

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY
300 CITY HALL

CITY OFFICIALS

Parkinson, John

NAME Parkinson, John (deceased December 9, 1935)

PUBLIC OFFICES HELD

(DATE)

CITY:

Municipal Art Commission

Nov. 23, 1903 -
Dec. 13, 1910

COUNTY:

STATE

State Board of Architecture, 1919-1933

FEDERAL:

CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Architect - All allied arts and sciences
City and state official

PORTRAIT:

ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE: none

PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)

Portrait Index

ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

BOOKS:

See other page

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:

Los Angeles Times

PERSONAL INTERVIEW: none: filled in biography form,
1910

INTERVIEWED BY:

DATE OF INTERVIEW

Written by: Clare Wallace
March 25, 1938

The Los Angeles Public Library
Local History Collection
Biography

NAME Parkinson, John (deceased December 9,
1935)

Occupation Architect

Address _____

Birth (Date and Place) December 12, 1861, Scarton, England

FATHER Thomas Parkinson

Birth (Date and Place) 1818, England

If Deceased, When 1888

MOTHER Mary Ann Bibby

Birth (Date and Place) 1816, England

If Deceased, When 1904

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM { 1st wife: Meta Catherine Breckenfeld
2nd wife: Florence Gumaer
Birth of Same (Date and Place) 1st wife: 1862, New York, N.Y.

If Deceased, When 1st wife: March 10, 1922

When Married 1st wife: December 25, 1889, Napa,
2nd wife: April 4, 1923, (Calif.
Los Angeles

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)

By first wife:

Donald Berthold

Mary Dorothea: Mrs. Trent

TITLES OF BOOKS, ARTICLES, MUSIC, OR OTHER CREATIVE WORK

(In the case of printed matter, please give date and publisher; of periodical publications also name of magazine and date.)

~~Electric, hydraulic, and pneumatic machinery,~~
~~on which he held six patents.~~

Architectural works

REVIEWS, CRITICISMS, AND OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES

(Please note printed matter concerning yourself or your work. We would appreciate any such material you may send, clippings, reviews, portrait.)

Burdette, Greater Los Angeles and Southern California, p 66

Wolfe, Men of California, p 424

Hunt, California and Californians, vol 1V, p 91

McGroarty, Los Angeles From the Mountains to the
Sea, vol 11, p 221

ANCESTORS OF DISTINCTION OR LOCAL INTEREST

(Please include names of local interest as "forty-niners," or any one connected with the affairs or development of the state or city, as officials, professional men, merchants, etc.)

Richard Parkinson, D.D. canon of Manchester
Cathedral; Robert Parkinson who laid out the
grounds of Mount Vernon for George Washington,
was great grandfather of subject.

EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

St. Lukes School, Mechanic's Institute, Bolton
England

CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

California Club; Jonathan Club; University Club;
Union League Club, San Francisco; B.P.O.E., Los An-
geles Country Club; American Institute of Architects

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION Episcopal

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS Republican

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE San Francisco 1885
Los Angeles, 1894

SKETCH

(Please make this as full as possible, giving business affiliations, positions of honor or trust with dates if possible.)

John Parkinson was born December 12, 1861, in Scarton, England. He was educated in his native city, first at St. Lukes School and later at Mechanics's Institute, from which he received a diploma in engineering and architecture in 1882.

He came to San Francisco from England in 1885 and located in Napa, California. Beginning in 1888 Mr. Parkinson began the practice of architecture. The Bank of Napa was the first building he designed in the United States.

From Napa he removed to Seattle, Washington, in 1889 where he continued the practice of architecture and building construction. The Butler Block, and the Pacific Office Building of Seattle are among his early works. He also served as architect to the Seattle School Board, designing several school buildings in that time.

After 1894 Mr. Parkinson made his home in Los Angeles. In his forty years in Los Angeles he was dean of Southland architects. He evolved plans for many important structures throughout the country and became noted as a commercial building designer. A number of the city's most prominent edifices are his conceptions.

Around 1905 he formed a partnership with Mr. Edwin Bergstrum and later with his son, under the firm name of John and Donald B. Parkinson, Architects.

Mr. Parkinson was active in civic and club life during his earlier years here. When the Municipal Art Commission was created by ordinance in 1903 he was appointed a member of the first board. He served from November 23, 1903 to December 13, 1910, and then resigned.

His last work was on plans for the city's new \$9,000,000 Union Passenger Terminal, in the first stages of construction at the time of his death. He died December 9, 1935, at his home in Santa Monica.

Parkinson, John
Supplement to Sketch

Partial list of structures of which Mr. Parkinson was architect or associate architect.

Administrative Building, University of Southern Calif
Alexandria Hotel
Angeles Hotel
Arcade Depot
Blackstone Building
Braly Building
Broadway Department Store
Bullocks Department Store and Annex
California Club
Central Building
Chamber of Commerce Building
City Hall
Citizens National Bank Building
Currier Building (his first in Los Angeles)
Edison Building
Federal Reserve Building
Frost Building
Grant Building
Hotel Maryland, Pasadena
Hotel Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
Johnson Building
Laughlin Building (first fire-proof building in L.A.)
Los Angeles Athletic Club
Los Angeles Gas and Electric Building
Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum
Pacific Mutual Building
Rosslyn Hotel and Annex
Security National Bank Building
Title Insurance Building
Title Guarantee Building
Trust and Savings Building
Union Oil Building
Union Depot, Ogden, Utah
Union Passenger Terminal
Union Trust Building
Washington Building

THE LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION
BIOGRAPHY

September 6, 1924.

NAME John Parkinson
Occupation Architect
Address 1201 San Vicente Blvd., Santa Monica
Birth
(date & place) Dec. 12, 1861, Scorton, England

FATHER Thomas Parkinson
Birth
(date & place) England 1818
If deceased,
when 1888

MOTHER Mary A. Bibby
Birth
(date & Place) England about 1820
If deceased,
when 1904

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Meta B. Breckenfeld
Birth of same
(date & place) New York, 1862
If deceased,
when March 10, 1922
When married 1889 December 25th.

MARRIED AGAIN : Florence Gumaer
April 4, 1923.

CHILDREN (married names of daughters)

Mary Dorothea Trent

SONS

Donald B. Parkinson

TITLES OF BOOKS, ARTICLES, MUSIC, OR OTHER CREATIVE WORK.

Architect.

REVIEWS, CRITICISM AND OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Nothing

ANCESTORS OF DISTINCTION OR LOCAL INTEREST.

Ancestors generally have been as follows, some Engineers, some in the ministry of the Church of England, some horticulturists. His great grandfather, Robert Parkinson, laid out the grounds of Mount Vernon for George Washington.

EDUCATION, (SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, DEGREES ETC):

Common school and Mechanics Institute, Bolton, England.
Diploma in architecture and structural design from the Mechanics Institute, Bolton, England.

CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC:

Los Angeles Country Club,
California Club
Member American Institute of Architects.
L. A. Elks

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS:

Republican.

SKETCH

Came to United States from England in 1883, west to Winnepeg, Manitoba was there for a few months, spent the balance of '83 and '84 in Minneapolis, Minn, returning to England in the winter of '84 and going to San Francisco in March 1885. Started in business as Architect in Napa, California in 1888, designed building there for the Bank of Napa. Left Napa in Jan. 1889 for Seattle, remaining in Seattle until March 1894, there designed the Butler Hotel, Pacific Building, Pacific School Building, and a number of school buildings throughout the state. Was Architect for the Seattle School Board in 1892 and 1893. Arrived in Los Angeles in March 1894 and in that city since. Designed the first fire-proof steel frame building in Southern California, the Laughlin Building on Broadway,- Since then he or his firm have designed many of the prominent buildings including:

Office Buildings:	The Hibernian Building,	L. A.
	Security Building	L. A.
	Title Ins'l Bldg.	L. A.
	Citizens National Bank Building	L. A.
	Union Oil Building	L. A.
	Central Building	L. A.
	Washington Bldg.	L. A.
	Pacific Mutual Bldg	L. A.
Hotels:	Rossllyn Hotel	L. A.
	Rossllyn Annex	L. A.
	Alexandria Hotel	L. A.
	Hotel Utah,	Sale Lake City, Utah.
Department Stores:	Broadway Dept. Store	Los Angeles
	Bullock's	"
	Blackstones	"
Warehouse Buildings:	Wholesale Terminal group of Buildings,	L. A.
Clubs:	L. A. Athletic Club	Los Angeles
School Buildings	Administration Bldg., for U. S. C.	Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES COLISEUM:

seating capacity 75,000

L.A.

The Los Angeles Coliseum is the largest Coliseum in existence at this time, having 75,000 numbered seats and a capacity which would include an available space to accommodate 75,000 more spectators.

The above represents a few of the buildings designed by John Parkinson as Architect, or his firm.

The total value of buildings designed from 1894 to 1924 aggregates an excess of sixty millions of dollars and comprises many of the City's most prominent buildings.