

W.H.H. VAN SICKLE

Site and Building History Research

Curriculum Vitae and Practice Details

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PERSONAL DETAILS

Born: Winnipeg, Canada, 15 July, 1952.
Nationality: Dual Canadian and British Citizenship.
Marital Status: Married (1983); no children.

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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- Since 1985 Site and Building History Research.
- Independent and retained consultant undertaking detailed archival research and providing assessment, advice, and support services relating to historic buildings and areas on behalf of public and private clients.
- 1983-1985 Doctoral Research (as noted below).
- 1982-1983 Lecturer, Department of Town and Country Planning, University of Manchester.
- Urban Design studio supervision and lectures on the application of urban design theory to professional practice.
- 1976-1982 Planning and Urban Design Consultant, Edmonton, Canada.
- Preparation of strategic plans for public and private clients; historic preservation project and policy work; design and layout of estate developments; negotiations.
- 1975 Research Studentship, City of Ottawa Planning Department.
- Preparation of an income projection sub-model for the City's computerised community planning system. The results were published as the Department's Research Bulletin No. 4.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- 1974 B.A. (Hons. Geography), University of Ottawa.
- 1976 M.Sc. (Urban & Regional Planning), University of Toronto.
Field of Study: Urban Design.
Thesis: Criteria for Designating Historic Buildings and Sites.
- 1983-1985 Doctoral Research, Art History, University of Essex.
Research: British and North American linkages in the Arts and Crafts movement (not submitted).

PRACTICE STATEMENT

Topographical and historical resources tend to be under-used by property developers, general architects, and even historic-buildings architects. One reason for this is that much historical work is focused upon themes rather than places, and material which might be of interest relates only marginally to specific buildings.

Nonetheless, a great deal of site-specific material exists in archives, and when placed in its historical context can be invaluable in documenting aspects of design and development. Such work is often done in a casual manner and/or is poorly related to building projects, but there is no obvious reason why archival and topographical research should be any less thorough and rigorous than other aspects which are routinely explored prior to restoration, design or development.

Since 1985, I have combined an academic background in urban design and architectural history with professional experience as a consultant dealing with historic buildings legislation, procedures and projects, in order to locate, analyse and summarise archival material relating to buildings and sites.

The following consulting services are offered:

- researching, analysing, summarising, and interpreting historical, documentary, topographical and illustrative material relating to the past development of buildings, sites and districts;
- interpreting historical aspects of archival materials as they relate to built evidence and historical issues;
- advising on approaches to the management and development of sites in light of archival evidence, and preparing formal reports and finished text for development applications, public enquiry submissions, and property marketing;
- liaising with English Heritage and other staff at formal and informal levels. to facilitate and resolve statutory approvals,
- writing Conservation Management Plans as primary and/or associate consultant on historical and policy issues;
- preparing heritage impact statements for planning applications subject to the provisions of PPS5;
- providing research and interpretative assistance, and appearing as expert witness at judicial and tribunal hearings relating to historic aspects of building ownership and occupancy.

A list of clients is attached, and names of referees can be supplied on request.

SELECTED LIST OF CLIENTS

Public Agencies and Amenity Groups

Property Section, The Royal Household

- A continuing arrangement is held for project-based archival research and the organisation of the Property Section's archival plans relating to the Occupied Palaces.
- In 2005, I began a programme of writing Conservation Management Plans for the occupied palaces; the initial plan was prepared for the Back Mews at Buckingham Palace, and six policy plans are currently being drafted for Buckingham Palace.

Crown Estate Commissioners

- Site-specific research for Regent's Park, Kensington Palace Gardens and other estates, and general research on exterior Regency paint colours, the design of gas lamps and railings in Regent's Park, and administrative aspects of the Crown Estate and associated agencies. A retainer was held for six years for such research with the Crown Estate's consultants in Regent's Park.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

- In addition to research for the Institution, professional involvement has included acting as a judge in 2000 for the RICS Conservation Awards.

National Monuments Record (English Heritage, formerly part of the R.C.H.M.E.)
Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
Fulham & Hammersmith Historic Buildings Group

Architectural Firms—Historic Buildings

Martin Ashley Architects

- Archival research and documentation, synthesising information and drafting of numerous Conservation Plans (including Dorchester Abbey, the Chapel and College of St George at Windsor Castle, and Farnham Castle).

Giles Quarme and Associates

- Drafting of five Conservation Plans for the former Royal Naval College at Greenwich, and involvement with a range of similar plans.

Purcell Miller Tritton & Partners, Norwich and London

- Work has included drafting of Conservation Plans and the preparation of fully-researched dated plans for the Reform Club in Pall Mall.

Caroe & Partners

Erith & Terry Architects

Architectural Firms—General

Farrells, London

- Since researching the history of Charing Cross in 1985, I have undertaken site history research for many of the firm's major competitions and projects, and have provided support material for books by Sir Terry Farrell.

Hawkins Brown Architects

- I have undertaken many site-specific research projects for the firm since it was established in 1988.

John McAslan and Partners

Simon Sturgis Architects

Indigo Planning

Brookes Murray Architects

Richter von Morgenstern Associates

Estates, Surveyors and Development Firms

Howard de Walden Estates Limited

- expert witness testimony on historical matters for hearings at the Leasehold Valuation and Lands Tribunals.

Knight Frank

- In addition to site-specific research, included the preparation of a data base of the firm's property archival sales information since 1896.

Prudential Portfolio Managers Limited.

- Included appearing at the High Court as an expert witness in PPML vs Waterloo Real Estate Inc.

Jones Lang LaSalle

City and Provincial Properties

Cory Environmental

Greycoat Group Plc.

MEPC Developments Ltd.

Private and Other Clients

Mr Guy Ritchie, Fitzroy Square, London

Messrs C. Hoare & Co., Bankers.

Ms N. Jones, Daintrey House, Petworth, Sussex

Lord Lloyd Webber, Sydmonton Court, Hampshire

Mr. Brian Stein, Ockwells Manor, Berkshire

Mrs. Anne Mead, Queen Hoo Hall, Hertfordshire

Mr. Geoffrey Wilson (Greycoat Plc)

PUBLICATIONS AND RELATED MATERIAL

1. Author, *Parishes and Churches in Romney Marsh*, Published by Ronald Spinney and the Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust, 1991.
2. Author, "Visible Mending", in *Building Design*, 21 August, 1992. Practice profile of Purcell Miller Tritton & Partners.
3. Author, book review of *How Buildings Learn*, by Stewart Brand, in *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society*, Vol. 40, 1996.
4. *Visit of H.M. The Queen to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, 29 July, 1999*. Preparation of text and images for display on the history of the RICS headquarters building, and presentation of the history to Her Majesty.
5. *Getting it Right: Conservation and Research in Practice*. Seminar "break-out" session presented to Building Surveyors' Annual Briefing, Nottingham, 8 April, 2000.
6. Robinson, John Martin. *The Regent's Park Terraces: 50 Years of Restoration*. Supporting research for a short history to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Gorell Report. The Crown Estate, 1997.
7. Binney, Marcus. *Palace on the River*, 1991. Co-ordination of text for images of Terry Farrell's "Embankment Place" building.
8. *Terry Farrell: Urban Design*, 1993. Sourcing and supply of archival images.
9. Farrell, Sir Terry. *Shaping London*, 2009. Contributory material on historical aspects of London development.
10. *St John's Lodge and Hanover Lodge*, Regent's Park. Architectural and biographical histories, used for marketing purposes. (Knight, Frank & Rutley and The Crown Estate.)
11. *The Diorama, Regent's Park, and Ca'Dario, Venice*. Architectural and social histories, used for marketing purposes.
12. James Fisher, in *The Times*, 23 February, 1994. Article featuring my research work on historic buildings.