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Bracken House Papers, 1997-1999

1 box; 0.2 cu. ft.

History

The Bracken House was built in 1936-37 for Alexander M. Bracken and Rosemary B. Bracken. Excavation was begun in September 1936, and the family moved in during Christmas week, 1937.

The house was designed in the Georgian Revival style by Walter Scholer, a well-known architect from Lafayette, Indiana. Fred Mullin, a Muncie builder, was the general contractor.

Mr. and Mrs. Bracken, who were both in their twenties when they planned and built their house, were from prominent Muncie families. Alec Bracken was the son of Thomas E. and Margaret M. Bracken. The senior Bracken was a partner in a Muncie law firm. Rosemary was the youngest child of Frank C. and Elizabeth Brady Ball. Mr. Ball was one of the five brothers who founded Ball Brothers Glass Manufacturing Company, now Ball Corporation, of which Alec Bracken became chairman of the board.

Alec and Rosemary Bracken had two sons when they moved into the home in late December 1937. Within ten days their third child and only daughter was born. The couple had two more sons and reared their five children in the home. The family occupied the residence for almost sixty years.

In the early 1980s, Mr. and Mrs. Bracken made provision in their respective wills for the home to be left to Ball State University, stipulating that it be used as a home for the university president. This arrangement was carried out following Mrs. Bracken's death in 1997. Mr. Bracken had died in 1991. The house was renovated in 1999, and became the home of the Ball State University president.

Scope and Content

This collection contains information relating to the renovation of the Bracken House. It also includes manuscripts of *Bracken House: A History*, by Thomas A. Sargent, transcripts of interviews with Bracken family members, pre- and post-publication correspondence about the book, and a file of Sargent's research notes. The collection spans the years 1997-2000.

Revision and additions 11/2005; J.E. Gastineau

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Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
1	Manuscript – <i>Bracken House: A History</i> , by Thomas A. Sargent, undated Walter Scholer / Scholer Corporation, undated Westwood, undated Interviews, 1999 Correspondence, 1998-2000 Bracken House Renovation, 1997-1999 Sargent's Research Notes, 1998-1999 Bracken House Reception, 1999