George A. Applegarth Collection, ca. 1917-1919

Collection Number: 1956-3

Environmental Design Archives

University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Contact Information:

Environmental Design Archives
College of Environmental Design
230 Wurster Hall #1820
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California, 94720-1820
Phone: (510) 642-5124
Fax: (510) 642-2824
Email: archives@socrates.berkeley.edu
URL: http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/cedarchives/

Processed by:
Archives Staff
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Archives Staff
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Descriptive Summary

Title: George A. Applegarth Collection,
Date (inclusive): ca. 1917-1919
Collection number: 1956-3
Creator: Applegarth, George A., 1876-1972
Extent: 2 boxes, 4 card file boxes, 4 oversize folders, 1 tube
Repository: Environmental Design Archives.
University of California, Berkeley.

Abstract: The collection documents the architectural work of George A. Applegarth, with a focus on his work in Clyde, California.
Language: English.

Access
Collection is open for research.

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

Preferred Citation
Acquisition Information
The collection was donated in 1956.

Biographical Note
George A. Applegarth, (1876-1972)

George A. Applegarth was born October 4, 1876 in Oakland, California. He began his professional career as a draughtsman for his uncle George Sanders, of the architectural firm Wright & Sanders in San Francisco. After studying at the University of California, Berkeley under Bernard Maybeck, and at his encouragement, Applegarth attended the Ecole des Beaux Arts, where he was a member of La Loux atelier, and received his diploma in 1906.

Upon his return to the United States, he formed a partnership with Kenneth MacDonald in an architectural firm, which lasted for six years, after which time Applegarth practiced on his own. Applegarth's career comprised over forty projects, including the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, the Clift Hotel, residential and commercial projects for the Spreckles family, and the town of Clyde, California. He was a fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He died in 1972.

Applegarth's most recognizable project is the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, which was financed by Adolph and Alma de Brettville Spreckles and presented to the city of San Francisco in 1924. He also designed several other commercial and residential projects for the Spreckles family. Clyde, California was a company town built for the employees of the Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Company and funded through a U.S. government loan. Applegarth prepared the plans for the town for funding purposes and was the architect of the project. During the Clyde project he worked with Bernard Maybeck, who was hired as the supervising architect to oversee the government's interests. As the plans for the project were generally completed prior to the hiring of Maybeck, the project layout is more the work of Applegarth, with the influence of Maybeck coming in later designs and improvements.

Sources:
Applegarth, Katherine. "Reflections on my Grandfather." term paper, University of California, Santa Barbara, n.d.

Scope and Contents Note
The George A. Applegarth papers focus on the construction of Clyde, California, a residential and commercial development for the Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Company. The collection is important for documenting both the planning and growth of company towns, and the construction of low cost housing. The collection contains no personal papers, and very few papers on other projects.

Series I. Town of Clyde is the largest series in the collection. It includes the files of the project, specifications, photographs, and drawings. The files include correspondence between Applegarth, Maybeck, and the Clyde Company, which was the subsidiary of the Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Company responsible for the construction of the town. The series documents the planning of the town and the construction of the hotel and residences. The drawings include blueprints for commercial buildings which were not constructed.

Series II. Additional Donations contains a donation of photographs of the Clyde Hotel taken after the building was no longer in use, drawings of an Applegarth commercial project located at Two Pine Street, San Francisco, and one blueprint of the California Palace of the Legion of Honor.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Architects--California.
Architecture--California.
Company towns.
Clyde (Calif.)
California Palace of the Legion of Honor.
Maybeck, Bernard R., 1862-1957.

Bernard Maybeck Collection

Identifier/Call Number: 1956-1
Contributing Institution: Environmental Design Archives, University of California, Berkeley
Title: George A. Applegarth papers
Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS 73/43
Contributing Institution: The Bancroft Library
UC Berkeley
Berkeley, CA

Title: George A. Applegarth photographs
Identifier/Call Number: BANC PIC 1973.032--PIC
Contributing Institution: The Bancroft Library
UC Berkeley
Berkeley, CA

Title: Views of San Francisco residences and office buildings designed by George Adrian Applegarth
Identifier/Call Number: BANC PIC 1977.062--FALB
Contributing Institution: The Bancroft Library
UC Berkeley
Berkeley, CA

Boxes 1-6, Flat Files, 1 Tube

I. Town of Clyde, 1918-1919

A. Contracts

B. Files
Scope and Content Note
Arrangement
Arranged in reverse chronological order.
Includes notes, memoranda, and letters between Applegarth, Bernard Maybeck, the Clyde Company, and engineers and subcontractors on the project. The subseries also contains financial records and descriptions of other company town projects.

C. Specifications

D. Photographs
Scope and Content Note
Includes large photographs taken during the construction phase of the project at a distance, of both the residences and the hotel. The small photographs are close up photographs of the residences and the hotel taken during the construction phase, exterior and interior details, completed buildings, and research photographs taken of other residential areas in company towns and small hotels. Includes a box and a half of negatives of the small photographs.

E. Drawings
Scope and Content Note
Consists of drawings of various commercial and residential buildings in Clyde. The folder also includes a plot plan of the business district of Clyde. Also included are blueprints of Mare Island Industrial Housing in Vallejo, California, a pre-existing community that was used for research purposes.

Box 3, Flat Files

II. Additional Donations, n.d.
II. Additional Donations, n.d.

A. Town of Clyde, Stone & Stecatti Photographs, n.d.

Scope and Content Note
Comprised of interior and exterior photographs of hotel.

B. Two Pine Street Drawings, ca. 1918

C. California Palace of the Legion of Honor, ca. 1917

SERIES I. TOWN OF CLYDE

A. Contracts
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B. Files
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Box/Folder 1 : 4-6
Correspondence n.d., 1918-1919
Box/Folder 1 : 7
Financial Records 1918-1919
Box/Folder 1 : 8-9
Reports of Supervising Architect 1918-1919

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Box 4
(Nitrate Negatives)

E. Drawings
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Clyde commercial buildings and plot plans 1918
flat-file FF : 2
Clyde residential buildings and research drawings 1918
tube T : 1
Clyde hotel 1919

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