

GEORGE BAIN CUMMINGS

Biography

BUSINESS

- 1912-1917 Employed by Carrere and Hastings, Architects, N.Y.C., Asst. to Head Draughtsman
- 1919 Employed by Trowbridge and Ackerman, Architects, N.Y.C., Head Draughtsman
- 1920 Partner, Lacey, Schenck and Cummings, Architects, Binghamton, N. Y.
- 1921-1923 Own practice as Architect, Binghamton, N. Y.
- 1924-1925 Partner, Cummings and Starbuck, Architects, Binghamton, N. Y.
- 1926-1961 Partner, Conrad & Cummings, Associated Architects, Binghamton, N. Y.
- 1961 to present, Consultant to Conrad & Cummings, Associated Architects

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

American Institute of Architects -- Member since 1921

- 1943-1944 Regional Director
- 1943-1949 " "
- 1948 Elected Fellow
- 1953-1955 National Secretary
- 1955-1956 National President
- 1957 Chairman, Jury -- Reynolds Competition
- 1958-1962 Member, Jury of Fellows -- Chairman 1961-1962
- 1960 Member, Jury -- Product Literature Competition
- 1964 Chairman, Committee on Building Codes and Disaster Studies

Honorary Corresponding Member: Royal Institute of British Architects
 Royal Architectural Institute of Canada
 Philippine Institute of Architects
 El Colegio Nacional De Arquitectos (Cuba)

Leader Architects Trek to Europe -- 1952

Central New York Chapter, A.I.A. -- Member since 1921

- 1921 Secretary
- 1922 Treasurer
- 1923 Vice President
- 1924-1925 President
- 1949 Recipient Citation "Public Service in Civic Improvement"

New York State Association of Architects -- Member since 1938 (2nd Vice President 1950)

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

- Federal Housing Administration -- Inspector 1932-1935
- Member -- Jury -- Montpelier, Vt. P. O. Competition
- Member -- National Association of Planning Officials
- Chairman -- Jury -- Competition for American Embassy in London

STATE ACTIVITIES

- New York State Board of Examiners of Architects -- Member 1938-1950 (President 1948-1950)
- New York State Citizens Council -- since 1943 (Founding Member)
- New York State Dept. of Education -- Member, Special Commissions on -- Schoolhouse Ventilation
 -- Schoolhouse Illumination
- New York State Building Code Commission -- Vice Chairman 1949-1959
 -- Acting Chairman Oct. 1, 1950 to Feb. 15, 1952
- New York State Citizens Committee for the Public Schools, Inc. -- Member since 1953
- New York State Division of Housing -- Consultant on State Building Code 1960
- New York State Department of Housing -- Member, Panel of Community Consultants

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Member -- Broome County Council of Social Agencies
Binghamton Civic Educational Forum (Vice President)
Binghamton Community Arts Council
Binghamton City Planning Commission 1930-1938 (Chairman 1936-1938)
Binghamton Building Code Commission -- Executive Committee 1935
Broome County Planning Board 1943-1944 (Executive Secretary 1944)
Broome County Community Council 1943-1949 (Founder and Chairman)
Mayor's Emergency Housing Commission (Binghamton) 1945-1946
Civilian War Services (Director) Binghamton and Broome County War Councils 1944-1945
Grand Jury Foreman

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Church -- Member Presbyterian Church since 1904
Ruling Elder West Presbyterian Church since 1928
Commissioner to General Assembly 1934

Cornell -- Graduated College of Architecture 1912
President Alumni Association College of Architecture 1940-1945
Director Cornell University Alumni Association 1940-1945
Broome County Cornell Club (President 1922-1924)
Tau Beta Pi
Quill and Dagger (President, Alumni Association 1958-1959)
Gargoyle
L'Ogive

Rotary -- Member since 1923 (President 1935-1936) (District Governor 1937-1938)

Chamber of Commerce -- Member since 1923 (President 1939)
Live Wire Club -- Member since 1925 (President 1932)

War Service -- World War I 1917-1919 1st Lt. U.S. Army Air Service
Overseas in France 16 months

Member -- ^{Post 80} American Legion since 1918
Y.M.C.A. (Director 1936-1942)
Boy Scouts of America (Veteran Scout)

Director Columbian Mutual Life Insurance Co., Binghamton, N. Y. since 1953

PUBLICATIONS

1919-1920 Editor "The Draughtsman's Page" -- Journal A.I.A.

Contributor to: Journal, A.I.A.
Empire State Architect
Journal, New York State School Boards Association

10 LINDEN ST. FLOWERS

CONTRIBUTOR IN HIS NAME TO

FAIRVIEW HOME CO.

WEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NO. _____

Name: GEORGE BAIN CUMMINGS of (address) 80 Fairview Avenue - Binghamton, N.Y.

Born: February 11, 1890 at New Ipswich, N.H. Died: March 28, 1974 at Binghamton, N.Y.
New Hampshire

Parents: _____ and _____

Married: Aurá Marie Butler of Ithaca, N.Y. on Nov. 9, 1912

Children: Barbara (Mrs. A. Ward West), Jean Marie (Mrs. Robert W. Storandt) and John B.

Education: Graduated from Boys High School, Brooklyn, N.Y. Graduated Cornell University
in 1912 with B. Arch.Training; and practice as Principal: (Firm Names, Places, Dates, Specialization)

Draughtsman - Carrere & Hastings - New York City 1912-17

Head Draughtsman - Trowbridge and Ackerman - New York City, 1919-20

Formed partnership of Lacey, Schenck & Cummings - Binghamton, N.Y., 1920

Practiced independently in Binghamton from 1921-23, when partnership of Cummings &
Starbuck was formed.

Partnership of Conrad & Cummings formed in 1926 and lasted until 1970. (now Cummings & Pash)

Professional Memberships and Service: (Institute and Chapter Activities; Teaching) (John B. Cummings)Joined the Central New York Chapter, AIA in 1921, served as Secretary in 1922, Treasurer
in 1923, Vice President in 1924 and President in 1925.He was elected Secretary of the Institute for two terms (1953-55) and President for the
1955-56 term refusing a second term to break the two term precedent.

He was elected to the College of Fellows in 1948

Other Affiliations: (Religious, Fraternal, Political, Social)Broome County Chamber of Commerce - Rotary Club (President 1935-36), Governor of the
172nd District of Rotary International. President of the Alumni Association of the
College of Architecture, Cornell University. Secretary and President of the Cornell
Club of Binghamton. (Continued on back). Elder of the West Presbyterian Church.Public Service: (Civil and Military; Community, State, National)

U.S. Army Air Service 1917-19 - First Lt.

Member and former president of the New York State Board of Examiners - ten years.

Vice chairman of the NY State Building Code Commission; (took a leading part in the
development of the State Building Code). (Cont. on back)Published Material: (Articles and Addresses; Executed Work; Biographical Data)

Contributing editor to the AIA Journal with "the Draughtsman's Page"

Author of the "Architect-Citizen" - AIA Journal, January 1946

Contributor - Empire State Architect and Journal, N.Y. State School Boards Association

Honorary Corresponding Member: Royal Institute of British Architects; Royal Architectural
Institute of Canada; Phillipine Institute of Architects;
El Colegio Nacional De Arquitectos (Cuba)Federal Activities

- Federal Housing Administration - Inspector 1932-35
- Member of Jury - Montpelier, Vt. P.O. Competition
- Member of National Association of Planning Officials
- Chairman of Jury for the competition for the American
Embassy in London

(OVER)

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

Mr. Cummings was a member of the Panel of Community Consultants of the New York State Division of Housing, and of special committees on Schoolhouse, Ventilation and Illumination of the New York State Department of Education. He was a member of the Mayor's Emergency Housing Committee in Binghamton. From 1930-38 he was a member of City Planning Commission in Binghamton, serving as Chairman in 1936-38. In 1935 he was a member of the Executive Committee of the Building Code Commission of the city of Binghamton. In 1943 he became a member of the Broome County (where Binghamton is located) Planning Board serving as Executive Secretary from 1943 to 1944. In September 1943 he conceived and organized the Broome County Community Council. He served (during WW II) as Director of Civilian War Services of the Broome County and Binghamton War Councils. He was a founding member of the New York State Citizens Council (1943) and served as a Director. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Broome County Community Council of Social Agencies and Chairman of its committees on Community Planning. He was Vice President of the Binghamton Civic Educational Forum; past president (1939-40) of the Binghamton Chamber of Commerce, and (1932-33) of its Live Wire Club; member of the Binghamton Torch Club and American Legion Post No. 60.

He designed the Binghamton Federal Building, Windsor Central School, Alexander Hamilton School, Benjamin Franklin School, Waverly High School, Tioga Center Central School and the Spencer Central School. He also designed buildings for the Wyoming Conference Home, Binghamton Gas Company, Vail-Ballou Press, Cloverdale Creamery and the Crane Co. office building. The Firm of Cummings and Pash with Mr. George Cummings acting as consultant designed Government Plaza (Binghamton) which combines, in one complex, municipal, county and state government office buildings and which received an Honorable Mention Award at the New York State Convention in 1973. Mr. Cummings also served as consultant on the Cummings and Pash Fairview Home project.

Mr. Cummings fell, while stepping up on a curb, fell backward and suffered a skull fracture. This happened on Saturday morning, March 23 while walking with Mrs. Cummings. He lost consciousness four hours later, never to regain it. He died at 4:15 PM on Thursday March 28th. He was buried in Vestal Hills Memorial Park, Vestal, N.Y. (a suburb of Binghamton).

Mr. Cummings was an easy man to love and respect. He gave himself to his fellow man unstintingly and always with a smile. The Chapter and the Institute and the profession has lost a valued person. His son John B. Cummings expressed the feelings of all of us when he wrote: "Born on February 11, 1890, my father enjoyed 84 years of a full life. He was a gentleman and a gentle man. I am lucky for having known him all of my life".

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

Compiled by: Charles E. Rhinehart, Executive Director Date: April 23, 1974

Acknowledgements: Background materials were taken from a letter by Mr. Cummings late partner Charles H. Conrad, AIA (died Jul. 7, 1971) in a letter dtd. April 9, 1947. Also material from the Straight-Edge of Dec. 1969 (Issue dedicated to Mr. Cummings) and the notices from the N.Y. Times (3-31-74), The Binghamton Evening Press (3-29-74) and the Binghamton Sun-Bulletin (3-29-74). This information in the member files of the Central New York Chapter, AIA

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George Bain Cummings, a native of New Hampshire; ~~was~~ graduated from the College of Architecture, Cornell, ~~University,~~ in 1912. ~~He~~ Was brought up in the office of Carrère ~~and~~ Hastings, ~~in~~ New York, ~~City~~ until ~~the~~ first World War, ^I during which he served for 16 months in the A.E.F. ~~as a 1st Lt. kiwi in~~ the Air Service. In the year following the war, ~~he was~~ head draftsman for Trowbridge ~~and~~ Ackerman, ~~in~~ New York. In May, 1920, ~~he~~ moved to Binghamton. ~~His~~ Association with Charles Henry Conrad, ^(Conrad - Cummings) ~~was~~ effected in March, 1926.

~~A member of the A.I.A. since 1921, he~~ ~~has~~ served in the various offices of the Central New York Chapter, being President in the years 1924-26. In 1942, ~~he was~~ appointed Director of the Institute for the New York ~~District~~ to fill out the unexpired term of Clement Newkirk, ~~-serving to the end of the Cincinnati convention in 1943.~~ ~~He is Vice-Chairman of the Institute Committee on Contract Documents.~~ ~~He is a member of the New York~~ ~~Association of Architects.~~ ^{State}

Since 1938 ~~he has been~~ a member of the New York State Board of ~~E~~xaminers of Architects. ~~He is a~~ Member of special committees of the New York State Department of ~~E~~ducation on problems of ~~S~~choolhouse Heating and ~~V~~entilation, ~~S~~choolhouse Illumination, and ~~S~~chool Building Materials, and is an ~~an~~ advisory architect for the National Council on ~~S~~choolhouse Planning. ~~He is a~~ Member of the ~~recently appointed~~ Panel of Community Consultants to aid the New York State Housing Division. ~~He is President of the Alumni Association of the College of Architecture, Cornell University, and a Director of the Cornell University Alumni Association.~~

~~In~~ civic life he is a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of the New York State Citizens Council, Chairman of the Broome County Community Council, member of the executive committee of the Broome County Council of Social Agencies, Vice President of the Binghamton Civic Educational Forum, and past President of the Binghamton Chamber of Commerce, and of its Live Wire Club. He is a ruling elder of the Presbyterian Church, member of Tau Beta Pi Fraternity,

George Bain Cummings - contu.

~~Binghamton Rotary Club (past Governor of the 172nd District of Rotary International), Binghamton Torch Club and the American Legion.~~

~~The firm of Conrad and Cummings are architects of the Federal Post-office and Court House in Binghamton, of 25 or more schoolhouses in the city and region, of several hospital buildings including projected buildings to house 1260 mental patients at the Binghamton State Hospital, of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, ^{etc.} and other important public and private buildings.~~

Below: Institute Press Release - New Fellows
June 25, 1948

George Bain Cummings, of 79 Front Street, Binghamton, New York, was cited as "an able practitioner and school architect," by the A.I.A. "He has given generously of his time and energy in promoting understanding of community planning and the architect's responsibility to serve his city and his region."

He has designed in Binghamton the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, service building and recreation park, and the First Church of Christ Scientist. In other New York cities he has made the plans for schools and residences. Mr. Cummings has served as a member of city and state committees on school buildings, emergency housing, city planning and building codes.