

James, Charles Holloway 1893 - 1953



Charles Holloway James [commonly known as C.H. James] was born in Gloucester, Gloucestershire, England, on 22 January 1893 and was articled to Walter B. Wood in Gloucester. He then worked as assistant to Sir Edwin Lutyens from 1911 to 1914.

In 1916 he was seriously injured and lost a leg during World War One. For a short time he worked for [Barry Parker](#) and [Raymond Unwin](#) at Letchworth Garden City, before commencing practise as an architect in London in 1919. In 1919, with Albert John Thompson (1878-1940) and Charles Murray Hennell (1883-1929) he formed the London-based architectural partnership Thomson, Hennell & James. Thompson left the practice the following year and the practice was renamed Hennell & James.

The first architectural projects by James and his practice were large housing schemes. These included Swanpool Garden Suburb in Lincoln (1919-21); 27 houses at Thorpe Bay in Essex (1920-21); 80 houses for Labour Saving Houses, Ltd.; 200 houses for Wewlyn Rural District Council; and 38 houses for Country Homes, Ltd., at Welwyn Garden City, (1920-25); and 92 houses for the Lady Aster Housing Trust, Plymouth (1925). They also designed a paint factory in Hull (1920-21).

James designed three houses for himself in Hampstead Garden Suburb, beginning with No. 1 Hampstead Way in 1920.

After Hennell's death in 1929, James formed a new partnership with Stuart Frank Bywaters as James & Bywaters. They were subsequently joined by Stephen Rowland Pierce (1896-1966) and the practice was renamed James & Bywaters and Rowland Pierce. Projects by the partnership included Slough Town Hall (1936), City Hall in Norwich (1938), and Hertford County Hall (1940). The partnership was dissolved in 1947. It would seem that the practice reverted to its original name, James & Bywaters. This name was retained until 1963 when it became Saunders Boston Architects.

In addition to Thompson, Hennell, Bywaters and Pierce, James collaborated with a number of other architects including Louis de Soissons (1890-1962) at Welwyn. He jointly designed Oakwood Station with [Charles Holden](#) (1875-1960) on the Piccadilly Line (1933).

In 1922 James married the designer Margaret Calkin (1895-1985), subsequently known as Margaret Calkin James.

James was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (ARIBA) in 1918 and a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British architects (FRIBA) in 1926. He was vice-president of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1947-48. He was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy (ARA) in 1937 and a Royal Academician (RA) in 1946.

James's address was given as 19 Russell Square, Bloomsbury, London in 1919 and 1923; 15 Gower Street, London in 1926; 33 Bedford Place, Bloomsbury Square, London in 1930; and 5 Bloomsbury Street, London in 1935 and 1939. He died in Hendon, Middlesex on 8 February 1953.

Worked in

UK

Works

Swanpool Garden Suburb, Lincoln, 1919-21; 27 houses at Thorpe Bay, Essex, 1920-21; paint factory, Hull, 1920-21; 80 houses for Labour Saving Houses, Ltd., 200 for the Wewlyn R.D.C., and 38 for Country Homes, Ltd., all at Welwyn Garden City, 1920-25; 92 houses for the Lady Aster Housing Trust, Plymouth, 1925; almshouses near Grimsby, 1925; many larger houses in various localities, including five at Hampstead Garden Suburb. James was also consulting Architect to the County Borough of Stoke-on-Trent for five housing schemes

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Marriott, Charles. Modern English Architecture. London: Chapman & Hall, 1924

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Links

- Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Holloway_James
- National Portrait Gallery, London
<https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/person/mp75658/charles-holloway-james>
- Historic England - Bounds Green Underground Station
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1393641>
- Historic England - Prison gate, former governor's house and chaplain's house, HM Prison Aylesbury (Aylesbury Gaol) <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1117983>
- Historic England - 3 Fairway Close, Barnet, London
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1259672>
- Historic England - Goldsmiths' Hall, London
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1002027>
- Historic England - City Hall, including Police Station, Norwich, Norfolk
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1210484>
- UK Modern House http://ukmoho.co.uk/html/architect/C_H_James.html

- Welwyn Garden City <https://newtownherts.weebly.com/welwyn-garden-city.html>
- geograph - Kensal House, Ladbroke Grove
<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/4854156>