

Bruce I. Crabtree Architectural Photography Collection, ca. 1960-ca. 1988

Collection Summary

Creator: Crabtree, Bruce I., 1923-, compiler

Title: Bruce I. Crabtree Architectural Photography Collection

Inclusive Dates: ca. 1960-ca. 1988

Summary/Abstract: A photographic collection of 2133 images donated by the Johnson Johnson Crabtree architectural firm, of Nashville, Tennessee, documenting four decades of the architectural project work of Bruce I. Crabtree, Jr., FAIA, a senior partner in the firm. The collection provides an interesting view of Nashville's architectural environment ca. 1960-ca. 1988 as well as architectural project design work in North Carolina.

Physical Description/Extent: 2.65 cu. ft. (11 boxes)

Series: I. Photographic prints and contact sheets

II. 35 mm color transparencies (2 x 2 slide mounts)

Accession Number: Acc. 2004.017

Language: English

Stack Location: Closed stacks SCC workroom range 2 section 1

Repository: Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

Chronology

- Sept. 1, 1923 Bruce Isbester Crabtree, Jr. was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- 1942-43 Crabtree was a student at Vanderbilt University, and subsequently at Clemson College 1943-44.
- 1948 Crabtree received a Bachelor of Science in Architecture at Virginia Polytechnic Institute.
- Mar. 31, 1948 Bruce I. Crabtree married Dolly Nance Fischer.
- 1948-1952 Crabtree, a designer with Hart & McBryde, Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1952-1981 Crabtree, a founding partner in the firm Taylor & Crabtree, Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1969 Construction of the Andrew Jackson State Office Building, 500 Deaderick Street, Nashville, Tennessee completed. This project was an architectural design of Taylor & Crabtree.
- 1981 The Tennessee Performing Arts Center opens downtown in the

James K. Polk State Building, which also houses the Tennessee State Museum and state offices. The James K. Polk State Office Building and Cultural Center was an architectural design of Taylor & Crabtree.

- 1981-1984 Crabtree, vice-president, of the design and architectural department of Taylor & Crabtree, Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1983 Crabtree becomes a Fellow, American Institute of Architects (F.A.I.A.).
- 1983 Riverfront Park dedicated on July 10, replacing large TVA tower and the Nashville wharf at the foot of Broadway.
- 1984-1990 Crabtree, vice-chairman of the board of Yearwood Johnson Stanton & Crabtree, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee.
- Nov. 1988 Architect Bruce I. Crabtree, Jr. won an easy victory to a seat on the Belle Meade City commission against insurance executive James V. Hunt.
- 1991-present Architects David Johnson, Ed Johnson and Bruce Crabtree established Johnson Johnson Crabtree Architects (JJCA) P.C., based in Nashville, Tennessee, an architecture and master-planning firm that is licensed to work in all 50 states.

Biographical/Historical Sketch

Bruce I. Crabtree was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee on September 1, 1923. He married Dolly Nance Fischer on March 31, 1948. During 1942-43, Crabtree was a student at Vanderbilt University, and, subsequently at Clemson College 1943-44. He received a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1948. His career experience includes being a designer with Hart & McBryde, Nashville, 1948-52; a founding partner in the firm Taylor & Crabtree, Nashville, 1952-81; vice-president, of the design and architectural department of Taylor & Crabtree-Wiley & Wilson, Nashville, 1981-84; vice-chairman of the board of Yearwood Johnson Stanton & Crabtree, Inc., Nashville, 1984-90; a partner of Johnson, Johnson & Crabtree, P.C., Nashville, 1991-present.

Crabtree's education includes National Council of Architectural Registration Boards certification and a registered Architect in fifteen states and a Fellow, American Institute of Architects in 1983. Crabtree wrote an architectural column for the *Nashville Banner* newspaper. A sampling of Crabtree's project experience in Nashville includes the James K. Polk State Office and Cultural Center (a complex including the Tennessee Performing Arts Center and The Tennessee State Museum); Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan; Grace's Plaza Shopping Center; Andrew Jackson State Office Building; Rachel Jackson State Office Building; Sheraton Music City Hotel/Convention Center; Downtown

Y.M.C.A.; Nashville Public Library and five branches; Church Street Parking Facility; St. Henry's Catholic Church; Two Rivers Baptist Church; Grace Baptist Church; St. George's Episcopal Church; St. Henry's Catholic Church and addition; Ewers Residence; Woodmont Baptist Church; Metropolitan Federal Savings and Loan; and Court Square Parking Garage. Also, over fifty high, junior high, and elementary schools, as well as Middle Tennessee State University's Murphy Center (Athletic and Convocation Center) in Murfreesboro, Tennessee; The Webb School, Bell Buckle, Tennessee, and Brentwood High School in Brentwood, Tennessee.

A civic leader in the City of Belle Meade and Nashville, Crabtree has been active in government service, planning boards, and commissions, including the Belle Meade Planning Commission. In 1989, Crabtree was active in the Mayor's Efficiency in Government Commission.

Crabtree has distinguished himself in several architectural, as well as philanthropic club memberships, serving in executive leadership roles in organizations such as Tennessee Society of Architects and the Middle Tennessee Chapter of American Institute of Architects.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

A photographic collection of 2133 images, spanning the dates ca. 1960-ca. 1988, donated by the Johnson Johnson Crabtree architectural firm, of Nashville, Tennessee, documenting four decades of the architectural project work of Bruce I. Crabtree, Jr., F.A.I.A., a senior founding partner in the firm. The collection is comprised of photographic images of design projects of the architectural firm, Taylor & Crabtree, comprised of photographic prints, contact sheets, and 35 mm color slide transparencies, with a few data sheets related to the construction projects and specific buildings. The photographic images depict buildings chiefly in the Greater Nashville area, with representation of the architect's design projects in other locations in Tennessee, as well as North Carolina. The collection includes a few 35 mm color slides of Florida Southern College buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

The collection is organized into two series.

Series I. Photographic prints and contact sheets

Series II. 35mm color transparencies (2 x 2 slide mounts)

Arrangement:

Each series is arranged primarily by the building name or the project code. The original order of the collection was maintained during processing.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: In library use only. Available by appointment.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction: This material may be protected by

copyright (Title 17 U.S. Code).

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Crabtree, Bruce I., 1923-

Corporate Names/Organizations:

Andrew Jackson State Office Building (Nashville, Tenn.)--Photographs
Edgecombe County Courthouse (Tarboro, N.C.)
First Baptist Church (Murfreesboro, Tenn.)--Photographs
Grace's Shop for Ladies (Nashville, Tenn.)--Photographs
James K. Polk State Office Building (Nashville, Tenn.)--Photographs
Livingston Academy High School (Livingston, Tenn.)--Photographs
Middle Tennessee State University. Charles M. Murphy Athletic Center
Montgomery Bell Academy. Library--Photographs
Murray Ohio Manufacturing Company (Brentwood, Tenn.)--Photographs
Public Library of Nashville and Davidson County--Photographs
St. Henry's Catholic Church (Nashville, Tenn.)
Tennessee Farm Bureau--Photographs
Tennessee Performing Arts Center--Photographs
Tennessee State Capitol (Nashville, Tenn.)--Photographs
YMCA of Middle Tennessee--Photographs

Subjects:

Airport buildings--Tennessee--Nashville
Architects--Tennessee--Nashville
Architecture--Tennessee--Nashville
Auditoriums--Tennessee--Nashville
Bank buildings--Tennessee--Nashville
Buildings--North Carolina
Buildings--Tennessee, Middle
Buildings--Tennessee--Nashville
Capitols--Tennessee--Nashville
Catholic church buildings--Tennessee--Nashville
Central business districts--Tennessee--Nashville
Church buildings--Tennessee--Nashville
Employees' buildings and facilities--Tennessee--Nashville
High school buildings--Tennessee, Middle
Hospital buildings--Tennessee, Middle
Insurance agents--Tennessee--Nashville
Library buildings--Tennessee--Davidson County
Neighborhood--Tennessee--Nashville
Office buildings--Tennessee--Nashville
Parking garages--Tennessee--Nashville
Plazas--Tennessee--Nashville

Public buildings--Tennessee--Nashville
Public libraries--Tennessee--Nashville
Real property--Tennessee--Nashville
School buildings--North Carolina
School buildings--Tennessee
Schools--Tennessee, Middle
Skyscrapers--Tennessee--Nashville
Tall buildings--Tennessee--Nashville

Places:

Bicentennial Mall (Nashville, Tenn.)
Davidson County (Tenn.)--Buildings, structures, etc.
Davidson County (Tenn.)--History--Sources
Deaderick Street (Nashville, Tenn.)
Nashville (Tenn.)--Buildings, structures, etc.
Nashville (Tenn.)--History--Sources
Nashville (Tenn.)--Social life and customs
Nashville and Davidson County (Tenn.)--History--Sources
Tennessee--Davidson County--History--Sources

Genre/Document Types:

Color slides
Color photographs
Black-and-white photographs

Occupations:

Architects--Tennessee--Nashville

Associated and Related Material

Related collections about the subject of architecture that are available in the Special Collections Division include: 1) Henry C. Hibbs Papers, 1882-ca. 1988; and, 2) Charles Warterfield Architectural Collection.

Administrative Information

Copyright: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

Preferred Citation: Bruce I. Crabtree Architectural Photography Collection, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Donated to the Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library by David E. Johnson, of the architectural firm Johnson Johnson Crabtree Architects, on March 18, 2004 (Acc. 2004.017)

Ownership and Custodial History:

Processing Information: Processed by Leanne Garland in January 2009

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

References to Works by or about Collection Creator/Topics:

Johnson Johnson Crabtree Architects P.C. website. The URL address is:
<http://www.jjca.com/>

Apollo's Struggle: A Performing Arts Odyssey in the Athens of the South, Nashville, Tennessee. Franklin, Tenn. : Hillsboro Press, 2004, p. xxxi.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I. Photographic prints and contact sheets, ca. 1980, 1.5 cu. ft. (3 boxes: folders 1-162)

Series Abstract/Description

This series of architectural photography consists of 162 photographic prints and contact sheets, chiefly 8 x 10 black-and-white prints, with some smaller color photographic prints and data sheets about the construction projects and specific buildings. The images pertain to design projects of Taylor & Crabtree, a Nashville architectural firm.

The photographs illustrate the architectural design work of Bruce I. Crabtree, represented in Nashville buildings such as the James K. Polk State Office Building and Cultural Center; Fidelity Federal Savings and Loan; Nashville Airport renovation; Church Street Plaza Municipal Parking Garage; St. Henry's Catholic Church; Montgomery Bell Academy Library; Grace's Ladies Shop in Green Hills; Parthenon Towers for the Elderly; Ben West Library; and Woodmont Baptist Church. Also, the Murphy Athletic and Convocation Building at Middle Tennessee State University; Murray Ohio Manufacturing Company, Brentwood, Tennessee; Livingston Academy High School, Livingston, Tennessee, and additional buildings located in Tennessee and North Carolina. Includes some interior views of the auditoriums of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center.

Several photographs are identified with a stamp citing the photographer M. Thomas Johnson, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The origin of the other photographs is unknown.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged primarily by the building name or project code.

Container List: See the attached Excel spreadsheet.

Series II. 35 mm color transparencies (2 x 2 slide mounts), ca. 1960-ca. 1988, 1.15 cu. ft. (8 boxes: 1971 items)

Series Abstract/Description

This series consists of 1970 35 mm color transparencies, plus one 4 x 5

negative.

The largest component in the series represents the James K. Polk State Office Building and Cultural Center, in various stages of construction and completion. Other buildings include, but are not limited to, the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, Columbia, Tennessee; Edgecombe County Courthouse, Tarboro, North Carolina; St. Henry's Catholic Church, Nashville, Tennessee; Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee; First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, Tennessee; First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, Tennessee; Harpeth National Bank, Franklin, Tennessee; Y.M.C.A. Downtown Nashville; Robertson County Courthouse; and the Andrew Jackson State Office Building in downtown Nashville.

Includes several photographs of regional hospital buildings in Middle Tennessee.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged primarily by the building name or project code.

Container List: See the attached Excel spreadsheet.