



Alex Cameron

(Battye, J.S., *Cyclopedia of Western Australia*, Vol.1, 1912, p.630; RAIA c.1935)

Alexander Donald Cameron (1878-1961) was born 10 October 1878 at Toowoomba, Queensland. He pursued primary studies in his native town and completed his schooling at Perth, where his father John had moved to take up a position as a supervisor with the Western Australian Public Works Department (PWD) in 1892. Alex Cameron served articles with James William Wright (1854-1917), and having concluded his term remained in the office as draughtsman and assistant until January 1906, when Alex and Thomas Walter Lloyd Powell (1864-1946) were made partners in the firm, which then carried on as Wright, Powell & Cameron. The firm became Powell, Cameron & Chisholm in 1930 when Oswald (Ossie) Victor Chisholm (1903-1989) joined as a partner, followed by Alex Cameron's son Alexander Kenneth (Ken) Cameron (1909-1967) in 1934.

Alex Cameron married Violet Adelaide Woolley in 1904, and their son Ken was born in 1909. From 1905-1928 their residence "Wetella" was at 12 Clifton (546 William) Street, North Perth – initially next door to well-known business man and later client Albany Bell. By 1938 the Cameron residence was at 1 Hobbs Avenue Dalkeith, directly opposite the home of another well-known architect, H.H. Bonner (1904-1975).

With the introduction of the *Architects Act* to WA, on 28 July 1922 Alex Cameron was one of the earliest in the State to be registered as an architect (reg. no. 64). Cameron served the professional interests of architects in the State for many years, and was president of the Royal Institute of Architects of Western Australia (RIAWA) during 1935–1936.

One of the earliest Western Australian-trained architects, Cameron made a significant contribution to architecture in the State, although his primary design influence is difficult to distinguish from the overall works of the practice(s). Alex was an influential partner in the firm that has continued into the twenty-first century as Cameron Chisholm & Nicol. He died 3 May 1961 at Dalkeith, aged 82 years, and was buried in the Presbyterian section at Karrakatta Cemetery. Alex Cameron's son Ken died at Mosman Park 28 March 1967 aged 57 years. Ken had been registered in WA in March 1934 (no.145), and his son Barry Malcolm Cameron (1937-) carried on the family tradition, registering in WA in March 1960 (no.338), and after gaining significant experience elsewhere, worked with Cameron Chisholm & Nicol until his retirement.

References:

Battye, J.S., 'Alexander Donald Cameron', *Cyclopedia of Western Australia*, Hussey & Gillingham for the Cyclopedia Co. Adelaide, 1912, Vol.1, p.630.

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 29 September 1934, p.2, (residence cnr Gallop Road & Birdwood Parade, Nedlands – now Dalkeith).

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Albany Bell Castle on Guildford Road Maylands was built in 1919 (2010 photo, HCWA)



Assembly Hall, Pier Street Perth (*The West Australian*, 15 September 1934, p.5)



Clive Sainsbury residence 1 Birdwood Parade, Dalkeith built 1934-35 (Google Maps)



Alex Cameron's residence from the late 1930s at 1 Hobbs Avenue, Dalkeith (Google Maps)