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222 E. Harvard Street

Glendale, California 91205

Phone: (818) 548-3749

Email: libraryinfo@glendaleca.gov

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Finding Aid for the Charles C. Rittenhouse Collection, 1896-1978

Collection Overview

Title: Charles C. Rittenhouse Collection

Dates: 1896-1978

ID: CCR

Primary Creator: Charles C. Rittenhouse

Extent: 36.8 linear feet, 12 boxes

Arrangement: Series I: Architectural Business Records, 1896-1978

Series II: Fraternal Organization Papers, 1900-1932

Forms of Material: Paper Records

Language of Materials: English

Abstract

The Charles C. Rittenhouse Collection documents his career as an architect, primarily while he worked in the Greater Los Angeles area, although it also includes specifications and correspondence related to his earlier work in Hastings, Nebraska and Canon City, Colorado. His involvement in local fraternal organizations in Nebraska and Glendale, California is represented by correspondence and ephemera.

Biographical History

Charles Clarence Rittenhouse was born in Van Wert, Ohio, in 1852. He initially made his mark as an architect in Nebraska and Colorado. He worked in Hastings, Adams County, Nebraska between 1877 and 1895. While in Hastings, he served as a city councilman and mayor, before moving west to Canon City, Colorado. In 1905, he went further west and settled in Tropic, a city later annexed to Glendale, California. When the City of Tropic incorporated in 1911, he was elected a trustee and president of the board. His business operated out of the Wilcox building in Los Angeles.

Outside of his architectural work, Rittenhouse was active in masonic organizations in both Hastings, Nebraska and in Glendale, California. He was a charter member of the Glendale Commandery, No. 53, Knights Templar, founded in 1915. Rittenhouse married Elvira L. Morse in Hastings, Nebraska in November 1879. They had four children together, Franklin, Ralph, Clarence (Charles C.), and Tena Pearl. Elvira passed away in October 1911. His son Charles C. married local Glendale osteopathic physician Dr. Pearl Shrode. Both Charles C.

and Ralph followed their father into the architecture and construction field. Rittenhouse died in Glendale in July 1937.

Scope and Contents

Series I, Architectural Business Records, contains architectural drawings and construction specification documents, as well as related contracts, correspondence, and building supply advertisements. Rittenhouse worked on a number of building types, including both private and public structures. These architectural records are primarily for buildings in California, but also include projects in Nebraska and Colorado, as well as land interests in Roswell, New Mexico. Materials are arranged alphabetically, and primarily by architectural project location. Listed towns and cities are located in California, unless otherwise noted.

Series II, Fraternal Organization Papers, includes correspondence and materials related to his involvement in fraternal organizations, particularly in Glendale. Folders are arranged alphabetically by lodge.

Subjects/Access Terms

Personal Name: Rittenhouse, Charles C., 1852-1937

Corporate Name: C.C. Rittenhouse Architect

Topical Terms: Architecture

Architects--California--Los Angeles

Fraternal organizations

Geographic Names: Glendale (Calif.)

Los Angeles County (Calif.)

Administrative Information

Processing Information: Mallory Furnier, 2018

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Conditions Governing Access: The collection is open for research use.

Preferred Citation: Charles C. Rittenhouse Collection. Glendale Central Library History Room. Glendale Library, Arts & Culture.

Acquisition: Lois L. Markwith, ca. December 1977

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