Betty Trost (1917–2005)

Papers, 1951-2005

1.5 linear ft.

Acquisition Number: 2005-07

Acquisition: Donated to the Archives by Betty Trost in 2005

Access: Access to the collection is unrestricted

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Preferred Citation: Betty Trost Collection, Cranbrook Archives, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Architectural Drawings: Catalogued on the Horizon database.

Photographs: In Photograph Special File

Index: See end of finding aid

Biography

Betty Trost was born 14 Aug 1920 in Ohio. She was an avid gardener, beginning in southern Ohio, continuing in southern California, and then for forty years in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Her love of gardening extended beyond her own home to Cranbrook, where she became one of seventeen charter members of the Cranbrook Gardens Auxiliary in 1971. Trost was interested in researching and documenting the history of the gardens and the auxiliary. In 1994, she began gathering information regarding the history and development of the individual garden areas, in anticipation of the 25th anniversary of the auxiliary. From 1996 to its completion in 1998, she chaired the renovation of the Gatehouse area. She enjoyed sharing her garden knowledge and her plants with other gardeners as well as continually learning more about gardening herself. She was married to Fred Norman Trost (1917-2005) for 63 years. She died 4 Feb 2008 in Oakland County, Michigan.

Scope and Content of Collection

The bulk of the collection consists of documentation of the Gatehouse Project headed by Trost and her research of the development and history of Cranbrook’s area gardens. Materials include clippings, correspondence, drawings, invoices, maps, and research notes. Trost’s file folders and pocket folders with her handwritten notes on their covers were photocopied for inclusion in the collection. The original folders were then discarded.

Arrangement loosely follows Trost’s original order as noted on her folder covers. Records within the folders are in chronological order, if dates could be determined.

SERIES I: GATEHOUSE PROJECT (1995 – 1998) contains brochures, plans, drawings, invoices, contracts, correspondence, and research notes concerning the renovation of the Gatehouse area, including the design of the Pewabic plaque for the entry.

SERIES II: HISTORICAL RESEARCH (1951 – 2002) includes items Trost collected regarding the history of Cranbrook, gardeners and gardening. Materials include newspaper clippings and drawings, but are primarily composed of Trost’s research notes.

SERIES III: AREA GARDENS (1952 – 2005, bulk 1994 - 1996) comprises the majority of the collection. This series consists of records gathered by Trost while researching the history of the specific area gardens of Cranbrook. In January 1994, she sent CHGA chairpersons a historical research survey to complete regarding their memories of specific area gardens. Arrangement of the materials follows Trost’s original order based on a walking tour (1999) of the gardens. The survey and walking tour list are located in folder 1:18. Folder titles maintain Trost’s names for each garden. The contents of each folder vary, but generally include documentation of the development and history of each garden: drawings, lists of plants found in the specific gardens, information about the
people who worked in the garden, responses of garden chairpersons to Trost’s survey questions, and clippings. Photographs of the area gardens were removed to the photograph collection of the archives.

OVERSIZED MATERIAL (1998) consists of a foam display board of the Pewabic plaque for the Gatehouse Project with photos, drawings, and a brief history of the installation of the tile.

Related Collections

- Cranbrook House and Gardens Auxiliary Records (1995-11)
- Henry S. Booth and Carolyn Farr Booth Papers (1982-05)
Box 1

SERIES I: GATEHOUSE PROJECT

2. Gatehouse, sketches, [c. 1996]
3. Gatehouse bench, research notes, [c. 1996]
4. Pewabic plaque, 1996
5. Pewabic plaque, 1997 - 1998
7. Pewabic plaque motto, [c. 1994]

SERIES II: HISTORICAL RESEARCH

8. Biographical – Booth family, [c. 1995]

SERIES III: AREA GARDENS

18. General gardens information, survey, 1993 - 2001
21. Entrance path (Woodland Path), 1985 -1996
23. Greek Theatre Rhododendron Grove, [c. 1994]

Box 2

2. Rose Garden Walk, 1990 - 1996
3. Ralph’s Hill, [c. 1994]
Box 2 (cont’d)

12. Pergola Area, [c. 1994]
13. Meadow Tapestry Garden, 1994
17. Tufa Garden, 1976 - 1996
18. Menelaus Garden, 1994
27. Trees & Shrubs, 1991 - 2005

OVERSIZED MATERIALS

In large beige file drawer, 2nd from the bottom
1. Foam display board of the Pewabic plaque for the Gatehouse Project, photos, drawings, and a brief history of the installation of the tile, [c. 1998]
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