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, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries

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

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