



Mary Rockwell Hook Papers (K0010)

Collection Number: K0010

Collection Title: Mary Rockwell Hook Papers

Dates: 1878-1994

Creator: Hook, Mary Rockwell, 1877-1978

Abstract: The records of Mary Rockwell Hook consists of correspondence, an autobiography, newspaper and magazine clippings, photographs of Hook and family members, and photographs of three residences designed by Hook in Sarasota, Florida. Also included are four sets of architectural drawings of residences built in the Sunset Hills addition of Kansas City, Missouri by Hook.

Collection Size: 0.14 cubic foot
(6 folders, 4 rolled items)

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: Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Mary Rockwell Hook Papers* (K0010); 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 University of Missouri by the Missouri-Kansas City General Library on June 26, 1980 (Accession No. KA0016). An addition was made on September 20, 2001 by Allan F. Blackman (Accession No. KA1152). An addition was made on January 9, 2006 by Esther Rudnick (Accession No. KA1428). An addition was made on April 9, 2010 by Allan F. Blackman (Accession No. KA1791).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Mary Rockwell Hook Papers can be found in the following collections:

George Ehrlich Papers (K0067)

Eric Douglas Macwilliam Remington Papers (K0101)

Kansas City Star Magazine Collection (K0595)

American Institute of Architects, Kansas City Chapter (AIA-KC) Records (K0636)

Processed by: Processed by Rachel Forester, March 2018

Biographical Note:

Mary Rockwell Hook was born on September 8, 1877, in Junction City, Kansas. She was the third of five daughters of Bertrand Rockwell, a successful grain merchant and banker, and Julia Marshall Snyder. In 1906, the Rockwell family moved to Kansas City, Missouri.

Hook graduated from Wellesley College in 1900. Soon after graduation, she decided to pursue a career in architecture and enrolled as a student at the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1905, she attempted to enroll at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts architectural school in Paris, France; however, she did not pass her entrance exams and was harassed by male students. Instead of retaking the exams, she opted to explore French architecture on her own.

Sometime between 1905 and 1908 Mary Rockwell Hook returned to Kansas City, Missouri, and began her career as an architect. Her work in Kansas City dates from 1908 to the early 1950s with her most noted designs being constructed in the Sunset Hills addition during the 1920s and 1930s. In 1923, Hook formed an architectural partnership with Eric Douglas Macwilliam Remington. The partnership lasted until 1932, when Remington moved his architectural endeavors to San Francisco, California. Three years later, Hook purchased a sandy key off the coast of Sarasota, Florida, and developed a small residential neighborhood complete with residences of her own design.

During the course of her architectural career, Mary Rockwell Hook had designed buildings throughout the United States. She was innovative in her designs and is considered to have been the first architect in the Kansas City area to use cast-in-place concrete walls.

In 1921, she met and married Inghram D. Hook, an attorney, in Kansas City, Missouri. The couple would later adopt two boys, Eugene and Edward.

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

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

Personal

Architectural Drawings

Scope and Content Note:**Personal**

All materials within this series are photocopies or photographic reproductions.

This series consists of correspondence, an autobiography entitled *This or That* published by Mary Rockwell Hook in 1970, newspaper and magazine clippings regarding Hook and her career, and photographs. These photographs contain images of Mary Rockwell Hook as a child through adulthood, an image of Reddy Rockwell and Julia M. Snyder, and images of three residences designed by Hook near Sarasota, Florida. The residential photographs are of the Boring home, the Betty Strawbridge home, and the Florence R. DeWalt home.

Architectural Drawings

This series contains four sets of architectural drawings drafted in 1922 by Mary Rockwell Hook. These drawings are of residences located in the Sunset Hills addition in Kansas City, Missouri. Note that Roll 1 is undated and the architect for Rolls 2 and 4 is listed as being a Mrs. Inghram D. Hook, which was Mary Rockwell Hook's married named.

Container List:

f. 1-6	Personal
Box 001 f. 1	Correspondence, 1904-1970
f. 2	Autobiography, 1970
f. 3	Clippings, 1909-1994
f. 4-6	Photographs, 1878-1919

Box 002x3

Roll 1	Mr. R. A. Ostertag, house for
Location	51 st St. and Summit St., Kansas City, Missouri
Architect	Mary Rockwell Hook
Date	no date
Roll 2	Inghram D. Hook, first floor plan of house for
Location	50 th St. and Summit St., Sunset Hills, Kansas City, Missouri
Architect	Mrs. Inghram D. Hook
Date	1922
Roll 3	Inghram D. Hook, house for
Location	Sunset Hills, Kansas City, Missouri
Architect	Mary Rockwell Hook
Date	1922
Roll 4	Inghram D. Hook, residence for
Location	50 th St. and Summit St., Sunset Hills, Kansas City, Missouri
Architect	Mrs. Inghram D. Hook
Date	1922

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Architecture, Domestic	f. 6, Roll 1-4	Yes
Hook, Mary Rockwell, 1877-1978	1-4, Roll 1-4	Yes
Ostertage, Robert A.	Roll 1	
Rockwell, Reddy	f. 5	Yes
Snyder, Julia M.	f. 5	Yes
Women architects	f. 1-6, Roll 1-4	Yes