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Sollitt Construction Company Architectural Records
1923-1985
DADA 030

Title: Sollitt Construction Company Architectural Records

Creator: Sollitt Construction Company

Inclusive Dates: 1923-1985

Extent: 12.3 cu. ft.

Containers: 2 flat file drawers, 1 roll oversized drawings, 1 legal-size manuscript box

Language of Materials: Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation:
Sollitt Construction Company Architectural Records, Drawings and Documents Archive, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries

Administrative History:

Biographical Note:
Sollitt Construction Company was founded in South Bend, Indiana, by Ralph Shannon Sollitt ca. 1920. Ralph Sollitt's father and grandfather had been successful general building contractors in Chicago, Ill. Ralph Sollitt was the vice president and general manager of the South Bend branch of the family business. The firm received many important commissions over the following decades, but went out of business ca. 1993. As of 2012, the George Sollitt Construction Company, based in Chicago, is still in operation.

Scope and Contents:
The collection contains 358 architectural working drawings and two sets of specifications for 11 buildings from the Sollitt Construction Co. of South Bend, Indiana, from 1923-85.

A variety of building types are represented: an apartment building, a retirement home, a government center, a church, a bank, a Masonic temple, a U.S. post office, two schools, and two industrial buildings. Most of the buildings are in northern Indiana (Elkhart, Ft. Wayne, Goshen, Marion) but projects in Anderson, Indianapolis, and Terre Haute are also included.

Sollitt Construction Co. presumably acted as contractor for all of the projects and designed four of them. Other designs are by K. M. Vitzthum and J. J. Burns, Austin & Shambleau, Hubert Miller, W. E. Russ, Guy Mahurin, Johnson Ritchhart & Assoc. with D. L. Collins, Smith-Voorhees-Jensen Assoc., and Sherbondy Associates.

The collection contains only a fraction of the firm's work. It consists of selections made in 1994 from a much larger body of Sollitt Company records--several hundred cubic feet, mostly drawings--stored temporarily in the Studebaker National Museum in South Bend. Most of the drawings were for large institutional and industrial commissions: schools, wastewater treatment plans, oil refineries, factories and factory additions. About half were Indiana commissions. The other half were in neighboring states: Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky.

Conditions Governing Access:
This collection is open for research.

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Custodial History:
The Sollitt Construction Company Architectural Records were received by Drawings and Documents Archive as a donation from the Studebaker National Museum on 1994/2/3.

Accruals: No additions are expected.

Processing Information:
Collection processing completed
Finding aid created 1990/7/13 by Andrew R. Seager; revised 2011/11/1 by Julie Edwards; revised 2012/2/17 by Carol Street.

Arrangement:
The Sollitt Construction Company Architectural Records are arranged chronologically.

Controlled Access Headings:

- Architecture, American
- Architecture--Indiana--Elkhart
- Architecture--Indiana--Fort Wayne
- Architecture--Indiana--Goshen
- Architecture--Indiana--Marion
- Architecture--Indiana--Indianapolis
- Architecture--Indiana--Anderson
- Architecture--Indiana--Terre Haute
- Architecture, commercial
- Drawings, architectural (visual works)
- Elevation drawings

School buildings
Government Buildings
Churches
Banks
Masonic Temple
Industrial Buildings
Buildings, commercial
Buildings, religious
Blueprints
Buildings, school