

Herbert Parry

(Battye, J.S., *Cyclopedia of Western Australia*, Vol.1, 1912, p.633; RAI A c.1940)

George Herbert Parry (1882-1951) was born 19 February 1882 in Perth. Always using his middle name, Herbert was a son of the second Church of England Bishop of Perth, with his mother from the prominent Leake family. Herbert received his early education at the High School in Perth, completing scholastic studies at St Edmund's School, Canterbury, England. Subsequently Parry was articled to the profession of architecture with Mervyn Macartney in London, also gaining experience in the office of Ernest Newton. Returning to Western Australia in 1907, Herbert joined the Public Works Department.

After Harry Trigg (1860-1919) and John Glaskin (1886-1956), Parry appears to have been only the third locally-born architect to practice in WA. Trigg practiced from the 1880s, and Glaskin commenced on his own account in 1907. Parry resigned from government service in 1908 to join in a successful partnership with brothers M.F. and J.C. Cavanagh. Parry was admitted as an Associate of the West Australian Institute of Architects in March 1909, and by April 1911 had established himself in practice on his own account at Perth.

In 1910 Herbert married Isla Burt, from another influential family in WA. In 1911 he designed the family residence *Inglehope*, on the north-west corner of Bagot Road and Thomas Street, Subiaco, where their first son, Mervyn, was born in 1913. Two further sons were born at *Inglehope* - Owen in April 1916, and Arthur in September 1919. Mervyn was articled to his father's practice in 1931, later serving in the Second World War and, after returning to Australia, joining his father in practice as Parry & Parry from March 1947. Mervyn was later responsible for a project by his firm Parry & Rosenthal that saw the demolition of *Inglehope* and redevelopment of the site for an office building.

With the strong connection to the Church of England through his father, Parry's business development at least partly resulted from the design of a large number of Anglican Church buildings, including: St Swithun's Church, Lesmurdie (1909); St Stephen's Church, Serpentine (1913); St Catherine's Church, Greenough (1914); St Hilda's Church, North Perth (1915); Burt Memorial Hall, St Georges Terrace, Perth (1918); St Cuthbert's Church, Darlington (1925), and St Mary's Church, South Perth (1931). It is not surprising that Parry was honorary architect to St George's Cathedral for many years, responsible for many tasks including the design of the pulpit, font and memorial panelling in the north transept (1935); also undertaking various refurbishment and alteration works to the adjacent Deanery.

Herbert Parry designed St Andrew's Soldiers' Convalescent Home, Kalamunda (1919) in the Cape Dutch style, based on *Groote Schuur*, the home of Cecil Rhodes near Cape Town, reporting the premise that the style would be well suited to the Western Australian climate and would remind that the State 'was first discovered by the Dutch'. The property was later purchased by the Sisters of Mercy for use as St Brigid's College. Parry was joined in practice by another highly talented West Australian architect, Marshall Clifton (1903–1975), in 1929 and again from 1933 to June 1937, and some of Clifton's influence can be seen in the designs from this period. Further Anglican Church buildings include St Mary's Church, Coolup (1933); St Peter's Church, Victoria Park (1935); St Patrick's Church, Inglewood (1936); and the Chapel of the Guardian Angel (1937), part of Sister's Kate's Children's Home, Queens Park.

Parry's non ecclesiastical commissions include: Gnowangerup Memorial Hall (1923); Mukinbudin Hotel (1923); Kalamunda Agricultural Hall (1924); Masters' and boarders' quarters to the High School, West Perth (1926); Kalamunda Hotel (1927); Masonic Hall, North Perth (1928); Perenjori Hall & Shire Offices (1929); Captain Stirling Hotel, Nedlands (1935); and the Big Bell Hotel (1937). Active in professional matters, Parry was President of the Royal Institute of Architects of Western Australia (RIAWA) during the war years of 1940-1941.

His involvement lessened somewhat by the contribution of son Mervyn following the end of the Second World War, Herbert Parry appears to have continued to practice right up until his death at Subiaco on 12 February 1951, aged 68 years.

References:

'A Recent Architectural Competition', *The West Australian*, 17 September 1907, p.3. (MLC).

'Mr G. Herbert Parry', *The West Australian*, 2 May 1908, p.11 (GHP joins Cavanaghs).

West Australian Mining Building and Engineering Journal, 3 April 1909, p.19 (AWAIA).

'Mr Herbert Parry AWAIA', *The West Australian*, 3 May 1911, p.6 (commenced sole practice).

Battye, J.S., 'George Herbert Parry AWAIA', *Cyclopedia of Western Australia*, Hussey & Gillingham for the Cyclopedia Co. Adelaide, 1912, Vol.1, p.633.

'Soldiers' Convalescent Home', *Western Mail*, 11 April 1919, p.29 (St Andrew's Kalamunda).

'Architect's Death', *The West Australian*, 15 February 1951, p.2.

'Obituary', *Building and Construction*, 16 February 1951, p.14.

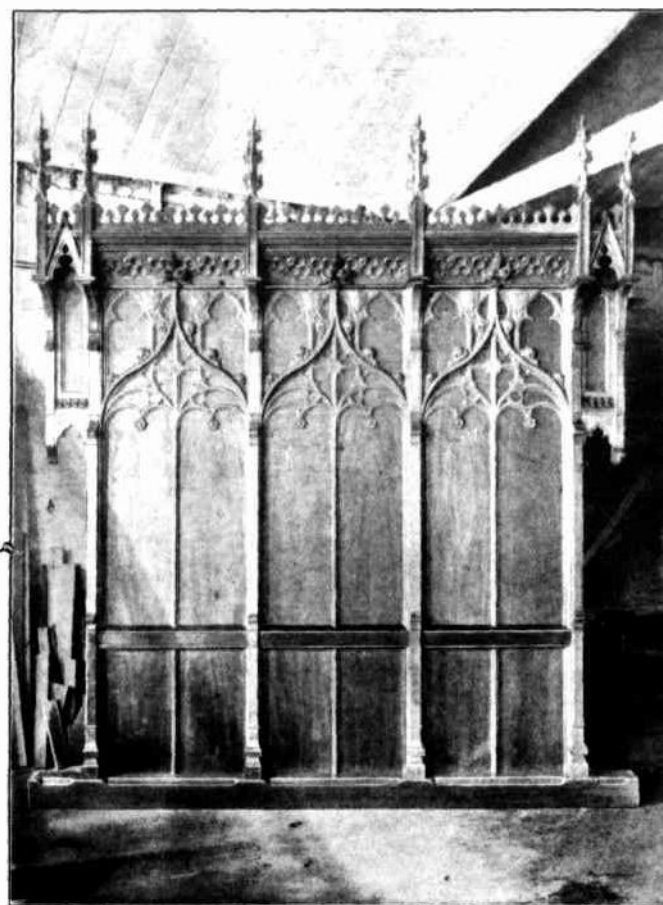
Herbert Parry archival drawings at 'Parry and Rosenthal', SLWA MN 2274, Acc. 6288A, 6114A.

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NEW JARRAH ORGAN SCREEN FOR ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL.
It was designed by Mr. H. Parry, architect, and manufactured by Mr. J. B. Blackburn,
joiner. The carving is the work of Mr. E. G. Madeley.
E. L. Mitchell.

An example of Parry's works at St George's Cathedral, Perth (*Western Mail*, 3 July 1914, p.33)



THE SOLDIERS' CONVALESCENT HOME AT KALAMUNDA.

The property comprises the school built by Mr. A. Sanderson, M.L.C., and part of that gentleman's orchard and grounds. The drawing shows the additions which are to be made to the building in order to render it more comfortable for the boys who will be there. No better spot for such an institution could have been decided upon, the advantages of Kalamunda as a health resort appealing strongly to all who have visited this picturesque hill settlement. (See Letterpress, Page 36.)

St Andrew's Soldiers' Convalescent Home, Kalamunda (*Western Mail*, 11 April 1919, p.24)



Gnowangerup Memorial Hall of 1923 (Pandora NLA)



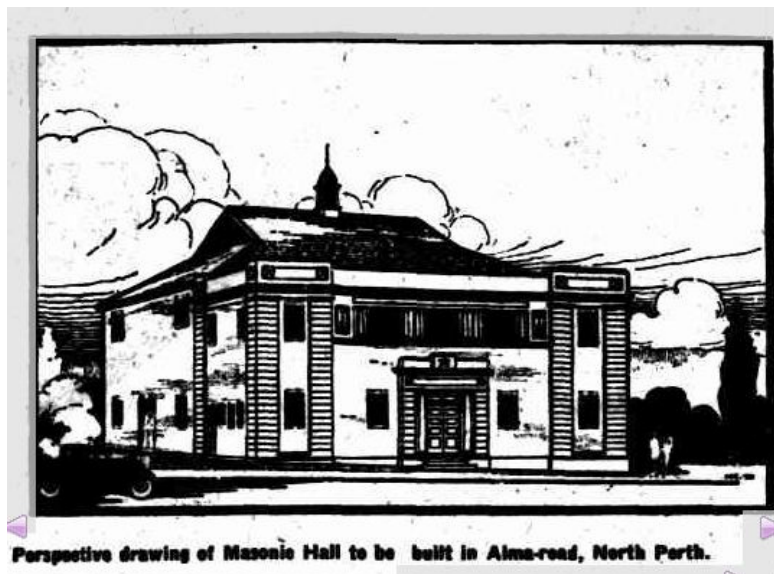
ADDITIONAL NEW BUILDING FOR PERTH HIGH SCHOOL

This new building which constitutes the masters' and boarders' quarters makes a fine addition to the Perth High School. The building was designed by Mr. Herbert Parry, architect of Perth.
(Art Photo Engravers.)

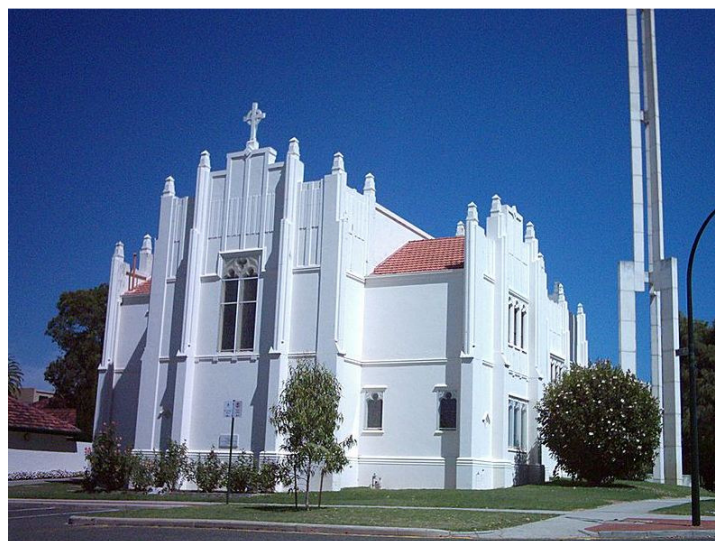
Masters' and boarders' quarters to the High School, West Perth (*Sunday Times*, 14 November 1926, p.13)



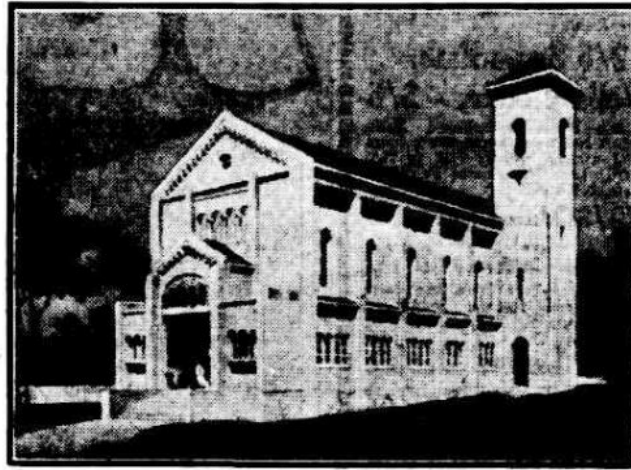
Kalamunda Hotel late 1920s (SLWA 013404PD)



Masonic Hall, Alma Road, North Perth (*The West Australian*, 21 April 1928, p.10)

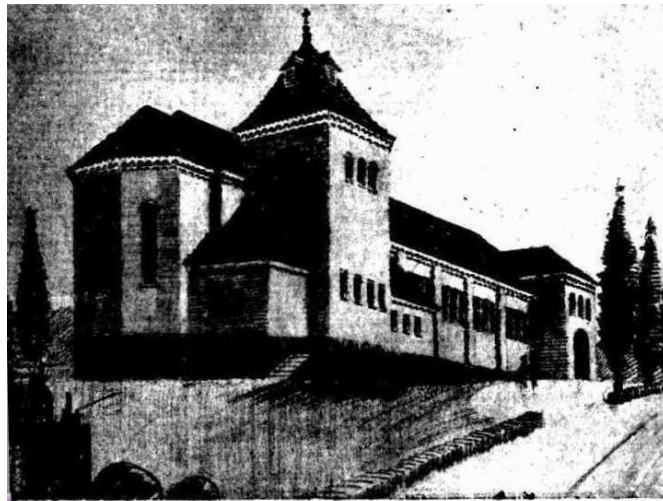


St Mary's Anglican Church, South Perth 1932 (Wikipedia)



Perspective drawing of Anglican Church to be erected at Victoria Park.
The architect is Mr. H. Parry, F.R.I.A.

St Peter's Anglican Church at Victoria Park 1935 (*The West Australian*, 9 January 1932, p.10)



Perspective drawing of new Anglican church to be erected at the corner of First-avenue and Beaufort-street,
Inglewood, for the vestry of St. Patrick's Church. The architects are Messrs. Parry and Marshall Clifton.

St Patrick's Anglican Church, Inglewood (*The West Australian*, 1 February 1936, p.6)



Big Bell Hotel and rail station (SLWA 219205PD)