

Collection #
M 0582

**LEE BURNS
PAPERS, 1915–1954 (BULK 1940–1954)**

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Processed by:
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12 June 1991
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25 February 1997
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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box (.5 linear feet)

COLLECTION DATES: Inclusive, 1915-1954; Bulk, 1940-1954

PROVENANCE: David V. Burns, Indianapolis, Indiana, January 1981; Nancy Adams, Indianapolis, Indiana, July 1996

RESTRICTIONS: None

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

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1981.0119; 1996.0536

NOTES: This collection had previously been processed as SC 1754

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lee Burns (1872-1957) was born in Bloomfield, Indiana, the son of Harrison Burns, Indiana's legal code writer. He served as a private in the Indiana Volunteer Infantry during the Spanish American War. After attending Butler University, Burns began practice as an architect in Indianapolis in 1910. He was a member of the firm of Burns and Burns, designers of a number of schools and public buildings. A community leader, Burns served as an officer and/or board member for a number of institutions and organizations, including chairman of the Executive Committee of the Indiana Historical Society from 1924-1945. He married Anna Ray Herzsich in 1907 and was the father of two children.

Sources:

Who Was Who, volume III, p. 125.

Ruegamer, *A History of the Indiana Historical Society*, pp. 159-160, 335.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains Burns' personal papers, addresses, and essays. Included are correspondence, reports, and related materials regarding his involvement with the Indiana Historical Society (1915-1954), the Harrison Mansion Restoration Committee (the restoring of William Henry Harrison's home in Vincennes, 1940-1947), and The Last Man's Club (a Spanish-American War veterans group in Indianapolis, 1947-1954). Among the subjects of his essays and addresses were smoking and the problems of use of tobacco, architecture and its role in Indiana History, including South Hall at Wabash College. There are two photographs, 1) a group photograph of the 1947 annual meeting of the Last Man's Club and 2) a photograph ca. 1857 of Grouseland, William Henry Harrison's home. These are stored in Visual Collections under M 0582. The collection also contains "Early Architects and Builders of Indiana" (1935), written by Lee Burns, and "Indianapolis, the Old Town and the New" (1923), with text by Burns.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

BOX 1: Lee Burns, Papers, 1915-1954

FOLDER CONTENTS

- 1: Indiana Historical Society Reports Documents, 1915-1954
- 2: Indiana Historical Society Board Executive Committee, 1950-1954
- 3: Harrison Mansion Restoration Committee, 1940-1947 (see also VC)
- 4: Last Man's Club, 1947-1954 (see also VC)
- 5: Wabash College-South Hall (Architecture), 1953
- 6: Addresses Essays, Folder 1--Tobacco Smoking
- 7: Addresses Essays, Folder 2--Architecture and Indiana History
- 8: Addresses Essays, Folder 3--Architecture and Indiana History
- 9: "Early Architects and Builders of Indiana"
- 10: "Indianapolis, the old Town and the New"