

**The Filson Historical Society**

**Anne Bruce Haldeman (1903-1993)**

**Landscape Design Records, 1929-1986 (bulk c. 1950-1975)**

For information regarding literary and copyright interest for this collection, see the  
Curator of Special Collections, James J. Holmberg

**Size of Collection:**

3.5 cubic feet

**Locator Number:**

Mss./AR/H159

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**Biographical Note**

Anne Bruce Haldeman was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1903 to the Haldeman family, prominent newspaper publishers. Haldeman lived to be 90 years old and left a legacy as one of the earliest and most pre-eminent female landscape architects in Kentucky. After graduating from Bennett College in New York State, she noted that her career in landscape architecture started ‘accidentally’ while her parents were designing a country home in Glenview, KY. She eventually enrolled in the Cambridge School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, which is now part of Harvard University. Graduating in 1931, Haldeman, along with her classmate and partner Louise Leland (1902-1956), returned to Louisville in 1934 and founded the landscape architectural firm of Haldeman & Leland. The office was located in the Francis Building at 606 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Haldeman and Leland resided in Glenview, KY near the Haldeman family property. Following the early death of Leland in 1956, the firm dissolved. Haldeman continued to work in landscape design for the remainder of her life.

While Anne Bruce Haldeman designed numerous gardens and landscapes throughout the region, she is best remembered for her role in the historically-informed gardens at My Old Kentucky Home State Park, in Bardstown, KY, Farmington Historic Plantation, in Louisville, KY, and as a consultant for Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill in Mercer Co., KY. Haldeman was a member of the group who spearheaded the movement to rescue the historically significant home and gardens of Farmington, the plantation originally built from 1815-1816 by John and Lucy Fry Speed. She helped to found the Historic Homes Foundation Inc., a local organization created to protect the integrity of historic homes. Throughout the late 1960s and 70s, Haldeman researched the Speed family, the home, as well as the time period, to create as historically accurate gardens as possible. In 1973 Haldeman was awarded the Mrs. Oakleigh Thorne Medal for outstanding achievement in Garden Design from the Garden Club of America. She was also one of the first women to join the American Society of Landscape Architects. Anne Bruce Haldeman died in 1993.

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**Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of landscape architectural drawings created by Anne Bruce Haldeman as well as record-keeping notes related to residential projects and clients, detailed information on plants and landscaping materials, and a small amount of business correspondence and records related to Haldeman's work at My Old Kentucky Home. Haldeman had a life-long career in landscape design working both independently as well as in partnership with Louise Leland from 1934-1956 in the firm Haldeman & Leland. Haldeman designed landscapes that were historically informed and based upon eighteenth and early-nineteenth century gardens, as well as gardens that were of a more contemporary nature. Several of Haldeman's landscape design projects are of local and state significance, mainly: Farmington Historic Plantation, My Old Kentucky Home State Park (also known as Federal Hill), the Shakertown Bypass and the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill (where Haldeman served as a consultant), and the pool and fountain next to the Margaret M. Bridwell Art Library on the campus of the University of Louisville. The landscape design drawings in the collection are for both residential and public spaces, the majority dating approximately 1950 to 1975. Multiple projects contain detailed plant lists and when applicable these lists remain with the specific project drawings (please refer to the Project Index for projects that contain plant lists). Also included in the collection are several projects designed before 1956, when Haldeman worked as a partner with Louise Leland in the firm Haldeman & Leland. From this time period, the collection includes three small boxes of index cards: the first box of index cards (1932-1958) reflect project numbers and client names related to projects undertaken by the firm Haldeman and Leland; the second box contains alphabetized cards on trees, shrubs, plants, and bulbs, with Haldeman's notes and information on each specimen; the last box contains miscellanea such as pencil sketches of garden plans and notes on garden designs. Notes found among the collection material indicate that sometime in 1950 many of the Haldeman & Leland business records and drawings were purged from their office. This may account for the dearth of pre-1950 material.

**Separation Note**

The collection contained a large amount of photographs, glass slides, and negatives which have been transferred to the Filson Photograph Collection.

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**Folder List**

**Box 1:**

- Roll 1: Bahnson Jr., Mr. & Mrs. A. H., terraces, Reynolda, NC, 12/08/1952
- Roll 2: Bateman, Mrs. E., garden, Washington Square, Louisville, KY, 6/27/1973
- Roll 3: Bingham, Mrs. Barry, garden, Glenview, KY, 10/05/1970
- Roll 4: Chatham, Mr. & Mrs. Hugh, gardens & entrance to "Klondike," Elkin, NC, 1951-1952
- Roll 5: Chatham, Mrs. Thurmond, garden, "Prospect House," 3508 Prospect Ave., Washington, D. C., 1951-1952
- Roll 6: Church of the Ascension, garden, Frankfort, KY, 7/14/1955
- Roll 7: Davidson, Dr. & Mrs. L., tool house, Fox Hollow, 10/15/1949
- Roll 8: Farmington Historic Plantation, gardens & tool house, Louisville, KY, 1958-1962
- Roll 9: Griffith, Mr. & Mrs. Theodore, garden, 5580 Washington Blvd., Indianapolis, IN, 8/01/1952
- Roll 10: H. C. Memorial Hospital & Doctor's Building, brick walkway & gardens, Elkin, NC, 8/18/1972
- Roll 11: Hanes, Mrs. Ralph, gardens for 2 residences in North Carolina, 1929-1972
- Roll 12: Heritage House, gardens, Wapping Street, Frankfort, KY, 4/12/1974
- Roll 13: Hickman, Mrs. B. G., garden for the 'River Farm,' Goshen, KY, 4/22/1968
- Roll 14: Hollister, Mr. & Mrs. J., planting plan for bulbs, 1831 Keys Crescent, Cincinnati, OH, October 1963
- Roll 15: Kelley III, Mrs. F. J., garden 855 E. Westminster, Lake Forrest, IL, 12/01/1966
- Roll 16: Lassiter, Mrs. Frederick H., gardens, The Hagen House, Old Salem, NC, 12/14/1966
- Roll 17: Long, Mrs. Irving D., entrance court, 2112 River Bluff Rd., Louisville, KY, July 1966
- Roll 18: Miller, Mr. & Mrs. S. G., garden, Twinbrook Rd., city not listed, 2/10/1954
- Roll 19: My Old Kentucky Home, gardens, Bardstown, KY, 1/02/1967
- Roll 20: Norman, Mr. & Mrs. John C., garden, Washington Square, Louisville, KY, Jan. 1974
- Roll 21: Norton Jr., Mrs. George W., terrace, Murphy Lane, Louisville, KY, 1966
- Roll 22: Ormsby, Mrs. Henry, terrace, Washington Square, Louisville, KY, June 1973
- Roll 23: Seiler, Mr. & Mrs. L. P., garden, 221 St. Matthews Ave., Louisville, KY, July 1975
- Roll 24: Shakertown Bypass (State Highway), trees and plantings, Mercer Co., KY, May 1967
- Roll 25: Springer, Mrs. F. C., garden, Second Presbyterian Church, Meridian Hills, IN, Jan. 1961
- Roll 26: Sturgill, Mr. & Mrs. Charles, tool/garden shed, John Alden Rd., Lexington, KY, 7/28/1958
- Roll 27: Twin City Garden Club, orchard & garden, Timothy Vogler, Old Salem, NC, Oct. 1961
- Roll 28: Unidentified garden plan, location, date & client not listed
- Roll 29: University of Louisville, fountain & pool, Margaret M. Bridwell Art Library, Louisville, KY, Jan. 1964
- Roll 30: Wells, Mrs. John W., garden, 262 Market St., Lexington, KY, February 1965
- Roll 31: Wright, Mrs. F. H., tool house, Bryan's Sta. Pike, Lexington, KY, 3/21/1953

**Miscellanea in Box 1:**

- Roll 32: Ballard, Mr. & Mrs. G. B., Residence, Glenview, KY, April 1956
- Roll 33: Bonnefont Cloister (map of cloister gardens), Fort Tyron Park, NY, 1941
- Roll 34: Crowley Residence, Richmond Road at Chinoe, Lexington, KY, June 1986
- Roll 35: Garden Club of America, cartoon map of Annapolis, MD, 5/08/1940
- Roll 36: Hubbard, Dr. & Mrs., Residence, location not listed, 2/27/1985
- Folder 37: My Old Kentucky Home, records & correspondence, 1967

**Box 2:**

- Index Card Records, Drawer 1 (38): Index of landscape plants, trees, bulbs, etc. & Haldeman's library index, undated
- Index Card Records, Drawer 2 (39): Index of client names, addresses & contact information, 1932-1958
- Index Card Records, Drawer 3 (40): Miscellaneous items including notes & sketches, undated

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**Subject Headings List**

Architecture, Domestic – Kentucky  
Farmington (Ky.: Estate) – Gardens  
Garden Club of America  
Garden Structures  
Gardens – Designs – Kentucky  
Gardens – Designs – North Carolina  
Gardens – Specifications  
Haldeman & Leland (Louisville, Ky.)  
Historic agricultural landscapes – Kentucky  
Historic gardens – Kentucky  
Historic Preservation – Kentucky  
Historic sites – Conservation and restoration – Kentucky  
Landscape architecture – Kentucky  
Landscape architectural firms – Kentucky  
Landscape architectural drawing – United States  
Landscape plants  
Landscaping industry – Kentucky  
Lesbian businesswomen – Kentucky  
Louise Leland (1902-1956)  
My Old Kentucky Home (Bardstown, Ky.) – Gardens  
Patios  
Planting design  
Plants, Ornamental – Kentucky  
Pleasant Hill (Pleasant Hill, Ky.)  
Roadside improvement – Kentucky  
Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill (Pleasant Hill, Ky.) – Gardens  
Shakertown Bypass (Mercer Co., Ky.) – landscape design  
Tourism – Maps  
Water in landscape architecture  
Women landscape architects – Kentucky  
Women-owned landscape architectural firms – Kentucky