

## **SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE JULIA L. BUTTERFIELD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

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COLD SPRING HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW BOARD

Two significant architects are associated with the construction of the Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Hospital, located near the intersection of Route 9D and Paulding Avenue in Cold Spring, Putnam County, New York. Hobart Brown Upjohn is a figure of national significance, and Stanley Edison White, Sr. is a figure of local and regional significance.

### **HOBART BROWN UPJOHN (1876-1949) ARCHITECT OF ORIGINAL HOSPITAL BUILDING, 1925**

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Hobart Brown Upjohn was born in 1876 to architect Richard Michell Upjohn (1828-1903, the eldest son of famed architect and AIA founder Richard Upjohn) and Emma Degen Tyng (1836-1901, the daughter of an Episcopal clergyman) in the family's joined houses at Clinton and Baltic Streets in Brooklyn. Hobart attended Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute and graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from the Stevens Institute in Hoboken NJ 1899. He then taught briefly at a college in Scranton PA.<sup>1</sup>

During much of the 1890's four of Richard Michell Upjohn's five sons worked in his New York City office which closed in 1895. Surprisingly only one of the four actually pursued a career as an architect.<sup>2</sup> In 1903 shortly after his father's death, Hobart was employed as an engineer at the Eidlitz & MacKenzie firm, one of whose partners was Cyrus Eidlitz, the son of Leopold Eidlitz, another AIA founder who had worked for Richard Upjohn in the late 1840's.<sup>3</sup>

By happenstance, around 1903 Hobart received a letter intended for his deceased father, requesting a design for a church. He pitched his own services, the patron accepted and he was off on his own as an architect. His first commission, All Souls Unitarian Church (destroyed by fire in the 1980's) built in Watertown (Jefferson Co., NY) in 1905, was an important enough design to be written up in the journal "American Architect" in March 1909.<sup>4</sup> Fast on its heels was the private Mead Memorial Chapel in Waccabuc (Westchester Co., NY) which was completed in 1905; it still exists, as does an addition he designed in 1929 to house the Mead family archives.<sup>5</sup>

In the 'teens and thereafter, Hobart and his family lived at a succession of homes in Scarsdale: Overhill Rd., Wayside Lane, Lynwood Rd., and finally Church Lane, usually renting, not selling, the homes they vacated.<sup>6</sup> He was a sufficiently important public figure that when he rented out the Garrison property that his grandfather acquired in 1852, that Hobart called "The Terraces", to a Mrs. Drake in 1911, it was reported in the NY Herald.<sup>7</sup> Several Upjohn family marriages reportedly took place at St. Philip's in Garrison, designed by his grandfather, as late as the 1930's.<sup>8</sup> In 1913, for unexplained reasons, Hobart – who appears to be the family member in charge of the Garrison property – subdivided it into four separate parcels, selling off one portion to John B. Richardson. The Upjohn family sold the remaining three parcels in the Garrison property to Julian Benjamin and his brothers, descendants of the Fish family, in 1922. Mr.

Benjamin removed the alterations made to the property by Richard Upjohn in 1852, and restored it to some semblance of its Colonial-era appearance.<sup>9</sup>

Through the decades following that first 1905 church, Hobart's reputation and fame continued to grow. He gained a large group of commissions in North Carolina, initially on the basis of his grandfather's good name, but he was retained again and again to serve a highly pleased clientele. By the end of his career, almost a third of his works were in North Carolina, although his offices were consistently in Grand Central Terminal in NYC. He became the president of the NYC chapter of the AIA, a post he held for about a decade. He was honored with at least 5 national prizes,<sup>10</sup> and a Diploma of Merit at an international exhibit in Turin Italy in 1925 for a graceful Colonial Revival church in Pinehurst NC. In the lean economic times of the Great Depression, Trinity Church in Manhattan -- the foundation of his grandfather's reputation -- retained him as consulting architect until his retirement in 1945.<sup>11</sup> Hobart was called upon many times to restore, rebuild or expand churches his father or grandfather had designed.<sup>12</sup> He published scholarly works on historical revival styles of architecture.<sup>13</sup> Articles by Hobart Upjohn on hospital construction appeared in technical journals.<sup>14</sup> It is little wonder, then, that the trustees of Julia Butterfield's estate would have approached him to be the architect of the Library, Hospital and rectory at St. Mary's that she endowed.

Sometime after Julia Butterfield's death in 1913, he was hired by the trustees of her estate to design the buildings that she left to the Cold Spring community. The rectory at St. Mary's came first, dedicated in 1916 by Bishop Burch.<sup>15</sup> Around the same timeframe, in 1918 Hobart designed additions and alterations to the Charles Seton Lindsay residence on Route 301 east of Cold Spring, a home that was later acquired by Dr. and Mrs. Walter Timme. Also in 1918, according to a memoir written by his son Everard in 1972, Hobart Upjohn designed a fountain dedicated to the memory of Dr. Richard Giles.<sup>16</sup> The fountain was probably not built, but it is evidence that he was well-regarded by the leaders in the Cold Spring community. Both Butterfield Library and Butterfield Hospital were designed by 1919, but warring factions among the estate's trustees kept the construction documents from being bid until 1922. It was only the death of most of the trustees and executors and the appointment of a rational substitute that enabled the impasse to be broken, along with a robust push from local residents C. R. Squire, the school board chairman, and Dr. Coryell Clark.<sup>17</sup> Hobart Upjohn was paid a total of \$5032.72 for commission and expenses on the Hospital, \$1749.31 for the Library.<sup>18</sup>

The rectory, hospital and library represent significant milestones in the evolution of Hobart Upjohn's architectural vocabulary. Although he practiced architectural eclecticism by working solely in revival styles, his pre-1920 works were almost exclusively in some variant of English medieval architecture: Gothic, Tudor or Elizabethan. His preferred choice for ancillary buildings on a church campus, where the main buildings were Gothic-inspired, was the humbler Tudor Revival,<sup>19</sup> as evidenced by St. Mary's Rectory. Starting in the later 'teens, he branched out into interpretations of English Georgian and American Colonial Revival styles, thereby greatly extending his reach. The Butterfield Library is one of his earliest forays into the Georgian Revival mode. The Hospital represents a very early Colonial Revival design among his known works.

Although he technically retired in 1945, he continued to consult and collaborate on other projects until his death, an architect to the end.<sup>20</sup> Hobart Brown Upjohn died in 1949 in a hospital in Poughkeepsie after a long illness.<sup>21</sup> He was 74 years old. He was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, whose elaborate Gothic Revival gates and gatehouses were designed by his father and grandfather.

**STANLEY EDISON WHITE, SR. (1901-1970)**  
**ARCHITECT OF THE TIMME (SOUTH) WING, 1941**

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Stanley White, a native of Rumford ME, was born in 1901, and attended that state's Bowdoin College for two years. He subsequently graduated in 1924 from a four-year program in architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which has the distinction of being the first university-level school of architecture in the United States, founded in 1865. He was employed as an architectural draftsman at various New York City offices from 1924 to 1931.<sup>22</sup>

In 1925, Stanley moved with his wife, the former Helen Elizabeth Cooley of Ellenville NY, to an apartment in a building owned by a "Miss Lath at the corner of Secor and Main Streets" in Nelsonville.<sup>23</sup> Then in 1929, the young couple and their family moved to a new home in Undercliff Park, Cold Spring, that they had "recently built" to Stanley's own design.<sup>24</sup>

Mr. White established a private architectural practice in 1931 and advertised shortly thereafter in a local newspaper that he offered plans for "New Homes – Alterations – Complete Original Plans and Specifications – Additions".<sup>25</sup> He maintained this primarily residential atelier until 1936 when, during the uncertain economic times of the Great Depression, he was hired by the White Plains office of the Federal Housing Administration as their resident architect inspector, a post he held until 1940. During the early years of World War II, he resumed his private design practice (which included the design of the new addition to Butterfield Hospital in 1941-42), only to be called into service as an architectural engineer for the Norden Company, the famed bombsight manufacturer, from 1942 to 1946.<sup>26</sup>

Following the War, the serious housing shortage and the baby boom contributed to Stanley's success as an architect of single-family homes and schools. In addition, he was the architect of many other substantial buildings in Putnam County and its environs, among them the following:<sup>27</sup>

- 1936 Haldane Central School
- 1941-42 Butterfield Hospital addition
- 1950 Garrison Fire House
- 1951 Garrison Elementary School
- 1951-52 Carmel, Putnam County Office Building addition
- 1951-52 Carmel Fire House
- 1954 Carmel Elementary School
- 1954 Yorktown Elementary School
- 1954 Kent School and garage
- 1954 Patterson School addition
- 1955 Yorktown Hts. High School Auditorium
- 1956 Mahopac, Methodist Church Parish House
- 1956 Carmel, Drew Methodist Church Parish House
- 1957-58 Kent School addition
- 1957-58 Carmel School addition
- 1958 Yorktown – Strawberry Hill development (13 homes)
- 1961 Beacon School addition

White's professional reputation in construction was such that, in 1951, he presided over a conference concerning school construction and costs at the State Teachers College in New Paltz.<sup>28</sup> He was the vice president of the local Haldane school board starting in 1945, and in 1952 was elected the president of the Putnam County School Boards Association.<sup>29</sup> He was an

active member of the Methodist Church in Cold Spring as well as a Mason and a member of the Rotary Club. Stanley Edison White, Sr. died in 1970. He is interred in Cold Spring Cemetery.

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<sup>1</sup> Gerard Allen. Biography of Hobart Upjohn published in 2009 on the North Carolina State University Website entitled "North Carolina Architects and Builders," *Hobart Brown Upjohn Biography*, accessed via <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000078>.

<sup>2</sup> Judith S. Hull. "The 'School of Upjohn': Richard Upjohn's Office," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, September 1993, no. 83. Pg. 299.

<sup>3</sup> Allen, *op.cit.*

<sup>4</sup> Everard M. Upjohn, "Hobart B. Upjohn: An Informal Account as I Remember Him, 1972", typed manuscript in the collection of the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University, NYC. Other sources put the Waccabuc chapel first, but the account of Everard Upjohn (Hobart's son) is generally accepted as accurate.

<sup>5</sup> New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, State Historic Preservation Office. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for Mead Memorial Chapel. Prepared by Peter D. Shaver. June 21, 1999.

<sup>6</sup> *The New York Herald*, 5/5/15; *The New York Evening Post*, 10/2/33; *Yonkers Herald Statesman*, 12/16/37 & 6/21/38.

<sup>7</sup> *The New York Herald*, 6/14/11, n.p.

<sup>8</sup> *Schenectady Gazette*, 4/20/31, n.p. The article describes the marriage of Mary Upjohn Foltz, great-granddaughter of Richard Upjohn, at St. Philip's in Garrison, New York.

<sup>9</sup> 218 A.D.2d 791, 631 N.Y.S.2d 170, *Perry-Gething Found. v Stinson* (August 28, 1995). Note: Property now known as "Mandeville House".

<sup>10</sup> "H.B. Upjohn Dead: Church Designer", *The New York Times*, August 24, 1949.

<sup>11</sup> Allen, *op.cit.*

<sup>12</sup> Among the "grandfather/grandson" churches are St. Peter's in Geneva, New York; Zion Church in Rome New York; and Grace Church in Utica, New York.

<sup>13</sup> Hobart B. Upjohn, "Churches in Eight American Colonies Differing in Elements of Design", *The Monograph Series*, Number 1, Vol. XV, 1929.

<sup>14</sup> Hobart B. Upjohn, "Development Plan for the United Hospital, Port Chester, N.Y.", *The Modern Hospital*, September 1921. Pages 209-211.

<sup>15</sup> Elbert Floyd-Jones, "St. Mary's Church in the Highlands—A History", 1920, p.106.

<sup>16</sup> Everard M. Upjohn, *op.cit.*

<sup>17</sup> *Cold Spring Recorder*, July 7, 1922, no page

<sup>18</sup> Geo. B. Arnot, Trustee, "In the Matter of the Judicial Settlement of the Account...of Certain Trusts Created by the Last Will and Testament of Julia Lorillard Butterfield, Deceased", Spring Valley, NY, June 7, 1926. Petition to the New York Supreme Court, Putnam County, to validate the income and expenses incurred by the estate.

<sup>19</sup> Everard M. Upjohn, *op.cit.*

<sup>20</sup> Hobart Upjohn's last projects, in a consulting capacity, appear to have been St. Matthew's Episcopal Church (a log structure) in Fairbanks AL (1948) with his former partner Thomas Bell, and the First Presbyterian Church in Houston TX (1949) with Maurice Joseph Sullivan.

<sup>21</sup> *New York Times*, *op.cit.*

<sup>22</sup> Collection of Stanley White, Jr. Clipping from a "Who's-Who"-like publication, n.d.

<sup>23</sup> *Cold Spring Recorder*, April 3, 1925, n.p. Note: Secor Street and Main Street do not converge.

<sup>24</sup> *Putnam County Courier*, November 11, 1929, n.p.

<sup>25</sup> *Cold Spring Recorder*, March 18, 1932, n.p.

<sup>26</sup> Collection of Stanley White, Jr. Clipping from a "Who's-Who"-like publication, n.d.

<sup>27</sup> The compiled list draws on a number of sources, including:

*American Architects Directory*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition. New Providence, New Jersey: RR Bowker LLC, 1956.

*American Architects Directory*, 2nd edition. New Providence, New Jersey: RR Bowker LLC, 1962.

*The Putnam County Courier*:

Oct. 24, 1950, Dec. 13, 1956, March 14, 1957, June 2, 1955, Dec. 3, 1955, Jan. 1, 1953, and Nov. 26, 1953.

*The Yonkers Herald Statesman*, May 16, 1958.

<sup>28</sup> *Millbrook Round Table*, July 19, 1951, n.p.

<sup>29</sup> *Putnam County Courier*, December 20, 1952, n.p.