WALLACE WEATHERHOLT HISTORIC HOMES CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORT, 1950s

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

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

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Folder
COLLECTION DATES:	1950s
PROVENANCE:	Mrs. W.M. Niemczyk, Tell City, Indiana, December 11, 1984
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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NOTES:	

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Perry County, Indiana was organized in 1814. Its close proximity to transportation routes along the Ohio River made it appealing to settlers, and the first pioneers arrived in the late eighteenth century, prior to the county's official organization. The population of the area grew quickly. Some of the earliest towns were Cannelton, Rome, Derby, and Leopold (a Catholic mission town). A number of industries flourished in the county during the nineteenth-century, including coal mining, stone quarrying, and cotton milling. In the late nineteenth century, furniture manufacturing became instrumental in the county's economic development.

Early pioneers coming to Perry County hailed from diverse backgrounds, and thus brought with them a variety of building techniques and traditions. Many of the settlers came from Kentucky, and the homes and buildings they constructed reflected Southern architecture. Log construction was common due to the abundance of timber in the area. The county's isolation from railroad routes resulted in limited access to new building technologies and materials; therefore, vernacular style homes remained common even as other regions began to explore more sophisticated architectural styles over time.

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

Indiana County History Preservation Society. *Crossroads of America: Early Indiana History*. "1849 Perry County Retrospect," based on "Indiana Gazetteer," published by E. Chamberlain. http://www.countyhistory.com/perry/start.html. Accessed 29 November 2012.

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. *Perry County Interim Report*. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana (now Indiana Landmarks), 1996.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains correspondence to and from Wallace Weatherholt (previously Official Historian of Perry County and author of *Revolutionary Soldiers of Perry County*, *Indiana*) concerning the documentation of houses in Perry County, Indiana built in the early to mid nineteenth century. Several of the letters were written by residents of Perry County who read about Weatherholt's research and sought to provide him with information on historic houses.

Also included are pages from Weatherholt's report on Indiana houses built before 1860. The report pages include four photographs of historic homes – one of the Joseph Springer house and three other unidentified houses. A 1950 clipping from a Tell City, Perry County newspaper discusses the history of the Springer home. Joseph Springer was one of the earliest settlers in the county, arriving in what is now known as Union Township between 1808 and 1811.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Correspondence to and from Wallace Weatherholt regarding historic houses of Perry County; pages from a report about Indiana houses built before 1860; a photograph of the Joseph Springer house (Union Township), and three photographs of unidentified houses.

CONTAINER

Folder 1

CATALOGING INFORMATION

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- 2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
- 3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
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