



Montgomery Ward Architectural Records (K1426)

Collection Number: K1426

Collection Title: Montgomery Ward Architectural Records

Dates: 1914-1995

Creator: Montgomery Ward

Abstract: This collection contains architectural drawings for Montgomery Ward, including its distribution center in Historic Northeast Kansas City as well as its locations across Missouri.

Collection Size: 30 cubic feet
(196 architectural drawings)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at kansascity@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Montgomery Ward Architectural Records* (K1426); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Kelsey Lutz on October 10, 2022 (Accession No. KA2593).

Processed by: Processed by Sarah Herndon and Kristyna Le, July 2024

Historical Note:

Montgomery Ward was created by Aaron Montgomery Ward in Chicago in 1872. It began as a mail-order business with a catalog that became popular in the 1880s. Its first building, known as

the Montgomery Ward & Co. Catalog House, was opened in Chicago in 1908. In the following decades, Montgomery Ward opened distribution centers in cities across the country, including Kansas City. The company first expanded into retail outlets in 1926, opening a store in Plymouth, Indiana. In the early 1970s, Montgomery Ward stores opened in malls in Missouri, such as East Hills Shopping Center in St. Joseph. Stores also opened in Indian Springs Mall in Kansas City, Kansas and Flint Hills Shopping Center in Emporia, Kansas. Montgomery Ward declared bankruptcy in the 1990s and closed its last remaining retail stores in 2000.

Arrangement:

This collection was arranged in chronological order.

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