Wermuth & Son, Inc.

Photograph Collection, 1922-1969
3 linear ft.

Acquisition Number: 1992-16

Acquisition: Donated in 1992 by Edward H. Wendeln.

Access: Access to the collection is unrestricted.

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Preferred Citation: Wermuth & Son, Inc. Photograph Collection, Cranbrook Archives, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Processing: Ellen Vander Kolk, 2011
History

Charles R. Wermuth was born in 1853 in Saxony, Germany. At the age of twenty-three, he traveled to Dresden, Germany, where he learned carpentry and building. He moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1881, working six years before he established his own business. He married Marie Pretchendorf in 1876 and had nine children (only six survived), including son Albert Charles. He died in 1941 in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Albert Charles “A.C.” Wermuth was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1893. He became a contractor in the early 1920s, and headed the firm of Charles R. Wermuth & Son, Inc. (changed in 1942 to Wermuth, Inc.). In 1923, Wermuth worked on Trinity English Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne with architect Bertram Goodhue. Goodhue had been contracted to design Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills, MI, and invited Wermuth to bid on the job. As general contractor, the firm of Charles R. Wermuth & Son constructed Christ Church Cranbrook, Cranbrook School, Kingswood School, Brookside School, Cranbrook Academy of Art, and Cranbrook Institute of Science. Wermuth’s firm also constructed buildings for Booth family members, including a home for Grace Booth Wallace, and a swimming pool for Henry Scripps Booth.

While working at Cranbrook, A.C. Wermuth became friends with architect Eliel Saarinen. Saarinen designed a house for Wermuth in Fort Wayne, Indiana, one of the few residences in the United States he designed. In addition to projects at Cranbrook, Wermuth’s firm handled construction projects throughout the Midwest, including the First Christian Church in Columbus, Indiana, and Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

A.C. Wermuth died September 15, 1977 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. His wife Muriel predeceased him earlier that year, and he was survived by two daughters.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection consists of photographs of buildings constructed by the firm of Charles R. Wermuth & Son, Inc. (Wermuth, Inc.). The original collection was bound in thirteen photograph books. The books have been unbound (with the exception of Book Twelve), but are still in the original order.

Related Collections

- George G. Booth Papers (1981-01)
- Cranbrook Architectural Office Records (1989-01)
Box Number--Description

Box 1

2. Book One: “the Kingswood School for Girls”; Kingswood Photos
3. Book One: Institute of Science
4. Book One: Art Museum
5. Book One: Carl Milles Statuary
6. Book Two: Cranbrook Publications
7. Book Two: Plot Plan & Aerial Photos
8. Book Two: School for Boys
10. Book Two: Faculty Residences
11. Book Two: Service Personnel Residences
15. Book Three: Bloomfield Township School, Birmingham, Michigan
20. Book Three: City of Celina Power Plant
22. Book Three: Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan – 1925

Box 2

1. Book Four: City Light Plant, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1934
2. Book Four: Clinical Building, Indianapolis, Ind. – 1937
4. Book Four: Dam & Pump Station, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1933
5. Book Four: Fels Research Lab, Yellow Springs, Ohio – 1947
6. Book Four: Finlay YMCA, Finlay, Ohio – 1939
8. Book Four: First Methodist Church, Decatur, Ind. – 1965
15. Book Four: Post Office, Huntington, Ind. – 1967
16. Book Four: IBM Corp., Greencastle, Ind. – 1953

Box 3
2. Book Five: Alvan Macauley Residence, Birmingham, Mich. – 1930 (2/2)
3. Book Five: Manchester College, Schwalm Hall, N. Manchester, Ind. – 1966 (1/2)
4. Book Five: Manchester College, Schwalm Hall, (2/2)
5. Book Five: Manchester College Campus Library – 1966 (1/2)
7. Book Five: Methodist Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan -1941
12.Book Five: National Seal Co. addition
13.Book Five: Notre Dame University, Lewis Hall, South Bend, Ind. – 1964 (1/2)
14.Book Five: Notre Dame University, Lewis Hall (2/2)

Box 4
1. Book Six: Randolph County Hospital, Winchester, Ind. – 1949
2. Book Six: REMC Bldg., Columbia City, Ind. – 1965
4. Book Six: Salisbury Axle Division, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1945 (1/2)
5. Book Six: Salisbury Axle Division (2/2)
6. Book Six: Sewage Treatment Plant addition, Indianapolis, Ind. – 1936
7. Book Six: Sexton High School, Lansing, Michigan -1942 (1/2)
8. Book Six: Sexton High School, Lansing Michigan (2/2)
10. Book Seven: State School, Boys Dorm, Ft. Wayne, Ind. 1936
12. Book Seven: Studebaker Corp. Aviation Division, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1941 (1/2)
13. Book Seven: Studebaker Corp. Aviation Division (2/2)
14. Book Seven: Swinney Park Bridge, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1933
15. Book Seven: Tabernacle Church of God, Columbus, Ind. – 1941 (1/2)
16. Book Seven: Tabernacle Church of God (2/2)

Box 5
7. Book Eight: Western High School (2/2)
9. Book Eight: Wood Youth Center

Box 6

1. Book Ten: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, Ind. 1924 (1/2)
2. Book Ten: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (2/2)
4. Book Ten: Tri-State College (2/6)
5. Book Ten: Tri-State College (3/6)
7. Book Ten: Tri-State College (5/6)
8. Book Ten: Tri-State College (6/6)

Box 7

Book Twelve (Bound)
Sewage Treatment Plant, Ft. Wayne, Ind. 1939

First Methodist Episcopal Church, Ann Arbor, Mich.
Findlay, Ohio YMCA
Junior Educational Activities Building, Indiana State Fair Grounds
YMCA Springfield, Ohio
Water Treatment & Filtration Plant, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Clinical Building, Indianapolis, Indiana
State School Dormitories, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
Indianapolis Sewage Disposal Plant, Indianapolis, Ind.
Swinney Park Bridge, U.S. Road # 24, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
Ft. Wayne City Light Plant
Anthony Boulevard Dam & Pumping Station, Ann Arbor, Mich.
Alvan Macauley Residence, Grosse Pointe, Mich.
Harold L. Wallace Residence, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
Cranbrook Foundation Offices, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
Cranbrook School for Boys, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
Brookside School Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
Greek Theater & Cranbrook Pavilion, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
Trinity Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
Wm. Scheele & Sons Co., Ft. Wayne, Indiana
Shrine Temple, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
Kruse Store & Garage Building, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
Zion’s Parish Hall, Ft. Wayne, Indiana

4. Book Thirteen: Sears Service Center & Warehouse
5. Book Thirteen: Sears Service Center – 1966