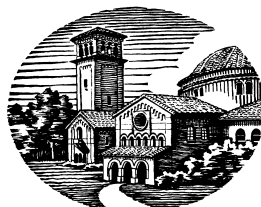


Bidwell Mansion Architectural Drawings

MSS 293



Special Collections • Meriam Library • California State University, Chico

Contact Information

Special Collections

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Collection Summary

Title

Bidwell Mansion Architectural Drawings, 1865-1966

Call Number

MSS 293

Creator

Cleaveland, Henry W. (Henry William)

Language of Materials

English

Extent

Items: 14

Linear Feet: not applicable, oversized

Abstract

Collection of Bidwell Mansion architectural drawings.

Information for Researchers

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research without restriction.

Usage Restrictions

No restrictions.

Publication Rights

The library can only claim physical ownership of the collection. Users are responsible for satisfying any claimants of literary property.

Alternate Form of Material

TIF and JPG of drawings.

Acquisition Information

Various sources including Manning Cleveland Jr.

Processing Information

Processed by: Pamela Nett Kruger, 8 December 2009

Encoded by:

Preferred Citation

Bidwell Mansion Architectural Drawings, MSS 293, Special Collections, Meriam Library, California State University, Chico.

Online Catalog Headings

These and related materials may be found under the following headings in online catalogs.

[Bidwell, John, 1819-1900.](#)

[Bidwell, Annie E. Kennedy.](#)

[Cleaveland, Henry W. \(Henry William\)](#)

[Architectural drawing.](#)

[Bidwell Mansion \(Chico, Calif.\)](#)

[Chico \(Calif.\) -- History.](#)

[Chico \(Calif.\) -- Buildings, structures, etc.](#)

Related Collections

Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey or Historic American Engineering Record, HABS CAL, 4-CHIC,1

Link: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/hhh.ca0059>

John Bidwell Papers, MSS 002, Special Collections, Meriam Library, California State University, Chico.

Annie E. Kennedy Bidwell Papers, MSS 003, Special Collections, Meriam Library, California State University, Chico.

Historical Note

The Italianate style mansion was designed for General John Bidwell (1819-1900) Chico, California by San Francisco Architect Henry William Cleaveland, April 1865. Bidwell occupied it with his bride, Annie Ellicott Kennedy Bidwell (1839-1918) in 1868. The construction cost was between \$56,000 and \$60,000. The mansion contains 26 rooms on three levels, pink stucco with chocolate brown trim. It had modern features of gas

lights, air cooling system, running water and flush toilets. The home was the center of social life in the area, as the Bidwell entertained guests including President and Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes, General William T. Sherman, John Muir, Susan B. Anthony, Frances Willard, Governor Stanford and Asa Gray. Upon her death, Mrs. Bidwell willed the home to the Presbyterian Church to be used as a school. The church not capable of starting a school sold the Mansion to the State of California as part of the Chico Normal School. It was used for various purposes, first as a women's dormitory, then offices and art instruction. In 1964, the Mansion was turned over to the Division of Beaches and Parks to be restored as a house museum.

Scope and Content/Collection Overview

The collection of architectural drawings is from several sources and includes originals and copies. The plans reflect its various uses, as a residence for the Bidwell's, and by Chico State College Art and Homemaking Department as offices, and classrooms. The collection also includes plans from the Historic American Buildings Survey.

Arrangement

Chronological.

Material Cataloged Separately

No material cataloged separately.

Detailed Description of the Collection

- Item 1:** "Design for House for Gen. John Bidwell, Chico, CA. Henry W. Cleaveland, Architect, San Francisco, April 1865" Ground Plan, copy.
- Item 2:** "Design for House for Gen. John Bidwell, Chico, CA. Henry W. Cleaveland, Architect, San Francisco, April 1865" Chamber Plan, copy.
- Item 3:** First Floor Plan, original with key to indications, window and door schedules, no date.
- Item 4:** Third Floor Plan Bidwell Hall, original with door and window schedule, no date.
- Item 5:** General Illumination on all rooms for Bidwell Hall, original handwritten, no date.
- Item 6:** Second Floor Plan, Chico State College, Bidwell Hall, original, no date.
- Item 7:** Third Floor Plan, Chico State College, Bidwell Hall, original, no date.
- Item 8:** Third Floor Plan, Bidwell Hall, blueprint, no date.
- Item 9:** Ground and Chamber Plan, Bidwell Hall, Chico State College, Neal Kesterson, blueprint, 19 March 1954.
- Item 10:** Historic American Buildings Survey, CAL 1317, sheet 1 of 10, copy, January 1966.
- Item 11:** Historic American Buildings Survey, CAL 1317, sheet 5 of 10, copy, January 1966.
- Item 12:** Historic American Buildings Survey, CAL 1317, sheet 6 of 10, copy, January 1966.
- Item 13:** Historic American Buildings Survey, CAL 1317, sheet 7 of 10, copy, January 1966.
- Item 14:** Historic American Buildings Survey, CAL 1317, sheet 10 of 10, copy, January 1966.