INDIANA HOUSES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY COLLECTION, CA. 1920–1963

Collection Information

Historical/Biographical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Connie Mcbirney
June 1982
Pamela Tranfield
October 1997

Revised by Dorothy Nicholson and Greg Hertenstein
January 2012

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:
Manuscript Materials: 5 boxes
Visual Materials: 7 boxes of photographs, 3 boxes of 4 x 5 black-and-white acetate negatives, 1 folder of color photographs, 1 slide bin.

COLLECTION DATES:
Ca. 1920–1963

PROVENANCE:

RESTRICIONS:
Negatives may be viewed only with the assistance of Visual Collections staff.

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:
Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER:
1962.1209

NOTES:
The photographs and negatives in this collection were processed as visual collection P 0345 in 1997. All materials have been reunited in this revised version.
HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

In 1956, the Indiana Historical Bureau conducted a survey of houses built in Indiana prior to 1860. Hubert Hawkins, director of the Bureau and executive secretary of the Indiana Historical Society, asked Wilbur D. Peat to use the survey results as a basis for a book on Indiana architecture. The book was to be published by the Society with funding obtained from Eli Lilly. Mr. Peat agreed. At that time, he was director of the John Herron Art Institute in Indianapolis, and had also published other works concerning art and architecture in Indiana.

Wilbur David Peat was the director of the John Herron Art Institute from 1929 until his retirement in 1966. Previously, he had been director of the Akron Art Institute. Born 8 November 1898 in Chengtu, China, Peat attended Ohio Wesleyan University, the Cleveland School of Art, the Art Students League of New York, Hanover College, and Indiana Central College. He married Talitha Rasmussen in 1925. The union produced two children: Patricia Mae and David Walter. Peat died in Indianapolis in 1966.

David Walter Peat, the son of Wilbur Peat, graduated from Purdue University, Indianapolis, in 1954 with a baccalaureate in mechanical engineering.

Elsa Strassweg (b. 1908) worked as a librarian in several locations in Indiana, including New Albany, Bluffton, and Evansville. She was a member of the Floyd County Historical Society.

Juliet Peddle and L. V. Moser were architects in Terre Haute and Lafayette, respectively.

Sources:
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE


The collection includes approximately 3,000 black-and-white photographs of homes built in Indiana during the 1800s. Peat compiled the photographs while writing and researching the book. Approximately 100 images from the collection were used to illustrate the book. Wilbur Peat made most of the images, but the collection contains photographs made by the following individuals: Will Ball, Peter Certia, Edward Dunlap, C. A. Dryden, W. Erb Hanson, Sheldon Hine, Frank Hobenburger, Mrs. James T. McManaman, L. V. Moser, Maurice E. Paton, David Peat, Devon Phelps, Juliet Peddle, Elsa Strassweg, Dorsey O. Thomas, Inez Twitchell, and Mrs. Harry Watts.

The materials are arranged into six series. **Series 1** contains the manuscript research materials consisting of correspondence, Indiana Historical Bureau survey materials, a list and index of Indiana architects, notes on the illustrations for the book, edited typescripts, the book layout, and survey results with research notes for each county.

The survey results are arranged alphabetically by county and include photographs, newspaper clippings, and brochures concerning various homes. There are floor plans for a few of the buildings. Also included is a list of Indiana architects, 1855–1885, taken from various city directories from that time period, and an index of architects on cards.

The photographs are arranged in five series based on the size, format, and provenance of the photographs. **Series 2** contains original 3 x 5 inch black-and-white prints and corresponding negatives of Indiana homes and structures. Wilbur Peat and other photographers made these between ca. 1920 and 1962. The buildings are identified on the verso of the photographs with location, year of construction, and ownership history.

**Series 3** contains 8 x 10 inch prints made from some of the negatives in Series 2. The photographs may have been made when choosing illustrations for the book. The photographs in Series 2 and Series 3 are arranged alphabetically by place-names.

**Series 4** contains photographs and negatives collected by Peat that were made by different individuals and the *Indianapolis Star* newspaper. They are filed alphabetically by city.

**Series 5**: contains more photographs collected by Peat and made by different individuals. The photographs are filed alphabetically by county as they are in rural locations.

**Series 6** contains mostly postcards made for the Polar Ice Company of Indianapolis by the Sentinel Printing Company of Indianapolis. The images show Polar Ice and Fuel Company delivery wagons at various locations in Indianapolis, ca. 1910.
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Series 1: Manuscript Research Materials

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Peat Correspondence: Greensburg–Wolcott
Box 1, Folder 4

Peat Correspondence: Postcards alphabetical by city
Box 1, Folder 5

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Box 1, Folder 7

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Box 1, Folder 9

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Series 4: Photographs & Negatives sent to Wilbur Peat, Arranged by City

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Dale, Dana [includes Ernie Pyle birthplace,] Dublin, Dupont,

Fort Wayne [Peter Certia Photographer]

Georgetown, Glenwood, Gosport, Greencastle, Hannover, Howe

Indianapolis

Knightstown, Lafayette

Lancaster, Lawrenceburg, Lewisville,

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4x5 Acetate Negatives: Box 3

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[Juliet Peddle Photographer]
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Webb-Willin house, Peru, Ind
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*Indianapolis Star* Photographs: Corydon; Madison; Nashville; New Carlisle; Noblesville
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*Indianapolis Star* Photographs: Spring Mill State Park
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*Indianapolis Star* Photographs: unidentified locations
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David Peat Negatives: unidentified locations
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Johnson, Knox, LaPorte, Lawrence

Miami, Morgan, Ohio

Putnam

Rush, Shelby, Tippecanoe

Warrick, Washington, Wayne, Whitley

Elkhart, Knox, LaPorte, Marion, Montgomery, Porter, Rush [8x10 photographs]

CONTAINER
Photographs:
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Photographs:
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35mm Slides
Bin 1

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4x5 Acetate Negatives:
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Series 6: Postcards of Indianapolis and Other Views

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Indiana University Art Museum postcards; Museum of Indian Heritage

Photographs:
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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 0363).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.