

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1741 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

GEP

Member  
Steele, Wm. LaBarthe  
Sr.

THE OCTAGON

Inter-Office Communication

October 14, 1953

Memorandum:

Mr. Purves advises me he has received a long distance telephone call from a Mr. Steele (~~Wm~~ William LaBarthe Steele, Jr., of Omaha, Nebraska - member of A.I.A.) whose Father, Steele, Sr., was elected a Fellow in 1918.

The son wishes to obtain a copy of the citation of Fellowship as granted to Mr. Steele, and also wishes to know if there is any record in the nomination papers to the effect that his Father was architect for a Court House in Woodbury, Nebraska. Evidently, some question has been raised about his being architect for that building.

I am not even sure that, in 1918, nomination forms were use. The Convention Proceedings will have the information, I believe - and of course, there may be something in 1918 files.

*[Handwritten initials]*

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

*J*  
*members*  
*Steele, Wm LaBarthe*

Administration Building  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
October 21, 1953

Mr. William LaBarthe Steele, Jr., A.I.A.  
Electric Building  
412 - 17th & Harney Streets  
Omaha, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Steele:

Your inquiry relative to the citation of fellowship for your father has been referred to me to investigate as I am presently in charge of files.

Unfortunately, at that time there were no formal nomination papers for fellowship such as we have now, so that the record does not contain anything in respect to your father's activities. The nomination as made on the floor and recorded in the Proceedings is transcribed herewith for you.

In the biographical information submitted at the time of your father's death, we find that the Woodbury County Court House, Sioux City is listed as one of his principle works with George E. Elmslie associated. It might be that if we knew the date when the court house was constructed that it would be possible to find some reference to it in the periodical literature. I did check several books and scrapbooks on court houses but didn't find anything.

We regret we cannot give you the exact information you requested but hope that perhaps this will be of some assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

George E. Pettengill  
Librarian

GP:dm

Encl.  
Cc: Mr. Purves ✓

The President: William L. Steele has been nominated for advancement to Fellowship, and his name will be presented by Mr. Kemball.

Mr. Kemball: It is always a pleasure to offer for the Fellowship the name of a man who might qualify under any, if not all, of our requirements - design, structure, education and literature. It would be a far greater pleasure to me, however, if our Fellowship stood for some of the humanities of architectural brotherhood as well.

Thought for the welfare of his fellow practitioners and love of the American Institute of Architects are the conspicuous characteristics of William L. Steele, of Sioux City, and it is my honor to put in nomination his name.