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Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections

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Retrospect

News from the Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections

January, 2006

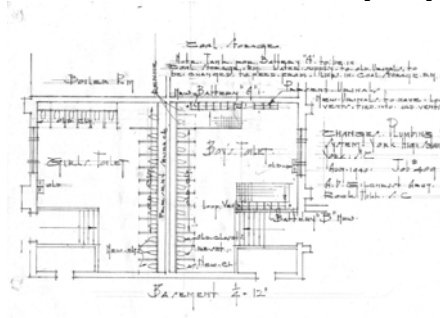
Volume 2, number 1

Alfred Gilchrist Architectural Drawing Collection

In January 2005, the Archives received a grant from the South Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) to arrange, describe, and preserve an historically valuable collection of mostly South Carolina architectural drawings. The Alfred Gilchrist Collection consists of over 270 drawings and plans for commercial, industrial, and public buildings (including Winthrop); private residences; and additions to buildings and homes in South and North Carolina. Gilchrist was a Rock Hill based architect who practiced his profession from the late 1910s to the early 1940s. His grandson, Alfred Gilchrist, donated the drawings to the Archives in April of 2003. The collection includes drawings and plans of structures located primarily in York, Chester, and Fairfield Counties although there are plans from Kershaw, Darlington, Lancaster, Cherokee, and other counties in South Carolina and North Carolina as well. Andrew Grose, currently a Winthrop graduate student in history, began to work on the collection in December. We anticipate having the collection available for research by July 2006.



Andrew Grose working on Gilchrist Drawings



York High School plumbing changes 1940

PastPerfect Software

In the Spring of 2005, the Archives began using a collection management software program designed for archives and museums called PastPerfect. With its use, most of the information that is contained in our collection inventories will be searchable electronically. Currently the software is only available to researchers in our Archives research room. We only have a small portion of the manuscript collection available on this program at present, however, more information is added daily. We feel that this will make our collection more accessible to all of our researchers. Researchers can search by key word, subject, name, and a number of other ways. Please feel free to come by and take a look at this new tool in our ever expanding quest to assist researchers.

New Shelving in the Archives

Dr. Mark Herring, Dean of the Library, recently received a grant from the Lutz Foundation to install compact shelving in one of the Archives storage areas. The shelving was installed just before the semester break and nearly triples the Archives storage capacity in that area. Compact shelving expands the capacity of a given area and makes it more accessible. Even though there is a sophisticated automatic version of this shelving, we chose the manually-operated version because this area is not open to the public. It only requires one pound of pressure to open or close the entire range. The shelving is portable and can be moved to the new library building. The future library will contain at least 75% compact shelving. (See www.winthrop.edu/fdd/Dacus.htm for view of proposed building.) Unfortunately, compact shelving cannot be installed in our current building (except for portions of the ground floor) because the upper floors are unable to withstand the amount of load-bearing weight required.



Selected Collections Received Since October 2005

- Addition to Dr. Miriam Williford Papers 2000 pieces
- *The Christian Neighbor* newspaper from 1872 one issue (3 pieces)
- *The Palmetto Standard* newspaper from 1895 one issue (10 pieces)
- Additions to Dr. Martha Bishop Papers 4 bound volumes and 100 pieces
- Addition to the Come-See-Me Collection 4000 pieces

Collections Now Available for Research

- Veterans History Project 50 oral history interviews
The collection includes oral history interviews of 50 veterans who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf. Winthrop is a partner institution with the Library of Congress in their efforts to collect and preserve the stories of our nation's war veterans. The interviews include some photographs and other documents concerning the veteran's service. There are an additional 12 interviews that were conducted in the fall of 2005 that will be added to the collection in the spring semester 2006. For more information on the project and how you can be a part of it, please contact either TJ Hyatt at (803)323-2242 (hyattt@winthrop.edu) or Gina White at (803)323-2334 (whitegp@winthrop.edu).

For information on the Archives' collections and holdings, how to donate historical material, or how you can help, contact:

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Web site: www.winthrop.edu/dacus/About/Archives