



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0010

Mary Rockwell Hook (1877-1978) Papers

1878-1994

Five folders, 4 rolls of architectural drawings

Architectural drawings, photographs, news clippings, and autobiography of Mary Rockwell Hook., a Kansas City woman architect.

BIOGRAPHY:

Mary Rockwell Hook (Mrs. Inghram D.) was born September 8, 1877, in Junction City, Kansas, the daughter of Bertrand Rockwell, a successful grain merchant and banker. The family moved to Kansas City in 1906.

Hook graduated from Wellesley College in 1900, and decided on a career in architecture studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Hook was one of the country's first women architects. Her work in Kansas City dates from as early as 1908 with her most noted designs done in the Sunset Hills area during the 1920s and 1930s. In 1923, Hook formed an architectural partnership with Eric Douglas Macwilliam Remington (1893-1975).

Hook had done work throughout the United States. In 1935, she purchased a sandy key off the coast of Sarasota, Florida, and developed it with residences of her design. Not all of her designs echoed the grand residences she admired during her tours of Italy, France, and Spain. She may have been the first architect in the Kansas City area to use cast-in-place concrete walls, and as early as 1937 installed a solar system to provide hot water for a resort hotel on the Siesta Key, an island near Sarasota.

Mary Rockwell Hook died on her 101st birthday in 1978, in her home in Siesta Key.

PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from the University of Missouri-Kansas City General Library as accession 0016kc on June 26, 1980 and KA1152 on September 20, 2001 from Mrs. Allan F. Blackman. An additional accession, KA1428 was

received from Esther Rudnick on January 9, 2006 and as accession KA1791 on April 9, 2010 from Mrs. Allan F. Blackman.

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Specific item; folder number; *Mary Rockwell Hook (1877-1978) Papers (K0010)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

This collection consists of six photographs of three residences near Sarasota, Florida, which were designed by Mary Rockwell Hook. These are: the Boring residence; the Betty Strawbridge residence at 172 Sandy Hook Road, Whispering Sands, Sarasota; and the Florence R. DeWalt residence at 679 Avenida N., Sarasota. It also contains photographs of Mary Rockwell Hook as a child and young adult. The informal autobiography, This and That, and clippings of news articles about Mrs. Hook as well as an obituary were added to the collection in 1990. A later addition includes photocopies of correspondence, photographs, printed material, and clippings, ca. 1878-1994, and eight linen drawings of a residence at 50th and Summit designed by Hook. An additional set of 7 drawings of a residence at 51st and Summit (5030 Summit) was added in 2006.

INVENTORY:

BOX 001

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| Folder 1. | Photographs |
| | 1. Boring residence, main house |
| | 2. Boring residence, pool |
| | 3. Boring residence, rear |
| | 4. Boring residence, main house |
| | 5. Betty Strawbridge residence, 172 Sandy Hook Road |

6. Florence R. DeWalt residence, 679 Avenida Del Norte
7. Mary Rockwell 1878
8. Mary Rockwell 1879
9. Mary Rockwell 1884
10. Mary Rockwell October 10, 1899
11. Mary Rockwell October 3, 1899
12. Mary Rockwell May 5, 1900
13. Mary Rockwell in Assisi, Italy about 1902
14. Mary Rockwell off for France 1919
15. Mary Rockwell as a young child – no date
16. Mary Rockwell as an adult – no date
17. Julia M. Snyder (Mrs. Bertrand Rockwell)
47 years old January 17, 1897

- Folder 2. Booklet
This and That, by Mary Rockwell Hook, May 1970.
- Folder 3. Clippings
- Folder 4. Correspondence
- Folder 5. Personal Miscellany

ROLLED DRAWINGS: (105053)

- K0010-00001 Architectural Drawings for residence of Mr. R.A. Ostertag, 51st and Summit St. [5030 Summit St.], Sunset Hill, KC MO, 7 sheets, nd [1922?]
- K0010-00002 Architectural Drawings for residence of Mrs. Ingram D. Hook, 50th and Summit St. [5011 Sunset Dr.], Sunset Hill, KCMO, 8 sheets – [1922]
- K0010-00003 Architectural Drawings for residence of Mrs. Ingram D. Hook [earlier set], 50th and Summit St. [5011 Sunset Dr.], Sunset Hill, KCMO, 8 sheets – [1922]
- K0010-00004 Architectural Drawings for house for of Ingram D. Hook, Sunset Hill, [5012 Summit St.], KCMO, 7 sheets, [1922]