

Kansas City (Mo.) City Hall Building Files (SC87)

Introduction

The Kansas City (Mo.) City Hall Building Files collection contains materials from the Kansas City, Missouri Department of Public Works, City Architect's Office. This collection primarily contains the architectural history of the City Hall building in addition to project correspondence from the department of Public Works or the Kansas City Government.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Tom Bean
Title: Kansas City (Mo.) City Hall Building Files
Dates: 1931-1999
Size: 2.08 linear feet, 4 oversized folders
Collection Number: SC87

Donor Information

Gift, April 3, 2001, Tom Bean.

Citation Note

Kansas City (Mo.) City Hall Building files (SC87), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information

Additional form available: Photographs have been digitized but are not currently available online.

Related Collections: Additional information regarding City Hall and the Public Works Department may be found in Missouri Valley Special Collections local history collections. These include: Vertical File – Kansas City – City Hall – 12th Street; Vertical File – Kansas City – Public Works Department; Kansas City Public Works Collection (SC163); Mrs. Sam Ray Postcard Collection (SC58); Dorothea Eldridge Slide Collection (P25); and the Robert Askren Photograph Collection (P35). Additional materials may also be found by searching the Kansas City Public Library Catalog.

Historical Sketch

The original 1858 City Hall was a two-story brick building, located at 5th and Main, now the River Market District. In 1892, the original building was rebuilt, only to be demolished in 1936. The current thirty-story City Hall building is located at 414 E.

12th Street in Kansas City, Missouri. Construction began in 1936 and was completed in 1937. The building is well-known for its use of art deco, complete with marble and oak veneer paneling in the 26th floor Council Chamber. In 2006, the building was renovated, updating fire safety, security, and complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

The Department of Public Works is in charge of construction and maintenance to the streets and public buildings. These duties include cleaning, refuse collection, engineering, and inspection.

This collection was a gift from City Architect for the Kansas City, Missouri Department of Public Works, Tom Bean. He was appointed to that position in 1980.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains correspondence, photographs, photocopied newspaper clippings, newsletters, and other miscellaneous items regarding the Kansas City, Missouri City Hall building and government in the 20th century. The collection is divided into two main topics- the City Hall building itself and Department of Public Works and the City Government projects. The bulk of the collection is about the construction, architectural history, and maintenance of the building. Additionally, this collection contains many interior and exterior photographs documenting the architectural design.

The other half of the collection contains correspondence regarding projects from the Department of Public Works and the city government, in the form of photocopied newspaper clippings and newsletters.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Architectural History, 1936-1997

This series mostly contains information on the friezes that decorate the outside of City Hall. There is photocopied correspondence between the three primary sculptors of the frieze panels- C. P. Jennewin, Walker H. Hancock and Ulric H. Ellerhusen from April through August 1936. Additionally, there are photocopied newspaper clippings from the *Kansas City Star*, and a synopsis that describes the symbolism and up-close photographs of the friezes. Inter-departmental communication between City Manager, City Architect, Director of Public Works, Display Coordinator, and Chairperson of the City Employee Image Team, from 1987 plans the City Hall's 50th Birthday event. Research for the City Hall information brochure from December 8, 1997 contains a physical description of the building, other background information, and handwritten notes regarding construction plans, cost, and materials.

Series 2: Architectural Tours, 1985-1987

This series contains instruction sheets, maps, and handwritten notes used by guides directing tours of the Civic Center, including the City Hall Building, Municipal Court

Building, Jackson County Courthouse, and Federal Office Building. There is correspondence from Ginny Graves, Environmental Education Coordinator of the American Institute of Archivists with a schedule for the weekend class and tours between June 15-19, 1987. This series also contains a reprinted July 5, 1985 *Kansas City Times* article by James C. Fitzpatrick.

Series 3: Architecture Award Competitions, 1981-1988

The America's City Halls competition was sponsored by the American Institute of Architects, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the Department of the Interior. This series contains correspondence between E. Crichton Singleton, the President of the Kansas City Chapter of American Institute of Architects and Thomas Bean, City Architect. Additionally, there is an Acceptance of Proposal and Reservation of Funds form for photographs to complete the America's City Halls submission form. BOMA Office Building of the Year competition submission items describes the City Hall Building's architecture.

Series 4: Photographs, 1968-1969 and n.d.

This series contains color and black and white exterior and interior photographs of the City Hall Building. Credited studios include The Don Bryan Studio, Architectural Fotografics, L.D. Jones Photography, and Scheffer Studio. Some of the photographs may have been taken for the America's City Halls or BOMA awards competitions.

Series 5: Building Functions, 1984-1998

This series includes inter-departmental communication reports from Marvin Brown, Emergency Plan Committee Chairman, to members of the Emergency Plan Committee detailing fire alarm and detection systems, emergency evacuation procedures, and other safety measures. The City Hall Emergency Plan loose-leaf booklet, Emergency Plan Committee Agenda, and Budgetary Proposal for City Hall Building Fire Alarm/Evac System are also included. Inter-departmental communications concerning various repair and expansion projects with bids for certain repairs along with Acceptance of Proposal and Reservation of Funds statements from the Accounting Department. Finally, there are two product catalogs for Wausaw Tile and Capri Track Lighting.

Series 6: City Hall Projects and Miscellaneous Materials, 1985-1988

This series contains inter-departmental communication on City Hall projects. Included is an invitation for the Design Weekend '86 sponsored by The Kansas City Chapter of The AIA and The College and Architecture and Design Kansas State University. There are dedication plaques paperwork from the City Architect's office in addition to inter-departmental communication and kiosk design for the "City Hall in the Mall" project where citizens could pay bills and access local government services. This series also contains a large "thank you" note, signed by a Hickman Mills Public School class.

Series 7: Kansas City Government, 1996-1997

This series focuses on initiatives from the Kansas City government that are relevant to the Public Works Department. There are reports providing a breakdown of City Planning and Development Department missions and administration reorganization correspondence from David Olson, city manager, to the Mayor and members of the City Council. Additionally, there is internal correspondence regarding Kansas City government transformation to the Mayor, members of the City Council, and investment group leaders, from Larry Brown, City Manager. Other information that relates to the transformation process includes agendas, question and answer packet, and newsletters.

Series 8: Newsletters, 1987-1997

This series contains two newsletter titles published by the City of Kansas City. *City Limits* was published for city employees of Kansas City, Missouri. *The Fountain Pen* was published by the Corporate Communications office for City of Kansas City associates. The issues in this series have been withdrawn and placed in an oversized box.

Series 9: Newspaper Clippings, 1935-1997

This series contains photocopied newspaper clippings, including articles regarding the City Hall construction, an obituary for W. D. Wight (October 30, 1947), the 50th City Hall Anniversary (1987), and Kansas City Government Transformation opinion columns.

Collection Inventory

Items with an "OS" notation are located in SC Oversized box 1.

Series 1: Architectural History, 1936-1997 and n.d.

- f. 1 Correspondence regarding friezes, April-August 1936
- f. 2 Newspaper clippings regarding friezes, November 15, 1936- and n.d.
- f. 3 City Hall's 50th Birthday, February 10, 1986-October 22, 1987
- f. 4 City Hall Information Brochure research, December 8, 1997- and n.d.

Series 2: Architectural Tours, 1985-1987

- f. 5 Architectural tours, 1985-1987

Series 3: Architecture Award Competitions, 1981-1988

- f. 6 America's City Halls, May 20, 1981-September 21, 1981
- f. 7 BOMA Building of the Year Competition June 2, 1987- September 29, 1988

Series 4: Photographs, 1968-1969 and n.d.

- f. 8 Exterior City Hall photographs, October 22, 1968 and n.d.

- #1. Photograph of the South Entrance, October 22, 1968. Don Bryan, photographer. Black and white. (1 copy). Barcode: 10018942.
 #2. Full Building from 12th Street, n.d. Color. (2 copies). Barcode: 10018943.
- f. 9 Interior City Hall photographs, n.d.
 #3. First Floor Entrance, n.d. Black and white. (3 copies). Barcode: 10018944.
 #4. Mezzanine View of First Floor Entrance, n.d. Black and white. (2 copies). Barcode: 10018945.
 #5. Second Floor View of Main Hall, n.d. Black and white. (2 copies). Barcode: 10018946.
- f. 10 Interior City Hall photographs, n.d.
 #6. Mezzanine View of the East Staircase, n.d. Paul S. Kivett, Architectural Fotografics. Black and white. (5 copies). Barcode: 10018947.
- f. 11 Interior City Hall photographs, n.d.
 #7. Balcony View of Council Chamber, n.d. Black and white. (2 copies). Barcode: 10018948.
 #8. Council Chamber, n.d. Black and white. (1 copy). Barcode: 10018949.
 #9. Elevator Bank, n.d. Paul S. Kivett, Architectural Fotografics. Black and white. (3 copies). Barcode: 10018950.
- f. 12 Interior City Hall photographs, 1969 and n.d.
 #10. Treasurer's Office Remodeling First Floor City Hall, n.d. Office of the City Architect, Kenneth E. Coombs, AIA. Negative. (1 copy). Barcode: 10018951.
 #11. Waiting Area, n.d. Black and white. (4 copies). Barcode: 10018952.
 #12. Unidentified Office and Staff Members, May 23, 1969. L. D. Jones Photography. Color. (1 copy). Barcode: 10018953.
 #13. Artistic Drawing of Lobby Area, n.d. Scheffer Studio. (1 copy). Barcode: 1001894.
 #15. Generator Room, n.d. Color. (1 copy). Barcode: 1018955.

Series 5: Building Functions, 1984-1998

- f. 13 Emergency and Security Plan, January 31, 1984-August 23, 1996
 f. 14 Facility Maintenance January 6, 1989-January 10, 1997
 f. 15 Wausaw Tile and Capri Track Lighting Catalogues, 1995-July 1998

Series 6: City Hall Projects and Miscellaneous Materials, 1985-1988

- f. 16 City Hall projects and Miscellaneous Materials, 1985-1988

Series 7: Kansas City Government, 1996-1997

- f. 17 City Planning and Development, 1996
 f. 18 Transformation Process, 1996-1997

Series 8: Newsletters, 1987-1997

- f. 19 *City Limits*, October-November 1987
- f. 20 *Fountain Pen*, September 1996- February 1997 (OS)
- f. 21 *Fountain Pen*, May- December 1997 (OS)
- f. 22 *Fountain Pen*, July-December 1998 and June 1999 (OS)

Series 9: Newspaper clippings, 1935-1997

- f. 23 Newspaper clippings, 1935-1997 (OS)

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