



Nelle E. Peters Architectural Records (K0041)

Collection Number: K0041

Collection Title: Nelle E. Peters Architectural Records

Dates: 1924-1930

Creator: Peters, Nelle E., 1884-1974

Abstract: The architectural records of Nelle E. Peters includes architectural drawings, postcards of buildings, and photographs of sketches designed by Peters, as well as two photographs of Peters. The bulk of the collection consists of fifteen sets of architectural drawings, drafted between 1924 and 1930, of buildings primarily built in Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Size: 0.31 cubic foot
(2 folders, 14 rolled items)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. 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.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Nelle E. Peters Architectural Records* (K0041); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Kansas City].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the University of Missouri on behalf of Dorothy Keplinger by Bertha A. Watson on January 16, 1981 (Accession No. KA0062).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Nelle E. Peters Architectural Records can be found in the following collection:

Missouri Valley Chapter-Society of Architectural Historians (MVC-SAH) Architectural Records
(K0006)

Processed by: Processed by Rachel Forester, March 2018

Biographical Note:

Nelle Elizabeth Nichols Peters was born on December 11, 1884, in Niagara, North Dakota, to John and Altha Nichols. Little is known regarding her early years.

Sometime between 1900 and 1903, Peters attended the Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa. After graduation she was hired by the architectural firm of Eisentraut, Colby, and Pottenger in Sioux City, Iowa, as a drafts lady. She would spend the next several years with the firm and studying architecture through correspondence courses. In 1909, she was transferred to the firm's Kansas City, Missouri, location.

Around 1911, having received little work through the Eisentraut, Colby, and Pottenger's Kansas City office, Peters decided to open her own architectural firm. Later that same year, she met and married William H. Peters, who was a designer for the Kansas City Terminal Railroad. By 1913, Peters had formed a partnership with the Phillips Building Company, which was owned and operated by Charles E. Phillips. Peters designed dozens of apartment buildings for the company between 1913 and the late 1920s. Peters was responsible for the design of the literary apartments located near the Country Club Plaza. The apartments were named after famous authors such as Robert Louis Stevenson, Eugen Field, Mark Twain, Washington Irving, Thomas Carlyle, James Russell Lowell, and Robert Browning.

The 1920s saw the heyday of Peters' architectural career. She began to specialize in apartment design; apartments constructed around a courtyard became her trademark. During this time, she worked with local architects such as Elmer Boillot and Jesse Lauck. By 1924, she was responsible for the design of some twenty-nine building projects in Kansas City alone, including the Ambassador Hotel, which at the time was the largest apartment-hotel in the city, and the Luzier Cosmetics Building.

The Great Depression of the 1930s and United States' entry into World War II helped to bring about the end of the building boom. Peters' architectural career steadily declined and she officially retired from the architectural field in 1967 having designed nearly a thousand buildings in and around the Kansas City metropolitan area as well as Kansas and Oklahoma.

Nelle Peters died on October 7, 1974 at the age of eight-nine and is buried at the Elmwood Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri. She is remembered as one of Kansas City's most prolific but least recognized architects.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

Visual Materials
Architectural Drawings

Scope and Content Note:**Visual Materials**

This series contains two folders of visual materials pertaining to the architectural career of Nelle Peters. Folder one consists of four postcards of apartment buildings designed by Nelle Peters and Edwin G. Kratz, built in Clinton and Kansas City, Missouri. Folder two consists of two photographs of Nelle Peters and thirteen photographs taken of apartment façade sketches, presumably designed by Peters. All materials within this series are undated.

Architectural Drawings

The architectural drawings constitute the bulk of the collection. There are fourteen sets of architectural drawings dating between 1924 and 1930. These drawings are of apartment buildings in and around the Kansas City metropolitan area; however, there is an architectural drawing of an apartment building located in Jefferson City, Missouri, as well as two apartment buildings located in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Oklahoma. These drawings have been arranged by their assigned aperture card number and are available to view on microfilm.

Note that there are no original drawings for aperture card number 121.036. The drawings are only available to view on microfilm.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1-2 Visual Materials, no date

Architectural Drawings

Box 002x3

Roll 122.008 Hurley Park Inc., Co., apartment hotel for
 Location 13th St. and Broadway Ave., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Architect Nelle E. Peters
 Date 1929

Roll 122.009 Mr. H. A. Peters, apartment hotel for
 Location 511 W. 11th St., Kansas City, Missouri
 Architect Nelle E. Peters
 Date no date

Roll 122.010 Mr. Charles E. Phillips, eight apartment buildings for
 Location 4610 Pennsylvania Ave., Kansas City, Missouri
 Architect Nelle E. Peters
 Date 1930

Roll 122.011 Hurley Park Inc., Co., Ambassador Apartment Hotel for
 Location 14th St. and Main St., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Architect Nelle E. Peters
 Date 1928

Roll 122.012 Mr. R. J. DeLano, apartment building for
Location 47th St. and Jefferson St., Kansas City, Missouri
Architect Nelle E. Peters
Date 1929

Roll 122.013 Quality Builders, apartment hotel for
Location 3552 Broadway
Architect Nelle E. Peters
Date 1924
Job/Plan No. 585

Roll 122.014 Mr. W. D. Snyder, apartment hotel for
Location 220 E. Armour Blvd., Kansas City, Missouri
Architect Nelle E. Peters
Date 1929

Roll 122.015 Mr. Charles E. Phillips, apartment building for
Location 712 W. 8th St., Kansas City, Missouri
Architect Nelle E. Peters
Date 1928-1929
Job/Plan No. 749

Roll 122.017 Mr. Charles E. Phillips, apartment house for
Location 4620 Broadway St., Kansas City, Missouri
Architect Nelle E. Peters
Date 1926

Roll 122.018 Belleview Apartment Co., apartment building for
Location Capitol Ave. and Marshall St., Jefferson City, Missouri
Architect Nelle E. Peters
Date 1927
Job/Plan No. 705

Roll 122.019 Mr. J. N. Mehornay, apartment building for
Location 5050 W. 11th St., Kansas City, Missouri
Architect Nelle E. Peters
Date 1928

Roll 122.020 Mr. J. N. Mehornay, apartment building for
Location SE corner of 11th St. and Washington St., Kansas City, Missouri
Architect Nelle E. Peters
Date 1929
Job/Plan No. 773

Roll 122.022 Mr. Charles E. Phillips, apartment building for
Location NW corner of 48th St. and Roanoke Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri
Architect Nelle E. Peters
Date 1928
Job/Plan No. 719

Roll 122.023 Mr. Harry E. Fisher, apartment hotel for
 Location 1212 Linwood Blvd., Kansas City, Missouri
 Architect Nelle E. Peters
 Date 1928
 Job/Plan No 724

Microfilm

Roll 121.036 Sewer plan of fire alarm exchange
 Location 22nd St. and Locust St., Kansas City, Missouri
 Architect Unknown
 Date no date

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Apartment houses	1-2, 121.036, 122.008-122.015, 122.017-122.020, 122.022-122.023	Yes
Peters, Nelle E., 1884-1974	1-2, 121.036, 122.008-122.015, 122.017-122.020, 122.022-122.023	Yes
Women architects	1-2, 121.036, 122.008-122.015, 122.017-122.020, 122.022-122.023	Yes