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Phone: 765-285-8441
Fax: 765-285-8149
Email: ddarchive@bsu.edu

Wright, Porteous & Lowe, Inc. Architectural Records 1908-1993 DADA 042

Title: Wright, Porteous & Lowe, Inc. Architectural Records

Creator: Wright, Porteous & Lowe, Inc.

Inclusive Dates: 1908-1993

Extent: 58 cu. ft.

Containers: 2 OVB boxes, 157 drawing rolls, oversized framed collage

Language of Materials: Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation:

Wright, Porteous & Lowe, Inc. Architectural Records, Drawings and Documents Archive,
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Biographical Note:

This firm originated as Vonnegut & Bohn in Indianapolis ca. 1887 with principals Bernard Vonnegut (1858-1908) and Arthur Bohn (1862-1948). After Bernard Vonnegut's, his son Kurt Vonnegut, Sr. (1885-1956) joined the firm. Early locations are cited as 62 Vance Block, but in 1919 it was listed as 610 Indiana Trust Building.

The firm became Vonnegut, Bohn & Mueller from ca. 1920-1944 with addition of principal O. N. Mueller, a mechanical-structural engineer. Bohn retired from the firm around the same time that architects George Caleb Wright and Edward D. Pierre dissolved their partnership, known as Pierre & Wright. Wright joined the firm which became Vonnegut & Wright for a short time in 1944. And later, ca. 1945, it became Vonnegut, Wright & Yeager. Yeager's involvement with the firm was brief and Alfred John Porteous joined the firm by 1955. The name changed to Vonnegut, Wright, and Porteous, Inc. and then Wright, Porteous & Associates, Inc.

George Caleb Wright retired in 1961 and the firm became Wright, Porteous & Lowe, Inc. Principals were William Caleb Wright (G. C. Wright's son), Alfred John Porteous, and C. Charles Lowe, Jr. The firm was located at 19 W. 38th Street.

By 1991, the firm had become a subsidiary of Bonar & Associates, Inc. in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The offices moved to 3021 E. 98th Street, Suite 110. In 2010 the firm merged with GAI Consultants, a large firm with locations in ten states.

Scope and Contents:

The collections consists of 157 rolls of architectural working drawings and presentation drawings by Wright, Porteous & Lowe and predecessor firms, two portfolios of WPL work, 33 photographs, 2 framed collages, and 3 framed perspective renderings. Works of other firms include:

- Austin Engineering
- Bonar & Associates
- Daily Engineering
- G.E.
- The Kellams Group
- Robert L. Larue & Associates
- McNamee Porter & Selee
- Pearce Corporation
- Henry B. Steig & Associates

The collection is not processed.

Conditions Governing Access:

This collection is not currently open for research.

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Custodial History:

The Wright, Porteous & Lowe, Inc. Architectural Records were received by Drawings and Documents Archive as a donation from James R. Wine, Bonar Group on 2003/5/22.

Accruals: No additions are expected.

Processing Information:

Collection processing completed

Finding aid created 2005/4/28; revised 2012/3/6 by Julie Edwards.

Arrangement:

The Wright, Porteous & Lowe, Inc. Architectural Records are unprocessed

Controlled Access Headings:

- Photographs
- Aerial photographs
- Architecture--Designs and plans--Presentation drawings

Architecture--Designs and plans--Working drawings

Drawings, architectural (visual works)

Drawings, engineering (visual works)

Elevation drawings

Store, retail

Architecture, American

Architecture, commercial

Architecture--Indiana—Indianapolis

Buildings, bank

Buildings, commercial

Buildings, religious

Buildings, residential

Buildings, school

Buildings, theater

Buildings, university

Government buildings

City halls

Residential architecture

School buildings