

Oliver, Basil 1882 - 1948



Basil Oliver was born at The Brewery House, Cornard Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, England on 12 May 1882. He studied at Liverpool University School of Architecture from 1900 to 1902 when he moved to London. From 1902 to 1904 he was articled to Edward Prioleau Warren (1856-1937). He also attended the Architectural Association Schools, Royal Academy Schools, and the L.C.C. Central School of Arts and Crafts in London. After completing his articles he worked as an assistant to Holloway Brothers, builders in 1904-05; and to Arthur William Blomfield (1829-1899), Charles James Blomfield (1862-1932) and Arthur Conran Blomfield (1863-1935) of Arthur Blomfield & Sons in 1905-06. In 1906 he returned to the office of E. P. Warren where he was employed as an assistant until 1909.

Oliver qualified as an architect in 1910 and was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (ARIBA) later that year. He subsequently returned to the Brewery House in Sudbury where he commenced practice as an architect. He also taught Architecture and Building at Central School. of Arts and Crafts.

Among Oliver's architectural commissions were the Dunmow War Memorial (1921); the 'Rose & Crown' public house in Cambridge (1928); the Borough Offices in Bury St Edmund's, Suffolk (1935-37); inns for the brewers Greene King; and various houses in East Anglia.

Oliver had a particular interest in vernacular architecture and was the author of 'Old Houses and Village Buildings in East Anglia' (1912) and 'The Cottages of England: A Review of the Types and Features from the 16th to the 18th Centuries' (1929). He also wrote 'The Renaissance of the English Public House' (1947).

Oliver was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (FRIBA) in 1920. He became a member of the Art Workers Guild in 1913 and was Master of the Guild in 1932. He was also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, a member of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and from 1890 to 1936 a member of the Ipswich Art Club. Architectural paintings by Oliver were shown on seven occasions at the Summer Exhibitions of the Royal Academy in London between 1910 and 1929. He died in Sudbury on 5 May 1948.

Worked in

UK

Works

Beach School, Lowestoft (in conjunction with Henry J. Chetwood, F.R.I.B.A.), 1912-13: memorials at Blythburgh Church, Suffolk (1912), Hadley, Barnet (1913), at the General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells (1914), and at the General Infirmary, Leeds (1914). War memorials at Dunmow, in the Cathedral Church and School at Bury St. Edmunds, in Assington Church (Suffolk), at Corpus Christi College (Cambridge), Mission Church, Hatcham, S.E.15, etc.; house at Pyrford, Surrey, 1913-14; "The Stone and Faggot" Inn, Little Yeldham, Essex, 1915; alterations and additions to "Rosmeade", Ulting, Maldon, Essex, 1920; Imber Court, House (rebuilding), 1921: restorations of: — Ballingdon Hall, Sudbury, Suffolk, 1921-22, and Isfield Place, near Uckfield, Sussex, 1922. In conjunction with Alan O. Brace: — alterations and additions to Tyrroll's Hall Working Men's Club at Little Thurrock, Essex, 1922; houses at Farnham Common, Bucks (1923), Guildford (1924), Ide Hill, Kent (1924), and near Honiton, Devon (1925); etc. [Source: *Who's Who in Architecture 1926*]

Bibliography

Directory of British Architects 1834-1914. Compiled by Antonia Brodie, et al. Volume 2: L-Z. London; New York: British Architectural Library, Royal Institute of British Architects/Continuum, 2001

'Obituary'. *The Builder* vol. 178, 14 May 1948 p. 585

'Obituary'. *RIBA Journal* vol. 55, June 1948 p.373

Oliver, Stephen. 'Basil Oliver and the End of the Arts and Crafts Movement'. *Architectural History* vol.47, 2004 pp.329-360

Who's Who in Architecture 1926. Edited by Frederick Chatterton. London: The Architectural Press, 1926

Links

- Dictionary of Scottish Architects 1660-1980
http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=204583
- Suffolk Artists <https://suffolkartists.co.uk/index.cgi?choice=painter&pid=479>
- Historic England - Collection: Drawings by architect Basil Oliver
<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/photos/collection/OLI01>
- Historic England - Highfield Mill, Sudbury, Suffolk
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1037461>
- Historic England - The Pillar of Salt Road Sign, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1376516>
- Historic England - Langley's Newhouse, Hawkedon, Suffolk
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1182095>
- Historic England - Prospect Inn, Minster, Kent
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1224448>
- Historic England - The Andalusian, Carlisle
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1291729>
- Historic England - Manston Hall, Whepstead, Suffolk
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1230469>
- Historic England - Great Dunmow War Memorial
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1438524>
- Historic England - The Pillar of Salt Road Sign, Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
<https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/education/educational-images/the-pillar-of-salt-road-sign-angel-hill-bury-st-edmunds-6549>
- UK Modern House http://www.ukmoho.co.uk/html/architect/Basil_Oliver.html
- British Listed Buildings - 10 listed buildings by Basil Oliver
<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/site-search/?q=Basil%20Oliver>