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## **Roger L. Lathe papers**

Center for Sacramento History  
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2013

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## **Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Roger L. Lathe papers

**Dates:** 1961-2002

**Collection Number:** MS0010

**Creator/Collector:** Lathe, Roger Lee, 1933-2009

**Extent:** 9.25 linear feet(8 boxes)

**Repository:** Center for Sacramento History  
Sacramento, California 95811

**Abstract:** The Roger L. Lathe papers includes the professional documentation of a "housewright," working throughout the Sacramento area and Northern California cities. Lathe spent his professional career as an architectural historian, preservation and restoration contractor and licensed home inspector. He wrote numerous articles in the *Sacramento Bee* entitled, "The Housewright," addressing issues pertaining to restoration, preservation, architecture, and other home improvements. The bulk of the collection contains reports of home inspections, an inspection checklist for private residences, including Lathe's comments and repair recommendations.

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical location:** SP:02:H:04-05

### **Access**

The collection is open for research use.

### **Publication Rights**

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### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Roger L. Lathe papers, MS0010, Center for Sacramento History

### **Acquisition Information**

Received from the Sacramento Public Library (via Liza Mehler), on October 17, 2012 by the Center for Sacramento History (accession #2012/036).

### **Biography/Administrative History**

Roger Lee Lathe was born on October 27, 1933 in Delaware. Lathe was a professional preservation and restoration contractor, a licensed home inspector, and called himself a "housewright," meaning a person who works on houses. In 1976, Lathe and his wife, Louise "Liza" Mehler, settled in Alkali Flat, an older Sacramento residential neighborhood that was undergoing a thirty-year plan for redevelopment and preservation. He worked for three decades, as well, to restore his 1894 home on F Street. He had an affinity for Victorian homes and championed the cultural heritage present in midtown Sacramento.

He composed thorough house inspection reports for the Sacramento area that reflected a high level of inspection and evaluation of older homes for prospective buyers and homeowners alike. He was an active freelance writer for multiple publications, such as the *Sacramento Bee*, and the *Old City Guardian*, and his article series, "The Housewright," appeared in both. Lathe contributed to the Sacramento Old City Association's "Structural Rehabilitation and Restoration Resources List" and assembled their first "Fainted Ladies Resource List."

He was a long-time member of the Sacramento Old City Association, Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, and Sacramento County Historical Society.

Lathe's house inspection career ended in 2001 due to macular degeneration; he passed away on February 11, 2009 in Sacramento at age 76.

### **Scope and Content of Collection**

This collection contains publications and articles Roger Lathe wrote and collected regarding architecture, historic preservation, and construction. It also includes reports of inspection he conducted on Northern California homes. The geographic focus of the material is Sacramento, California, and dates from the 1960s through the 2000s. The original order of the papers was not discernible, and an artificial series hierarchy was created based on similar subject material. Within each series the folders are organized both alphabetically and numerically.

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Topics and subjects included in the collection are architecture, historic preservation, real estate, construction materials, inspections, restoration, neighborhood revitalization, city planning, and the Southern Pacific Railroad.

**Series 1. Reports of Inspection** comprises of reports evaluating houses primarily in the city of Sacramento. There are also reports for outlying cities and unincorporated areas such as Walnut Grove, West Sacramento, Woodland, Arden Park, Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Clarksburg, Courtland, Dixon, Elk Grove, Fair Oaks, Folsom, Freeport, Granite Bay, Knights Landing, Laguna, Newcastle, North Highlands, Oakland, Penryn, Roseville, and Winters. The series is organized by street address – first by Sacramento numbered avenues, streets, and parkways; and then alphabetically by the name of the street. The aforementioned cities are organized alphabetically by city at the end of the series.

**Series 2. Publications** encompasses various publications that Roger Lathe contributed to and collected regarding real estate, architecture, and construction. This series includes such publications as *Home Owner's Resource*, the *Sacramento Bee*, and the *Old City Guardian*. The series is organized alphabetically by publication title and each publication is in order by date published. See also Series 5 for additional articles written by Lathe.

**Series 3. Collected Materials** comprises of articles, papers, brochures, and other materials regarding his interests in historic preservation, homes, and architecture. It is organized alphabetically by folder title.

**Series 4. Correspondence** is in no discernible organization, and includes various letters, memos, “thank you” notes, correspondence between clients regarding home inspections, and public responses regarding Lathe’s published articles.

**Series 5. Newspaper Clippings** focuses primarily on articles written by Lathe in publications such as the *Sacramento Bee*, *The Housewright*, *Neighbors*, etc. Subjects of note include neighborhood restoration, historic preservation, renovations, Governor’s mansion, house inspections, vintage house restorations, K Street, Old Sacramento, and Sacramento heritage. Organization of these files was kept in original order created by the donor—alphabetized by the first letter of the article title.

#### **Indexing Terms**

Architecture  
Building inspection  
Building materials  
Community development, Urban  
Historic buildings--Conservation and restoration  
Historic neighborhoods  
Historic preservation  
Residential real estate  
Sacramento (Calif.)—History  
Lathe, Roger Lee, 1933-2009  
Old City Guardian  
Sacramento Bee  
Sacramento Old City Association  
Southern Pacific Railroad

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#### **Series 1. Reports of Inspection**

**Physical Description:** 5 boxes

##### **Series Scope and Content Summary**

Reports of Inspection comprises of reports evaluating houses primarily in the city of Sacramento. There are also reports for outlying cities and unincorporated areas such as Walnut Grove, West Sacramento, Woodland, Arden Park, Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Clarksburg, Courtland, Dixon, Elk Grove, Fair Oaks, Folsom, Freeport, Granite Bay, Knights Landing, Laguna, Newcastle, North Highlands, Oakland, Penryn, Roseville, and Winters. The series is organized by street address – first by Sacramento numbered avenues, streets, and parkways; and then alphabetically by the name of the street. The aforementioned cities are organized alphabetically by city at the end of the series.

Box 1:1  
Box 1:2

**1st-3rd Avenue 1985-1999**  
**4th Avenue 1985-1999**

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Box 1:3	<b>5th Avenue 1992-1999</b>
Box 1:4	<b>6th Avenue 1992-1999</b>
Box 1:5	<b>7th Avenue 1992-1999</b>
Box 1:6	<b>8th-9th Avenue 1992-2001</b>
Box 1:7	<b>10th Avenue 1985-2001</b>
Box 1:8	<b>11th-12th Avenue 1992-2001</b>
Box 1:9	<b>13th-14th Avenue 1997-1999</b>
Box 1:10	<b>15th Avenue 1994</b>
Box 1:11	<b>22nd Avenue 1997</b>
Box 1:12	<b>24th Avenue 1998</b>
Box 1:13	<b>25th Avenue 1994</b>
Box 1:14	<b>32nd - 35th Avenue 1997-2001</b>
Box 1:15	<b>46th Avenue 1995</b>
Box 1:16	<b>5th Street 1996-2001</b>
Box 1:17	<b>10th Street 1992-2001</b>
Box 1:18	<b>11th-12th Street 1995-2001</b>
Box 1:19	<b>13th-14th Street 1992-1999</b>
Box 1:20	<b>15th-18th Street 1985-1998</b>
Box 1:21	<b>19th-21st Street 1984-1999</b>
Box 1:22	<b>22nd Street 1986-1999</b>
Box 2:1	<b>23rd Street 1985-2001</b>
Box 2:2	<b>24th Street 1992-1998</b>
Box 2:3	<b>25th Street 1993-2001</b>
Box 2:4	<b>26th-27th Street 1992-2001</b>
Box 2:5	<b>28th Street 1990-2001</b>
Box 2:6	<b>33rd Street 1992-2001</b>
Box 2:7	<b>34th-35th Street 1986-2001</b>
Box 2:8	<b>36th-37th Street 1985-2001</b>
Box 2:9	<b>38th-39th Street 1985-1999</b>
Box 2:10	<b>40th-41st Street 1985-2001</b>
Box 2:11	<b>42nd-44th Street 1992-2001</b>
Box 2:12	<b>45th Street 1993-1997</b>
Box 2:13	<b>46th-49th Street 1985-1999</b>
Box 2:14	<b>50th-54th Street 1993-2001</b>
Box 2:15	<b>55th-64th Street 1985-1999</b>
Box 2:16	<b>5th Parkway 1995</b>
Box 2:17	<b>Alderwood Way 1992-2001</b>
Box 2:18	<b>Bartley Dr.-Burnett Way 1992-2001</b>
Box 3:1	<b>C Street-Capital Avenue 1992-2001</b>
Box 3:2	<b>Capitol Avenue-Carmela Way 1992-2001</b>
Box 3:3	<b>Casita Way-Coleman Way 1995-1999</b>
Box 3:4	<b>Coleman Way-Curtis Way 1994-2001</b>
Box 3:5	<b>Curtis Way-Cutter Way 1993-2001</b>
Box 3:6	<b>D Street-Delores Way 1986-1999</b>
Box 3:7	<b>Delores Way-Downey Way 1992-1998</b>
Box 3:8	<b>E Street 1985-1998</b>
Box 3:9	<b>E Street-Esperanza Drive 1985-2001</b>
Box 3:10	<b>F Street 1985-1999</b>
Box 3:11	<b>Fair Oaks Boulevard-Folsom Boulevard 1992-2001</b>
Box 3:12	<b>Fordham Way-F Parkway 1986-2001</b>
Box 3:13	<b>G Street 1985-2001</b>
Box 3:14	<b>G Street-Grain Flat Road 1984-2001</b>
Box 3:15	<b>H Street 1985-1999</b>
Box 3:16	<b>H Street-Harkness Street 1985-2001</b>
Box 3:17	<b>Harkness Way-Hullin Way 1985-2001</b>
Box 3:18	<b>L Street - Land Park Drive 1985-1999</b>
Box 3:19	<b>Landis Avenue-Lucio Lane 1985-2001</b>
Box 4:1	<b>I Street 1993-2001</b>

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Box 4:2	<b>J Street-Jones Street 1992-2001</b>
Box 4:3	<b>K Street-Kroy Way 1993-1999</b>
Box 4:4	<b>M Street-Marshall Way 1985-2001</b>
Box 4:5	<b>Marshall Way-Miller Way 1992-2001</b>
Box 4:6	<b>Mission Way-Muir Way 1992-2001</b>
Box 4:7	<b>N Street-North Point Way 1993-1999</b>
Box 4:8	<b>O Street-Oregon Street 1992-1999</b>
Box 4:9	<b>P Street-Perkins Way 1992-2002</b>
Box 4:10	<b>Perkins Way-Pontrero Way 1992-2001</b>
Box 4:11	<b>Q Street 1995- 1998</b>
Box 4:12	<b>Red Robin Lane-Rosy Ridge Court 1993-1999</b>
Box 4:13	<b>S Street-Santa Ynez Way 1992-2001</b>
Box 4:14	<b>Santiago Avenue-Sutterville Road 1985-2001</b>
Box 4:15	<b>Sutterville Road-Sweet Gum Court 1986-1999</b>
Box 4:16	<b>T Street 1985-2001</b>
Box 4:17	<b>Tahoe Way-Trainwinds Avenue 1985-2001</b>
Box 4:18	<b>U Street 1992-2001</b>
Box 4:19	<b>V Street-Vancouver Way 1985-2001</b>
Box 5:1	<b>Warrego Way-Wymore Way 1993-2001</b>
Box 5:2	<b>X Street 1994-1997</b>
Box 5:3	<b>Y Street-Yale Street 1992-1999</b>
Box 5:4	<b>Arden Park 1985-1993</b>
Box 5:5	<b>Carmichael 1993-1999</b>
Box 5:6	<b>Citrus Heights 1992</b>
Box 5:7	<b>Clarksburg 1985-1999</b>
Box 5:8	<b>Courtland 1985-2001</b>
Box 5:9	<b>Dixon 1998</b>
Box 5:10	<b>Elk Grove 1997</b>
Box 5:11	<b>Fair Oaks 1985-1999</b>
Box 5:12	<b>Folsom 1991-1993</b>
Box 5:13	<b>Freeport 1996</b>
Box 5:14	<b>Granite Bay 1993</b>
Box 5:15	<b>Knights Landing 2001</b>
Box 5:16	<b>Laguna 1993</b>
Box 5:17	<b>Newcastle 1995</b>
Box 5:18	<b>North Highlands 1992-1995</b>
Box 5:19	<b>Oakland 1993</b>
Box 5:20	<b>Penryn 1992</b>
Box 5:21	<b>Roseville 1995</b>
Box 5:22	<b>Walnut Grove 1986-1999</b>
Box 5:23	<b>West Sacramento 1992-2001</b>
Box 5:24	<b>Winters 1994-1997</b>
Box 5:25	<b>Woodland 1992-1999</b>

**Series 2. Publications 1986-1999****Physical Description:** 2 boxes**Series Scope and Content Summary**

Publications encompasses various publications that Roger Lathe contributed to and collected regarding real estate, architecture, and construction. This series includes such publications as Home Owner's Resource, the Sacramento Bee, and the Old City Guardian. The series is organized alphabetically by publication title and each publication is in order by date published. See also Series 5 for additional articles written by Lathe.

Box 6:01	<b>Cal-Life 1986</b>
Box 6:02	<b>North Neighbors 1990-1991</b>
Box 6:03	<b>Home Owner's Resource 1990</b>
Box 6:04	<b>Home Owner's Resource 1992</b>
Box 6:05	<b>Home Owner's Resource 1993</b>

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Box 6:06	<b>Home Owner's Resource 1994</b>
Box 6:07	<b>Home Owner's Resource 1995</b>
Box 6:08	<b>Office Hours Apr-87</b>
Box 6:09	<b>Office Hours May-87</b>
Box 6:10	<b>Office Hours June-July 1987</b>
Box 6:11	<b>Office Hours August-September 1987</b>
Box 6:12	<b>Office Hours Oct-87</b>
Box 6:13	<b>Sacramento Bee: Sunday Real Estate 1991</b>
Box 6:14	<b>Sacramento Bee: Sunday Real Estate April-May 1997</b>
Box 6:15	<b>Sacramento Bee: Sunday Real Estate August-September 1997</b>
Box 6:16	<b>Sacramento Bee: Sunday Real Estate October-December 1997</b>
Box 6:17	<b>Sacramento Bee: Sunday Real Estate January-February 1998</b>
Box 6:18	<b>Sacramento Bee: Sunday Real Estate March-April 1998</b>
Box 6:19	<b>Sacramento Bee: Sunday Real Estate May-June 1998</b>
Box 6:20	<b>Sacramento Bee: Sunday Real Estate July-August 1998</b>
Box 6:21	<b>Sacramento Bee: Sunday Real Estate September-October 1998</b>
Box 6:22	<b>Sacramento Bee: Sunday Real Estate Nov-98</b>
Box 6:23	<b>Sacramento Bee: Sunday Real Estate January-February 1999</b>
Box 6:24	<b>Sacramento Bee: Sunday Real Estate April-May 1999</b>
Box 6:25	<b>Sacramento Bee: Sunday Real Estate June-September 1999</b>
Box 7:01	<b>Old City Guardian 1976-1979</b>
Box 7:02	<b>Old City Guardian 1985-1988</b>
Box 7:03	<b>Old City Guardian 1988</b>
Box 7:04	<b>Old City Guardian 1989</b>
Box 7:05	<b>Old City Guardian 1990</b>
Box 7:06	<b>Old City Guardian 1991</b>
Box 7:07	<b>Old City Guardian 1992</b>
Box 7:08	<b>Old City Guardian 1993</b>
Box 7:09	<b>Old City Guardian 1994</b>
Box 7:10	<b>Old City Guardian 1995</b>
Box 7:11	<b>Old City Guardian 1996</b>
Box 7:12	<b>Old City Guardian 1997</b>
Box 7:13	<b>Old City Guardian 1998</b>
Box 7:14	<b>Old City Guardian 1999</b>

**Series 3. Collected Materials 1986-2000**

**Physical Description:** 2 boxes

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

Collected Materials comprises of articles, papers, brochures, and other materials regarding his interests in historic preservation, homes, and architecture. It is organized alphabetically by folder title.

Box 7:15	<b>Air Quality, Sick Building Syndrome undated</b>
Box 7:16	<b>Arco Arena undated</b>
Box 7:17	<b>Architectural Preservation League undated</b>
Box 7:18	<b>Article on Esquire Theatre Marquee 1989 1989</b>
Box 7:19	<b>Articles on Preserving the Francesca Apartments 1988 1988</b>
Box 7:20	<b>Articles on Merrium Apartments Demolition 1988-1989 1988-1989</b>
Box 7:21	<b>Articles on Roger Lathe 1978-1989 1978-1989</b>
Box 7:22	<b>Asbestos 1987-1989 1987-1989</b>
Box 7:23	<b>Association for Preservation Technology International 1985-1998 1985-1998</b>
Box 7:24	<b>The Brown House undated</b>
Box 7:25	<b>Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament 1961-1988</b>
Box 7:26	<b>Collected Brochures and Pamphlets 1984-1989</b>
Box 7:27	<b>Downtown Revitalization 1985</b>
Box 7:28	<b>Downtown Sacramento Churches 1980-1981</b>
Box 7:29	<b>Fairmount Hotel San Antonio Texas 1985</b>
Box 7:30	<b>Hazards 1988-1990</b>

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Box 7:31	<b>Historic Architecture Design 1988-2005</b>
Box 7:32	<b>Historical/Architectural Surveys 1982</b>
Box 7:33	<b>Historical Landscaping undated</b>
Box 7:34	<b>Historic Midtown Home Tour 1989-1991</b>
Box 7:35	<b>Historic Orangevale Properties 1984</b>
Box 7:36	<b>Historic Preservation 1988-1990</b>
Box 7:37	<b>Historic Preservation and Conservation 1980</b>
Box 7:38	<b>Art Museum Brochures 1980</b>
Box 7:39	<b>House Report Records 1985</b>
Box 7:40	<b>Hyatt 1988</b>
Box 7:41	<b>Knob Hill undated</b>
Box 7:42	<b>Land Drive Terrace undated</b>
Box 7:43	<b>Lead 1989</b>
Box 7:44	<b>Lincoln Plaza 1987</b>
Box 7:45	<b>Membership Buttons undated</b>
Box 7:46	<b>Midtown 1988</b>
Box 7:47	<b>National Register of Historic Places 1991</b>
Box 7:48	<b>Natomas 1988</b>
Box 7:49	<b>Past References 1981</b>
Box 7:50	<b>Preservation Magazine 2003</b>
Box 8:01	<b>Railroad History 1973-1985</b>
Box 8:02	<b>Real Estate Acquisition undated</b>
Box 8:03	<b>Residential and Commercial Development undated</b>
Box 8:04	<b>Restoring the Capitol 1979</b>
Box 8:05	<b>Roger Lathe Certification undated</b>
Box 8:06	<b>Sacramento County Main Jail 1983-1988</b>
Box 8:07	<b>Sacramento Environmental Summaries undated</b>
Box 8:08	<b>Sacramento Historic Preservation 2000</b>
Box 8:09	<b>Sacramento Memorial Auditorium Renovation 1991-1993</b>
Box 8:10	<b>Sacramento Old City Association 1988-1990</b>
Box 8:11	<b>Sacramento Sesquicentennial 1989</b>
Box 8:12	<b>Sacramento Urban Development undated</b>
Box 8:13	<b>Southern Pacific Railroad Downtown Property Deal 1988-1989</b>
Box 8:14	<b>Southern Pacific Toxicity undated</b>
Box 8:15	<b>Stanford House undated</b>
Box 8:16	<b>The Storer House undated</b>
Box 8:17	<b>West Sacramento 1990</b>
Box 8:18	<b>The Witter Ranch undated</b>
Box 8:19	<b>Witter Ranch Historic Farm undated</b>
Box 8:20	<b>Woodland undated</b>
Box 8:21	<b>University Medical Center undated</b>

**Series 4. Correspondence 1985-2002**

**Physical Description:** 3 folders

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

Correspondence is in no discernible organization, and includes various letters, memos, "thank you" notes, correspondence between clients regarding home inspections, and public responses regarding Lathe's published articles.

Box 8:22	<b>1985-2002</b>
Box 8:23	<b>1991-2001</b>
Box 8:24	<b>1988-1999</b>

**Series 5. Newspaper Clippings 1986-1999**

**Physical Description:** 121 folders

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

Newspaper Clippings focuses primarily on articles written by Lathe in publications such as the Sacramento Bee, The Housewright, Neighbors, etc. Subjects of note include neighborhood restoration, historic preservation, renovations, Governor's mansion, house inspections, vintage house restorations, K Street, Old Sacramento, and Sacramento heritage. Organization of these files was kept in original order created by the donor—alphabetized by the first letter of the article title.

Box 8

**A-Z 1986-1999**