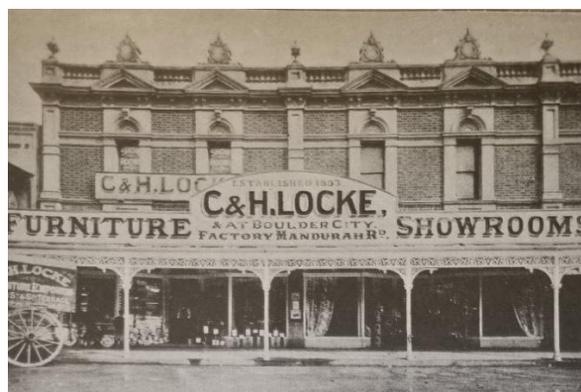




Allan Gamble (<https://mosman.nsw.gov.au/news/library-news/allan-allman-gamble-exhibition>)

**Allan Allman Gamble** (1907-2001) was born 19 August 1907 at Fremantle, Western Australia. Allan's parents Edwin 'Arthur' and Lucy (nee Pickett) Gamble had both moved to WA from South Australia, and were married at the Wesley Church in Fremantle on 2 January 1905. Allan had siblings Winifred May (b.1905), Arthur Lindesay ('Lin' b.1909), Charles Maitland ('Bon' b.1910), and Raymond ('Ray' b.1914). The Gamble's first two children were born at Fremantle, and the following three at Bunbury. The family moved to live at Rathmines, the northern portion of East Bunbury around 1908, when Arthur Gamble set up a branch of the C. & H. Locke furniture business at Bunbury. The family returned to the metropolitan area in 1918 when Arthur took over the management of Locke's Ltd at Fremantle. There was a definite family connection to Arthur's employment, as Lucy Gamble's sister Claire was married to Charles James Locke, co-founder of Locke's Ltd; and Arthur's brother George Gamble married another Pickett sister, Hannah, in 1909.



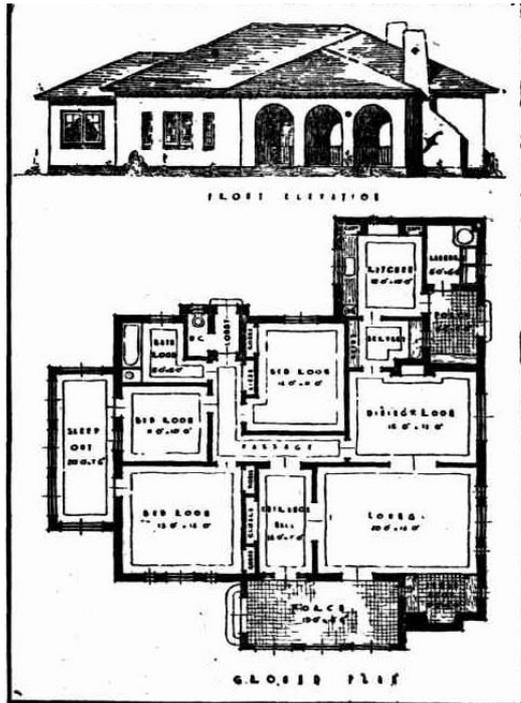
C. & H. Locke's furniture showrooms at Market Street, Fremantle (*Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia*, P.W.H. Thiel & Co, Perth, 1901, p.495).



*Rose Villa* at 6 Reserve Street, Claremont, designed by architect Louis Stein (1885-1952) in 1911 for his parents Bernard (d.1916) and Ann (d.1918) Stein. It was the home of the Gamble family from around 1920. Purchased by the Presentation Sisters in the early 1940s, it became St Joseph's Convent. (Marchant James, Ruth, *Cork to Capricorn*, 1996, p.486).

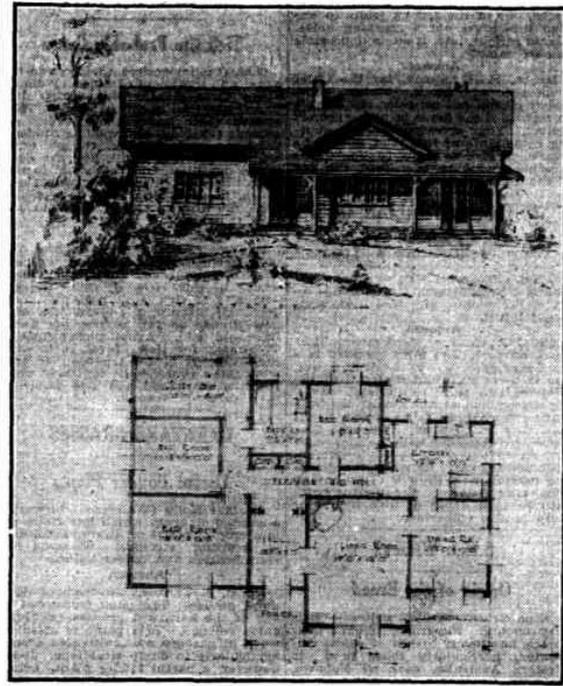
Allan was educated at Perth Modern School from around 1921 to 1925. It is likely that he commuted to school by train from the family home at Reserve Street in Claremont. In the early twentieth century, architectural education in WA was gained by apprenticeship and it was necessary to pay a fee to the architects to whom a person was articled. With a relatively large family, Allan Gamble's parents may not have been able to bear this expense. Fortunately, vacancies for cadets were advertised at the Public Works Department (PWD) and Allan Gamble applied, along with schoolmate Gordon Finn (1908-1998).

Gamble entered a cadetship with the PWD architectural division in 1926, initially under Principal Architect William Burden Hardwick (1860-1941). He attended drawing classes at Perth Technical College (PTC) when they were available, completed a compulsory five year International Correspondence School architectural course, and also attended history lectures at the University of Western Australia (UWA) given by the elderly A.R.L. Wright (1861-1939). In 1929 Gamble passed the examination for the architecture section of the UWA Art Certificate at the same time as Gordon Finn and Nancy Lorne Allen (1908-1993), and in November 1931 he passed the Architects Board of Western Australia examination.



### An Ideal Home

The brick home, to cost £1800, for which Messrs. G. Finn, A. Gamble and B. Clifton secured first prize in Class A of the Ideal Homes Competition conducted by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Western Australia.



### Attractive Weatherboard House

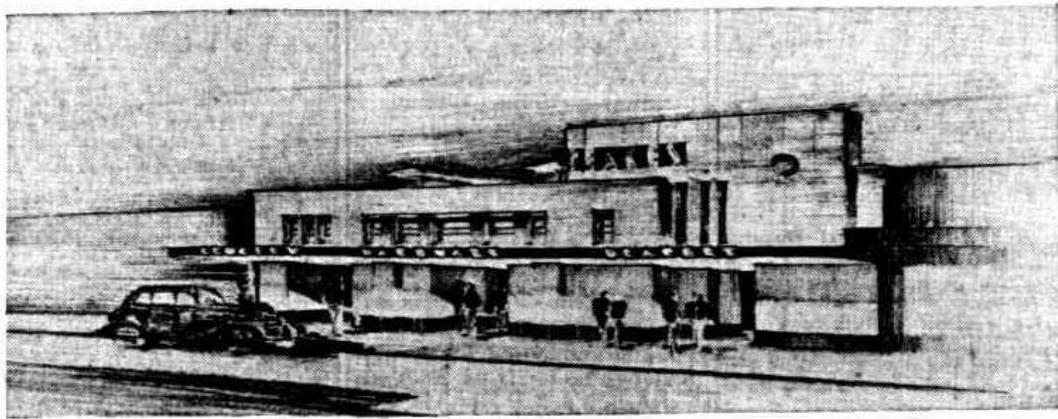
The weatherboard house to cost £1000, with which Messrs. A. Gamble, G. Finn, and B. Clifton secured first prize in Class C of the Ideal Homes Competition, conducted by the Royal Institute of the Architects of Western Australia.

Houses designed for RIAWA competitions in 1931 by PWD staff Allan Gamble, Gordon Finn, and Ben Clifton. (*Sunday Times*, 5 April 1931, p.11; 19 April 1931, p.19).

Gamble was a member of the Architectural Students Association, and in the 1930s was an organiser and attendee of the annual T-Square Ball held in Perth. Allan was awarded the Bronze (later E.G. Cohen) Medal by the Royal Institute of Architects of Western Australia (RIAWA) in 1932 – Gordon Finn had won the prestigious award the previous year. Allan Gamble and Nancy Viva Wilson were married at the Wesley Church in Claremont during September 1934. 'Wini' Gamble was a bridesmaid, Ray Gamble was a groomsman, and Gordon Finn was best man.

In 1934 Allan was noted as living at Claremont when he registered with the Architects Board of Western Australia (no.144), by 1936 he was at Adelaide, and then at Perth as he retained registration in WA up until 1940. Allan was a member of the council of RIAWA 1937-1939, and its assistant secretary in 1939. Allan had joined in a partnership with prominent architect Edgar Le Blond Henderson (1890-1971) from 1937 to 1939. Gamble's fine sketching abilities were a great asset to the Henderson & Gamble practice, and he was later to exhibit art works as far away as New York.

The younger Gamble's introduction of Inter-War Functionalist and Art Deco style to the practice is evident in commercial projects such as Peake's Store at Busselton, and the Railway Hotel at Norseman. The partnership produced many fine late 1930s buildings together, with Henderson's design style more evident in Catholic Church projects including for the Sisters of Mercy at Victoria Square in Perth, and the initial buildings at Santa Maria College in Attadale and St Louis' College in Claremont (all 1937-1938). Further work in 1939 included the grand Webster Street portion of Loreto Convent Nedlands, and the Chapel at the Home of the Good Shepherd, Ruislip Street Leederville.



Perspective drawing of store to be erected at Busselton for Mr. T. W. Peake to replace a building destroyed by fire. The architects are Messrs. E. Le B. Henderson and Allan Gamble.

Peake's Store at 92 Queen Street Busselton (*The West Australian*, 20 November 1937, p.11)

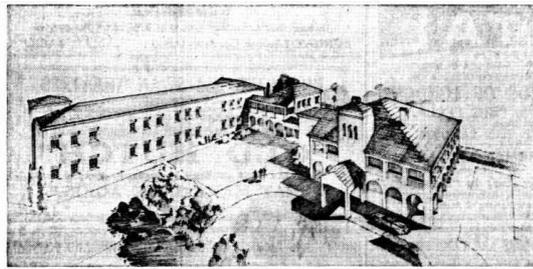


Peake's Store at Busselton c.1950, and in 2024 (Nannup Historical Society; Google 2024)

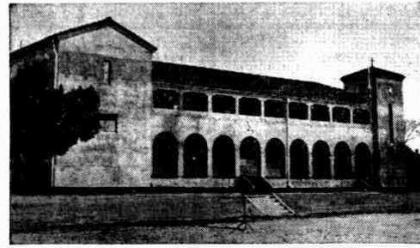


Perspective drawing of a brick hotel to be erected at the corner of Abopp and Robert streets, Norseman, for Mr. J. O'Reilly. The architects are Messrs. Henderson and Gamble.

Railway Hotel at Norseman (*The West Australian*, 20 May 1939, p.8; Google 2024)



Perspective drawing of the proposed preparatory school in Stirling-highway, Claremont, for the Jesuit Fathers. The architects are Messrs. E. Le B. Henderson and Allan Gamble.



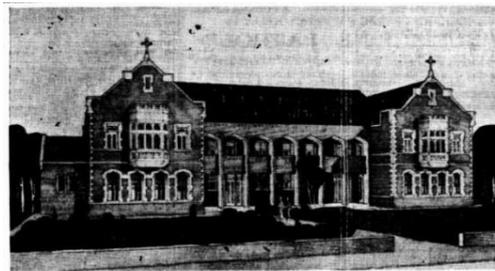
St. Louis College, which was built in Stirling-highway, Claremont, for the Jesuit Fathers at a cost of between £10,000 and £11,000. The architects were Messrs. E. Le B. Henderson and Allan Gamble.

St Louis' College at Claremont, the majority of which was demolished in 1986. (*The West Australian*, 18 December 1937, p.4; 28 May 1938, p.8).



The Good Shepherd Convent Chapel, Ruislip-street, Leederville, the reconstruction of which was begun about 11 months ago, and will be completed in the near future. The architects are Messrs. Henderson and Gamble.

Chapel at Home of the Good Shepherd, Ruislip Street West Leederville (*The Architect*, September 1939, p.26; *The West Australian*, 6 May 1939, p.8)



Front elevation of Loreto Convent, Webster-street, Nedlands, as it will appear after the proposed alterations have been completed. The architects are Messrs. Henderson and Gamble.

Webster Street façade of Loreto Convent at Nedlands (*The West Australian*, 15 July 1939, p.4)

However the Second World War (1939-1945) soon interrupted the local building industry. Allan moved to work with architects Stephenson & Turner in Sydney in about 1940, sadly his father Arthur died at 6 Reserve Street Claremont in December 1941, aged 65 years, but Lucy Gamble lived on until May 1954. Henderson served in the Royal Australian Engineers from April 1942, and was only able to resume practice after being discharged in August 1945.

At Stephenson & Turner during the war, Allan worked on projects including the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH), and Concord Repatriation Hospital - commissioned in 1939 as a general hospital for the Australian Army and opened in March 1941. Allan and Nancy had a son, Wilson, born at RPAH in 1944. Allan Gamble's connection with the University of Sydney began in 1945 when he was appointed Senior Lecturer in Architecture, with responsibility for

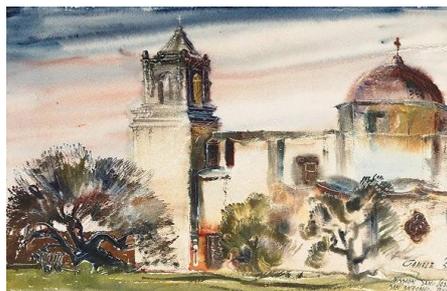
courses in Planning and Design. From 1946 to 1948 he was a member of council of the NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA), and was its Honorary Secretary in 1947.

In 1950 Allan was granted a special Travelling Research Scholarship by the Board of Architects of New South Wales. Owing to a grant-in-aid from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Gamble was able to extend a stay in the USA from one month to three. He also spent a period in the United Kingdom and 'on the Continent' studying architecture and architectural teaching methods, returning to Australia after being away most of the year. Perhaps visiting family and 'old haunts' on the way back to Sydney, Gamble gave an exhibition of his art works at the Perth Technical College in August 1950.



An exhibition of art by Mr. Allan Gamble, an architect who was trained in Perth and is now senior lecturer in architecture at Sydney University, was opened by the head architect of the Public Works Department Mr. A. E. Clare at the Perth Technical College yesterday. At the exhibition are left to right: Mr. Gamble, Mr. Clare and the principal of the School of Architecture at Perth, Mr. W. B. Robertson.

Allan Gamble showing his art works to PWD Principal Architect 'Paddy' Clare and PTC architecture school's Bill Robertson; and his work 'Mission Concepción, San Antonio Texas' (*The West Australian*, 1 September 1950, p.4; *The Architect*, September 1950 p.10).

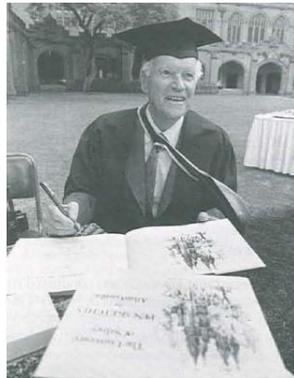


Another Gamble work from his 1950 USA visit – 'Dusk at San Jose, Texas' (Art Gallery NSW).

Gamble's appointment as Information and Public Relations Officer at the University of Sydney, responsible to the Vice-Chancellor, was confirmed at the end of 1951. This was the first such appointment in an Australian university, and he began with a major undertaking, the Centenary Appeal. He was associated with many initiatives, including the alumni publication *The Gazette*, which he founded shortly after he was appointed and which he edited for the next twenty years.

The first of his art books was a description of the University of Sydney for centenary celebrations in 1952. A sumptuous version of this work was presented to the Duke of Edinburgh in 1954 when he visited the University. Subsequently, he wrote and illustrated books on the University and its Colleges, as well as other parts of Mosman and North Sydney. A folio of twelve drawings of the University of Sydney buildings was completed in 1991.

The University of Sydney conferred an honorary degree of Master of Arts on Allan Gamble at a graduation ceremony held on 10 April 1991 in the Great Hall. Through Allan's gifts as an artist, many people were able to have a much greater appreciation of the University and the beauty of its buildings and gardens. The award was made in recognition of the service he rendered to the University, through the exercise of the rare skill and vigour of his art.



Allan Gamble autographing copies of his books (*University of Sydney News*, 16 April 1991).

In professional recognition, Gamble became an Associate member of the RAI in 1944, was elected an Associate member of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1948, and a Fellow of the RAI in 1949. The Gambles lived in a rented unit at 'Greentrees' 11a Silex Road, Clifton Gardens (Mosman). In 1966 Wilson Gamble was made ARAIA, he completed a Master of Architecture at the University of Melbourne in 1969, and eventually settled at Avalon. Allan and Nancy moved to Avalon in their later years. In the Australian Honours announced on 26 January 1998, Allan Allman Gamble of 2/17 Wollstonecraft Avenue, Avalon Beach NSW was awarded the Medal (OAM) in the General Division, *for service to architectural history through drawing and documenting Sydney's architectural landscape, and to arts administration*. Unfortunately Nancy had passed away just preceding the announcement. Allan Gamble passed away 31 July 2001, just short of his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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'Gamble-Pickett', *The West Australian*, 4 February 1905, p.1 (Arthur's marriage at Fremantle).

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'New Jesuit College', *The West Australian*, 21 May 1938, p.10 (St Louis' at Claremont).

'Albany Church', *The West Australian*, 24 December 1938, p.8 (extension at front and transept).

'Santa Maria College', *The West Australian*, 24 February 1938, p.14 (first section at Attadale).

NAA: B884, W44251 GAMBLE CHARLES MAITLAND : Service Number - W44251 : DOB 17 Sep 1910 : POB BUNBURY WA : POE BUNBURY WA : NOK GAMBLE PHYLLIS

NAA: A9301, 80954 GAMBLE ARTHUR LINDESAY : Service Number - 80954 : DOB 08 Apr 1909 : POB BUNBURY WA : POE PERTH : NOK GAMBLE IRIS

NAA: B884, W47462 GAMBLE RAYMOND : Service Number - W47462 : DOB 23 Dec 1914 : POB BUNBURY WA : POE CLAREMONT WA : NOK GAMBLE BERYL

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'Allan Allman Gamble Exhibition', 22 July 2022, <https://mosman.nsw.gov.au/news/library-news/allan-allman-gamble-exhibition-0>

Heritage Committee review: 18 April 2024 Last updated: 18 April 2024

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