

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts

No. 128

Date processed: November 1980

- I. Title Orr, Douglas William, 1892-1966. Collection, 1929-1967.
- II. The papers of Douglas W. Orr deposited in the Library ~~was~~ during August 1980~~y~~ by Mrs. John A. Logan, Jr. & others ~~in~~ as ~~deposited~~ a gift.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1 foot
Approximate number of items: 475
- IV. Restrictions: None
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on
- VII. Biographical note: see page 2

See also MSS# AD 3

VIII. Analysis:

The collection consists of two boxes. Photographs of a wide range of buildings designed by Douglas W. Orr and articles about them (magazine and newspaper) are basic to the collection. Miscellaneous articles and newspaper clippings relating to his professional career are included. Memorabilia, articles and clippings about his service as a member of the Commission on the Restoration of the Executive Mansion and the National Fine Arts Commission, and as President of the American Institute of Architects are highlights.

ALS from Mrs. Dwight Eisenhower (2) to Mrs. Orr and from President Truman to Douglas Orr (1) are in the possession of Mrs. John A. Logan, Jr. of Guilford CT. Reproduction copies are in this collection.

Wm. A. Wiedersheim

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Orr collection

Biographical note:

Douglas W. Orr, FAIA, (1892 - 1966) was born in Meriden, CT., graduated from Yale in 1919 with a B.F.A. degree in architecture, and received an M.F.A. degree from Yale in 1927. While an undergraduate he won the coveted William Wirt Winchester Fellowship which enabled him to travel abroad 1920 - 1921.

After a brief partnership with William delGrella, Orr established his own architectural practice in 1926. In the course of his busy and distinguished career, he and his staff designed scores of homes, two large public housing projects, a number of churches, office and public buildings. He designed New Haven's Lawn and Quinnipiack Clubs and its YMCA and YWCA. He was responsible for the design of more than 100 structures for the Southern New England Telephone Company and a number of key buildings in the Yale-New Haven Medical Center. He designed or was associated in the design of more construction for Yale than any other architect in its history.

In 1939 Douglas Orr was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and held state and regional offices in the American Institute of Architects. Between 1947 and 1949 he served as its national president. Orr was a director of a number of New Haven philanthropic, business and civic and social organizations and was an outstanding community leader. He made national contributions as a member of the Commission on the Restoration of the Executive Mansion in Washington, D.C., 1949 - 1952, as a member of the National Fine Arts Commission and as designer of the Robert Taft Memorial on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Orr died on July 29, 1966 and is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery. A biography of Douglas W. Orr is in Box I, Folder B, of the manuscript collection.

Orr researchers should note that in 2010, the following books were given to the Whitney Library by the Estate of Elizabeth Mills Brown. They are marked "Office of Douglas Orr, Architect." These have been cataloged and placed on the shelves of the Library.

Coffin, Lewis A., Jr., et al., Small French Buildings. New York: Scribner, 1926
Call number: NA1041.C6

Historic Interiors in Colour. New York: William Helburn, 1929
Call number: NK2050.F4

Maccartney, Mervyn E., The Practical Exemplar of Architecture ... London: Architectural Review, s.d. volumes 1-6 of 7.
Call number: *NA2840.M22

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No. of items

Box I

Folder A - Correspondence relating to the Orr collection.	(5)
B - Douglas W. Orr, biographies.	(3)
C - Job photographs, negatives and positive prints.	
D - New Haven Lawn Club, New Haven, 1929.	(1 - 6p.)
E - Quinnipiack Club, New Haven, 1930.	(1 - 4p.)
F - Southern New England Telephone Company (SNETCO) New Haven, 1959 and 1961; New London, 1962.	(5)
G - Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, 1954.	(8)
H - Various churches - New Haven, 1951 and 1954; Branford, 1956.	(5)
I - Banks and Insurance Company buildings - Hamden, 1951 and 1956; Hartford, 1952.	(5)
J - Central Vermont Public Service building, Rutland, Vermont, 1955.	(2)
K - United Fuel Gas Building, Charleston, W. Va., 1956.	(10)
L - Various office buildings - Bridgeport, 1955; Huntington, W. Va., 1956; New Haven, 1963.	(6)
M - Yale University buildings, New Haven, 1955 and 1957.	(8)
N - Various school and college buildings - North Haven, 1947; New London, 1951; New Haven, 1955; Roanoke, Va., 1967; Cheshire, undated.	(10)
O - Various hospital buildings - New Haven, 1951, 1956, and 1961.	(5)
P - Various residences and apartment houses - New Haven, Guilford and Rocky Hill, CT., 1930 - 1956.	(10)
Q - Public Housing projects, New Haven, 1940.	(7)
Q-1 YMCA, Middletown, 1928, YWCA, New Haven, 1929	(2)
Q-2 Public Buildings, East Haven, 1928, Stony Creek, 1956	(2)
Q-3 Flagpole, New Haven, 1927	(1)
Q-4 Architectual drawing of the Southern New England Telephone company headquarters- photograph	(1)

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No. of items

Box IA(cont'd.)

Folder R - White House, photographs, 1949 - 1952.	(28)
S - " " articles, " "	(25)
T - " " newspaper clippings, 1949 - 1952.	(21)
U - " " prepared talks, typed. " "	(8)
V - Robert Taft Memorial, Washington, D.C., articles and newspaper clippings, 1952.	(25)

Box II

Folder A - American Institute of Architects, presidency, photographs, articles and correspondence, 1947.	(13)
B - A.I.A., presidency, newspaper clippings, 1947.	(7)
C - " " photographs, articles and correspondence, 1948.	(19)
D - " presidency, newspaper clippings, 1948.	(16)
E - " " photographs, articles and correspondence, 1949.	(19)
F - " presidency, newspaper clippings, 1949.	(9)
G - National Fine Arts Commission, correspondence, articles, typed talks and photographs, 1955 - 1957 and 1965.	(29)
H - National Fine Arts Commission, articles and photographs, 1955 - 1957.	(39)
I - Commission on Presidential Office Space, reports, 1957.	(2 -40p.)
J - Scripts of various prepared talks - misc. notes typed drafts, undated.	(8)
K - Miscellaneous articles and memorabilia, 1938 - 1946.	(28)
L - " " " " 1947 - 1963.	(38)
M - " newspaper clippings, 1939 - 1967.	(23)
N - Historic American Buildings Survey lists, Connecticut and Rhode Island, Civil Works Agency, 1934.	(4)
O - Accounts for building at 52 Westerly Dr, Mount Carmel	(8)