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H. Kay Nicewanner Architectural Records ca. 1915-1971 DADA 011

Title: H. Kay Nicewanner Architectural Records

Creator: H. Kay Nicewanner

Inclusive Dates: ca. 1915-1971

Extent: 4.6 cu. ft.

Containers: 1 flat file drawer; 2 manuscript boxes

Language of Materials: Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation:

H. Kay Nicewanner Architectural Records, Drawings and Documents Archive, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries

Biographical Note:

Howard Kay Nicewanner (1885-1973) learned the construction business from his father, Charles Edward Nicewanner, a building contractor. The family moved to Muncie from Springfield, Ohio, in approximately 1890. H. Kay joined his father's business as an apprentice about 1905, at the age of 20. Starting around 1917, the business became known as C. E. Nicewanner & Son, Contractors and Builders.

H. Kay began his own business as H. Kay Nicewanner, Building Contractor, in 1921. This was a sole proprietorship, though Nicewanner was a member of and did work for Muncie Home Builders, an association of local building contractors. Nicewanner conducted business from his home, first at 330 E. Centennial Ave. until ca. 1926, then at 601 Wheeling Ave. to ca. 1952, and finally at 3807 E. Jackson St. He retired from active practice in 1952, but continued to do occasional work into the 1960s.

Scope and Contents:

The collection includes drawings and related documents for 38 building projects in East Central Indiana, mostly in Muncie, ca. 1915-1951; also a business ledger, 1921-1963, and a few business

records, 1920-1971. Nicewanner was contractor for many or all of the buildings represented and several were designed by him. Others whose work is represented include C. H. Houck, Macy G. Thompson, Cuno Kibele, Muncie Home Builders, Houck & Smenner, William Horatio Day (New York), Herbert F. Smenner, Isidor M. Cohen (Gary), Houck & Hamilton, Graham & Knowlton, Smenner & Carlson, Ernst Landscape, Hamilton & Graham, and C. W. Garrard.

Cataloging of this collection was completed in 1990 with the aid of a grant from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, administered by the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Conditions Governing Access:

This collection is open for research.

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Custodial History:

The H. Kay Nicewanner Architectural Records were received by Archives and Special Collections as a donation from Mrs. Lloyd Leeka on 1989/11/13.

Accruals: No additions are expected.

Processing Information:

Collection processing completed 1990/5/30 by Andrew R. Seager.

Finding aid created 2004/5/21 by Andrew R. Seager, revised 2009/5/26, 2011/12/1 by Carol A. Street.

Arrangement:

The H. Kay Nicewanner Architectural Records are arranged chronologically.

Controlled Access Headings:

Documents

Nicewanner, H. Kay, 1885-1973

Muncie (Ind.)

Drawings, architectural (visual works)

Ledger, business

Blueprints

Residential architecture

Commercial buildings