

NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BALDWIN MEMORIAL ARCHIVE  
of American Architects

Name: Horace Whittier Peaslee of (address) Washington, D. C. (1234 19th St., N.

Born: Nov. 9, 1884, at Malden Bridge, N.Y. Died: May 18, 1959<sup>t</sup> Washington, D. C.

Parents: John N. Peaslee and Sarah Rider Peaslee

Married: Frances Monroe Hopkins of Washington, D. C. on Dec. 31, 192  
(deceased February 13, 1958)

Children: John Rider Peaslee (Cornell 1951-56)

Education: Chatham (N.Y.) High School; Cooper Union, New York  
Cornell University College of Architects - Bach. Arch. 1910; Fellow 1911,  
with special work in Landscape Design.

Training; and practice as Principal: (Firm Names, Places, Dates, Specialization)

Special training in Landscape led to Washington Parks office appointment during Fellowship year; and success in competition for a Town Hall launched practice in 1912; continuous since, except for War 1917-1918. Studied garden developments Italy and France. Early work largely parks and gardens, architecture secondary. Later work primarily architecture, with landscape incidental.

Professional Memberships and Service: (Institute and Chapter Activities; Teaching)

A.I.A. Member, Fellow, 2nd Vice President 1930-34.

Organized Committee on National Capital, Chairman 1924-34; Initiated "Baldwin Memorial Archive"; Organized D. C. Architects Advisory Council; Past Pres. D.C. Chapter; Secretary Allied Architects of Washington; Visiting Instructor Landscape Design, U. of Ill. 1914-1916.

Other Affiliations: (Religious, Fraternal Political, Social) Corres. Member, American Society Landscape Architects. Member St. John's Church (Episcopal); Bd. Member, Episcopal Home for Children. (Organized Commission on Diocesan Architecture); Cosmos Club (Architect) (Chairman, Garden Committee); American Planning & Civic Assn; Committee of 100; Joint Committee on the National Capital (organized) (V.P.)

Public Service: (Civil and Military; Community, State, National)

Land. Architect, Pub. Bldgs. & Grounds, D. C. 1917-19; Architect, Pub. Bldgs. & Grounds 1919-1922; Secretary, Central (U.S.) Housing Committee 1935-42; Consulting Architect - USHA, PBA, C of E -1935-42. Secretary, Tech. Bd. (U.S.) OCE 1942-44. Capt. Engineers 1917-1919.

Published Material: (Articles and Addresses; Executed Work; Biographical Data)

"Park Architecture" (Series of 8 articles) published, Architectural Record and Park International; The Great American Backyard; "Outdoorroom"; Architecture Guidance; The Potomac Be Dammed; Streamlined Specifications (inv.); The Car in the House; Imagination in Playground Design; ("Playards") "Architects Commemorated"

(OVER)

General Background: (Personal Characteristics and Accomplishments; Interests, Digressions, Travels, Friendships, Sidelights, Honors, and Awards.)

In business four years after High School; paid own way through College (conducted advertising campaigns for two competing firms).

Personal Characteristics:

Phobias: "It's never done that way" / "It can't be done".

Interests: "Adequate" development of the National Capital (Organization for accomplishment of); Building and Grounds relationships; Backyards; Horses and Dogs.

Digressions: Gardening; Illustrating - (Edited 1910 "Cornellian"); Cartooning; "Rookie Book" and other Engineer Training Manuals.

Travels: Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, England, West Indies, Mexico, Canada. (Primary interest: Parks and Gardens)

Honors: Cornell: Brown and Sands Medals and Res. Fellowship  
Beaux Arts Society; First Medal

Washington Board of Trade Awards for executed work.

A.I.A. Fellowship (Citation at Williamsburg, Va., May 3, 1936.

"A distinguished record in the interest of civil and national government, years of effort for the institute's welfare, often at personal sacrifice."

A Client Board: A Silver Server "with affection and appreciation".  
The Governor of Maryland; Associate Architect on Tercentenary Restoration;  
Consultant on Planning of Building and Grounds, Eisenhower Gettysburg Estate

Principal Commissions:

Town Hall, Chatham, N. Y. (competitive)

Meridian Hill Park, a public garden

Fort Lincoln and National Memorial Park Cemeteries

Motor Courts: D.C., Virginia, South Carolina

Institutions: Two Homes for Aged; "Friendship House" (Community Center);  
Children's Center.

Churches-Parish Houses: Ft. Lincoln Chapel and Cloisters (See Restorations)

Monuments and Memorials: Public and Private; Marine Corps War Memorial Grounds;  
Zero and other Milestones.

Embassies: Peruvian and Korean

Clubs: Cosmos; Sulgrave alterations.

Restorations: "Dumbarton House" (Hq. Colonial Dames of America)

"Belle Grove" (vic. Winchester)

State House, St. Mary's City (Associate Architect)

Trinity Church, St. Mary's City

St. John's Church, (Lafayette Square) Designed by Latrobe

Christ Church (S.E.) (Also by Latrobe)

Principal Commissions: (Classified, with locations and Reference Data) (Above)

(in part)

Compiled by: Horace W. Peaslee and Frank C. *Frank C. Peaslee*

Date: 19 May 1959

Acknowledgements:

# Horace Peaslee Dies; Prominent Architect, 74

Veteran Washington architect Horace W. Peaslee, 74, died at his home today of a heart attack.

Mr. Peaslee, who had designed many of the city's buildings, had been a practicing architect in the area since he was graduated from Cornell University College of Architecture in 1910.

Of his many designs, the one for which he was best known was that of the architectural features of Meridian Hill Park on Sixteenth street.

Some of Mr. Peaslee's more notable works include the design of the Korean and Peruvian Embassies, the renovation and the grounds of the Cosmos Club and the landscaping of the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington.

When Mr. Peaslee was given the job of landscaping the 7½-acre site at the memorial, he was confronted with the



HORACE W. PEASLEE

problem of duplicating, in concrete, the black volcanic sands of the island of Iwo Jima.

He accomplished this by mixing volcanic rock and black sand with the concrete. Even though Mr. Peaslee had never seen Iwo Jima he duplicated the color and texture so exactly that veterans of the battle have commented that they could not tell the difference.

Some of Mr. Peaslee's other works are, the restoration of the Christ Church in Southeast Washington and St. John's Church on Lafayette Square.

Mr. Peaslee has also done all of the landscape ground architecture on President Eisenhower's Gettysburg estate.

Last week Mr. Peaslee received an award for his design of Dunbarton House.

He is survived by his son, John Rider Peaslee, 1234 Nineteenth street N.W.

Funeral services will be held in St. John's Church at 2 p.m. Wednesday.

## Horace Peaslee, Architect And Landscape Designer

Funeral services for Horace W. Peaslee, veteran Washington architect who died yesterday of a heart attack, will be held at 2 p.m. tomorrow at St. John's Episcopal Church on Lafayette Square.

Mr. Peaslee had designed landscapes and buildings in Washington since he came here in 1910 after graduating from the Cornell University College of Architecture.

Of his many designs, the one for which he was best known was the plan for the architectural features of Meridian Hill Park, on Sixteenth street.

Some of Mr. Peaslee's other notable works include the design of the Korean and Peruvian Embassies, the renovation of the grounds and buildings of the Cosmos Club and the landscaping of the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington.

When Mr. Peaslee was given the job of landscaping the 7½-acre site at the memorial, he was confronted with the problem of duplicating in concrete the black volcanic sands of Iwo Jima.

### Matched Color

He accomplished this by mixing volcanic rock and black sand with the concrete. Even though Mr. Peaslee had never seen Iwo Jima, he duplicated the color and texture so exactly that veterans of the battle have commented that they could not tell the difference.

Some of Mr. Peaslee's other works were the restoration of Christ Episcopal Church in Southeast Washington and St. John's Church on Lafayette Square.

Mr. Peaslee also did all of the landscape ground architecture on President Eisenhower's Gettysburg estate.

At the time of his death, Mr. Peaslee was the consulting architect for the grounds and buildings at the University of North Carolina, vice chairman of the American Planning and Civic Association, a director of the Episcopal Home in Georgetown, a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and vice chairman of the committee of 100 on the Federal City.

### Recently Won Award

On May 6 Mr. Peaslee was given an award by the Washington Board of Trade for his design of the Episcopal Church Home in Georgetown.

He was credited with an important role in the passage of two important park and planning bills some years ago.

Mr. Peaslee was a former vice president of the Institute of Architects, president of the board of Friendship House, a trustee of Landon School, secretary of the Central Housing Committee, a member of the Architects Advisory Council of the District of Columbia, and

president of the Washington chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Mr. Peaslee was born in Malden Bridge, N.Y. When he came to Washington in 1911 he worked in the Interior Department in the office of Public Buildings and Grounds.

He leaves his son, John Rider Peaslee, 1234 Nineteenth street N.W.

### Deaths

**WILKINSON REV. JOHN S.** On Sunday, May 17, 1959, in Chester, Pa. REV. JOHN S. WILKINSON, devoted husband of Mrs. Alma G. Wilkinson, father of five children, Helen Holmes, Barbara Watford, Antoinette Tapscott, Julie and John Wilkinson, Jr.; eight grandchildren; he also is survived by one brother, two sisters, other relatives and many friends. After 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 20, friends are invited to call at the Morrow & Woodford Funeral Home, 1622 11th st. n.w. Funeral services Thursday, May 21, at 1 p.m., from Israel C. M. E. Church, New Jersey ave. and Morgan st. n.w., the Rev. D. A. Bell officiating. Interment Lincoln Memorial Cemetery. 20

**WILLIAMS, PARKER, Jr.** Suddenly on Saturday, May 16, 1959, MR. PARKER WILLIAMS of 4081 Minnesota ave. n.e. beloved husband of Louise Williams, son of Mrs. Emma and Parker Williams, sr. He also leaves to mourn his passing two brothers-in-law, two aunts, other relatives and friends. Remains resting at the John T. Rhines & Co. Funeral Home, 3015 12th st. n.e. Notice of funeral later.

**WINBUSH, MARY.** On Sunday, May 17, 1959, MARY WINBUSH of 708 Morton st. n.w. Notice of funeral later. Arrangements by Jarvis.

**WOLLEY, JAKE.** On Sunday, May 17, 1959, JAKE WOLLEY of 1830 13th st. n.w. beloved husband of Gladys Wolley, father of Mrs. Margaret W. Canty, Mary Lee, Delores and Therman Wolley; brother of Mrs. Flossie Mitchell Willie, Caroline and Eddie Wolley.

# Horace Peaslee, Architect, Dies

Horace W. Peaslee, nationally known Washington architect whose works included several of the Capital's prominent landmarks, died of a heart attack yesterday at his home, 1234 19th st. nw. He was 74.



HORACE W. PEASLEE

Mr. Peaslee, a resident of Washington since 1911, had waged an unending campaign to preserve the beauty and dignity of the Nation's Capital.

Friends said he had worked until late Sunday at his office, 1228 Connecticut ave. nw., preparing a statement he had planned to deliver on Capitol Hill today before the Joint Committee on Washington Metropolitan Problems.

A fellow of the American Institute of Architects and an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Mr. Peaslee was vice chairman of the Committee of One Hundred for the Federal City and of the Joint Committee for the National Capital at the time of his death.

#### Active in Civic Work

Known for his warm personality and gentle wit, Mr. Peaslee was a tireless worker in the field of civic and professional activity. He usually arose about 5:30 a. m. each day and kept on the move until well after the dinner hour.

He waged a persistent, but losing battle for preservation of the Capitol's East Front last fall. Just last January he started a national movement to develop plans for enshrining the 24 vintage-1818 Corinthian columns taken from the Capitol's East Front.

Mr. Peaslee, who always maintained that the profession of architecture had an interlocking relationship with landscape architecture, executed the architectural ground work on President Eisenhower's Gettysburg estate.

#### Studied Abroad

In 1914, after extensive studies in Italy, France and Switzerland, Mr. Peaslee began work on Meridian Hill Park, which stands on 16th st. nw. as probably his most notable work.

He personally designed the architectural features of the park, including walls, walks, fountains, cascades and pools. Also among his principal works were the Landon School, renovation of the Cosmos Club and its gardens, the Korean and Peruvian Embassies, the setting and landscaping of the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington and the Latrobe Restorations in Christ Church in Southeast Washington and St. John's Episcopal Church at Lafayette Square.

Mr. Peaslee was the recipient of numerous awards in architecture and landscape. His most recent award was presented to him on May 6 by the Washington Board of Trade for the Episcopal Church Home at 1515 32d st. nw.

#### Studied at Cornell

Born Nov. 9, 1884, in Malden Bridge, N. Y., Mr. Peaslee went from his early schooling to the Cornell University School of Architecture.

After being graduated there in 1910 and remaining for a year under a resident Fellowship, Mr. Peaslee came to Washington as landscape designer in the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds.

He served in the Army Engineering Corps as a Captain from 1917-1919 and was responsible for the design of a large group of "temporary" World War I buildings.

He entered private practice after the war and continued to work in that capacity on Meridian Hill Park into the 1930s. Mr. Peaslee also played a key role in enactment of the original Federal Park and Planning legislation and made the first plea for a National Capital Planning Commission.

In World War II, Mr. Peaslee was called upon by the Office of Civilian Defense to head a Nation-wide team of architectural experts in air raid shelter construction.

Mr. Peaslee, a past president of the Washington Metropolitan Chapter of the A.I.A., was a former vice president of the A.I.A. He was married in 1928 to a Washington girl, the former Frances Monroe Hawkins, who died in February, 1958.

He is survived by a son, John Rider Peaslee, of the home address. Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Wednesday in St. John's Episcopal Church. Burial will be private.

## Peaslee Dies; Noted Architect

Horace W. Peaslee, 74, nationally known architect and native of Malden Bridge, died yesterday in Washington, D. C., following a heart attack.

Mr. Peaslee was graduated from Cornell University in 1910 and went to Washington the following year. He started his career as a landscape designer for the government but later went into private practice.

Last fall he waged a losing battle for preservation of the east front of the Capitol when plans to remodel the edifice were on the boards. His proposals were rejected and the east portion is being extended.

Peaslee, H.  
'10 Arch—Horace Whittier Peaslee, architect, May 18, 1959, at his home, 1234 Nineteenth Street, Washington 6, D.C. His works included Meridian Hill Park, Friendship House, Dumbarton House (headquarters of the National Society of Colonial Dames), the Korean and Peruvian Embassies, and many parks, fountains, monuments, and residences in Washington. He landscaped the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington. He did the architectural groundwork on President Eisenhower's estate in Gettysburg, Pa. Peaslee was a former chairman of the committee on the National Capitol of the American Institute of Architects and former president of the Institute's Washington chapter. In World War I he was a captain in the Army Engineers and in World War II he was chairman of a nationwide group of the AIA for civilian air-raid protection. He had been secretary of the Cornell Club of Washington, Son, John R. Peaslee '55.