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Allen & Kelley Architectural Records 1916-1967 DADA 005

Title: Allen & Kelley Architectural Records

Creator: Joseph Lloyd Allen, 1897-1975; John Robert Kelley 1902-1991

Inclusive Dates: 1916-1967

Extent: 21.6 cu.ft.

Containers: 5 flat file drawers, 3 manuscript boxes, 2 OVA boxes

Language of Materials: Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation:

Allen & Kelley Architectural Records, Drawings and Documents Archive, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries

Historical Note:

Joseph Lloyd Allen (1897-1975) and John Robert Kelley (1902-1991) practiced architecture independently in the mid 1930s before forming the Allen & Kelley firm about 1936 or 1940. The firm was based in Indianapolis. Allen was the more active partner. A graduate of Manual High School in Indianapolis, Allen studied mechanical engineering at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and received a degree in architecture from the University of Illinois. He also studied at Butler University and the John Herron Art Institute.

The Allen & Kelley office was at its peak during World War II and for about ten years afterward, employing about 75 architects on defense contracts. Though known largely as industrial architects, Allen & Kelley also designed theaters, other types of commercial buildings, and a series of housing projects. Many of the housing projects were done under F.H.A. auspices between 1946 and 1950. Kelley retired in 1960. Allen continued the business as J. Lloyd Allen, architects and engineers, until 1967, sometimes in association with Lloyd W. Scholl.

Among those who worked for the firm, in addition to Scholl, were Jon Anderson; Julius Ehlert; George Fink; Walter Petterson; Joe Small; Cheek and Lynch; Charles Lowe; Richard Karl Zimmerly; Ronald Shettleworth; Wanda Lyday; Ernest Fennig, and Don Weir.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

Citizens Historical Association, biographical sketch of J. Lloyd Allen, 20 January 1945

Lloyd Scholl, 26 July 1978

Scope and Contents:

The collection consists of architectural records from the office of Allen & Kelley, architects and engineers, and its successor, J. Lloyd Allen, architects and engineers. It covers the period 1916-1967. Most of the records are architectural working drawings. Some design studies, renderings, shop drawings, and sets of specifications are included as well.

Series One (catalog nos. 5-1 through 5-86) includes 86 projects by J. Lloyd Allen & John R. Kelley practicing independently, by the Allen & Kelley firm, and by the successor firm. The projects date between 1937 and 1967 and are arranged chronologically.

Series two (catalog nos. 5-87 through 5-96) consists of drawings for seven buildings by architects not connected with the Allen & Kelley firm: Robert Frost Daggett, Pierre & Wright, Russ & Harrison, McGuire & Shook, Edward D. Pierre, Walter B. Chambers (New York), and Albert Kahn (Detroit). These date from 1916 to the 1940s.

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 Allen & Kelley Architectural Records were received by Drawings and Documents Archive as a donation from Lloyd W. Scholl in 1978.

Accruals: No additions are expected.

Processing Information:

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

Finding aid created 1990/5/30 by Andrew R. Seager, revised 2009/5/20; 2011/12/1 by Carol A. Street.

Arrangement:

The Allen & Kelley Architectural Records are arranged chronologically.

Controlled Access Headings:

Allen, Joseph Lloyd, 1897-1975
Kelley, John Robert, 1902-1991
Pierre and Wright, architecture firm
Kahn, Albert, 1869-1942
Daggett, Robert Frost
Russ & Harrison, architecture firm
McGuire & Shook, architecture firm
Pierre, Edward D.
Chambers, Walter B.
Architecture--Indiana--Indianapolis
Architecture, American
Architecture, commercial
Drawings, architectural (visual works)
Elevation drawings
Buildings, theater
Buildings, commercial
Warehouse
Buildings, apartment
Store, retail
Houses--Indiana—1910s
Houses--Indiana—1940s
Chrysler Corporation
Ford Motor Company