Academy at Rome. Columbia University, Cornell University, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Washington University, or holders of the Rotch, McKim, or Stewardson Scholarships, the winners of the Paris Prize of the Society of Beaux Arts Architects or the Alumni Fellowship of the University of Pennsylvania; or from those who have passed the qualifying examinations of the Royal Institute of British Architects or the examinations for the first class of the Ecolè des Beaux Arts.

Practical Experience: Applicants applying under these general requirements shall have had not less than two years' experience as practicing architects; or three years as draughtsmen; or two years as draughtsmen and one year in practice.

Unanimous Endorsement: No exhibits of executed work are required in any case when the applicant has the unanimous endorsement of his chapter. Unanimous endorsement is that endorsement in which each Institute member of the chapter had an opportunity to express himself by letter ballot either for or against the member proposed. A letter from the chapter secretary to this effect should accompany the application.

Group II. Exhibits are required: Applicants not qualifying under Group I, unless they have unanimous endorsement, should accompany their applications with simple exhibits of executed work consisting of working drawings and photographs of two executed buildings. These exhibits may be taken from the office files and need not be specially prepared. They are returned in due course. Such applicants shall have been in independent practice at least three years, or have served five years as draughtsmen.

The architectural draughtsman is not required to submit exhibits of which he is the publicly recognized designer, but he must send two such exhibits of which he can truthfully say he was the principal author, although the work was done in the office of another.

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

COPY

March 10, 1921.

My dear Sir:-

Acting for the Secretary, I am pleased to advise you of your election to membership in the American Institute of Architects, effective March 10, 1921.

You have been assigned to the Pittsburgh Chapter as an Institute member in good standing therein, and the Secretary of the Chapter so notified.

The enclosed statement for dues should receive early attention, as the engrossed Certificate of Membership is not sent until the dues for the first year have been paid. No charge has been made for first quarter of the current year.

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

Very truly yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Fress C. Dowler,
612 Magee Building,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

K-P.

Enclosure.

COPY TO

FILES PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER

PRESS C. DOWLER
ARCHITECT
CENTURY BUILDING, 132 SEVENTH STREET
PITTSBURGH, PA.



April 20, 1932.

American Institute of Architects,
1741 New York Ave.,
Washington, D.C.

Att. Frank C. Baldwin, Sec.

Dear Sir:

I have not yet received my membership card for 1932 which I understand is necessary for registration at the Convention. My check went forward to you on January 11, 1932.

Will you please forward same promptly?

Yours truly,

Press C. Dowler

a.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

23
COPY

PRESS C. DOWLER

Executive Secretary

132 SEVENTH STREET, PITTSBURGH, PA.

April 21, 1932

American Institute of Architects
132 New York Ave.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dowler:

Your letter of April 20th: Baldwin, Ill.

We received your check for \$25.00 in payment of your
1932 Institute dues on January 14th and a 1932 membership
card was mailed to you a few days later. *It is necessary for registration of the membership.*
However, since you have never received this card, we
are enclosing a new one to replace it.

Sincerely yours,

Press C. Dowler
Executive Secretary.

Mr. Press C. Dowler,
Century Building,
132 Seventh Street,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ECK:LL

Enc.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS ARCHIVES For information or study purposes only. Not to be recopied, quoted, or published without written permission from the AIA Archives, 1735 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20006

PRESS C. DOWLER
ARCHITECT
CENTURY BUILDING, 132 SEVENTH STREET
PITTSBURGH, PA.

March,
Eighth
1934.

The American Institute of Architects,
The Octagon,
Washington, D.C.
Gentlemen:-



Enclose find my check for 1934 dues, which, under the circumstances, I am almost tempted not to pay.

The vacillating policy in collection of dues of both the Institute and the Chapters, in my judgement, is wrong and is evidently so in the face of President Russell's letter of March 1 1934.

The carrying of members, who in most cases could pay, for three or four years is a travesty and unfair to those who, probably by great sacrifice, respect and pay their obligations.

The By-Laws should be set up so that after a reasonable time the non-paying member should be definitely out without action of the Board or Committee. If this was a hard and fast rule, dues would be paid.

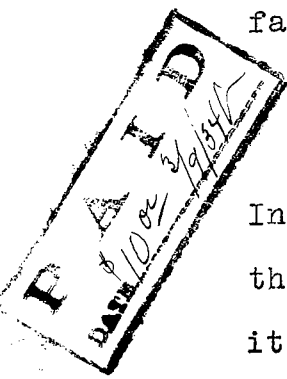
We are either Businessmen and Architects or not.

The dual collection of dues by the Chapter and the Institute is also a mistake. I take it for granted that this criticism will be received in the same spirit that it is given.

Yours very truly

Press C. Dowler

PCD/S



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

2
COPY

March 13, 1934.

Dear Mr. Dowler:

This will acknowledge yours of March 8th and check for \$10, on account of Institute dues for 1934.

I agree with you in principle with respect to terminating memberships of those who do not pay dues. But emergency conditions have set aside or violated a large number of sound principles during the past few years, including some of those contained in the Constitution of the United States.

Had the Institute carried out literally provisions in its By-Laws for the termination of memberships of those not paying dues promptly, it would have been reduced from 8200 members to half, or less than half that number.

If the Convention reduces the dues to \$15, as is anticipated, we should then be in a position to require prompt payment from all who wish to retain their memberships.

We are always glad to have criticisms and suggestions here at The Octagon, and I have responded frankly and in the same spirit in which you wrote.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary.

Mr. Press C. Dowler, A.I.A.,
Century Building, 132 Seventh Street,
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

ECK•B

*Deceased member
Dowler, Press C*

14



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

The Octagon • 1735 New York Avenue, N.W. • Washington 6, D. C. • EXECUTIVE 3-7050

THIS COPY - PLEASE RETURN

November 19, 1964

Miss Gertrude M. Weber, Exec.-Secty.
Pittsburgh Chapter, AIA
1213 Investment Bldg.
Pittsburgh 22, Pennsylvania

7

Dear Miss Weber:

We were sorry to learn of the death of **Mr. Press C. Dowler** ✓
on **Oct. 25, 1964** a corporate member of the Institute
since **1921**.

We would appreciate it very much if you would have two
copies of the enclosed Baldwin Memorial Archive Forms
filled in and returned to The Institute for its files.
The third copy should be retained in the Chapter files.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Scheick, A.I.A.
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Treasurer's Office