Finding aid for the Chester Place photographs 7070

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USC Libraries Special Collections  
2018 September  
Doheny Memorial Library 206  
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URL: http://libraries.usc.edu/locations/special-collections
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections
Title: Chester Place photographs
Identifier/Call Number: 7070
Physical Description: 1.17 linear feet. 1 box
Date: circa 1900
Abstract: 12 mounted photographs depicting Chester Place and the surrounding area. The photographs include streetscapes (of Chester Place and Figueroa Street), lawns and gardens. Many of the photographs are identified only generally, but some can be positively identified as no. 7 Chester Place, the home of Judge Charles Silent, the founder of Chester Place. Chester Place was founded by Judge Silent in 1899, when he moved his family to the old home of real estate speculator Nathan Vail and extended a private street through the middle of the property, from Adams to 23rd Street, and subdivided the land into 23 lots on either side of the road. Chester Place was one of the first gated communities in Los Angeles. Among its residents were Estelle and Edward Doheny, whose 24,000 square foot mansion soon became one of the most extravagant in the city. Today, Chester Place is part of the campus of Mount St. Mary's University.
Storage Unit: 1
Historical note
Chester Place was founded by Judge Charles Silent in 1899, when he moved his family to the old home of real estate speculator Nathan Vail and extended a private street through the middle of the property, from Adams Boulevard to 23rd Street, and subdivided the land into 23 lots on either side of the road. Vail's property was originally surveyed by Henry Hancock (of Rancho La Brea) in 1853; Hancock purchased this land for himself in 1855, and sold it to Vail in 1867. By the time Judge Silent purchased the property, the area was growing increasingly popular, thanks to the streetcar line that connected Agricultural Park (present day Exposition Park) to downtown. Chester Place was one of the first gated communities in Los Angeles. Among its residents were Estelle and Edward Doheny, whose 24,000 square foot mansion soon became one of the most extravagant in the city. Today, Chester Place is part of the campus of Mount St. Mary's University, thanks to the philanthropy of Estelle Doheny.
Scope and Contents
12 mounted photographs depicting Chester Place and the surrounding area. The photographs include streetscapes (of Chester Place and Figueroa Street), lawns and gardens. Many of the photographs are identified only generally, but some can be positively identified as no. 7 Chester Place, the home of Judge Charles Silent, the founder of Chester Place, and a view of Figueroa Street with the Stimson House in the background.
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Preferred Citation
[Box/folder no. or item name], Chester Place photographs, Collection no. 7070, Regional History Collection, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Gardens -- California -- Los Angeles -- Photographs
Streets -- California -- Los Angeles -- Photographs
Los Angeles (Calif.) -- Photographs
Los Angeles (Calif.) -- Social life and customs -- Photographs
Photographs
Silent, Charles, -1918 -- Archives