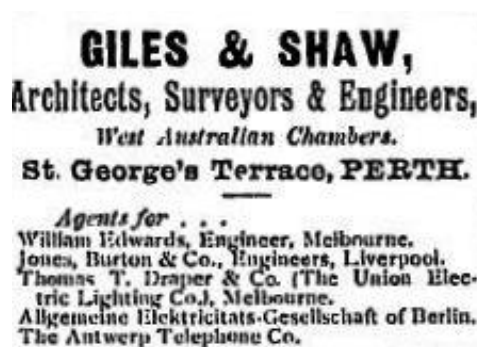


PHOTO REQUIRED

Ernest Giles (photo courtesy xxx)

Ernest Edward Giles (1865-1936) was born on 30 June 1865 to parents Francis and Frances (nee Soole) Giles at *Woodland Bank*, the family residence in Moncur Street, Woollahra, Sydney NSW. By the late 1880s Giles had moved to St Kilda in Melbourne. In October 1889 he joined in partnership with Robert Alexander Kirkpatrick as Kirkpatrick & Giles, at the New Zealand Chambers 483 Collins Street, Melbourne. Their first joint project was development of the omnibus stables site at the corner of Brunswick and Johnston Streets in Fitzroy. In November 1889 the architects called tenders for a hospital at Warragul, east of Melbourne. With a financial crisis in Victoria in the early 1890s, business conditions deteriorated, and in 1893-1894 Giles is listed in sole practice at 483 Collins Street. By 1893 Giles' work was as minor as calling for the erection of a wall-fence to *Eltham*, corner of Stephen and Flinders Streets in Melbourne.



Giles & Shaw advertisement (*Wises Directory*, 1898, p.562)

Giles fled the Victorian economic malaise and voyaged to Western Australia in 1896, joining an exodus of those seeking employment in the gold-boom State. In 1897 Ernest was listed in *Wise's Postal Directory* as an architect at William Street, Perth, and in this time appears to have secured some minor domestic projects. During the period 1898-1900 he is listed in partnership with civil engineer Walter Bernard Shaw (c.1866-1941) as Giles & Shaw architects, surveyors and engineers. Shaw was to be the founder and editor of the influential *W.A. Mining, Building and Engineering Journal* in 1903.

Ernest Giles was living at East Street in Guildford from around 1898, and he capitalized on the development of his local area, being particularly successful during the first decade of the twentieth century at Guildford and the adjoining Midland Junction (now Midland) area. Giles' designs are representative of Midland's second phase of development, following the relocation of the WA Government Railway Workshops from Fremantle to Midland in 1904.



Woodbridge Hotel at 50 East Street, Guildford in 1902 and 2013 (*Western Mail*, 25 December 1902, p.88; www.woodbridgehotel.com.au)

In 1901 Ernest Giles was in practice in his own name at St George's Terrace, Perth, and by 1904 was concentrating on his ongoing projects at Midland Junction and surroundings areas. His designs include the following: in 1901 a house at Woodbridge for Charles Harper, St Brigid's Church and school buildings at Midland for the Sisters of Mercy; in 1902 a residence at Guildford for Dr G.M.Y. Stewart, alterations to the Colonial Stores at Guildford for William Padbury, and the Woodbridge Hotel at East Street, Guildford; in 1903 a two-storey house in Meadow Street, Guildford - Albert Sanderson's 'Dunhelm', and the Bedford Hotel at Brookton for J.L. Cumming; in 1904 a residence on Thomas Street, between Rokeby and Onslow Roads, Subiaco for F. Cumming, residences at Midland Junction for S.A. Brown and G.E. Sewell.



Albert E. Sanderson's 'Dunhelm', Meadow Street, Guildford 1903 (Google 2013)



Bedford Hotel, Brookton for J.L. Cumming 1903 (Google 2013)

In late 1904 Giles designed St Brigid's Convent for the Sisters of Mercy at Midland Junction, but it appears this work did not proceed and another local architect Thomas Hayden Cunningham (c.1873-1933) produced the 1906 convent building. In 1905 he designed a rectory at Midland Junction for the Church of England, an operating theatre and ward at West Midland for Nurse Stewart, three villas at Claisebrook Road in Perth for Mr Davis, and a grain shed at Guildford for William Padbury.



Avon Bridge Hotel, Northam for E.A. Lockyer 1906 (Google 2013)



Shops for J.C. Windsor 1907 – now Motor Museum 116-120 Avon Terrace York (HCWA)

Giles also produced some fine buildings at wheat-belt towns along the Great Southern Railway in the period 1903-1908. In 1906 he organised a large villa residence at York for G.A. Stevens, a Parish Hall at Maylands, the pulling down and rebuilding of the Avon Bridge Hotel at Northam for E.A. Lockyer, and the design of two hotels at Greenhills, for W. McMullen and R.J.G. Reid. Giles had an office at Avon Terrace in York as early as 1907, when he called tenders for semi-detached shops at York for J.C. Windsor, and in 1908 for another large hotel at York for Matthew Ryan, and for Roads Board Offices and a rectory at Brookton.



Palace Hotel for Matthew Ryan cnr Avon Terrace and McCartney Street York 1908 (Wikipedia)



Davies Buildings cnr Avon Terrace and South Street York 1908 (HCWA, F.A. Sharr)



Quairading Hotel for J.J. Hagerty 1909 (Google 2013)

It appears that in 1908 Giles was planning to move his main office from the New Zealand Chambers in Perth to York, as in August he advertised the sale without reserve of his 'Office Furniture and Effects' in *The West Australian*, noting that he was 'leaving for York'. He soon called tenders for shops and offices in Avon Terrace at York for T. Davies. Perhaps his last work in WA was the design of the Quairading Hotel for J.J. Hagerty. A Perth newspaper of mid-1909 notes that Giles was practicing in Melbourne, but he had moved to Wagga Wagga, NSW by 1912, where he called tenders for rebuilding the Wagga Hotel.



T.H. Mate & Co premises, Albury (*Albury Banner and Wadonga Express*, 4 August 1916, p.23)



T.H. Mate & Co premises, cnr Dean and Kiewa Streets, Albury (Google 2013)

Giles was responsible for the T.H. Mate & Co premises at Albury in 1916, and further research could determine further works in NSW during the final period of his career. Giles, noted as 'late of Lord Howe Island', died at Strathfield NSW on 18 March 1936, in his 71st year. He had married Mary Ross at Glendiver, Woodward Avenue, Strathfield in 1891. Mary died at Strathfield in 1949.

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- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 27 October 1896, p.6 (brick residence West Perth).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 20 February 1897, p.6 (weatherboard villa Subiaco).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 30 March 1901, p.1 (villa Turton Rd Guildford for Miss Calder).

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- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 25 June 1901, p.3 (premises Midland Junction for E.G. Lacey).
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- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 2 November 1901, p.5 (house at Woodbridge for Chas Harper).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 28 September 1901, p.11 (church and school buildings at Midland Junction for Sisters of Mercy).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 13 June 1902, p.1 (hotel East St Guildford - Woodbridge).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 2 August 1902, p.1 (residence Guildford for Dr G.M.Y. Stewart).
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- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 30 March 1903, p.3 (2 storey house Meadow St Guildford for A.E. Sanderson).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 18 June 1903, p.2 (hotel, stables Brookton for J.L. Cumming).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 21 November 1903, p.2 (coffee palace Beverley for E. Powell).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 29 March 1904, p.2 (res Thomas St Subiaco for F. Cumming).
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- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 22 June 1904, p.5 (villa at Darlington for Mr Carson).
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