

## PHOTO REQUIRED

### **Frederick W. Burwell**

(courtesy xx xx)

**Frederick William Burwell** (1846-1915) was born in Huntly, Aberdeenshire, Scotland to Frederick Charles Burwell and Margaret Allan Ross. Unfortunately Frederick senior died in the same year as the birth of his son. F.W. Burwell served his articles with James Matthews (1820-1898) in Scotland before migrating to the southern Dominions, arriving at Melbourne in 1869, aged 23, and subsequently moving to New Zealand. He first established a practice in Queenstown, then moving to Invercargill in 1874, where his practice thrived. The New Zealand Historic Places Trust notes that “Burwell is noted for designing many buildings in Invercargill, which transformed the centre of the town in the 1870s. Once established in Invercargill he began designing elegant two and three-storey buildings, in the Renaissance style. In Dee Street almost all the buildings were designed by him, including the hospital. 'The Crescent' was another notable streetscape created by Burwell.”

Frederick Burwell was elected a Fellow of RIBA in 1880, proposed by (later Sir) Robert W. Edis, John Norton, and his uncle David Ross. Ross had also studied under James Matthews, the two architects had both migrated to New Zealand, and Ross had been made FRIBA in 1879 - with Edis and Norton as proposers. Burwell moved to Hawthorn, Victoria and was listed in practice in Collins Street, Melbourne from c.1888 until 1894. A cursory examination of tender notices suggests Burwell undertook a significant number of multiple residential projects in and around Melbourne in this period. Fred married the much younger Annie Sunderland Bateman (1868-1942) at Hobart, Tasmania on 30 April 1891.

As was the case with many Melbourne architects, Burwell fled depressed economic conditions of the 1890s, migrating to gold-boom WA in search of work. By 1896 he was listed in partnership with his uncle, running offices both in Perth and Fremantle, but in 1897 was on his own at Mouat Street, Fremantle.

Fred Burwell was a prolific designer, and unfortunately only a sample of his projects can be presented here. He designed numerous grand commercial buildings in Fremantle, including the Victoria Pavilion (Fremantle Oval Grandstand 1897), the D. & J. Fowler (1900) Henry Berry (1900) James Lilly (1900) and Burns Philp (1903) warehouses, Marmion Building (1903), Freemason's (now Sail & Anchor) Hotel (1903), Caledonian Hall (1903), Owston's Buildings (1903), Dalkeith Theatre & Shops (1903) and the Central Chambers (1907). Burwell's commercial buildings were predominantly in the Federation Free Classical style.

With an enormous workload at the turn of the century, from around 1899 to late 1901 Burwell was assisted at Fremantle by John McNeece (1860-1925) as a senior draftsman and clerk of works, before McNeece set up his own practice. During 1901 Burwell called tenders for a number of varied and interesting projects, including a Masonic Temple on Marine Terrace at Fremantle, and for four shops & residences at North Fremantle for D. McKay MLC. In early 1903 he called tenders for eight residences on the Mandurah Road out of Fremantle, and for works to Marmion's Buildings in Pakenham Street, Fremantle. In 1904-05, Burwell's country design work included the Federal Hotel and two brick residences at Katanning, and the Palace Hotel at Wagin.

With some measure of high-level domestic work, in 1897-98 Burwell designed stone residences in Peppermint Grove – at Leake Street for Benjamin Fysh and John Walker, another in Irvine Street for Ernest W. Ryton. In 1900 he completed *Wennington*, one of the first residences in the area of Benara Road, Beechboro for Frederick J. Pamment, formerly resident in North Fremantle. In 1903 he designed a large residence and stables in Forrest Street (possibly 130), Peppermint Grove for Fred Wedge. Burwell also completed a number of church designs in WA. Amongst these were the Presbyterian Church on the corner of King Street and Canning Road at Plympton (East Fremantle), completed in 1899. In 1903, Burwell and Howard Evans senior (1845-1919) were joint architects for St. Peter's Church of England, also on the Canning Road close to the Town Hall at East Fremantle. Both have been demolished. In 1905, Burwell designed Scots' Presbyterian Church in Taylor Street, Katanning.

Burwell's office was in the suites attached to Fremantle Town Hall up until 1902, and from 1903 to 1908 at Pearse's Buildings 94 High Street, Fremantle. In 1907 it was noted that Fred and Annie had returned from visiting the Eastern States to their residence *Simla* on Cantonment Hill, East Fremantle. At this time the Burwells may have been investigating plans for a return to Victoria. The Burwells auctioned their household furniture and effects at 94 Tuckfield Street East Fremantle in September 1908, including a 'splendid buggy, lady's and gent's riding saddles, and a host of garden and yard tools'.

Fred Burwell retired to Melbourne, where he died on 25 October 1915 at his residence *Cimiez* in Pohlman Street, Armadale. During the period 1896-1908, when he was in his advanced years, Fred Burwell completed an impressive portfolio of Federation-era designs in Western Australia, and was particularly creative at Fremantle. A comprehensive examination across his work in New Zealand, Victoria and WA would provide valuable knowledge of nineteenth century British architecture transported into the southern Dominions.

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- 'Tenders', *Argus*, 14 July 1888, p.17 (three villas Koonung Hill Estate near Doncaster).
- 'Tenders', *Argus*, 9 January 1890, p.3 (Terrace Residences Royal Park).
- 'Tenders', *Argus*, 27 September 1890, p.3 (villa residences Brighton).
- 'Marriages', *The Mercury*, 15 May 1891, p.1 (to Annie Sunderland Bateman of Hobart).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 10 August 1896, p.8 (2 stone res Esplanade Fremantle).
- 'Proposed Coffee Palace for Fremantle', *The West Australian*, 22 September 1896, p.5 (Espl).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 23 February 1897, p.6 (adds to warehouse High St Fremantle for J. McHenry Clark & Co).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 26 October 1897, p.3 (stone res & stables B Fysh Cottesloe, stone res Freshwater Bay, stone res Richmond).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 14 April 1898, p.3 (stone villa John Walker Peppermint Grove).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 2 July 1898, p.7 (res Irvine St Pepp Grove for Ernest W. Ryton).
- 'East Fremantle Presbyterian Church', *Western Mail*, 5 August 1898, p.37 (laying found stone).
- 'East Fremantle Presbyterian Church', *Western Mail*, 24 March 1899, p.26 (shows bell tower).
- 'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 17 February 1900, p.1 (warehouse Henry Berry Co Fremantle).

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'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 22 March 1901, p.1 (4 res & shops North Fremantle for D McKay MLC; Masonic Temple Marine Terrace Fremantle).

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 30 November 1901, p.3 (res South St Fremantle, adds res Howard St Fremantle for J.A. Naylor, adds res Richmond for A.P. Hamilton).

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 11 February 1902, p.1 (Ednie-Brown res Davies Rd Claremont).

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 24 January 1903, p.3 (res & stables Forrest Street Peppermint Grove for F.A. Wedge; office-warehouse Henderson St Fremantle).

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 4 May 1903, p.3 (joint architect for Anglican Church at East Fremantle with Howard Evans Snr).

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 28 May 1903, p.2 (Caledonian Hall, Quarry Street Fremantle; large additions to boot factory North Fremantle for Pearse Bros).

'St Peters Church East Fremantle' *Western Mail*, 4 July 1903, p.12 (Governor lays found stone).

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 8 March 1905, p.9 (block of shops Hay St Perth for J. McLeery).

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 16 March 1905, p.3 (hotel Wagin; bar & fittings adv 21 July p1).

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 20 February 1906, p.3 (woolshed Balmoral Station D. Stewart).

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 11 October 1906, p.5 (block of shops and offices cnr High & Pakenham Streets Fremantle - Central Chambers?).

'Tenders', *The West Australian*, 29 January 1907, p.5 (stone residence Claremont).

'New Commercial Bank, Kalgoorlie', *The West Australian*, 20 February 1907, p.6 (Hannan St).

'Personal', *The West Australian*, 24 July 1907, p.7 (return to *Simla* from Eastern States).

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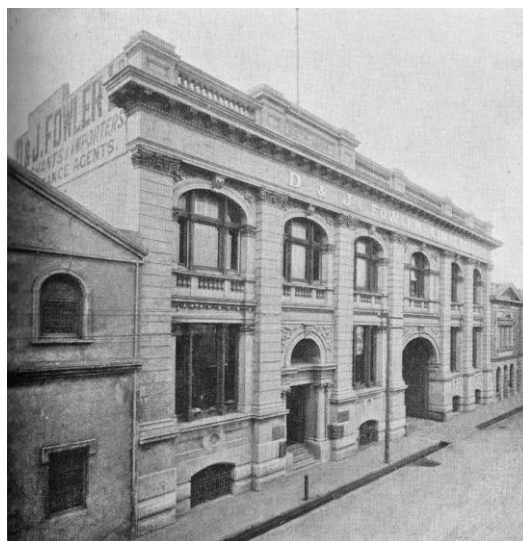
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Fremantle Oval Grandstand, Parry Street Fremantle 1897 (Google 2013)



The tower Burwell illustrated in the *Western Mail* during 1899 for the Presbyterian Church at East Fremantle was never completed. The church is shown in the photo above, to the right of the former East Fremantle Post Office, but it has since been demolished (SLWA 133970PD).



D & J Fowler Warehouse 38-40 Henry Street Fremantle 1900 (Battye Vol 1, p.683).



Now brutally altered so that literally only the facades remain, in 1900 Burwell designed two new warehouses with a 170 foot frontage 'divided in the centre by a wide dray entrance' on the corner of Henry & Phillimore Streets in Fremantle for James Lilly (at left of photo). Burwell also designed various additions to the P. Falk & Co Building at right (Google 2013).



Owston's Buildings of 1903 at 9-23 High Street Fremantle, originally with 8 shops and 6 residences over (Google 2013)



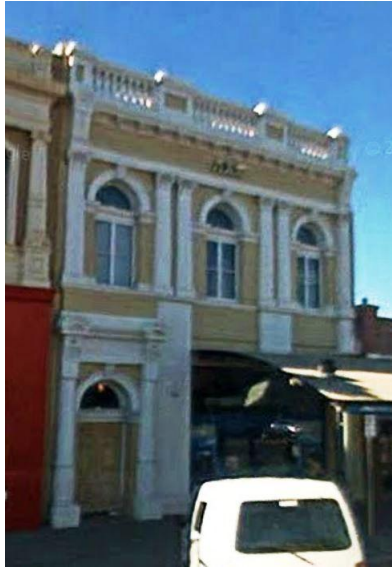
Sail & Anchor (fmr Freemasons) Hotel South Terrace Fremantle 1903 (Google 2013)



Dalkeith Theatre & Shops at 52-62 South Terrace, Fremantle completed in 1904 (Google 2013)



Palace Hotel cnr Tudhoe Street & Padbury Lane, Wagin 1905 (Google 2013)



Commercial Bank (former) 189 Hannan Street Kalgoorlie 1906 (Google 2013)



Marich buildings n-e cnr Henry & High Streets Fremantle 1906 (Google 2013)



Central Chambers 61-65 High Street Fremantle 1907 (Google 2013)