



John Stroud Glaskin

(Batty, J.S., *Cyclopedia of Western Australia*, Vol.1, 1912, p.635)

John Stroud Glaskin (1886-1956) was born 10 November 1886 in Perth, the third son and one of seven children born to John Joseph and Alice Maria Glaskin. His father was an accountant, formerly based in Geraldton. After attending State School, Glaskin became a student at Webb's Grammar School, and subsequently at the Perth Technical School. He received training for his profession in Perth under the tuition of architects Louis Bowser Cumpston, George Clark, and Thomas Anthoness, and having served nearly nine years in the various offices, started practice on his own account in 1907, although he had called a personal tender from the Perth office of engineer-architect F.G. Renou (c.1864-1939) in 1906. Glaskin then had some success in both domestic and commercial architecture, claiming specialization in country homesteads and suburban residences. Glaskin spent additional time furthering his studies, in 1912 noting that he was 'a student of the International School of USA in architecture and structural engineering'.



Shop-dwelling in Bay Road, Claremont WA of 1906, now Bay Road Pantry (Google 2012)

By 1914 Glaskin had moved to Tasmania. He married Clarissa Coralie Lord of Moonah at Hobart in December 1915, it is known that they had at least one daughter in 1916 and a son in 1927. He joined the Australian Imperial Forces in late 1917, but was discharged in mid-1918 without having to embark overseas. For a period Glaskin worked on the engineering staff of the Electrolytic Zinc Company at Risdon, near Hobart, and then in Melbourne, before re-entering practice in Tasmania during 1921.

In a Fellowship application to the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects in 1926, Glaskin lists his work including the Soldiers' Memorial at Glenorchy in 1921, business premises at Hobart and Moonah in 1921-22, a picture theatre at Moonah in 1923, St Mary's Church at Moonah in 1924, the Central Fire Station in Hobart in 1925, and the Bursaries Building at Hobart for 1926.



St Mary's Church, Springfield Avenue, Moonah, Tasmania of 1924 (Google 2012)

In 1921 tenders for the Memorial at Glenorchy were called by Salier and Glaskin, 'Architects and Structural Engineers, Bank Chambers, Elizabeth Street'. The design of Masonic Temples for Glenorchy and Fingal in 1924-25, and the Central Fire Station at Hobart was undertaken in a partnership Salier, Glaskin and Rickards; by 1926 Glaskin and Rickards were responsible for the Bursaries Building and new Liverpool Street, Hobart premises for W. & G. Genders. The redevelopment of the Cascade Brewery was one of the last major works for Glaskin and Robert Flack Rickards as the Great Depression took hold in 1929.



ANZ Centre (former ABC Broadcast House, former Bursaries Building) 22 Elizabeth Street, Hobart of c.1926 (Google 2012)

In 1921 Glaskin was elected a member of the Tasmanian Institute of Architects, by 1926 he was elected vice-president, and in 1928 as president represented the TIA at the annual meeting of the Federal Council of the Australian Institutes of Architects in Canberra, where he promoted the registration of Tasmanian architects, and the memorandum of agreement for the formation of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects was formalised.

In January 1929 it was noted that the Institute president Glaskin was ‘temporarily’ moving to be engaged on commission work at Albury in NSW. At Albury in March 1930, Glaskin was quoted as saying that ‘owing to unemployment and financial stress the cost of building had fallen considerably’. The effects of the 1930s Great Depression on the architectural profession were as great as in any business, and notice was given in February 1932 that the partnership between Louis Harrison and Glaskin, carrying on business as architects at Dean Street, Albury was dissolved by mutual consent.

Glaskin may have sought financial refuge with his family back in Western Australia, and in 1933 was fortunate to secure appointment as the Public Works Department (PWD) district architect for the mid-west of WA, based at Geraldton. His personal contributions to architecture from this time are difficult to separate from the PWD output, but it is known that he assisted the Geraldton Council with plans of beach and foreshore improvements *pro bono*, and acted as honorary architect for the St John Ambulance centre at Geraldton in 1941.

In poor health and requiring an operation in 1945, after nearly 14 years in the mid-west Glaskin transferred from Geraldton during early 1947 for Perth. He died at Mosman Park on 28 November 1956.

References:

- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 18 April 1906, p.2 (shop and dwelling at Claremont for Mrs Louisa Butterworth – now Bay Road Deli/Pantry. Glaskin at F.G. Renou engineer's office).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 16 May 1910, p.1 (shops Grosvenor Rd Nth Perth for E. Sara).
- 'John Stroud Glaskin' in Battye, J.S. (Ed), *Cyclopedia of Western Australia*, Vol.1, 1912, p.635. Birth date of 10 November 1886 taken from Battye; however, WA Births, Deaths & Marriages online records, birth no. 26644, list birth registration year as 1885 – further investigation required.
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 18 April 1906, p.2 (shop-dwelling Claremont for Mrs Butterworth).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 25 August 1913, p.1 (Bungalow at Osborne for Alex McLennan).
- 'Tenders for residence D'Arcy Street', *The Mercury*, 27 November 1915, p.1.
- 'Tenders for remodelling Officer College', *The Mercury*, 8 December 1915, p.1.
- National Archives of Australia, online service records, Glaskin, John Stroud, SERN 52299.
- 'Glenorchy's War Memorial', *The Mercury*, 20 July 1921, p.4.
- 'Glenorchy War Memorial', *The Mercury*, 29 July 1921, p.8.
- 'Tenders for Glenorchy War Memorial', *The Mercury*, 25 August 1921, p.1.
- 'Institute of Architects', *The Mercury*, 3 August 1921, p.6.
- 'Masonic Temple for Glenorchy', *The Mercury*, 27 October 1924, p.8.
- 'Fire Brigade Buildings', *The Mercury*, 27 February 1925, p.4.
- 'Masonic Temple at Fingal', *The Mercury*, 30 March 1925, p.4.
- FRVIA application 1926, State Library Victoria, MS 9454, box 87, barcode M06293, envelope 8.
- 'Institute of Architects', *The Mercury*, 1 September 1926, p.9.
- 'Bursaries Building', *The Mercury*, 21 July 1927, p.8.
- 'New Business Premises', *The Mercury*, 13 August 1927, p.12.
- 'Architects' Conference', *The Mercury*, 8 September 1928, p.7.
- 'Institute of Architects', *Examiner* (Launceston), 10 January 1929, p.7.
- 'Building Costs, Albury', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 March 1930, p.12.
- Notice of dissolved partnership, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 February 1932, p.1.
- Appointment to Geraldton, *Sunday Times*, 10 September 1933, p.1s.
- St John Ambulance centre, *Geraldton Guardian and Express*, 11 March 1941, p.1.
- 'Foreshore Improvements', *Geraldton Guardian and Express*, 18 April 1945, p.2.
- Operation required, *Geraldton Guardian and Express*, 27 October 1945, p.2.
- 'Transfer to Perth', *Geraldton Guardian and Express*, 1 February 1947, p.2.
- 'Services Appreciated', *Geraldton Guardian and Express*, 7 June 1947, p.1.
- Bingham, Mike, *CASCADE: A Taste of History*, Cascade Brewery Company, Hobart, 1991, p.82.

Contributing author: John Taylor

Heritage Committee meeting approval date: 12 April 2012 Last updated: 30 August 2021

Citation details:

Taylor, Dr John J., 'John Stroud Glaskin (1886-1956)', Western Australian Architect Biographies, <http://www.taylorarchitects.com.au/Biographies.html> accessed DATE.