



DESIGN LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

JAMES W. ELMORE COLLECTION

Collection #: MS MSS 12
Location: DESIGN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
Papers: c. 1950s-1980s
No. of Items: 2 boxes, c. 1 cu. ft.

Biographical Sketch

James Walter Elmore was born in Lincoln, Nebraska on September 5, 1917. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1934 and went on to earn his A.B. in Architecture at the University of Nebraska in 1938 and his M.S. in Architecture at Columbia University in 1948.

Elmore began his career as a designer-draftsman-expediter at Barber & Ross Co. in Washington, D.C. in 1939. After military service during World War II, he worked as a designer-draftsman for Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in New York City before moving to Phoenix, Arizona in 1948. There he worked as a designer-draftsman for Guirey & Jones and Edward L. Varney, Jr. until March of 1950. In 1949 Elmore became an instructor at Arizona State College in Tempe, where he introduced a four-year architecture major. In 1957 he headed the Division of Architecture in the College of Applied Arts and Sciences. Two years later, a School of Architecture was created at Arizona State University with James Elmore as Director. In 1964 he was named Founding Dean of the ASU College of Architecture. He served in that capacity until June 1973, when he returned full-time to the classroom and studio.

He retired from full-time teaching in 1983 and from ASU professorial duties completely in 1986. Always very active in community and professional affairs, Elmore served a term as President of the Central Arizona Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He also played a leading role in the creation and development of the Rio Salado Project, which proposed to return water to the dry Salt River bed and so reclaim approximately 800 acres of land. Elmore died on April 19, 2007 at

his home in Phoenix, Arizona.

Scope and Content Note

This collection concentrates on the professional interests of James Elmore circa 1950s-1980s and is arranged in two subgroups. Subgroup One, James W. Elmore, is divided into six series which include thirteen folders that address various aspects of Elmore's professional life. Subgroup Two, Rio Salado Project, is comprised of three series containing ten folders of documents. These materials pertain to the organized effort to develop the Salt River flood plain in the Phoenix metro area for recreational and commercial purposes. Materials found within Subgroup Two's second series, Valley Forward Association Portfolio, were originally housed in a three-ring notebook binder. For preservation purposes, the materials were removed but retained in their original order and subsequently organized into seven folders that reflect the seven respective sections found in the binder. This collection was donated to the AED Library (now Design Library) by James W. Elmore in January 1995.

Description

SUBGROUP ONE James W. Elmore

BOX 1

Series 1 Personal, 1950s-1970s

Folder 1 Photos, 1961, 1963

Folder 2 Works, 1958-1979

Series 2 School/College of Architecture, 1950s-1980s

Folder 1 Students, 1950-1987

Folder 2 Administration, 1961-1962

Series 3 Planning Associates, 1958-1960

Folder 1 Brochure and Members, 1958

Folder 2 ASU Master Plan, 1959-1960

Series 4 American Institute of Architects, 1950s-1970s

Folder 1 "Planning in Our Valley," 1956

Folder 2 Metropolitan Phoenix Plan, 1974

Folder 3 Regional Urban Design Assistance Team, 1974

Folder 4 Meetings, 1963-1964, 1966

Series 5 Valley Forward Association, 1970s

Folder 1 Annual Report, 1972

Folder 2 Valley Options '76

Series 6 Miscellaneous, 1950s-1980s

Folder 1 Miscellany, 1954-1983

Folder 2 Oral History Interview Transcript, 1988

SUBGROUP TWO Rio Salado Project

BOX 2

Series 1 Printed Matter, 1960s-1990s

Folder 1 Pamphlets/Descriptions, 1966-1997

Folder 2 Rio Salado Story, 1971-1984

Folder 3 Rio Salado I, II, III, and Phase 3, 1969-1978

Series 2 Valley Forward Association Portfolio, 1960s-1980s

Folder 1 Introduction, 1980

Folder 2 Rio Salado Concept/History, 1980

Folder 3 Provisions of the New Legislation, 1980

Folder 4 Appendix A—Participants and Contributions, 1967-1980

Folder 5 Appendix B—Studies and Reports, 1969-1980

Folder 6 Rio Salado Development District Board, 1980-1981

Folder 7 Correspondence, 1981

Series 3 Robert McConnell

Folder 1 Robert McConnell File, 1960s-1990s

Finding aid by Paul G. Hubbard (March 30, 1995)

Updated by Harold Housley (December 2, 2015)