

Guide to the Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. Papers, 1860-1986

Guide prepared by Erin M. Louthen

Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History

San José State University

One Washington Square

San José, CA 95192-0147

Phone: (408) 808-2064

Email: research@sourisseauacademy.org

URL: <http://www.sourisseauacademy.org/>

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Contact Information:

Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History
San José State University
One Washington Square
San José, CA 95192-0147
Email: research@sourisseauacademy.org
URL: <http://www.sourisseauacademy.org/>

Collection processed and guide prepared and encoded by:

Erin M. Louthen

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1860-1986

Collection Number: 01.05

Creator: Hill, Andrew Putnam, Jr., 1886-1973

Extent: Containers: 7 boxes

Volume: 2.14 cubic feet
Selected online items available

Repository: Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History, San José State University
San José, California

Abstract: The bulk of the Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. Papers chronicles the training and career of a professional educator and architect over the course of sixty years, from approximately 1910-1975. The collection includes professional and personal correspondence, photographs, academic documents, architectural renderings, newspaper clippings, biographical and family memoirs, and an oral interview of Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. in 1972. The extent of the collection spans nearly 130 years, including materials and photographs created by Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr., as well as family memoirs written in the 1970s by Birdella Hill Laughlin, Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr.'s daughter.

Language: English

 <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/items/ark:/13030/kt7p3027j4>

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. Papers, 01.05, [Box number]: [Folder number], Sourisseau Academy for State and Local History, San José State University, San José, California

Related Collections

Register of the Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. Papers , 1885-1955. This collection is located at the University of the Pacific. The finding aid for this collection can be found on the [Online Archive of California website.](#)

Acquisition Information

The Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. Papers were donated to the Sourisseau Academy by Birdella (Hill) Laughlin in 1986.

Biographical Note

Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. was born June 4, 1886 in San José, California, the son of Andrew Putnam Hill and Florence Watkins Hill. Raised at 1350 Sherman Street in San Jose, California, he graduated from San José High School in 1906, received his teaching certificate from the San José State Normal School in 1920, and earned a Bachelor of Arts from Stanford University in June 1922. He married Ruth Mary McKenney on August 24, 1910. The couple had two children; however, only one child, Birdella, survived to adulthood.

Dedicating much of his adult life to the educational school system, Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr.'s professional career spanned over fifty years. During this time, he served as Department Head of Manual Arts at San José High School (located on the grounds of the San José State Normal School) from 1911 to 1913; worked as the Director of Schoolhouse Planning for the California State School Department from 1927 to 1933; and was the District Superintendent of Santa Maria High School and Junior College from 1935 to 1942. His last major appointment was in 1943, when he accepted the position of Superintendent of Schools for the Stockton Unified School District, a job he held until his retirement from the profession in 1947.

In addition to his adept leadership in the California educational system, Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. was also a skilled architect, recognized for his ability to design residential and commercial structures particularly attuned to the needs of their future inhabitants. For example, residential homes were designed to be both aesthetically pleasing and functional - such as a home offering an abundance of windows and attractive outdoor landscaping, complemented by such features as spacious living quarters, bedroom areas which doubled as sleeping porches for hot summer evenings, an efficient and utilitarian kitchen layout, and detached garage areas.

Throughout his life, Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. was active in conservationist movements. His commitment to conserving the earth's natural resources and open space could actually be considered a family trait. His father, Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr. - a noted photographer and artist - was also the co-founder and president of the Sempervirens Club of California, a conservationist organization noted for preserving the Ancient Coast Redwood trees located in what is now known as Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. died August 2, 1973, in Stockton, California.

Indexing Terms

The following terms may be used to index this collection.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Architecture

Conservationists

Education - United States

Environmentalism

Hill, Andrew Putnam, 1853-1922

Hill, Andrew Putnam, Jr., 1886-1973

Hill, Frank Ernest, 1888-1969

Hill, Florence Watkins, 1858-1936

Laughlin, Birdella Hill, 1911-2003

San José (Calif.)

Scope and Content

The bulk of the Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. Papers chronicle the training and career of a professional educator and architect over the course of sixty years, from approximately 1910-1975. Included in the collection are professional and personal correspondence, photographs, academic documents, architectural renderings, newspaper clippings, biographical and family memoirs, and an oral interview of Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. in 1972. The extent of the collection spans nearly 130 years, including notebooks created by his father, Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr., during the years 1909-1922, as well as family memoirs written in the 1970s by Birdella Hill Laughlin, Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr.'s daughter.

The photographs in the collection cover approximately 110 years of California history, from 1860 to 1970. Architectural photographs include interior and exterior shots of houses designed by Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr., offering an excellent overview of residential architecture and interior design techniques of the early twentieth century. Additional photographs in the collection include images of Hill family members throughout the generations; Hill family gatherings in Big Basin Redwoods State Park; and carte de visite images of the San José Normal School's graduating class of 1875, of which Andrew Putnam Hill Jr.'s mother, Florence Watkins Hill, was a member.

Arrangement of the Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. Papers

The papers are arranged into four series:

- I. Personal Papers
- II. Professional Papers
- III. Project Records
- III. Photographs

SERIES I. **Personal Papers, 1875-1975**

Physical Description: 30 folders, 14 envelopes

Scope and Content Note

This series is arranged by subject. The series contains biographical materials such as an oral interview with Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. in 1972, and selected letters written by Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr. and Birdella Hill Laughlin; ephemeral items such as commencement programs, landscaping notes, fraternal membership cards, and Christmas cards designed by Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr.; newspaper clippings chronicling Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr.'s marriage to Ruth Mary McKenney; newspaper clippings pertaining to a variety of educational and conservationist topics; a selection of Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr.'s datebooks; a 1913 California Legislature Handbook; and Florence Watkins Hill's Autograph Book from the San José Normal School's Class of 1875. Note: Copies of the newspaper articles are in Box 1, and the originals can be found in Box 4.

Hill Family-Biographical Information, 1917-1972

Box 1, Folder 1	Hill, Andrew Putnam, Jr.: Interview 1972
Box 1, Folder 2	Hill, Andrew Putnam, Jr.
Box 1, Folder 3	Hill, Andrew Putnam, Sr.
Box 1, Folder 4	Hill, Frank Ernest
Box 1, Folder 5	Hill Family Ancestor Chart
Box 1, Folder 6	Laughlin, Birdella Hill: Recollections

Letters, 1896-1972

Box 1, Folder 7	Hill, Andrew Putnam, Sr.
Box 1, Folder 8	Hill, Ruth Mary McKenney
Box 1, Folder 9	Laughlin, Birdella Hill

Ephemera, 1904-1942

Box 1, Folder 10	Ames Alliance Cookbook
Box 1, Folder 11	Birthday Book - Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr.
Box 1, Folder 12	Button Photograph circa 1896
Box 1, Folder 13	Christmas Cards
Box 1, Folder 14	Interior Design
Box 1, Folder 15	Hill & McKenney Wedding
Box 1, Folder 16	Kiwanis Club
Box 1, Folder 17	Landscaping Notes
Box 1, Folder 18	Leland Stanford, Jr. University
Box 1, Folder 19	Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity
Box 1, Folder 20	Programs
Box 1, Folder 21	Redwood Tree (poem)
Box 1, Folder 22	San José High School
Box 1, Folder 23	San José State College

Box 1, Folder 24 **Sketch of a Woman**

Newspaper Clippings, 1910-1975

Box 1, Folder 25 **Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr.**
 Box 1, Folder 26 **Environmental Conservation**
 Box 1, Folder 27 **Hill and McKenney Wedding 1910**
 Box 4, Folder 1 **Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr.**
 Box 4, Folder 2 **Environmental Conservation**
 Box 4, Folder 3 **Hill and McKenney Wedding 1910**

Datebooks, 1909-1949

Box 2, Envelope 1 **Datebook, Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr. 1909**
 Box 2, Envelope 2 **Datebook, Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr. 1910**
 Box 2, Envelope 3 **Datebook, Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr. 1911**
 Box 2, Envelope 4 **Datebook, Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr. 1911**
 Box 2, Envelope 5 **Datebook, Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr. 1912**
 Box 2, Envelope 6 **Datebook, Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr. 1913**
 Box 2, Envelope 7 **Address Book, Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr. 1913**
 Box 2, Envelope 8 **Datebook, Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr. 1919**
 Box 2, Envelope 9 **Datebook, Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr. 1920**
 Box 2, Envelope 10 **Datebook, Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr. 1921**
 Box 2, Envelope 11 **Datebook, Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr. 1923**
 Box 2, Envelope 12 **Datebook, Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr. n.d.**
 Box 2, Envelope 13 **Autograph Book, Florence Watkins Hill 1875**
 Box 2, Envelope 14 **Handbook, California Legislature 1913**

SERIES II. **Professional Papers, 1909-1949**

Physical Description: 6 folders

Scope and Content Note

This series is arranged by subject. Materials in this series include professional correspondence regarding Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr.'s appointment as Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Stockton, California in 1942; credentials such as a certificate from the California State Board of Education granting Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. permission to teach secondary grade Manual and Fine Arts; diplomas from the State Teachers College of San Jose in 1920 and from Leland Stanford, Jr. University for a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1922; and transcripts of speeches given by Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. in the late 1940s on the subject of residential architecture, such as The House Designed for More Than One Level, given in 1949.

Box 3, Folder 1 **Correspondence**
 Box 3, Folder 2 **Course Materials: Grammar Grade Problems in Mechanical Drawing 1916**
 Box 3, Folder 3 **Credentials**
 Box 3, Folder 4 **Diplomas**
 Box 3, Folder 5 **Publications**
 Box 3, Folder 6 **Speeches: Architecture**

SERIES III. **Project Records, circa 1921**

Physical Description: 4 folders

Scope and Content Note

This series is arranged by subject. The series includes such materials as Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr.'s architectural renderings and floorplans, which provide an excellent example of his aesthetic skill in creating homes incorporating such features as large, gracious living spaces, kitchen and laundry areas designed for efficiency and practicality, and attractive outdoor landscaping. In addition, the series contains the book *Art Principles on House, Furniture and Village Building* (1921), in which a few of Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr.'s architectural designs are prominently featured. Note: the oversized folder, "Architectural Plans," can be found in Box 4.

- Box 3, Folder 7
- Box 3, Folder 8
- Box 3, Folder 9
- Box 4, Folder 4

Architectural Plans

Blueprint of the Vista de Loma Tract

Art Principles on House, Furniture and Village Building 1921

Architectural Plans, oversized

SERIES IV. **Photographs, 1860-1935**

Physical Description: 329 photographs

Scope and Content Note

This series is arranged by subject. The series contains photographs chronicling approximately 110 years of California history, from 1860 to 1970. Architectural photographs include interior and exterior shots of homes designed by Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr., offering an excellent overview of residential architecture in the early twentieth century. Additional photographs in the collection include images of Hill family members throughout the generations; Hill family gatherings in Big Basin Redwoods State Park; and carte de visite images of the San José Normal School's graduating class of 1875, of which Andrew Putnam Hill Jr.'s mother, Florence Watkins Hill, was a part. Note: the majority of the images in Binder 1, "Buildings, Interior & Exterior - San José, Santa Cruz, & Agnews State Hospital, California," are Tucker photos. Note: the photographs of houses designed by Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. can be found in Box 4.

- Box 4, File 5

Houses Designed by Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr.

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search?identifier=2551+2552+2553+2554+2555+2556+2557+2558+2559+2560+2561+2562+2563+2564+2565+2566+2567+2568+2569+2570+2571+2572+2573+2574+2575+2576+2577+2578+2579+2580+2581+2582+2583+2584+2585+2586+2587+2588+2589+2590+2591+2592+2593+2594+2595+2596+2597+2598+2599+2600>

- Binder 1

Buildings, Interior & Exterior - San José, Santa Cruz & Agnews State Hospital, California

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search?identifier=2574+2575+2576+2577+2578+2579+2580+2581+2582+2583+2584+2585+2586+2587+2588+2589+2590+2591+2592+2593+2594+2595+2596+2597+2598+2599+2600>

- Binder 2

Photographs by Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr.

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search?identifier=2641+2642+2643+2644+2645+2646+2647+2648+2649+2650+2651+2652+2653+2654+2655+2656+2657+2658+2659+2660+2661+2662+2663+2664+2665+2666+2667+2668+2669+2670+2671+2672+2673+2674+2675+2676+2677+2678+2679+2680+2681+2682+2683+2684+2685+2686+2687+2688+2689+2690+2691+2692+2693+2694+2695+2696+2697+2698+2699+2700>

- Binder 2

Hill Family Photographs

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search?identifier=2658+2659+2660+2661+2662+2663+2664+2665+2666+2667+2668+2669+2670+2671+2672+2673+2674+2675+2676+2677+2678+2679+2680+2681+2682+2683+2684+2685+2686+2687+2688+2689+2690+2691+2692+2693+2694+2695+2696+2697+2698+2699+2700>

- Binder 2

California Schools and Churches

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search?identifier=2686+2687+2688+2689+2690+2691+2692+2693+2694+2695+2696+2697+2698+2699+2700>

- Binder 2

Rose Parade 1926

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search?identifier=2705+2706+2707+2708+2709+2710+2711+2712+2713+2714+2715+2716+2717+2718+2719+2720+2721+2722+2723+2724+2725+2726+2727+2728+2729+2730+2731+2732+2733+2734+2735+2736+2737+2738+2739+2740+2741+2742+2743+2744+2745+2746+2747+2748+2749+2750+2751+2752+2753+2754+2755+2756+2757+2758+2759+2760>

- Binder 2







Long Beach, California Earthquake 1933

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search?identifier=2726+2727+2728+2729+2730+2731+2732+2733+2734+2735+2736+2737+2738+2739+2740+2741+2742+2743+2744+2745+2746+2747+2748+2749+2750+2751+2752+2753+2754+2755+2756+2757+2758+2759+2760>

- Binder 2

Cabinet Portraits - Hill Family Friends

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search?identifier=2742+2743+2744+2745+2746+2747+2748+2749+2750+2751+2752+2753+2754+2755+2756+2757+2758+2759+2760>

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- Binder 3 **Hill Family in Redwoods** 
<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search?identifier=2764+2765+2766+2767+2768+2769+2770+2771;identifier-join=>
- Binder 3 **"Redwoods" Postcard Series** 
<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search?identifier=2772+2773+2774+2775+2776+2777+2778+2779+2780+2781+2>
- Binder 3 **Hill Family and Friends** 
<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search?identifier=2787+2788+2789+2790+2791+2792+2793+2794+2795+2796;id>
- Binder 3 **Cartes de Visite - Hill Family Members and Members of the Class of 1875 San José Normal School, 1875** 
<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search?identifier=2797+2798+2799+2800+2801+2802+2803+2804+2805+2806+2>
- Binder 3 **Miscellaneous Postcards, 1860-1935** 
<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search?identifier=2838+2839+2840+2841+2842+2843;identifier-join=or;group=Item>
- Binder 3 **Andrew Putnam Hill, Sr. - Memorial Fountain Dedication, 1946** 
<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search?identifier=2844+2845+2846+2847+2848+2849+2850;identifier-join=or;grou>
- Binder 3 **Andrew Putnam Hill, Jr. Family Photographs, 1860-1935** 
<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search?identifier=2851+2852+2853+2854+2855+2856+2857+2858+2859+2860+2>
- Binder 3 **Contact Sheets - Various Hill Family Images; and (1) Photographic Negative Strip of San José, California, 1906 Earthquake** 
<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/search?identifier=2871+2872+2873+2874+2875+2876+2877+2878+2879;identifier>