

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSES  
OF THE  
STATE OF WASHINGTON



APPLICATION

(See page two for instructions and information)

TL-363

City of Seattle State of Washington

FAILED IN EXAM JAN 10 1946

Jan. 3 1946

To the DEPARTMENT OF LICENSES OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

I hereby make application for a license to practice Architecture in the State of Washington.

In submitting this application, it is agreed by me that if any part of it be found false or fraudulent, I forfeit the right to a license.

1. Name Ira Ernest Cummings (Name in full)

2. Address Winslow, Washington (City)

3. Date of birth October 4, 1915 (Street) Place of birth Lewistown, Montana (City)

4. Are you a citizen of the United States? Yes

(a) If of foreign birth, state nationality..... (b) Naturalized when?.....

(c) If not a citizen, have you declared your intention to become a citizen?..... (d) Color?.....

5. Where have you resided for the past five years?.....

6. What common school did you attend? St. Mary's Academy & Bainbridge Jr. High.

7. Of what high school are you a graduate? Broadway High School - Seattle, Wash.

8. If not a high school graduate, what equivalent education have you had?.....

9. Of what college, university or other institution are you a graduate?.....

(a) How many years did you attend?..... (b) How many months in each year?.....

(c) What degree or degrees did you receive?.....

(d) Was resident attendance required?..... (e) Date of graduation.....

10. If not a graduate, how many years collegiate training have you had? approx. two years design & drawing

11. What hospital or other training in care of the sick have you had?.....

12. How much time have you given to clinical practice?.....

13. What practical experience have you had in your profession? steady occupation as a draftsman (architectural) since August 1939 - out of this time, (1/2) one and one half years as an Architect practicing in Wyoming

14. What collateral branches have you studied?.....

15. Have you ever been examined for license in any other state? no

(a) If so, where and when?..... (b) Result.....

16. Have you ever practiced in any other state? Yes - Wyoming (no license required)

Ira Cummings  
(Signature of Applicant)

State of Washington  
County of King } ss.

I, being first duly sworn upon oath, depose and say: That the answers to the foregoing questions and the statements made in the above application are true and correct; that I am the person named in the diploma accompanying this application; that I am the lawful holder thereof, and that the same was procured in the regular course of instruction and examination without fraud or misrepresentation.

Ira Cummings  
(Signature of Applicant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3rd day of January, 1946

Robert B. Kelly  
Residing at Seattle, Washington

Notary Public for the state of Washington

[SEAL]

OK for exam  
1/20/46  
1/21/46

7/10/46

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named in schedule below.  
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INATION DATES

No Practitioner is expected to sign this recommendation who does not know the applicant personally, and who is not willing to supply additional information concerning his or her character, standing and education, upon request from the Department of Licenses.

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

City of Seattle, Washington  
January 3, 1946

To the Department of Licenses of the State of Washington:

This certifies that I have known Ira E. Cummings for ..... years; that I, personally, knew him while ..... he resided at Winslow in the State of Washington during the years of 1945 (Jan.) to present date, during which period ..... he was engaged in active practice of architecture as a student of ..... that ..... he is of good moral and professional character; that ..... he is free from habits liable to interfere with his ..... professional services; that his ..... standing was good in that community and is good in the community in which ..... he now lives; that ..... he is worthy of receiving a license to practice Architecture in the State of Washington.

Name Peng B. Johnson  
Address 1140. Dexter - Hudson Bldg.  
Licensed under the laws of Washington  
(Name of state)  
To practice Architecture

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3rd day of January, 1946.

[SEAL]

Heleen B. Kelly  
Notary Public for the State of Washington  
residing at Seattle, Washington  
My commission expires Oct. 29, 1949

CERTIFICATE OF MORAL CHARACTER

To be signed by two reputable businessmen.

This certifies that I am acquainted with Ira E. Cummings; that I believe him to be of good moral character and I hereby recommend him as entirely worthy to be permitted to take the examination for which ..... he has applied.

Name Roland A. Gray  
Address 3396 - 46th NE Seattle, Wash.  
Name John C. Briens  
Address 3863 E. Olive St. Seattle, Wash.



ICATION.

Cummings, Wm C.

10/29/64

"plat" such as might be prepared by a surveyor, showing area, shape, boundaries, and grades, and asked the candidate to arrange the various buildings or functions therein.

**WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR ARCHITECTS** will permit an architect to legally practice the profession of surveying or of a professional **October 29, 1964** undertake the activities normally provided by them in their professional practice.

You will understand, of course, that the writer has no authority in the matter **Mr. Ira E. Cummings - Architect** information before him. He has glanced at the **1123 E. John** sheet purported to be the material you presented. In the hope **Seattle, Washington** that following comments are to order:

Dear Mr. Cummings: apparently concerned the city being that they are intended to be a plat (as we know) for the layout of a section of land with building lots and go **Your letter to the Department of Licenses, Professional Division, has been** referred to us for answer. by a surveyor or professional engineer, and appears to the professional consideration of the surveyors as an encroachment in their field. **As requested we inclose a copy of the law regulating the practice of architecture.** On reference you will note in defining architecture and its practice, the law **states in 18.08.110** definition was aided by the unfortunate use of the word "plat" on your drawing, as this is the official term used by the surveyors for their official **"The terms 'architecture' and 'practice of architecture' as used in** this chapter mean professional service consisting in whole or in part **of consultation concerning floor planning, the aesthetic or structural** design of private or public buildings, their equipment or utilities ---" **There is no mention of surveying or of site planning as such in this definition.**

Also in article 18.08.160 dealing with the architectural examination provision is made for the examination scope and methods to be established by the board with **challenging your plat** and asking its withdrawal.

"special reference to building mechanics, structural design, supervision, materials, specifications and construction; history of **architecture in relation to architectural design, planning and** design, practical knowledge of sanitary and electrical installation, heating and ventilating and other similar subjects related to the **practice of architecture.**" **In this there is no reference to platting** and when related to the definition of architecture even the clause "planning and design" would seem to be more closely related to planning and design of buildings than of sites.

However, in 1954 the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards introduced into the examination the subject of "Site Planning" evidently intending that it relate primarily to arrangements of complexes of buildings on a given site, with relevant roads, walks, planting areas, parking, etc. involved in such a situation. The subject of City Planning appears to be a separate matter.

**In its examinations in site planning** the board has provided the candidates with a

10/29/64

"plat" such as might be prepared by a surveyor, showing area, shape, boundaries, and grades, and asked the candidate to arrange the various buildings or functions thereon.

It would seem there is no provision in the architectural law to permit an architect to legally practice the profession of surveying or of a professional engineer, or to undertake the functions normally provided by them in their professional practice.

You will understand, of course, that the writer has no authority in the matter in question, nor does he have full information before him. He has glanced at the plan and section sheet purported to be the material you presented. In the hope of being helpful, perhaps the following comments are in order:

The two sheets as apparently furnished the city imply that they are intended to be a plat (as so named) for the layout of a section of land into building lots and go further by establishing street grades and cuts for an access road. Obviously this is the work customarily done by a surveyor or professional engineer, and appears to the professional association of the surveyors as an encroachment on their field by an unlicensed person.

Very possibly the situation was aided by the unfortunate use of the word "plat" on your drawing, as this is the official term used by the surveyors for their official product. Had you called it a "site plan" and refrained from including the section setting the road grades, it might have been accepted as merely a suggestion for possible arrangement of lots in a piece of ground; to be properly surveyed out by a surveyor who would file the official certified "plat." The papers you presented seem to have been recognized by the accepting official as an official "plat" such as he would receive from a surveyor.

It would appear then that Mr. Shain in the discharge of his duties in the interests of the law governing surveyors and professional engineers acted properly in challenging your "plat" and asking its withdrawal.

Unfortunately for us the engineering law is a much more rigid, protective and enforceable law than our architectural law. We are all becoming increasingly aware that drastic improvements in the architectural law are long overdue.

We regret that we seem unable to assure you that your position was entirely in the clear, no matter how innocent your intentions may have been. If there is any help we can be to you in this unfortunate misunderstanding, we feel sure you will further call on us.

Very truly yours,

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR ARCHITECTS

Richard H. Eddy, AIA - Executive Secretary

August 1, 1946

Mr. Ira E. Cummings  
Binslow, Washington

Dear Mr. Cummings;

In the event that you are planning to write the coming examination for architects, on August 6th, we thought it well to advise you that you will be required to re-write the subjects of Heating, Ventilation, and Electrical, in order to bring your average up to 75%.

Very truly yours,

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSES  
HARRY C. HUSE, DIRECTOR  
BY

vw

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

BERT D. ROSELLINI  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL T. GRAY  
DIRECTOR



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSES  
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

October 19, 1964

JOHN S. ABEL, TACOMA  
CHAIRMAN  
HARRISON W. KRAMER, SEATTLE  
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CLARENCE B. SHAIN  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Ira Cummings  
1123 E. John  
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mr. Cummings:

A complaint has recently been received in this office that you have submitted a preliminary plat and a road plan for Mercerwood Division, Number 9, to the city of Mercer Island. Two sets of plans accompanied the complaint.

We find no record of your registration as either a land surveyor or a professional engineer but do note that you are licensed as an architect. Your submission of the preliminary plat and road plan is a violation of the Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Act and it is requested that you withdraw the plat and have some land surveyor submit it and some engineer to design the streets.

We have written Mr. Russell David, city engineer, of Mercer Island advising him that the document is illegal and requesting that he withdraw his approval.

It may be that submission of these plans were thoughtlessness on your part but it is contrary to the law and this Board is determined to enforce the law and has the legal power to do so. The architect's profession is usually a very highly ethical group of people and we would like to believe that you are included among these, except that you made a thoughtless mistake.

A response to this letter at a very early date will be appreciated and expected.

Very truly yours,

CLARENCE B. SHAIN, P.E.  
Executive Secretary, State Board of  
Registration for Professional Engineers  
and Land Surveyors

CBS:ej

Registered Return Receipt

State of Washington  
Department of Licenses  
Professional Division



Oct 21, '64

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter addressed to me and sent registered mail from Clarence Shain who is Executive Secretary, State Board of Registration for professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

To say I was shocked at receiving this letter is to put it mildly. And I am sending you this letter in haste and without ~~the~~ benefit of stenographer in order to immediately clarify this situation.

I have just returned from the library where I perused the only item I could find in regards to the state's definition of Architecture which I am licensed to practice under TL 363, currently in effect. This is entitled "Law Regulating the Practice of Architecture", a copy of which I hereby request.

Dept. of Licenses (cont.) page 2

This is a small pamphlet which vaguely describes Architecture and whom may use such a title, etc. The substance of same is that those who are so licensed are privileged to pursue all facets of a building project, including site planning. Or at least that is the way it appears to me. Otherwise why base an Architects examination on such engineering fields as Site Planning, Structure, Electrical, etc.

I have been in continuous practice since 1946 a period of 18 years and if I am licensed only to draw plans and elevations of an "artistic" nature, I had better be informed, because the scope of my work has been considerably more than that.

I was retained to develop a site plan consisting of lots which would lend themselves to the best Architectural solution on a difficult terrain due to the steepness of the land. I am on the Architectural Control Committee of Mercerwood and as a result am very aware of grade problems, including those



Dept. of Licenses (cont.) page 3

arising from ineptly established road grades  
which cause difficult ingress and egress to  
property. I was further retained to submit  
preliminary plans for proposed residences  
on these lots which I have done, relating these  
to the road grades which I established. I  
submit to you, how could I have control  
of the elevations and design of the structures  
without also establishing the lot sizes and  
the road grades?

I request a full commentary on the above  
subject from whomever would be vested  
with the proper authority and knowledge,  
plus whatever other information is available  
on the state's definition of what constitutes  
Architectural Practice.

I am sending a copy of this letter to  
Clarence Strain. I would suggest that he has  
been "premature" in writing to the Mercer  
Island City Engineer about this matter  
without first establishing all of the background,  
if for no other reason than to maintain

Dept of Licenses (cont) page 4

amicable relations between two professional groups who are of necessity usually so closely related.

I further wish to determine who made the complaint. Minish and Webb, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, who have taken my site plan and street layout as a basis, have indeed submitted drawings of their own to the city engineers on Mercerwood # 8 or at least on portions of same and I have consulted with them on the portion of road which carries my stamp and called Division # 9. Mr. Webb, one of the principals, assured me he did not make any complaint.

I think I am justified in asking for an opportunity of discussing with the complainant the basis for same.

Respectfully,  
J. E. Cummins  
Architect