

Rowntree, Frederick 1860 - 1927



Frederick Rowntree [also known as Fred Rowntree] was born in Scarborough, Yorkshire, England, in 1860. He was articled to Charles A. Bury in Scarborough from 1876 to 1880. He then went as an improver to the office of Edward Burgess (c1848-1929) in London, and served as clerk of works in Leicestershire. In 1885 Rowntree set up his own independent office in Scarborough. In 1890 he relocated his practice to London. Later that year he went into partnership with Malcolm Starck in Glasgow. The partnership dissolved in 1900 and Rowntree returned to London where he opened a new practice in Hammersmith.

In 1912 he formed a partnership with his son [Douglas Woodville Rowntree](#) (1888-1966) as [Fred Rowntree & Son](#). In 1919 a second son, [Colin Rowntree](#) (1891-1963), joined the practice which was renamed [Fred Rowntree & Sons](#).

During his years in Glasgow Rowntree collaborated with the architect and designer George Walton (1867-1933) on a number of projects. These included the design of a fancy fair stage set for the Glasgow Society of Lady Artists in Glasgow (1891), the design of the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society's exhibition at the Queen's Rooms, London (1895), the design of John Rowntree & Sons Café in Scarborough, Yorkshire (1895), the design a fancy fair at the Lady's Club in Blythswood Square, Glasgow (1895) the remodelling of Glenbank in Lenzie, Scotland (1896), the design of a gallery at the Lady's Club in Blythswood Square, Glasgow (1896), the design of a tea room and extensions at William Rowntree's department store in Scarborough, Yorkshire (1896), the design of the workshops of George Walton & Co. in Glasgow (1899), and the design of Aultwharrie in

Dunblane, Scotland (1900).

Other notable works by Rowntree included several Meeting Houses and Schools for the Society of Friends (Quakers), the Scottish Temperance Life Assurance Building in London (1906). and West China University at Chentu in Szechuan, China (1912). Photographs of entrance halls at Scalby, Yorkshire, and a library at York designed by Rowntree are illustrated in 'The Studio Yearbook of Decorative Art' 1907 (pp.68, 69), photographs of the interior and exterior of a cottage at Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, designed by him are illustrated in 'The Studio Yearbook of Decorative Art' 1910 (p.71), and photographs of a house at Bransby, Yorkshire, designed by him are illustrated in 'The Studio Yearbook of Decorative Art' 1912 (p.62).

Following World War One, Rowntree collaborated with the architects Arthur Joseph Penty (1875-1937) and Charles Sydney Spooner (1862-1938) in a scheme to employ Belgian refugees in the prefabrication of buildings in Belgium. Rowntree was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (FRIBA) in 1905. He exhibited at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool and at the Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts between 1904 and 1907. A draughts screen designed by him was also shown in the 6th exhibition of the Arts & Crafts Exhibition Society at the New Gallery in London in 1899. He died in Hammersmith, London, on 7 January 1927.

Worked in

UK

Works

Scottish Temperance Life Insurance Buildings (Cheapside). Public Schools for the Society of Friends: Bootham School, York; the Mount School. York; Sidcot School, Somerset; Ackworth School, Yorkshire. Private Preparatory Boarding School, Scarborough. Home for Physically Defective Children, Clacton-on-Sea. Friends Meeting Houses: Scarborough, Hampstead, Golder's Green, &c. Village Halls: Bainbridge and Scalby. Institutes: Walthamstow. Forest Gate. Also the following large residences amongst a large number throughout England: Myddelton Lodge", Ilkley; Moor Allerton Hall, Leeds: "Oxhey Grange", Bushey; "The Low Hall, Scalby: "Mytten", Cuckfield, Sussex; " Pilmuir, Torquay: " Cherry Hill", Brandsby: "Butts Close" York; " Lavender Croft," Hitchin; "Highdown Wood", Milford, Surrey; &c, &c.

[Source: *Who's Who in Architecture 1914*]

*West China Union University, Chengtu, West China; Bootham School, York (boarding school for boys); the Mount School, York (boarding school for girls); Ackworth School, Yorkshire, science buildings and gymnasium; Sidcot School, Winscombe ("Co-education" School); Orleton College, Scarborough (preparatory school for boys): *Friends' Public School, Leighton Park, Reading: *Edgehill College, Bideford, N. Devon: Doncaster Grammar School, science buildings; *Friends' Sch., Saffron Walden; *Enham Village Centre Orthopaedic Hospital; *Ogilvie School for Physically Defective Children, Clacton-on-Sea; Central Offices, Cocoa Works, York; Scottish Temperance Life Assurance Buildings, Nos. 1-3, Cheapside; *Newspaper House, Fleet Street, London; *W. Rowntree and Sons business premises, Scarborough; cafes: Carlisle, *Filey, 'Scarborough; swimming baths: York and Hucknall; *Public Park and recreation grounds, York; *St. John's Presbyterian Church, Northwood; Friends' Meeting Houses: Scarborough, Hampstead, *Golden Green, and *Muswell Hill; *Jordan's Village, Bucks, lay-out and cottages. Domestic work: "Cherry Hill", Brandsby (Yorks); "Butts Close", and "The Homestead," York; "The Low Hall", Scalby; "Pilmuir", Torquay; "Braeside", Reigate; "Lavender Croft", and *'"Whitehill Close,"' Hitchin; *'"Lavender Leez", Little Leighs (Essex); "Oxhey Grange", Bushey; *Highdown Wood, Hambledon: *Oak Lawn, Wimbledon Park; *Caesar's Camp, Wimbledon Common; *'"Orchards", Chelmsford; *Elmslie and *'"Altons", Beaconsfield; *'"Canfield Farm", Stebbing (Essex); etc.

* In conjunction with Douglas W., and Colin Rowntree, AA.R.I.B.A. (sons), as partners.

[Source: *Who's Who in Architecture 1926*]

For an additional list of architectural projects by Frederick Rowntree see the Dictionary of Scottish Architects 1660-1980 [[link below](#)]

Bibliography

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Links

- Dictionary of Scottish Architects 1660-1980

<https://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/apex/r/dsa/dsa/architects?session=13428532457551>

- The Rowntree Society

<https://www.rowntreesociety.org.uk/currentprojects/rowntree-a-z/fred-rowntree-1860-1927/>

- Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred_Rowntree

- Guise Me <https://www.guise.me.uk/rowntree/fred/index.htm>

- Architectural History Practice. Quaker Meeting Houses in Great Britain. National Overview Report. March 2017 <https://heritage.quaker.org.uk/quaker-gb-meeting-houses-national-overview-report-2017-03.pdf>

- Historic England - Friends Meeting House, Barnet, London

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1359059>

- Historic England - 1 and 2 The Green, Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1246114>

- Historic England - 9, 10, 11, and 12 Green East Road, Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1246108>

- Historic England - Wayside and Orchard Cottage, Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1246113>

- Historic England - 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 The Green, Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1246115>

- Historic England - Cherry Tree Cottage, Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1246110>

- Historic England - Shepherd Cottage and Cottage to the North, Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1246111>

- Historic England - The Cottage, Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1246112>
- Historic England - Further Pegs, Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1245026>
- Historic England - Cranford St, Davids and Woodside and Fir Tree Cottage and Hawthorn Cottage and The Homestead, Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1246109>
- Historic England - Old Jordans Hostel, Chalfont St. Giles, Buckinghamshire
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1124976>
- Historic England - Joseph Rowntree Memorial Library, York
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1392224>
- Historic England - Garden Entrance Gateway to Number 120 The Friends Meeting House, Camden, London <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1378850>
- Historic England - Meeting House, Camden, London
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1378849>
- Historic England - Lych Gate and Dovecote, Rowntree Park, York
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1452680>
- Historic England - Rowntree Park, York <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1001439>
- Historic England - Friends House, and Drayton House, with walls, railings, and garden to east, Camden, London <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1078321>
- Historic England - Blue Idol Quaker Meeting House and Guest House, Thakeham, West Sussex <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1181144>
- Historic England - Croydon Quaker Meeting House
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1462284>