

## **Bidlake, William Henry 1861 - 1938**



William Henry Bidlake [also known as W.H. Bidlake; and as William Bidlake] was born in Wolverhampton, England on 12 May 1862. After studying at Christ's College, Cambridge, he was articled to his father, George Bidlake (1829?-1892) in Wolverhampton). He then worked in the office of James Tait (1834?-1915) in 1882. Later that year he moved to London where worked as an assistant to Robert William Edis (1839-1927), and to George Frederick Bodley (1827-1907) and Thomas Garner (1839-1906) of Bodley & Garner up to 1886. He also attended the Royal Academy Schools in London in 1883. He qualified as an architect in 1887 and commenced independent practice as an architect in Birmingham that year. For a short period, he was associated with John Cotton (1844-1934).

From 1893 he lectured on the history of Architecture at Birmingham School of Architecture, and from 1919 to 1922 was Director of the School. He was also Professor of architecture at Royal Birmingham Society of Artists from 1902 to 1938. He was co-author, with Halsey Ralph Ricardo and John Cash, of *The Modern Home: A Book of British Domestic Architecture for Moderate Incomes* (1906).

Bidlake was a Pugin Student in 1885 and was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (ARIBA) in 1888 and a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (FRIBA) in 1922.

He exhibited at the Royal Academy in London and at the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists. An armchair designed by Bidlake and Arthur S. Dixon and made by the Birmingham Guild of Handicraft was shown at the 4th exhibition of the Arts & Crafts Exhibition Society in London in 1893.

Bidlake's address was given as 24 Waterloo Street, Birmingham in 1887; Victoria Buildings, Temple Row, Birmingham in 1926; 37 Waterloo Street, Birmingham in

1914 and 1926; and "Vespers", Fair Crouch Road, Wadhurst, East Sussex in 1930 and 1938..

Bidlake retired to East Sussex in 1923 and died in Wadhurst, East Sussex on 6 April 1938

A biographical file on William Henry Bidlake is available on request at the Enquiry Desk, Royal Institute of British Architects Library, London

Worked in

UK

Works

Architectural projects by Bidlake included The Dene, 2 Bracebridge Road, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham (1895-96); Woodside, 51 Bracebridge Road, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield (1898); 17 Barker Road, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham (1898); St Oswald's Church, Small Heath, Birmingham (1892-99); 18 Dora Road, Small Heath, Birmingham (1899); College of Art, Balsall Heath, Birmingham (1899); chancel, St Patrick's Church, Salter Street, Hockley Heath, Birmingham (1899); Woodgate, 37 Hartopp Road, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield (1900); Garth House, 47 Edgbaston Park Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham (1901); Emmanuel Church, Sparkbrook Birmingham (1901); St Agatha's Church, Stratford Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham (1901); 100 Sampson Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham (St Agatha's Vicarage) (1901); St Winnow, 22 Ladywood Road, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham (1902); Bishop Latimer Memorial Church, Winson Green, Birmingham (1904); The Knoll, Glebe Road, Oadby, Leicestershire (1907); St Andrew's Church, Oxhill Road, Handsworth, Birmingham (1907-09); restoration of St Matthew's Church, Shuttington, Warwickshire (1908-09); Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield (1909); gates and lodge, Handsworth Cemetery (1909); Mortuary Chapel, Handsworth Cemetery (1910); St Clears, 79 Farquhar Road, Birmingham (1914); Sparkhill United Church, Stratford Road (1932-33).

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See also List of Architectural Works of William Henry Bidlake (1861-1938) in Mitchell, Trevor. 'W. H. Bidlake' pp. 392-397 [**Bibliography below**]

## Bibliography

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Links

- Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Bidlake](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Bidlake)
- Mapping the Practice & Profession of Sculpture in Britain & Ireland 1851-1951  
[https://sculpture.gla.ac.uk/mapping/public/view/person.php?id=msib4\\_1207061277&search=](https://sculpture.gla.ac.uk/mapping/public/view/person.php?id=msib4_1207061277&search=)
- Dictionary of Scottish Architects 1660-1980  
<https://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/apex/r/dsa/dsa/architects?session=8536385575617>
- Historic England - Mortuary Chapel, Handsworth Cemetery  
<https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/grants/visit/mortuary-chapel-handsworth-cemetery-b21-8jt/>
- Historic England - 22, Ladywood Road, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham  
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- Historic England - 22, Ladywood Road, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham  
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- Historic England - Sparkhill United Church  
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- British Listed Buildings: 46 listed buildings by W. H. Bidlake  
<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/site-search/?q=%22W%20H%20Bidlake%22>
- Birmingham Conservation Trust. Arts & Crafts Architecture in Birmingham V: W H Bidlake <http://www.birminghamconservationtrust.org/2014/04/19/bidlake/>