

"THE NEEDS OF THE SCHOOL THE LAW OF THE ARCHITECT"

HERBERT L. CAIN
Church Architect

51 GRACE SECURITIES BLDG.
RICHMOND, VA.

1709 ARCH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

RICHMOND, VA.

Nov. 26, 1926.

Mr. Edward C. Kemper,
American Institute of Architects,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

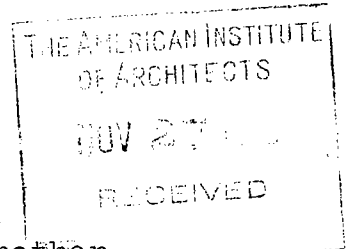
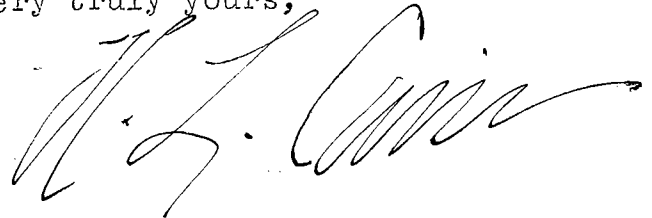
I would appreciate if you would advise me whether
or not Mr. Raymond S. Holt, who is associated with Mr. B. Stanley
Simmons is a member of the American Institute of Architects.
I presume if he is he would be attached to the Washington chapter.

I would also be glad if you would advise whether or
not Mr. B. Stanley Simmons is a member of the American Institute.

Thanking you in advance for this information, for
which I enclose an addressed stamped envelope, I am

Very truly yours,

HLC/B



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

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COPY

November 27, 1926.

Dear Sir:-

In response to yours of November 26, Mr. Raymond S. Holt is not a member of the American Institute of Architects, though Mr. B. Stanley Simmons with whom he is associated is a Member.

Very truly yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Herbert L. Cain,
201 Grace Securities Building,
Richmond, Virginia.

K:VB

COPY TO

FILES PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER

An Architect's Legacy

I read Benjamin Forgey's Cityscape article "Reclaiming a Center of Jewish Life" [Style, Feb 1.] with great interest and enjoyment. The reopening of the D.C. Jewish Community Center in its original building after a 30-year absence is an exciting event, but my particular attention was focused on the recognition Mr. Forgey gave to the architect, B. Stanley Simmons, my grandfather.

Among Mr. Simmons's living descendants are one son, B. Stanley Jr., 11 grandchildren and countless great and great-great-grandchildren. We all appreciate this opportunity to call attention to the man about whom the Evening Star said on Dec. 16, 1902:

"An architect who has added to the beauty and growth of this city . . . Mr. Simmons is capable and enter-

prising; these qualities, added to an energetic spirit have brought him deserved success."

There is one correction to the article: B. Stanley Simmons was not a New York architect; he was born in Charles County, Md., coming to Washington when he was 10 years old. He graduated from Boston Institute of Technology (now MIT) and returned to the District, where he lived and practiced architecture until his death in 1931 at age 60.

Among his best-known works are: the National Metropolitan Bank (15th and G streets NW, 1905), the Elks Club (919 H St. NW, 1906), which unfortunately no longer stands. He designed the Fairfax Hotel (now the Ritz-Carlton) at 21st Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW (1921), and the Barr Building, the first high-rise office building on Farragut Square (1929).

He also designed many distinguished larger apartment buildings, including the Embassy at Mount Pleasant and Argonne streets NW, the Belvedere at 13th Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW and the Wyoming on Columbia Road NW (also a registered landmark).

After so many years have passed since our grandfather practiced his profession, it is inspiring to us, his family, to know that there are lasting memorials to his memory.

JANE SIMMONS JOHNSON
Montgomery Village

Letters must be exclusive to The Post, must be signed and must include the writer's home address and home and business telephone numbers. Because of space limitations, those published are subject to abridgment. Although we are unable to acknowledge those letters we cannot publish, we appreciate the interest and value the views of those who take the time to send us their comments. Letters intended for publication should be addressed to Letters to the Editor.

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Simmons, B. Stanley

L'Enfant Society Biography

Name: Simmons, B. Stanley

Trust Properties:

1. 1414 21st Street, NW: 1889
2. 1729-31 Connecticut Avenue, NW: 1891
3. 418 10th Street, NW: 1901
4. Renovation of 1821 21st Street, NW: 1906

Born: March 10, 1872, Native of Washington

Died: September 8, 1931

Citations:

1. Washington Star obituary, September 9, 1931
2. Washington Post obituary, September 9, 1931
3. Withey, p. 555
4. Who's Who in the Nation's Capital, 1921-31
5. National Archives Permit File: 254 permits, 1890-1926

Of all the architects listed here, B. Stanley Simmons ranks among the most prolific. The National Archives permit file records over 250 entries for Simmons, with buildings that run the gamut from residential additions to offices, hotels and banks. Unlike other successful architects, who limited their practice to the business district and upper northwest neighborhoods, Simmons designed buildings throughout the city. He worked with every major developer at some point, but most frequently with Harry Wardman, Franklin Sanner and Lester Barr.

Much of Simmons' success can be attributed to his competent handling of a number of different styles. As with many of his contemporaries, he tended to design for each building type in an "appropriate" style. Public buildings, such as the National Metropolitan Bank, the Jewish [sic] Community Center, and the Fairfax (now Ritz-Carleton) Hotel were clothed in classical revival styles. The U.S. Storage Company Building, 418 10th Street, is reminiscent of H.H. Richardson's Romanesque Marshall Field Warehouse. 1414 21st Street, takes a more eclectic view of the Richardsonian Romanesque by combining it with a Mansard roof and classical cornice. Similarly, Simmons would employ Tudor motifs in his school designs and the machine-like "moderne" for garages and auto showrooms.

Simmons received his training in architecture at the Boston School of Technology (now M.I.T.), having attended District Parochial schools and the Maryland Institute prior to his professional studies. He exhibited frequently with the Washington Architectural Club and participated in several civic and social organizations: the Washington Board of Trade, Chamber of Commerce, Columbia Historical Society, Elks Club, Knights of Columbus, and Mount Pleasant Citizen's Association.

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