**Contributing Institution:** University of California, Berkeley. College of Environmental Design. Environmental Design Archives

**Title:** Willa Cloys Carmack Collection 1916-1962

**Creator:** Carmack, Willa Cloys, 1889-1968

**Identifier/Call Number:** 2019-05

**Physical Description:** 1.3 Linear Feet: 1 Carton and 1 Document Box

**Date (inclusive):** 1916-1962

**Date (bulk):** 1940-1959

**Language of Material:** English.

**Access Statement**
Collection is open for research. Many of the Environmental Design Archives collections are stored offsite and advance notice is required for use.

**Publication Use**
All requests to publish, reproduce, or quote from materials in the collection should be discussed with the Curator.

**Preferred Citation**
[Identification of Item], Willa Cloys Carmack Collection, Environmental Design Archives, University of California, Berkeley.

**Funding**
Arrangement and description of this collection was funded by the Beatrix Farrand Endowment courtesy of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning.

**Biographical Note**
Willa Cloys was an only child, born November 1, 1889, in the Midwest. Her father Edward H. Cloys was a building contractor and the family moved to California around the late nineteen-teens. Willa was one of the first women to graduate with a degree in Landscape Architecture from UC Berkeley, which at that time was part of the Department of Agriculture under the direction of Professor John Gregg. After graduating with her degree in 1916, she is listed in the Berkeley City Directory, in 1917, as a Landscape Architect.

By 1925, Willa married Robert M. Carmack, and based on the 1930 census they had two children, John and Sarah. Throughout her career, which spanned more than thirty years, she secured several large estate commissions in and around Hillsborough, schools in San Leandro, the San Jose Women’s Club, city parks in Petaluma, and a subdivision called Felton Gables in Menlo Park, among others.

During the Depression, Cloys taught landscape design at the California School of Gardening, a school started by and for women in Hayward in 1926 and lectured at California garden clubs. She was also a founding member of the California Horticultural Society. Cloys was an early proponent of the use of native plants in California gardens and an active part of a network of women working to influence how we garden in California today.

**Sources:**
Biography of Willa Cloys Carmack by April Halberstadt, May 2007

**Scope and Contents**
The Willa Cloys Carmack Collection spans the years 1916-1962 and includes personal, professional, and project records. This collection is organized into two series: Personal Papers, Professional Papers.

**Series I:** Personal Papers contain correspondence, photographs, travel diaries, and handwritten notes about plant types. Much of the correspondence are postcards to Willa's children during her travels and a few to friends. Photographs include a headshot from the 1916 Blue and Gold yearbook noting her graduation from UC Berkeley. The bulk of the material in this series is travel paraphernalia from her trips to Italy (1926), Mexico (1955), across the Midwest (circa 1948), and Japan (1959).

**Series II:** The Professional Papers include correspondence relating to professional topics, writings, presentations, professional organizations and committees, reference material collected, and project records. Reference Files are the largest sub-series containing nursery lists with handwritten notations, brochures by plant type, and reference materials such as magazines and newspaper clippings related to the profession in general and not to specific projects.

**Custodial History**
This collection was donated by the family of Willa Cloys Carmack.

**Related Collections**
California Association of Landscape Architects (CALA) Records, 1944-1960
SERIES I. PERSONAL PAPERS

Scope and Contents
Series consists of manuscripts and photographs documenting Cloys informal education, travels in Europe and Japan, family correspondence, and writings not directly related to her career.

A. Correspondence

Postcards to Family 1926-1959, n.d.
Physical Description: 1 Folder:1|1

Postcards to Friends n.d.
Physical Description: 1 Folder:1|1

B. Travel

Italy and France 1926
Physical Description: 1 Folder:1|2

New England Tour 1948
Physical Description: 1 Folder:1|3

United States: Midwest Tour 1948, n.d.
Physical Description: 1 Folder:1|4

Mexico 1951
Physical Description: 2 Folders:1|5-6

Canada 1955
Physical Description: 1 Folder:1|7

Pan American Japanese Tour 1959
Physical Description: 1 Folder:1|8-10

Postcards n.d.
Physical Description: 1 Folder:1|11

C. Photographs
### SERIES I. PERSONAL PAPERS

#### C. Photographs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Physical Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue and Gold class photo 1916</td>
<td>1 Folder:1</td>
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#### D. Articles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Physical Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Tour Newspaper Articles 1959</td>
<td>1 Folder:1</td>
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#### E. Notes

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plant lists n.d.</td>
<td>1 Folder:1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SERIES II. PROFESSIONAL PAPERS

#### Scope and Contents

The Professional Papers consist of documents produced by Cloys relating to her career in landscape architecture. The series also includes transcriptions and notes from presentations, documents concerning her involvement in several associations and committees including the CALA, and documents kept as reference materials such as magazines and newspaper clippings related to the profession in general and not to specific projects.

#### A. Correspondence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Physical Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Correspondence 1944, n.d.</td>
<td>1 Folder:1</td>
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</table>

#### B. Writings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Physical Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Gardens 1924</td>
<td>1 Folder:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Native Shrubs 1962</td>
<td>1 Folder:1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### C. Presentations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Physical Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ground Covers 1958</td>
<td>1 Folder:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Native Plants n.d.</td>
<td>1 Folder:1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### D. Associations and Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Physical Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California Horticultural Society 1959</td>
<td>1 Folder:1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### D. Associations and Committees

**California Association of Landscape Architects 1959-1960**

Physical Description: 1 Folder: 1|21

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**E. Clippings**

**General Clippings 1949, 1955**

Physical Description: 1 Folder: 1|22

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**F. Reference Files**

Physical Description: 1 Folder: 2|1

**Nursery Catalogs 1934, 1937, 1942, 1948, 1956**

Physical Description: 1 Folder: 2|1

Scope and Contents

Nursery Catalogs include those from East Bay Nursery (Berkeley, CA), McDonnel Nursery (Orinda, CA), and West End Nursery (San Rafael).

**Rhododendrons and Camellias 1938, 1945, 1951-52**

Physical Description: 1 Folder: 2|2

**Roses 1940-1942, 1948, 1953**

Physical Description: 1 Folder: 2|3

**Designing with Redwood 1944, 1952, n.d.**

Physical Description: 1 Folder: 2|4

**Fushia and Pelargoriums 1947, 1953**

Physical Description: 1 Folder: 2|5

**Trees 1950-1955, n.d.**

Physical Description: 1 Folder: 2|6

**Redwoods News 1950-1965**

Physical Description: 1 Folder: 2|7

**Parks 1951, 1962**

Physical Description: 1 Folder: 2|8

**Lilies and Irises 1956, 1961**

Physical Description: 1 Folder: 2|9

**Ground Covers 1958**

Physical Description: 1 Folder: 2|10

**Native Plants of California n.d.**

Physical Description: 1 Folder: 2|11

**Indoor Plants n.d.**

Physical Description: 1 Folder: 2|12

**Poetry n.d.**

Physical Description: 1 Folder: 2|13
G. Project Records

Hood, Mrs. John (Berkeley, CA) 1925
   Project Type:
       residential

   Drawings
       Physical Description: 1 Flat File: FF 1

Lachman, Gustave (Hillsborough, CA) 1937
   Collaborator: Smaus, Louis (Landscape Architect)
   Project Type:
       residential

   Drawings
       Physical Description: 1 Flat File: FF 2

   Photographs
       Physical Description: 1 Folder:2|14

Merner, Garfield D. (Hillsborough, CA) 1927
   Collaborator: Polk, Willis (Architect)
   Project Type:
       residential

   Drawings
       Physical Description: 1 Flat File: FF 3