

John Bernard Mendham, 1888-1951

A Finding Aid for
Architectural Drawings, 1914-1936,
in
The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania

Archival Description

Descriptive Summary

- Title: Architectural Drawings, 1914-1936.
- Coll. ID: 072
- Origin: Mendham, John Bernard, 1888-1951, architect.
- Extent: 55 sheets.
- Repository: The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania
102 Meyerson Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-6311
(215) 898-8323
- Abstract: The collection comprises fifty-five architectural drawings spanning the years 1914-1936, documenting twenty-one designs by John Bernard Mendham.
- Cataloging: Collection-level records for materials in the Architectural Archives may be found in RLIN Eureka, the union catalogue of members of the Research Libraries Group. The record number for this collection is PAUP01-A41.

Biographical/Historical Sketch

John Bernard Mendham was born in Chepstow, Wales in 1888, eldest son of Clement A. Mendham, a civil engineer who worked on the construction of the Severn Tunnel. In his youth, he lived for eleven years in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where his father was engaged in constructing new dockyards. He was trained in architecture at the School of Arts, Birmingham, England and worked in various surveying, engineering and architectural offices there. He opened his own architectural practice in Birmingham in 1911.

He gave up his practice in 1914 to enter the British armed forces at the outbreak of World War I. After he was injured in 1917, he served as resident engineer for the Air Ministry until 1919. After the war, he worked as superintending architect for the Ministry of Agriculture. In 1923, he returned to private practice, opening an office in London. His practice included engineering works, public buildings, schools, cinemas, hospitals, laboratories, churches and the laying out of roads and sewers. During World War II, he served the military as engineer and architect. After the war, he resumed private practice. Mendham was a Fellow of the Surveyors Institute, Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects and Member of the Society of Architects. He died in Tunstall, Kent, England in 1951.

Biographical information for this sketch was obtained in 2002 from unpublished and published material in a biographical file maintained by the RIBA Library & Information Centre, London.

Scope and Content Note

The collection comprises fifty-five original architectural drawings documenting twenty-one designs (1914-1936) by John Bernard Mendham. The bulk of the collection documents his practice after 1923. A number of undated designs are found, but only one drawing (dated 1914) clearly represents his practice in Birmingham before World War I. The collection contains no material related to Mendham's work for the military during the world wars.

A full index to projects represented in this collection is found in Appendix A.

Access Points for Indexing (Controlled Vocabulary)

Mendham, John Bernard, 1888-1951.

Architects--Archives.

Architectural design--History--20th century--Sources.

Architectural drawing--Great Britain.

Architecture, Modern--20th century--Great Britain--Designs and plans.

Form/Genre: Architectural drawings.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: This collection is available for research by appointment only.

Preferred citation: John Bernard Mendham Collection, The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania.

Acquisition: Gift of G. Holmes Perkins, 1987.

Processing: The collection was processed and the finding aid prepared by William Whitaker, Emily Cooperman, Laura Stroffolino and Nancy Thorne, with the research assistance of Jennifer Baldwin. Work was substantially completed in 2000, with additions and corrections in 2003.

Container list

Series I. Architectural Drawings.

Extent: 55 drawings

Arrangement: Arranged by project in alphabetical order.

Call#	Descriptive Title
072.1	12 th Manchester Building Trades Exhibit, 3 drawings Borough of Hornsey Municipal Buildings, 8 drawings Cenotaph for Liverpool, 1 drawing City of Leicester Municipal Offices, 2 drawings The "Daily Mail" Ideal Bungalow Competition, 2 drawings Doctor's Office and Residence, 1 drawing Messrs. C. Roberts and Co, 2 drawings New Cinema, 3 drawings No. 18 Wickham Road Proposed Development, 2 drawings
072.2	Proposed Conversion of Oast House into Cottage, 2 drawings Proposed Cottage at Battle, 1 drawing Proposed Cottage for Philip Desborough, Esq., 1 drawing Proposed cottage at Whiteleaf, 1 drawing Proposed Houses, St. Leonards-on-Sea, 13 drawings Proposed New House at Battle, 2 drawings Proposed New Premises in High Street, 1 drawing Proposed Semi-Detached Houses in Weoley Park Road, 1 drawing R.I.B.A. New Premises, 2 drawings Typical Layout of a Plot, 1 drawing Underdown Manor, 1 drawing Waterloo Bridge, 5 drawings

Appendix A

Project Index

Note: Projects are arranged in chronological order followed by undated projects.

Proposed Semi-Detached Houses in Weoley Park Road

location: Weoley Park Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham

holdings dates: 1914

holdings:

[072.2] 1 drawing

C. Roberts and Co.

location: High Street, Barmouth, Wales

holdings dates: 1923

holdings:

[072.1] 2 drawings

Cenotaph for Liverpool, Competition

location: Liverpool

holdings dates: ca. 1929

holdings:

[072.1] 1 drawing

Waterloo Bridge & Charing Cross New Road Bridge

location: London

holdings dates: 1930-1934

note: Proposed new road bridges.

holdings:

[072.2] 5 drawings

Proposed New Premises in High Street

location: High Street, Brenchley, Kent

holdings dates: 1931

holdings:

[072.2] 1 drawing

Headquarters, Royal Institute of British Architects, Competition

location: London

holdings dates: 1931

holdings:

[072.2] 2 drawings

12th Manchester Building Trades Exhibition: Temporary Garage

location: Manchester

holdings dates: 1931

holdings:

[072.1] 3 drawings

City of Leicester Municipal Offices (Competition ?)

location: Rutland and Charles Streets, Leicester

holdings dates: ca. 1931

holdings:

[072.1] 2 drawings

Proposed Houses, St-Leonards-on-Sea

location: St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex

holdings dates: 1931-1933

Note: 3 sets: Bulverhythe; Brittany Road; Charles Road West.

holdings:

[072.2] 13 drawings

Proposed New House at Battle

client: Captain and Mrs. W. E. Tolley

location: Battle, East Sussex

holdings dates: 1933

holdings:

[072.2] 2 drawings

Borough of Hornsey Municipal Buildings (Competition ?)

location: Hornsey, Greater London

holdings dates: 1933

holdings:

[072.1] 8 drawings

Proposed Cottage at Battle

client: E. Collins

location: Battle, East Sussex

holdings dates: 1935

holdings:

[072.2] 1 drawing

New Cinema

location: Ashford, Kent

holdings dates: 1935

holdings:

[072.1] 3 drawings

No. 18 Wickham Road, Proposed Development

location: Deptford, Greater London

holdings dates: 1936

holdings:

[072.1] 2 drawings

Proposed Conversion of Oast House into Cottage

client: Frederick Hayden

location: Frant, Sussex

holdings dates: n.d.

holdings:

[072.2] 2 drawings

Proposed Cottage

client: Philip Desborough, Esq.

location: Overstrand near Cromer, Norfolk

holdings dates: n.d.

holdings:

[072.2] 1 drawing

Proposed Cottage at Whiteleaf

location: Monk's Risborough, Buckinghamshire

holdings dates: n.d.

holdings:

[072.2] 1 drawing

Typical Layout of a Plot

client: British Built Homes, Ltd., 9 Duke Street, Adelphi

location: unlocated

holdings dates: n.d.

holdings:

[072.2] 1 drawing

Underdown Manor

location: Eddington, Kent

holdings dates: n.d.

holdings:

[072.2] 1 drawing

"Daily Mail" Ideal Bungalow Competition

holdings dates: n.d.

holdings:

[072.1] 2 drawings

Doctor's Office and Residence

location: unlocated

holdings dates: n.d.

holdings:

[072.1] 1 drawing