



Friends of Sacred Structures Records (K1370)

Collection Number: K1370

Collection Title: Friends of Sacred Structures Records

Dates: 1991-2015

Creator: Friends of Sacred Structures

Abstract: The records of Friends of Sacred Structures documents, photographs, and notebooks related to religious structures assisted by FOSS, covering the period 1991 through 2015. The records also include materials related to locations targeted by the organization for assistance as well as board, council, and committee records.

Collection Size: 5 cubic feet
(382 folders, photographs, oversize)

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: The Donor has given and assigned to the Society all rights of copyright, which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the Society from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Friends of Sacred Structures Records* (K1370); 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 State Historical Society of Missouri by Joan Shields on behalf of Friends of Sacred Structures on May 5, 1977 (Accession No. KA2360).

Notes: Folders 380-382 are located in an oversize flat box.

Processed by: Processed by Whitney Heinzmann, July 2017

Historical Note:

Friends of Sacred Structures (FOSS) is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of religious buildings in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Since its incorporation as a non-profit in 1992, FOSS has served over one hundred seventy religious and community organizations by providing free expert technical assistance. FOSS's team of retired architects, engineers, and other volunteers work annually with approximately thirty congregations to develop plans for maintaining their structures through inspections, project management, referrals, assistance in securing and evaluating bids, project oversight, and general maintenance and repair.

In addition to the preservation of historic structures, FOSS works to provide safe and functioning space for community outreach programs. The organization gives special focus to institutions that provide essential services to the community, such as daycare, after school programs, food pantries, free meals, and overnight shelter. Additionally, FOSS annually provides educational forums to acquaint the public with the value of historic preservation, highlighting benefits for the structure and the community.

In 2004, the City of Kansas City adopted a resolution recognizing Friends of Sacred Structures for their "devoted efforts toward maintaining the life and vitality of the treasured, historical houses of worship." As the only organization of its kind in the Kansas City area, the organization's records provide a wealth of materials outlining its commitment to the religious structures of the city and the communities these institutions serve.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following four series with right subseries:

Organizational Records

- Board and Committees

- Events

- Financial

- Institutional Affiliations and Consultants

- Operations

- Public Relations

Church Research

- Church Surveys

- Church Files

 - Missouri

 - Kansas

Visual Materials

- Oversize

Scope and Content Note:**Organizational Records**

The Organizational Records series contains information pertaining to Friends of Sacred Structures (FOSS) and focuses on the business proceedings of the group. The Board and Committees subseries consists of list of board and committee members as well as meeting minutes and reports. The Events subseries includes a number of notable events attended and

implemented by FOSS. Events of note include anniversary celebrations, annual religious structure tours, and stained-glass maintenance workshops. The Financial subseries covers the fiscal aspects of the organization. The subseries consists of capital campaign paperwork, grant funding opportunities as well as the foundations that monetarily support FOSS. The Institutional Affiliations and Consultants subseries is compiled of information gathered as examples of similar programming across the country. Organizations like Philadelphia's Sacred Places served as a mentor group to FOSS giving advice and assistance. The Operations subseries contains foundational materials of the organization including bylaws and histories. The Public Relations subseries includes materials developed and distributed by FOSS. This subseries contains FOSS's quarterly publication *Inspired Spaces*.

Church Research

The Church Research series contains information gathered by FOSS to develop relationships with local religious communities and assess their needs. The Church Surveys subseries outlines potential churches needing FOSS's assistance in the Kansas City metropolitan area. The subseries also contains contact information for institutional liaisons. The Church Files subseries consists of individual church listings. Church files have been separated into Missouri and Kansas and are listed alphabetically by city. Each file varies on the amount and type of information provided. Most folders contain basic a Missouri Historic Structure Assessment that provides an address and other associated names of the structure. Additional materials include brochures, correspondence, and photographs. A detailed listing of churches can be found in the index. When appropriate, there is a notation indicating a photograph is present in the folder. This notation does not consider additional images that may be present in newspaper clippings or promotional materials within the folder.

Visual Materials

The Visual Materials series includes miscellaneous photographs, slides, and CDs containing images of churches, events, and presentations used by FOSS and not included within the previous folders. The series contains identified and unidentified materials. Identified materials are listed in the index.

Oversize

The Oversize series consists of large format items. Items include newsletters from the Brown & Gold Club and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the resolution adopted by Kansas City concerning FOSS's efforts, a drawing of Mount Olivet Chapel, a copy of *The Catholic Key* outlining the Catholic Church in Kansas City, and an issue of *Together* developed by the Coalition for Community Collaboration.

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