

Riley, William Edward 1852 - 1937



William Edward Riley was born in Ossett, near Dewsbury, Yorkshire, England on 12 October 1852 and was articled to William Crutchley in Wakefield, Yorkshire from 1868 to 1872. He then worked as an assistant to William Beck and William Ward (?-1885) from 1872 to 1875.

Riley commenced independent practice as an architect in the mid-1870s. In 1877 he gave up his practice to work at the directorate of Admiralty Architectural and Engineering Works as a draughtsman. He subsequently remained at the Admiralty for the next twenty-two years. In 1899 he was appointed superintending architect to the London County Council (LCC). He continued in this post until his retirement in 1919 [or 1920 - sources differ]. He then went into partnership with [Ernest Budge Glanfield](#) (1885-1955) to form the architectural firm of Riley & Glanfield in London.

Riley was elected an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects (A.R.I.B.A.) in 1883 and a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (F.R.I.B.A.) in 1900.

In addition to his work as an architect, Riley was also an accomplished watercolourist. He exhibited at the Royal Academy, and the Royal Society of British Artists in London; and at the Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts. In 1906 he was elected a member of the Royal Society of British Artists (RBA). He also served on the council of the Royal British Colonial Society of Artists.

Riley died at his home in Lewisham, London on 9 November 1937

Worked in

UK

Works

Numerous fire stations, schools, and other official buildings for London County Council, including the New Sessions House, Newington Causeway. In partnership with Ernest Budge Glanfield: Silvergates, 52 The Drive, Aldwick, Bognor Regis, Sussex (1934); houses in Wychwood Close, Aldwick, Bognor Regis, Sussex (1934); Savoy cinema, Cobham, Surrey (1937); Sunburst, Hook Park Road, Warsash, Hampshire (1930s); 14 Canons Close, Radlett, Hertfordshire (1930s); 33 Canons Close, Radlett, Hertfordshire (1930s); Christ the King Vicarage, 71 Haldens, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire (1930s);

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'Obituary'. The Architect & Building News vol. 152, 19 November 1937 p. 218

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Links

- Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Edward_Riley
- Andrew Saint, 'Riley, William Edward (1852-1937)', Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, May 2013; online edn, Sept 2013 [Subscription service] <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/10500>

- Dictionary of Scottish Architects 1660-1980
http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=203399
- Horniman Museum & Garden <https://www.horniman.ac.uk/agent/agent-9362/>
- British Listed Buildings - 9 listed buildings by W. E. Riley
<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/site-search/?q=%22W%20E%20Riley%22>
- Historic England - Hammersmith Fire Station
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1079777>
- Historic England - Carrington House, Lewisham
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1358481>
- Historic England - Bruce House, City of Westminster
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1275722>
- Historic England - Poplar Technical College
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1260095>
- Historic England - Bolt Court, City of London
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1380346>