

The Filson Historical Society
D. X. Murphy & Brothers (Louisville, Ky.)
Hospital Facilities Collection, 1912-1945

For information regarding literary and copyright interest for these papers, see the Curator of Special Collections.

Size of Collection:
7.5 cubic feet, (3 oversize boxes)

Location Number:
Mss./AR/ M978

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Institutional Note

D. X. Murphy and Brothers, Architects was a Louisville architectural firm that grew out of D. X. Murphy's work with Louisville architect, Henry Whitestone. Whitestone began his architectural career in his homeland, Ireland. He immigrated to the United States in the 1850s and settled in Louisville by 1853 where he established an architectural firm with Isaiah Rogers. In 1874 he hired D. X. Murphy as a draftsman. When Whitestone retired in 1881, Murphy took control of the firm. In 1890 Murphy's brother James C. Murphy joined him creating D. X. Murphy and Brother. At some point a third brother, Peter J. Murphy, joined the firm creating D. X. Murphy and Brothers. In 1962 D. X. Murphy became Lockett and Farley, Inc. and as of 2010, was still a thriving Louisville architectural firm. Famous works that have been attributed to the firm include, Galt House, the grandstand and twin spires at Churchill Downs, and Presentation Academy.

Biographical Note

D. X. Murphy (1853 – 1933) was born in Louisville, Kentucky. Murphy was the son of Irish immigrants and began working as a draftsman for Irish immigrant, architect, Henry Whitestone in 1874. In 1881, upon Whitestone's retirement, Murphy took control of the firm. Murphy changed the name of the firm to D. X. Murphy and Brothers, Architects. His two brothers James C. and Peter J. Murphy worked with him in the firm. The Murphy brothers were Roman Catholic and designed many Louisville area churches and schools. Murphy built Louisville General Hospital in 1914 on Chestnut St. This was known as the "Million Dollar Hospital," because Jim Crow regulations required building separate facilities for use by African Americans. Murphy was responsible for one of Louisville's internationally known architectural works, the grandstand and twin spires at Churchill Downs. As of 2010, Murphy's firm is still extant as Lockett & Farley, Inc.

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Scope and Content Note

Collection includes hospital facility drawings from the office of D.X. Murphy and Bros. in Louisville, KY. Collection includes both public and private hospital facilities located in the Midwest and South. Types of drawings include architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, site surveys, shop drawings and campus master plans. Drawing media include blueprints, drafting linen sets, and pencil on tracing paper. Projects included are the Louisville Public Hospital (also Louisville City Hospital, Louisville General Hospital, "Million Dollar Hospital", and University of Louisville Hospital), St. Anthony's Hospital (Michigan City, IN), St. Elizabeth's Hospital (Lafayette, IN), St. Elizabeth's Hospital (Lincoln, NE), St. Francis Hospital (Grand Island, NE), St. Joseph's Hospital (Memphis, TN), and St. Joseph's Infirmary (Louisville, KY). See project index for more detailed list. Also included are various architectural drawings and site plans for Churchill Downs thoroughbred racetrack dating from 1894-1967. These are duplicates of the original drawings and were used as a protective wrapping around the rolls of hospital facility drawing sets.

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Subject Headings:

Architecture – Designs and plans
African Americans – Hospitals
Architecture – Kentucky – Louisville
Catholic hospitals – Designs and plans
Churchill Downs (Louisville, Ky.: Racetrack)
Convents – Designs and plans
Electrical drafting
Engineering drawings
Hospital architecture – Designs and plans
Kentucky Jockey Club
Louisville (Ky.) – Buildings, structures, etc.
Louisville City Hospital (Louisville, Ky.) – Buildings
Louisville General Hospital (Louisville, Ky.) – Buildings
Louisville Public Hospital (Louisville, Ky.) – Buildings
Medical centers – Design and plans
Minorities in architecture – Kentucky – Louisville
Nursing schools – Kentucky – Louisville – Buildings, structures, etc.
Plumbing drafting
Public architecture – Designs and plans
Public architecture – Kentucky – Louisville
Segregation – Kentucky – Louisville – Buildings, structures, etc.
St. Joseph's Infirmary (Louisville, Ky.) – Buildings
Structural drawing
Religious architecture – Kentucky – Louisville
University of Louisville Hospital – Buildings