

Sir Herbert Baker



Herbert was born on 9th June 1862. He was one of nine children and lived with his family on a farm called Owlets near Cobham in Kent.

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As a child he enjoyed exploring historical ruins near his home. This helped him to learn about building materials like brick, plaster and wood.

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Herbert went to Tonbridge School between 1875 and 1881. Afterwards he studied to be an architect with his cousin.

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After becoming an architect, Herbert worked in London. Later, in 1890, he opened his own architects' office in Gravesend, Kent.

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In 1891 Herbert travelled to South Africa. He stayed here for several years and designed lots of buildings.

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Herbert travelled to India in 1912. He worked with Sir Edwin Lutyens on the design of New Delhi. In 1913, he returned to London.

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In 1917, before the end of World War I, Herbert was asked to be a Principal Architect for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

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While working for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Herbert designed lots of cemeteries such as Tyne Cot in Passchendaele.

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After World War I Herbert designed war memorials in towns and villages across the UK including Kemerton in Worcestershire.



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Between World War I and II Herbert designed lots of well-known buildings in London. One of these was South Africa House.

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Herbert received a knighthood in 1927 making him Sir Herbert Baker.

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Herbert died on 4th February 1946 aged 83. He is buried in Westminster Abbey.