

GERTRUDE SAWYER
ARCHITECT
1701 Connecticut Avenue—Michigan 2020
WASHINGTON, D. C.

RECEIVED
1939 JUN -1 AM 9:18
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 35, 1939.

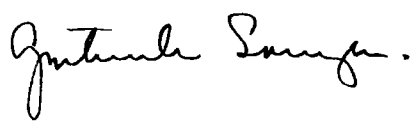
The Secretary,
American Institute of Architects,
The Octagon,
1741 New York Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing my application for membership in the American Institute of Architects, together with my check for \$50.00, covering the admission fee and annual dues.

I understand that it is not necessary to accompany the application with photographs or plans of completed work if one has been registered in the District of Columbia, or elsewhere, by examination. When I was first registered in the District of Columbia, I was examined in office practice, construction, and engineering. At the time that I was registered in the State of Ohio, I took the Senior examination in the District of Columbia, and my registration here now is "by senior examination".

Yours very truly,



GS:kh
Encl.

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UNDER authority to elect members, as vested in me by The Board of Directors of The American Institute of Architects, by resolution of The Executive Committee adopted at its meeting on December 10-13, 1934; and in accord with the attached report of The Board of Examiners, I hereby declare

Gertrude Sawyer

.....
elected a corporate member of The American Institute of Architects and assigned to membership in the Washington D. C. Chapter, effective July 15, 1939.

APPLICATION NO AP 135

Dated (Undated) 19 .
Received June 1, 1939.
Granted July 11, 1939.

MEMBERSHIP NO 435

Chas. J. Lytle Secretary

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

RECORD OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INSTITUTE

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*see order
June 22, 1939
H. J. Sawyer*

- Name of applicant... Gertrude Sawyer..... Chapter ... Washington, D. C.
- B. Address of applicant .. 1701 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C.
- C. Applicant proposed by Horace W. Peaslee and .. W.H. Irwin Fleming.....
- D. Application received with check for \$. 50.00.... on June 1, 19 39.
Check
- E. Application returned for correction (in amount of \$25.00) June 7, 19 39.
(corrected check rec'd. June 23, 39
- F. Application in due order on June 22, 19 39.
- G. Notices sent to chapter executive committee:
 - (a) Form S11, reasonable time ending on .. July .7., 19 39, on June 7, 1939.
 - (b) Form S12, 30 day extension ending on Aug. .7., 1939., on July 7, 1939 .
- H. Acknowledgments to applicant, proposers, and chapter on June 7, 19 39.
- I. Certified resolution of chapter executive committee recommending admission ~~on that application be denied~~ received on July 10, 19 39.
- J. No report from chapter executive committee on 19 .
- K. Application sent to The Board of Examiners on July 11, 19 39.
- L. The Board of Examiners reported on application on July 11, 19 39.
- M. Applicant ~~was~~ admitted on July 15, 19 39.
- N. Notice and certificate to applicant and notice of assignment to chapter and letter to proposers on July 15, 19 39.
- O. Notice of denial of application to chapter and applicant and \$... returned to applicant on 19 .
- P. Questionnaires, in re: Registration: Wash.D.C. June 7, 1939. Rec'd. 6/12/39
Maryland. " " " Rec'd. 6/16/39
Florida " " " Rec'd. 6/14/39
Ohio " " " Rec'd. 6/12/39
Pennsylvania " " " Rec'd. 6/12/39

A member, by virtue of his membership in The Institute, becomes a member of the chapter of The Institute within the territory of which he resides or has his place of business, as he elects, but he pays an admission fee to The Institute only. The admission fee to membership in The Institute normally is twenty-five dollars. (For 1936 this fee was reduced to five dollars.)

A member pays annual dues both to The Institute and to the chapter. The annual dues to The Institute normally are twenty-five dollars (for 1936 Institute dues were reduced to twenty dollars) and those to the chapter are fixed in its by-laws.

Normally the period between the time of filing

an application and the time it is acted on by The Board of The Institute is four months. The period will be longer if the application must be returned to the applicant for corrections or if additional exhibits of the applicant's work are required by The Board of Examiners.

If an application is denied, the amount prepaid by the applicant for annual dues and for admission fee, less five dollars for examination fee, will be returned to him.

An applicant whose application has been denied without prejudice may reapply for admission to membership a year or more after the date of The Secretary's notice to him of his non-admission.

I, the undersigned, do hereby apply for corporate membership in The American Institute of Architects.

1. My full name is Gertrude Sawyer .

2. State whether a natural or a naturalized citizen.

2. I am a natural citizen of the United States .

3. My legal residence is in the City of Washington ,

County of State of District of Columbia .

4. State whether residence or office address.

4. My address in The Institute records will be 1701 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.

Street

City Washington , State D.C. .

5. State whether as a practicing architect, a teacher, a public official, etc.

5. I am engaged in the profession of architecture as practicing architect .

6. I desire to be a member of the Washington Chapter.

7. I declare that I have read the by-laws, the rules and regulations, and the Standards of Practice of The American Institute of Architects, and the by-laws and rules and regulations of the chapter of which I desire to become a member, and that I understand the duties, responsibilities and obligations thereunder of a member of The Institute, and I do hereby expressly agree and declare that, if admitted to membership, I will to the best of my ability abide by and comply with such by-laws, rules, and regulations, and will abide by and uphold said Standards of Practice and conduct my practice of the profession accordingly. I am financially able to undertake all pecuniary obligations of a member to The Institute and to the chapter.

8. Exhibit required.

8. I filed the duplicate of this application with the secretary of the chapter above named and attach his receipt therefor.

9. I enclose my check for \$, for admission fee and the current annual dues. It is my understanding that if for any reason you do not admit me to membership, all of said amount will be returned to me, except five dollars which you will retain as an examination fee.

Date 19 .

Sign full name in ink

STATISTICS

10. Date of birth **Apr. 2, 1895** Place of birth **Tuscola, Illinois.**

11. I am registered or licensed to practice architecture as follows:

States	Registration or license numbers	Date of last registration
District of Columbia	134	April, 1936
Maryland	193-R	July, 1936
Florida	1334	June, 1938
Ohio	1191	Sept., 1938
Pennsylvania	1640	Oct., 1938.

(a) I hold a Certificate No. of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

EDUCATION

12. I attended the following schools:

- (a) High School **Norborne High School**, City **Norborne** State **Mo.** (c) (d) (e) Write in initials of degree.
Graduation year **1913**
- (b) Private School **Tudor Hall**, Name of School **Indianapolis**, City **Ind.** State
Graduation year **1914**
- (c) College or University **University of Illinois** for **4** years.
Urbana, Ill.
Graduation Year **1918**
Degree **B.S.**
- (d) College or University **Cambridge School of Architecture** for **4** years.
and Landscape Arch. (Graduate School of Smith College)
Graduation Year **1923**
Degree **Master in Architecture.**
- (e) Post-graduate at _____ for _____ years.
Degree _____

13. I held the following named scholarships:

- (a) _____
Year _____
- (b) _____
Year _____

14. I have traveled in the following countries:

- in **England, France, Italy and Switzerland** Year **1925**
- in _____ Year _____
- in _____ Year _____

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

15. I list below, in chronological order, the periods of my training as draftsman, the names and addresses of my principal employers, and my classification as draftsman while employed by each:

<i>Classification</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Name of Employer</i>	<i>City</i>
	Nov. 1922	June, 1923	Edward Delk	Kansas City, Mo.
	Oct. 1923	Jan. 1928	Horace W. Peaslee	Washington, D.C.

Write in Classification Column the word Student, Junior, or Senior, to indicate your classification as draftsman in each case.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

16. I list below, in chronological order, the periods during which and the states in which I have practiced architecture as an individual or as a member of a firm or corporation:

<i>State</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Name of Firm or Corporation</i>
Washington, D.C.	Jan. 1928	Jan. 1934	Associate Member, Office of Horace W. Peaslee
Washington, D.C.	Jan. 1934	present	

If your practice was individual do not write in the last column to the right.

17. I have taught architecture or the arts and sciences allied therewith as follows:

<i>State</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Name of School or College</i>	<i>My Title</i>
	Summers of 1930 & 1931		Vassar College Euthenics Institute	Lecturer

18. In my capacity of architect, I have held the public offices listed below:

<i>Title of Office</i>	<i>City and State</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
------------------------	-----------------------	-------------	-----------

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19. I list below and attach photographs of two or more of the buildings or other works of which I am the author.

<i>Name of Work</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>
Estate of Mr. Jefferson Patterson,	Wallville,	Maryland.
Residence of Hon. J. Edgar Murdock,	Washington,	D.C.
Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Scott, II,	Washington,	D.C.
Junior League Building,	Washington,	D.C.

Exhibits required.

MEMBERSHIP IN NON-ARCHITECTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

20. I am a member of civic or semi-public organizations listed below:

<i>Name of Organization</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>
-----------------------------	-------------	--------------

21. I have held offices in non-architectural organizations as follows:

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name of Organization</i>	<i>Year</i>
---------------	-----------------------------	-------------

22. I have written the following papers relating to architecture and the arts and sciences allied therewith:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Publication</i>	<i>Year</i>
--------------	--------------------	-------------

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MEMBERSHIPS IN ARCHITECTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

23. Member of Institute *Reason for Termination*
24. Junior of Institute
25. Associate of following Chapters:
Washington, D.C. present
26. Member of State Association in *State* from to
27. I have held offices in the architectural organizations listed below:
Office *Architectural Organization* *Year*
28. I am not indebted to The Institute or to any of its chapters or state association members. No.
(If there are exceptions, state details)

I certify that each and all of the foregoing statements are true and correct.

Signed *Gentile Lanza* *Applicant*

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have read the statements made herein above by the applicant and believe them to be correct. I vouch for ^{her} ~~him~~ and for ^{his} ~~his~~ honorable standing in this community and in ^{her} ~~his~~ profession. I believe ~~she~~ is fully qualified for membership and I propose ^{her} ~~him~~ therefor. I have known the applicant for 16 years. I have known the applicant for 15 years.

Signed *Wesley Carter* FAIA *Proposer*

Signed *M. Irvin Fleming* *Proposer*

1228 ...

1228 ...

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

COPY

Copy to the Director,
Middle Atlantic District
Proposers:
Messrs. Horace W. Peaslee, F.A.I.A.
W.H. Irwin Fleming, A.I.A.

June 7, 1939

Dear Miss Sawyer:

Your application for membership in The Institute and its Washington, D. C. Chapter, with your check for \$50.00 attached, has been received. Your desire to become a member of The Institute is appreciated by The Board.

Your application is in due order and The Secretary will do everything he can to expedite its progress.

Inasmuch as the current initiation fee is \$5.00 and the current dues are \$20.00, only \$25.00 is required to be paid when an application is filed. Therefore, we are returning your check in the amount of \$50.00 which accompanied your application, and ask that you send another for \$25.00.

Upon receipt of the new check further action will be taken as promptly as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Chas. J. Ingraham

Secretary

Miss Gertrude Sawyer,
1701 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

CTI/g
Enclosure

GERTRUDE SAWYER
ARCHITECT
1701 Connecticut Avenue—Michigan 2020
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 23, 1939

The American Institute of Architects,
1741 New York Avenue, "The Octagon",
Washington, D. C.

Attention Mr. Chas T. Ingham

Dear Mr. Ingham:

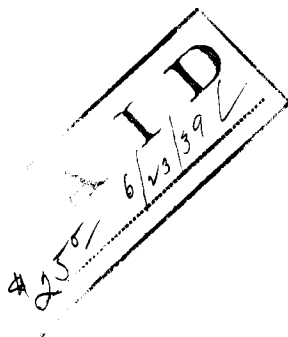
Thank you very much for returning my
check.

I am sending back one for \$25.00 as requested.

Very truly yours,

Gertrude Sawyer

GS/em
Enclosure



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RECEIVED
1939 JUN 12 AM 9:29
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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.
Office of The Secretary

RECORD OF REGISTRATION
OF

Gertrude Sawyer, Washington, D.C.
(Name of Applicant)

SECRETARY,
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS,

Address 375 Education Building, Harrisburg, Pa.

Dear Sir:

The above named applicant for membership in The American Institute of Architects is an architect practicing in your state.

To qualify for such membership, an applicant, if resident in a state having registration or licensing laws for architects, must be registered or licensed by the state to practice architecture therein.

Will you please answer the following questions relating to the applicant's registration, to assist The Institute in determining his eligibility for membership? A duplicate of the form is enclosed for your files.

Date June 7, 1939

Chas. J. Ingham
Secretary

1. Is the applicant registered or licensed to practice architecture in your state? Yes
2. Was his registration or licensing by examination?.....or by exemption? Class "B", exemption
3. What was the scope of the examination?.....
4. What was the period of the examination?.....days. Written examination.....hours; Oral examination.....hours.
5. When examined, did applicant have a certificate from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards? No. If so, give Certificate No.
6. Date of last registration Oct. 29, 1938 Registration No. 1640 Is it current?.....
first **Registration in good standing.**

James W. Minick, Sec.
(Signature of Secretary of Board)

Pennsylvania Board of Examiners of
Architects
(Name of Board)

Date June 8, 1939

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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.
Office of The Secretary

RECORD OF REGISTRATION
OF

Gertrude Sawyer, Washington, D. C.
(Name of Applicant)

SECRETARY,
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS,

Address 810 - 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The above named applicant for membership in The American Institute of Architects is an architect practicing in your state.

To qualify for such membership, an applicant, if resident in a state having registration or licensing laws for architects, must be registered or licensed by the state to practice architecture therein.

Will you please answer the following questions relating to the applicant's registration, to assist The Institute in determining his eligibility for membership? A duplicate of the form is enclosed for your files.

Date June 7, 1939

Chas. J. Hughes
Secretary

1. Is the applicant registered or licensed to practice architecture in your state? Yes
2. Was his registration or licensing by examination? Yes or by exemption? _____
3. What was the scope of the examination? April 1926. Written exam in Construction and Practice.
July 1938. Senior exam.
4. What was the period of the examination? _____ days. Written examination 3 hours; Oral examination 0.00 hours.
5. When examined, did applicant have a certificate from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards? No. If so, give Certificate No. _____
6. Date of last registration May 1 1939. Registration No. 134. Is it current? Yes

R. F. Benson
(Signature of Secretary of Board)

Board of Examiners and Registrars of
Architects, Washington, D. C.

(Name of Board)

Date June 9 1939

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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.
Office of The Secretary

RECORD OF REGISTRATION
OF
Gertrude Sawyer, Washington, D. C.
(Name of Applicant)

SECRETARY,
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS,

Address 810 - 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The above named applicant for membership in The American Institute of Architects is an architect practicing in your state.

To qualify for such membership, an applicant, if resident in a state having registration or licensing laws for architects, must be registered or licensed by the state to practice architecture therein.

Will you please answer the following questions relating to the applicant's registration, to assist The Institute in determining his eligibility for membership? A duplicate of the form is enclosed for your files.

Date June 7, 1939

Charles J. Ingraham
Secretary

1. Is the applicant registered or licensed to practice architecture in your state? Yes
2. Was his registration or licensing by examination? Yes or by exemption? _____
3. What was the scope of the examination? April, 1938. Written examination in construction and practice.
April, 1938 - tender examination
4. What was the period of the examination? _____ days. Written examination 5 hours; Oral examination Two hours.
5. When examined, did applicant have a certificate from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards? No. If so, give Certificate No. _____
6. Date of last registration May 1 1939 Registration No. 100 Is it current? Yes

R. F. Buresford
(Signature of Secretary of Board)
Board of Examiners and Registrars of
Architects, Washington, D. C.

Date June 8, 1939

(Name of Board)

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7/1/39

RECEIVED
JUN 12 AM 9:35
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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

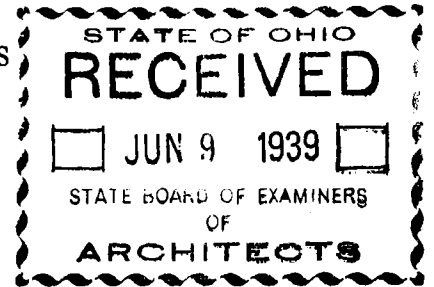
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Office of The Secretary

RECORD OF REGISTRATION

OF

Gertrude Sawyer, Washington, D.C.
(Name of Applicant)



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SECRETARY,

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS,

Address A.I.U. Building, Columbus, Ohio

Dear Sir:

The above named applicant for membership in The American Institute of Architects is an architect practicing in your state.

To qualify for such membership, an applicant, if resident in a state having registration or licensing laws for architects, must be registered or licensed by the state to practice architecture therein.

Will you please answer the following questions relating to the applicant's registration, to assist The Institute in determining his eligibility for membership? A duplicate of the form is enclosed for your files.

Date June 7, 1939

Chas. J. Sawyer

1. Is the applicant registered or licensed to practice architecture in your state? Yes
2. Was his registration or licensing by examination?.....or by exemption? Exemption
3. What was the scope of the examination?.....
4. What was the period of the examination?.....days. Written examination.....hours; Oral examination.....hours.
5. When examined, did applicant have a certificate from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards? No. If so, give Certificate No.....
6. Date of last registration 12-31-38 19..... Registration No. 1191 Is it current? Yes

R.C. Kempter

(Signature of Secretary of Board)
Ohio State Board of Examiners of
Architects

Date 6-10-39 19.....

(Name of Board)



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1939 JUN 16 AM 9:13

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.
Office of The Secretary

RECORD OF REGISTRATION
OF

Gertrude Sawyer, Washington, D.C.
(Name of Applicant)

SECRETARY,
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS,

Address Room 300 - 14 East Lexington St., Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

The above named applicant for membership in The American Institute of Architects is an architect practicing in your state.

To qualify for such membership, an applicant, if resident in a state having registration or licensing laws for architects, must be registered or licensed by the state to practice architecture therein.

Will you please answer the following questions relating to the applicant's registration, to assist The Institute in determining his eligibility for membership? A duplicate of the form is enclosed for your files.

Date..... June 7, 19 39.

Chas. J. Ingham
Secretary

1. Is the applicant registered or licensed to practice architecture in your state?..... Yes
2. Was his registration or licensing by examination?..... By reciprocity, on basis of being examined by the
3. What was the scope of the examination?..... District of Columbia Board.
A written examination in Construction and Practice.
4. What was the period of the examination?..... days. Written examination 3 hrs. each; Oral examination..... hours.
5. When examined, did applicant have a certificate from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards?
..... If so, give Certificate No.....
6. Date of last registration..... July 16..... 19 36.. Registration No. 193-R..... Is it current? Yes

James Edmund J. Seely *John H. Craft* Ex. Secy.
(Signature of Secretary of Board)

Maryland Board of Examiners for
Registration and Licensing of Architects
(Name of Board)

Date..... June 13..... 19 39.



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1939 JUN 14 PM 2:56

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Office of The Secretary

RECORD OF REGISTRATION

OF

Gertrude Sawyer, Washington, D.C.

(Name of Applicant)

SECRETARY,

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS,

Address 925 Barnett National Bank Bldg., Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Sir:

The above named applicant for membership in The American Institute of Architects is an architect practicing in your state.

To qualify for such membership, an applicant, if resident in a state having registration or licensing laws for architects, must be registered or licensed by the state to practice architecture therein.

Will you please answer the following questions relating to the applicant's registration, to assist The Institute in determining his eligibility for membership? A duplicate of the form is enclosed for your files.

Date June 7, 19 39

Chas. J. Ingraham
Secretary

1. Is the applicant registered or licensed to practice architecture in your state? Yes
2. Was his registration or licensing by examination? No or by exemption? Yes
3. ~~What was the scope of the examination?~~ Submitted evidence showing registration and in good standing in District of Columbia.
4. What was the period of the examination? X days. Written examination X hours; Oral examination X hours.
5. When examined, did applicant have a certificate from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards? X. If so, give Certificate No. X
6. Date of last registration June 30 19 38 Registration No. 1234 Is it current? Yes
June 6, 1939 6-30-40

William C. Gentry
(Signature of Secretary of Board)

Date June 13 19 39

Florida Board of Architecture
(Name of Board)

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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

July 15, 1939

Dear Miss Sawyer:

The Secretary is happy to inform you that your application for membership in The Institute was acted on favorably by The Board of Directors and that you were admitted to corporate membership in The Institute and assigned to membership in the Washington D. C. Chapter, effective on July 15, 1939. You will be a member of that chapter, or of some other chapter if you later transfer thereto, until your membership in The Institute terminates.

Your certificate of membership, duly executed by the officers of The Institute, will be sent in due course.

The Board of Directors welcomes you to membership in The Institute and The Secretary's office is at your service to the extent of its powers.

The policies and activities of The Institute are developed largely from problems arising within the chapters. By taking an active part in your chapter affairs you will contribute to the advancement of the objects of The Institute and will increase the benefits to be derived from Institute membership.

We bespeak your active cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Chas. J. Hughes
Secretary.

Miss Gertrude Sawyer, A.I.A.,
1701 Connecticut Avenue, n.w.,
Washington, D. C.

CTI:MS

COPY TO

FILES PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER

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GERTRUDE SAWYER ARCHITECT
1701 Connecticut Avenue—Michigan 2020
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1942 OCT -7 PM 3:01

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Oct. 5, 1942

American Institute of Architects.

The Octagon,
Washington D. C.

Gentlemen,

I had thought I would like to take advantage of the offer to pay the Institute dues in three installments but it has become so irksome to be debited each month that I am sending in the last installment though it is not due until December 31st. It seems to me it would be a better plan to send out one bill the first of the month when the money is due or not make the offer of the three payments.

Please change my mailing address to 2120 Florida Ave. N.W. Washington D. C.

with

Yours truly,

Gertrude Sawyer.

PAID
\$65 1942 Dues

in full 10/8/42

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

COPY

file

October 12, 1942

Dear Miss Sawyer:

Thank you for your letter of October 5 and remittance in the amount of \$6.00 which pays your Institute dues in full for the year 1942.

We have noted your change of address to 2120 Florida Avenue, N. W.

We fully understand your feeling about repetitious bills for Institute dues, but here at The Octagon we must follow the general procedure indicated by The Board.

Some years ago an experiment was tried - in sending to members one statement only - on January 1st.

But so many of those statements were overlooked that the custom was discontinued, and since then it has been found that monthly statements are essential.

We are sure you will appreciate that the monthly statements we have sent to you have been impersonal, and we do ask your forbearance for the reason indicated above.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary

Miss Gertrude Sawyer, A.I.A.
2120 Florida Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

ECK:LF

*architect
Biography
Sawyer Gertrude*



OLD GEORGETOWN SETTING—Miss Gertrude Sawyer, a lieutenant commander in the Civil Engineer Corps naval reserve and a successful local woman architect, poses in the living room of the Georgetown home she redesigned.—Harris & Ewing Photo.

FOR THE SEABEES

Woman Architect Came to Their Aid

By RUTH DEAN

A tall, poised, soft-spoken Washington woman architect who once assisted in housing

14,000 WAVES during World War II is an example of the fact that sometimes the best advice to take is your own.

If she had taken her father's advice, Miss Gertrude Sawyer might not now hold the distinction of being the only woman reserve "Seabee" officer and a successful architect in civilian life.

When she was still a school girl back in Kansas City, Mo., Miss Sawyer told her father that someday she wanted to be an architect. Feeling that architecture was certainly not a woman's field, he tried to dissuade her.

Recalling his words in an interview in her Georgetown office recently, Miss Sawyer said her father in his sincere concern for her choice, told her "no one would trust a woman with building a house—the roof might fall in."

Still Determined

By the time she reached college age, she was still determined. So as a compromise, she agreed on landscape architecture as her major at the University of Illinois, where she got her bachelor of science degree. A further year's study in town planning at the Harvard Graduate School of Landscape Architecture only intensified her desire to be a full-time architect.

One day in drafting class, the professor caught her trying her hand at drawing building plans instead of park

housework or cooking. That's what makes domestic architecture so interesting. No two jobs are alike. You must adapt a house to the personality of its owner."

Probably no greater confidence could have been expressed in Miss Sawyer's ability than when she was called to duty by the United States Navy in World War II to help them meet a serious housing crisis.

She'd given up her practice at the beginning of the war to go to work in the engineering department of Fairchild Aircraft company in Hagerstown, Md., when she got her surprise call to duty.

Housing Crisis

Organization of the WAVES and their eventual concentration in large numbers for duty here brought on the housing crisis. There were several men architects in the Civil Engineer Corps, but the public works officer of the Potomac River Naval Command thought women architectural consultants could better understand the needs of the 14,000 WAVES that had to be housed.

Miss Sawyer heard the call and gladly volunteered for duty. She and Lt. Kathleen F. Lux were the only two women architects on duty with the "Seabees" as the Civil Engineers Corps was popularly called. Lt. Lux is no longer in the reserve, so that leaves Miss Sawyer, now a lieutenant commander, the only woman reserve CEC officer.

Most of Miss Sawyer's work involved the adapting of building interiors already planned and constructed by the Bureau of Yards and Docks, so they could become temporary homes for women.

She exercised ingenuity and thrift. One lounge was equipped with "stripped ship" furnishings from the Normandie and USS Manhattan which had been converted for troop transport duty. Other barracks she furnished with tables and chairs secured from Government prison industries.

Souvenir of Service

One of her proud souvenirs of Navy service is a letter of citation from Admiral Ben Moreel, World War II chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, commending her for "the highly efficient manner in which she performed her duties, economically providing suitable and pleasing accommodations for all concerned."

As a reserve officer, Miss Sawyer continues her interest in naval affairs by attendance at regular meetings and activities. She and Lt. Comdr. Helen R. Fairbanks, USNR, Bureau of Yards and Docks historian, are the only women in the unit.

Sawyer, Gertrude

BS

Ill. 1918

March 1934 Smith

*5180 - 900 E. Harrison Ave
Apt B-30
Pomona, CA 91767*

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Archbold Lotate

and gladly volunteered for duty. She and Lt. Kathleen F. Lusk were the only two women architects on duty with the "Seabees" as the Civil Engineers Corps was popularly called. Lt. Lusk is no longer in the reserve, so that leaves Miss Sawyer, now a lieutenant commander, the only woman reserve CEC officer. Most of Miss Sawyer's work involved the adapting of buildings interiorly already planned and constructed by the Bureau of Yards and Docks, so they could become temporary homes for women. She exercised ingenuity and thrift. One lounge was equipped with "tripped ship" furnishings from the Normandie and USS Manhattan which had been converted for troop transport duty. Other barracks she furnished with tables and chairs secured from Government prison industries. Sawyer's service is a letter of appreciation from Admiral Ben Morel, World War II chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, commending her for "the highly efficient manner in which she performed her duties, economically providing suitable and pleasing accommodations for all concerned." As a reserve officer, Miss Sawyer continues her interest in naval affairs by attendance at regular meetings and activities. She and Lt. Command Helen R. Fairbanks, USNR, Bureau of Yards and Docks historian, are the only women in the unit. "Of course, we send regular reports on a title shoot or ambitious landing practice," she says, "but we do look forward to the annual Operation Seabee activity." The unit spends each week year making reports at sea by airplane and airplane.

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Came Here in 1923

She came to Washington in 1923. By 1934, she had established her own architectural practice. Miss Sawyer is not conscious of any discrimination against women architects. She recognizes the fact that "people who don't want a woman architect just don't come to you. But others see the advantage of your being able to interpret their individual needs because you are a woman. For example, every woman has her own way of doing

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Archibald Roberts
did much work for
Romans, CA 91707
APR B-30
900 E Harrison Ave
March 1934
Ill. 1918
Sawyer, Gertrude
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OFFICE OF GERTRUDE SAWYER, A.I.A. ARCHITECT
1640 WISCONSIN AVENUE, N. W. WASHINGTON 7, D. C.

February 7, 1969


The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Gentlemen:

I am retiring and closing my office for the practice of architecture. Mr. Rankin tells me that after the age of sixty-five one may become an emeritus member of the Institute. I would like to become such a member and I am returning my 1969 Dues Invoice for your records.

Please change my address in your files to 3216 Reservoir Road, N. W. 20007.

Sincerely yours,



Gertrude Sawyer

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March 12, 1969

The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Attention: Miss Marx

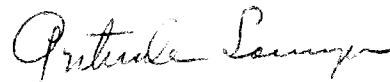
Gentlemen,

At the same time I wrote you, I sent a letter to the Washington-Metropolitan Chapter. When they replied they sent me two copies of the application for membership Emeritus and suggested that I return the filled in forms either to them or the Institute. I returned them to the chapter on February 28th.

If you have not by this time received a copy, let me know and I will forward the one inclosed in your letter of March 7th.

My address is now 3216 Reservoir Road,
N. W., Washington, D. C. 20007.

Sincerely yours,



Gertrude Sawyer

3/13/69



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Application for Membership Emeritus

TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS:

I wish to apply for Membership Emeritus in The Institute for the following reasons:

Check the appropriate reason

- I am more than 70 years of age. and am in the process of closing my office.
- I am 65 years of age, retired, and not engaged in the practice of architecture.
- I am unable to engage in the practice of architecture.

I have been in good standing in The Institute and the Washington-Metropolitan chapter for 15 successive years or more immediately preceding the date of this application.

Date February 28 19 69

Gertrude Sawyer
(APPLICANT'S FULL SIGNATURE IN INK)

The applicant may supplement the above reasons in writing below or on sheets which he shall attach to this application. Under exceptional conditions and circumstances, The Board of Directors may lessen the period of good standing but not the requirements as checked above.

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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

April 14, 1969

Miss Gertrude Sawyer, AIA
1640 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Sawyer:

It gives me pleasure to inform you that I have elected you a Member Emeritus of The Institute as of December 31, 1968.

The Treasurer's Office of The Institute and your component organization are being directed to adjust the records accordingly.

On behalf of The Officers and Board of Directors, I wish to take this opportunity to express my great appreciation for your support, throughout your many years of membership, of the work and projects undertaken by The Institute and its components for the cause of better architecture.

We hope that your interest in The Institute and Chapter will continue, even though you have now been relieved of all dues payments.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Preston M. Bolton, FAIA

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