
Helen D. and Prentiss French Collection, 1932-1978

Collection Number: 19XX-4

Environmental Design Archives

University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

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Date Completed:

January 1999

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Funding:

Arrangement and description of this collection was funded by the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning and by a grant from the Getty Foundation.

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Title: Helen D. and Prentiss French Collection,

Date (inclusive): 1932-1978

Collection Number: 19XX-4

Creators: French, PrentissFrench, Helen D.

Extent: 4 boxes, 1 flat file drawer

Repository: Environmental Design Archives. College of Environmental Design. University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, California

Language: English

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

All requests for permission to publish, reproduce, or quote from materials in the collection should be discussed with the Director.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Helen D. and Prentiss French Collection, (19XX-4), Environmental Design Archives. College of Environmental Design. University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, California

Access Points

Architects--California.

Architecture--California.

Landscape architects--California.

Landscape architecture--California.

Architects--Florida.

Architecture--Florida.

Landscape architects--Florida.

Landscape architecture--Florida.

Biography

Architect Helen Douglass French and her husband, landscape architect Prentiss French, worked together and independently in New England, Florida and the San Francisco Bay area. Prentiss French earned his Master's degree in Landscape Architecture from Harvard in 1921. Based on the records, it appears that the two spent their early careers working in the office of architect Clarence Martin in Sarasota, Florida. They had relocated to the San Francisco Bay Area by 1946, the year Helen Douglass French received her California certification. The couple shared an office in San Francisco from 1947 into the 1960s, working primarily on residential projects throughout Northern California. Prentiss French completed numerous projects for the U. S. Army in the late 1950s, in California, Alaska, and other western states.

Scope and Content

The French collection consists of project files and drawings. The records are arranged into four series: professional papers from both Helen and Prentiss French, projects by Helen French, projects by both Helen and Prentiss French, and projects by Prentiss French. Their projects consist mainly of houses in Northern California and Florida. The records also include photographs of the site of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant and a PG&E station. Helen French's oversize drawings consist of various residences, while Prentiss French's large drawings are from landscape designs of Harvey Mudd College, the University of Alaska, and US Army Air Defense Missile Sites.

Box 1

I. Professional Papers, 1932-1978

Scope and Content Note

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Contains published materials relating to site planning, construction, and materials, course materials from the Cambridge School and a small amount of orrespondence.

Boxes 1-2, Flat File Helen D. and Prentiss French Project Records, 1933-1970

Scope and Content Note

Arrangement

Files arranged alphabetically by project.

Includes drawings of residences in Sarasota, Florida, and California. Also contains photographs of Diablo Canyon from 1968.

Box 2, Flat Files III. Prentiss French Project Records, 1933-1941

Scope and Content Note

Arrangement

Files arranged alphabetically by project.

Contains drawings from residences in Florida and Massachusetts and a 1978 letter regarding a "Jefferson lap desk."

Drawings include landscape designs for Harvey Mudd College, the University of Alaska, and the United States Army.

Boxes 3-4, Flat Files ~~Helen D. French Project Records, 1936-1959~~

Scope and Content Note

Arrangement

Files arranged alphabetically by project.

Includes drawings of residences in Sarasota, Florida, and various California locations, including Palo Alto, Ukiah, San Francisco, Lake Tahoe, San Rafael, Mill Valley, Indio, and Carpinteria.