

Collection #  
M 0110  
OM 0116

## HERBERT WILLIAM FOLTZ PAPERS, CA. 1898–1933

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

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December 1989  
November 1992

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30 January 2007

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### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION:

Manuscript Materials: 1 box, 1 oversize folder  
Visual Materials: 1 box of photographs, 1 oversize graphic

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1898–1933

PROVENANCE: Howard Foltz, 1961

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: M 0625, Indiana Society of Architects Plans of Greensburg M. E. Church, in Hugh J. Baker Collection, Architectural Microfilm, Reel 15

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1961.0005

NOTES: Scrapbook of Josephine Robinson, with photographs of 1801 N. Pennsylvania St., transferred to OMB 0019

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Herbert William Foltz (1867–1946) was born in Indianapolis and attended public schools there. After graduating from Rose Polytechnic Institute in Terre Haute (1886) and from Chicago Art Institute, he set up an architectural practice in Indianapolis in 1891. He worked in partnership with various other architects, including at different times Wilson B. Parker, Willard Osler, Macy G. Thompson, and Howard F. Foltz.

The Foltz firm designed a number of residences in Indianapolis and elsewhere, including those of Ovid B. Jameson and Josiah K. Lilly on North Pennsylvania Street, Meredith Nicholson at 1500 North Delaware, H. C. Atkins and of R. W. Furnas (3435 North Pennsylvania). However the firm more commonly did large projects. Among these were Tudor Hall School at 32nd and Meridian; office buildings for the Bobbs-Merrill and E. C. Atkins Companies; the Indianapolis Y. M. C. A.; the Reformatory at Pendleton; the Masonic Home at Franklin; and hospitals for the insane at Madison, Ind. and in Louisiana.

In his youth, Foltz was an ardent advocate of the new sport of cycling, and in 1899 was elected president of the League of American Wheelmen. In 1898, Foltz designed the Newby Oval on the north side of Indianapolis near 30<sup>th</sup> and Central. With the growing popularity of bicycle racing the Oval was designed to hold 20,000 fans. It was often filled to capacity with national events sponsored by the League of American Wheelmen. Major Taylor, Indianapolis's hometown bicycle champion, raced there until 1900.

He was interested in dramatics also and helped organize the Little Theater Society. He was a longtime director of the Art Association of Indianapolis, and at one time served as president of the Indianapolis School Board. A member of the Portfolio, the Century Club, and the Indianapolis Literary Club, he frequently wrote papers, usually on architecture.

### Sources:

Materials in collection

Indiana State Library. *Indiana Biography Series*, vol. 30 [microform].

Indiana State Library: 920B85b

Dunn, Jacob Piatt. *Indiana and Indianans...*, vol. 4. Chicago: American Historical Society, 1919. Reference Room Collection: F526.D85 I53 1919

*The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994. Reference Room Collection: F534.I55 E4 1994

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection, filling one manuscript box, 1 photograph box, one oversize folder, and one oversize graphic consists mainly of correspondence, literary papers, and photographs. It is arranged by category.

Folders 1 and 2 contain items concerning Foltz's architectural firm—a brochure and letters from satisfied customers. This material gives a considerable list of buildings designed by the firm.

Folders 3–8 contain papers read by Foltz on various occasions—club meetings, meetings of architects. They are mainly on the history and practice of architecture.

Folder 9 contains material about Foltz's work with groups aiming to designate historic landmarks.

Folder 10 contains a few items about the theater and the Little Theater Society.

OM 0116 contains renderings of Methodist churches in Irvington and Greensburg.

Photograph Folders 1–10, contain one photograph of the Bobbs Merrill Building in Indianapolis, designed by Foltz, and photos of several historic houses around the state.

Oversize Graphic, Folder 1 is a wash drawing entitled “Newby Oval,” a bicycle racetrack designed by Herbert William Foltz, and is located in flat file storage.

## CONTENTS

### CONTENTS

Firm Brochure and Letterhead, ca. 1915

Correspondence with Customers, 1905–1914

Paper: “Selling the Architect,” 1918

Paper: “Publicity” [for architects]

Paper: “Architecture, the Telltale Art,” Indianapolis Literary Club, 1924

Paper: “Fallen Arches,” Portfolio, Century Club, 1933

### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Papers on History of Architecture	Box 1, Folder 7
Papers on Building Houses, 1918, 1951	Box 1, Folder 8
Historic Sites and Markers	Box 1, Folder 9
Theatrical: "The Portfolio Players," 1916; "The Bo'sn's Bride," 1914	Box 1, Folder 10
Renditions: Irvington Methodist Episcopal Church, Greensburg Methodist Episcopal Church, Printed drawings of Corydon	OM 0116 Folder 1
"Newby Oval" Designed by Herbert Foltz ca. 1898, was located near 30 <sup>th</sup> and Central on the north side of Indianapolis.	Oversize Graphics: Folder 1, Flat File 1-O
Crawfordsville, Indiana: Henry A. Lane House Two B/W photographs and three postcards of the house.	Photographs Box 1, Folder 1
Evansville, Indiana: Mrs. Edward Viele Home, built 1855 Nesbit Home, built 1865 Presbyterian Church, built 1832, rebuilt 1860 Francis Joseph Reitz's father's home, built 1865	Photographs Box 1, Folder 2
Fort Wayne, Indiana: Mrs. William Hahn Home, built 1848 Mrs. C.M. Ewing Home Alden Estate, built ca. 1830 Hanna Homestead Dickison Home, built 1852 Wolcott House, built ca. 1840-1850	Photographs Box 1, Folder 3
Indianapolis, Indiana: Bobbs Merrill Building; Architectural drawing of the School for the Blind	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 4
Jeffersonville, Indiana: Weems House	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 5
Madison, Indiana: Shrewsbury House	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 6
New Albany, Indiana: Peter St[o]y House, built 1835 T.L. Smith House, built ca. 1820 Scribner House, built 1814 State Bank Building Market House	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 7

South Bend area, Indiana:  
Unitarian Church, built 1840  
Octagonal House, built ca. 1840

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 8

Centerville; New Harmony; Rising Sun; Switzerland  
County; Terre Haute, Indiana:  
J.W. Wright House, Switzerland Co  
Rising Sun Courthouse  
Daniel Lantz House and Wagon Shop, Centerville,  
built 1836  
Old Fort, New Harmony, built 1818  
State Bank of Indiana, Terre Haute, built 1832  
Haymaker House, Clark County

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 9

Unidentified Buildings:  
Two log cabins  
Detail of fence or house trim  
One house

Box 1, Folder 10

## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 110).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.