



Jack Smith

(*Truth*, 7 August 1909, p.5; *Western Mail*, 14 February 1919, p.24)

John Cochrane (also Cochrain) Smith (1869-1937) – known as ‘Jack’, was born at Ballarat, the eldest son of John Cochrane Smith and Annie nee White. His early education and training has not yet been documented, but by 1891 Smith was listed as an architect at 19 Macarthur Street, Ballarat. Jack was elected an Associate member of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects (RVIA) in June 1891, and further research could possibly determine the scope of his works at Ballarat. Smith ceased to be a member of the RVIA in January 1894, as did many other architects in the very difficult economic circumstances of the 1890s depression in Victoria.

Jack Smith married Emma Victoria Cooke (1872-1952) at St Andrew’s Kirk, Ballarat on 28 July 1896, and they had a son, John Clifford Smith (1897-1974). Emma later stated that they lived at Ballarat until March 1904, when Jack went to Adelaide. Instead of returning to Ballarat, as was expected, he wrote saying that he was leaving for Western Australia, and that Emma was to sell the house and furniture and keep the proceeds. Jack said nothing about joining him in WA! She wrote asking him what he intended to do to provide for her and their child, and he answered saying ‘he had no means’. Emma remarried in 1908. Also in 1908, a newspaper mentioned Smith had been in Adelaide ‘renewing his friendship with those he met several years ago as a crack Ballarat bowler’.

Smith is first noted working as an architect at WA in early 1905, and it was stated that he was ‘lately in partnership with Mr Cunningham’. From 1905-1934 his office was located in Lombard Chambers, 59 St George’s Terrace, Perth. He only moved to nearby 39 Barrack Street when the Chambers were demolished to assist with widening an adjacent laneway to form the road Sherwood Court. In September 1910 the RVIA placed a notice in *The West Australian* newspaper listing those architects practicing in WA who were entitled

to place the membership initials after their names. Smith name was not on the list, and he may have been one of a number of ex-Victorians in WA who, having let their membership lapse, had conveniently forgotten to cease claiming the connection and any accordant credibility this may have afforded. Smith stopped using the ARVIA initials in his advertisements from this time, and does not appear to have ever joined the West Australian Institute.

In July 1906 Smith called tenders for two warehouses in Queen Street, Perth for L. Alexander, designed in conjunction with Austin Bastow. Another example of his working in collaboration occurred in 1910, when Smith worked with Oldham & Cox on three-storey additions to the very prominent Esplanade Hotel at Perth for N.W. Harper. Smith designed an exceptionally large residence *Wallinar* at Broomehill in 1911 for George Hardie – the place remains with the Hardie family to date. Demonstrating the versatility of his design work, in June 1911 Smith called tenders for the J. Mills & Co hardware merchants premises on the corner of Murray and Pier Streets in Perth, built in brick with a basement and 2 stories. The building is now in use as the Miss Maud Swedish Hotel.

In 1914 Smith was listed in residence at the Windsor Hotel, South Perth, and tender notices indicate that he designed a good number of houses in that area. An honorary life member of Royal Perth Yacht Club (RPYC), in 1905 and 1921 Smith designed alterations and additions to the timber framed Club House, located at that time on the foreshore at Perth. A framed drawing of the later design hangs on the wall of the current RPYC Club House at Crawley. Smith was responsible for the design of the Australian Natives Association (ANA) Aquatic Club House opened in 1922, also on the foreshore at Perth, just upstream of the West Australian Rowing Club near Barrack Street. Smith designed alterations and additions to the club in 1932. The Aquatic Club was consumed by fire in 1961, destroying all boats, equipment and memorabilia.

The *Architects Act of Western Australia 1921* received formal assent in 1922, and Smith duly registered with the Architects Board of Western Australia on 10 July 1922 (no.51). In 1925 Smith designed a large brick bond store at 749 Wellington Street, Perth for customs agent R.F. North. This building would have been located at the point where the Mitchell Freeway now crosses Wellington Street.

Smith practiced up until his death at Perth on 27 October 1937, aged 68 years, and was buried in the Anglican section at Karrakatta Cemetery. He appears to have been a prominent member of the Commercial Travellers' Club, and to have lived at the CTC in later years.

References:

- Australasian Builder and Contractor's News*, 6 June 1891, p.441 (associate member RVIA).
- 'Ballarat Botanical Gardens Gate', *Building Engineering & Mining Journal*, 20 January 1894, p.22 (competition entry).
- 'Marriages: Smith-Cooke', *Argus*, 7 September 1896, p.1.
- 'On the Terrace', *West Australian Mining Building and Engineering Journal*, 8 April 1905, pp.19-20 (shops, stores & stabling at Guildford; villa at North Perth).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 20 June 1905, p.3 (two-storey factory Leederville).
- 'Round the Offices', *West Australian Mining Building and Engineering Journal*, 29 July 1905, p.20 (adds & alts RPYC).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 13 July 1906, p.5 (2 warehouses Perth for L Alexander).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 20 October 1906, p.4 (villa Kimberley St Leederville).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 5 December 1906, p.9 (brick res Bay View Terrace Claremont).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 17 October 1907, p.5 (alts & adds Imperial Hotel Wellington St).
- 'A Deserted Wife', *The West Australian*, 2 May 1908, p.12 (divorce from Emma).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 28 December 1907, p.3 (res Onslow Road South Perth).
- 'Concerning People', *The Register*, 13 June 1908, p.9 (returning to Perth from Adelaide visit).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 26 March 1910, p.3 (3 storey additions etc to Esplanade Hotel Perth for N.W. Harper - in conjunction with Oldham & Cox)
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 20 September 1910, p.1 (shop Edward Barnett & Co. Albany).
- 'Royal Victorian Institute of Architects', *The West Australian*, 24 September 1910, p.4.
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 15 February 1911, p.3 (homestead Broomehill for G.L. Hardie).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 1 March 1911, p.3 (alts & adds Henry Berry & Co warehouse Wellington Street Perth).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 10 June 1911, p.3 (warehouse Murray/Pier Sts for Mills & Co).
- 'On the Terrace', *West Australian Mining Building and Engineering Journal*, 17 June 1911, (tenders until 21 June for business premises cnr Murray/Pier Sts with basement and 2 stories).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 25 April 1913, p.4 (roughcast bungalow Brunswick Junction).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 14 May 1913, p.4 (Alts and adds Royal George Hotel Albany).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 16 December 1913, p.4 (detached villas Palmerston St Perth).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 7 December 1915, p.1 (timber roughcast bungalow Suburban Road South Perth).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 30 January 1918, p.9 (bungalow Charles St South Perth).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 20 April 1918, p.1 (rebuilding Perth Printing Works for J Cale).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 24 April 1919, p.7 (brick villa Labouchere Rd South Perth).

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 11 February 1920, p.9 (roughcast timber bungalow Cottesloe).
'Aquatics, A.N.A. Clubhouse', *The West Australian*, 11 November 1921, p.9 (construction).
'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 23 January 1922, p.1 (Alts and adds to res Peppermint Grove).
'Interstate Yachting, A.N.A. Welcome', *Western Mail*, 9 February 1922, p.16 (opening of club).
'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 8 June 1922, p.10 (roughcast bungalow Nedlands).
'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 2 November 1925, p.1 (bond store Wellington St for RF North).
'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 24 January 1928, p.11 (paint Goldfields Weir Hotel Mundaring).
'Storm Scenes on the River Front', *The West Australian*, 30 May 1932, p.12 (ANA Club House).
'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 6 July 1932, p.17 (adds & alts ANA Club House).
'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 30 July 1932, p.3 (Bungalow Alice Rd Claremont for H. Foster).
'The Late Mr J.C. Smith', *The West Australian*, 30 October 1937, p.10.

Kelly, Ian, 'Western Australian Architectural Biography, 1890-1915', appendix to the Master of Architecture thesis: *The Development of Housing in Perth (1890-1915)*, UWA, 1991.

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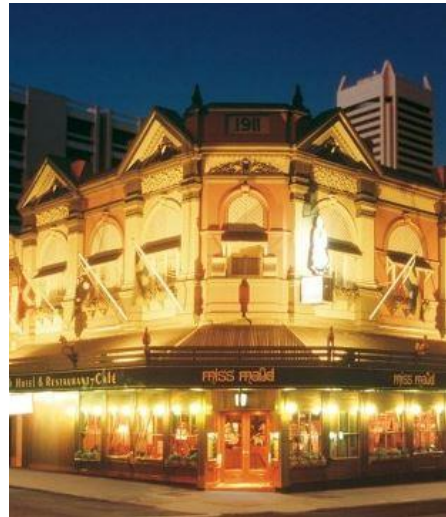
From 1906-1934 Smith's office was located in Lombard Chambers, 59 St George's Terrace, Perth. He only moved to nearby 39 Barrack Street when the building was demolished to assist with widening an adjacent laneway to form the road Sherwood Court (SLWA 046611PD).



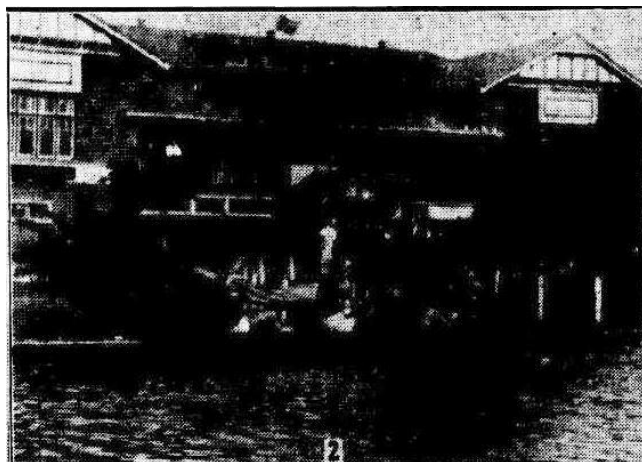
In 1910 J.C. Smith worked with Oldham & Cox on three-storey additions to the very prominent Esplanade Hotel at Perth for N.W. Harper (Muhling Collection).



Hardie Family homestead *Wallinar*, Broomehill built in 1911 (John Taylor 1987).



J. Mills & Co hardware merchants premises, now Miss Maud Swedish Hotel, south-west corner Pier and Murray Streets Perth ('The Progress of Perth', *The Western Mail*, 13 April 1912, p.1s; <http://www.missmaudhotel.com.au/> accessed 10 June 2013).



ANA Club House, located on Riverside Drive Perth from 1922 to 1961, when it burnt down ('Storm Scenes on the River Front', *The West Australian*, 30 May 1932, p.12).