

Collection #  
P 0824

**ROSS CALDWELL PHOTOGRAPHS  
1927–1937, N.D.**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** One half-size box of photographs

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1927–1937, n.d.

**PROVENANCE:** Gift from the Bartholomew County Historical Society, 2019

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2019.0337

**NOTES:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ross Caldwell was an architectural engineer and designer. He attended Culver Military Academy, Valparaiso University, and Purdue University, and served with the Army Corps of Engineers during both world wars. He designed buildings in several counties in Indiana, as well as camps and shelters for the Transient Service Activities program of the U.S. Resettlement Administration.

Ross George Caldwell was born 2 August 1895 in Columbus, Indiana, the only child of George W. and Lydia A. Ross Caldwell. His father was a building contractor and head of Caldwell and Drake Iron Works, which erected large buildings in several states. George (1860–1930) also served as mayor of Columbus from 1898–1902. In the late 1910s, Ross worked with his father in the general contracting firm of Caldwell-Marshall Co.

The Caldwell family moved from Columbus to Indianapolis in 1919. George and Ross were in business together in the 1920s as Caldwell & Son, Engineers and Builders.

Ross married Louise Jane Mason (1895–1984), a graduate of the Louisville Conservatory of Music (Kentucky), on 22 September 1924 in Columbus. In the 1930 census, they are shown living at 1644 N. Delaware Street in Indianapolis. Ross is listed as an architectural designer and Louise as a church organist. By 1934, Ross was working for the U.S. Resettlement Administration's Transient Service Activities as a construction engineer and architect, building camps and shelters in several counties.

It appears that Ross and Louise left Indianapolis by 1937. The 1940 census shows them living in Rochester, Illinois, with Ross listed as an architect engineer for the state division of parks, and Louise as a professional musician.

In 1945 Ross and Louise moved to Maggie Valley, North Carolina, where he became involved with the Cherokee settlement in the Great Smoky mountains. He was instrumental in organizing a craft guild for the Cherokees and designed and built an amphitheater there for their pageants.

Ross and Louise moved to Sarasota, Florida, in 1960. He died there on 16 April 1981. He was buried in Garland Brook Cemetery in Columbus, Indiana.

Sources:

Items in the collection

Ancestry <[ancestrylibrary.com](http://ancestrylibrary.com)>. Accessed 19 August 2021:

Find a Grave

Florida, U.S., Death Index, 1877–1998

Indiana, U.S., Select Marriages Index, 1748–1993

United States Federal Census, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940

U.S., City Directories, 1822–1995

U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850–2010

U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918

IUPUI University Library. *Indianapolis City Directory Collection*  
<https://ulib.iupui.edu/digitalcollections/icd> Accessed 19 August 2021.

*The Republic* (Columbus, Indiana) <newspapers.com>. Accessed 19 August 2021:  
“Former Local Architect Ross G. Caldwell Dies,” 17 April 1981, page 6  
“Geo. Caldwell, Pioneer Builder Dies in Capital,” 8 October 1930, page 1  
“Society” column edited by Linnie H. Pope, 22 September 1924, page 3

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of architectural photographs as well as aerial photographs of camp sites and city blocks. Series 1 and series 2 are composed of photographs of buildings and camps designed or remodeled by Ross Caldwell. It is not known whether he worked on any of the locations pictured in the other series.

**Series 1 – Buildings Designed by Ross Caldwell:** This series is arranged alphabetically by name of the city where the building is located – specifically, Anderson, Bloomington, Indianapolis, Lebanon, and unknown locations. The photos include houses, apartment buildings, and commercial buildings. The building in Bloomington is a hotel that was designed by Ross Caldwell and his father, George W. Caldwell. Some photos are embossed with a seal that says “Ross Caldwell / Professional Engineer / Registered / No. 1512 / State of Indiana.” These photographs were removed from an album for better preservation.

**Series 2 – Transient Service Activities – Camps and Shelters:** This series consists of pages removed from an album; the pages are arranged in the order they were in when the album was received. The photos include aerial views of camps designed by Ross Caldwell and shelters remodeled by him to house transient people in the early- to mid-1930s. Locations include Bedford, Evansville, Muncie, North Terre Haute, Fort Wayne, Terre Haute, Gary, Hammond, and Camp Kankakee in the Jackson Township of Starke County. There are also a few non-aerial photos of Camp Kankakee.

**Series 3 – Structures in State Parks and Other Sites:** This series is composed of five postcards and one postcard-size photograph of structures in Clifty Falls State Park and Turkey Run State Park, as well as the Old Mill Garden in Hammond and Abraham Lincoln’s Indiana home.

**Series 4 – Aerial Photographs:** This series includes four aerial photographs. Two are labeled as being of a “Jewish Boy Scout Camp.” One is identified as being of an Indianapolis Country Club. The other is of the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial on 8 April 1934, and it appears that it may be of a dedication ceremony, as it shows a platform from which several people appear to be addressing a crowd.

**Series 5 – Indianapolis Home Show House, 1937:** This series contains three postcard-size photographs of drawings by Robert Tate of a house designed by architect Richard E. Bishop of the 1937 Indianapolis Home Show house, which was on display 15–25 April 1937.

**Series 6 – Empty Photograph Album:** Ross Caldwell’s album, from which pages of photographs were removed and put into series 1 and series 2.

## SERIES CONTENTS

### Series 1: Buildings Designed by Ross Caldwell

#### CONTENTS

#### **Anderson, Indiana**

J. Wilson Barber residence, 1928: façade (2 copies) and another view showing the front and one side. A note on the back indicates that J. Wilson Barber was Ross Caldwell's roommate at Purdue University, 1918 class.

#### **Bloomington, Indiana**

Photograph of a drawing of the Graham Hotel designed by Ross Caldwell and George W. Caldwell, 1928.

Lobby lounge and main dining room of the Graham Hotel, designed by Ross Caldwell and George W. Caldwell, 1929.

#### **Indianapolis, Indiana**

Exterior of the Penn View Apartment building at 3724 N. Pennsylvania Street, 1924 (photo by Bass Photo Co., #204043-F, 22 September 1927).

Apartment building (photo by Bass Photo Co., #204044-F, 22 September 1927).

Façade of the Penn Lawn Apartment building at 3543 N. Pennsylvania Street, 1922 (photo by Bass Photo Co., #204045-F, 22 September 1927).

Jones-Whitaker Sales Co., an automobile dealer at 34<sup>th</sup> and Illinois streets, 1929 (photo by Bass Photo Co., #213580-F, 13 September 1929) (2 copies).

Exterior of E.F. Marburger and Son Commercial Building at 1819 N. Meridian Street, 1930 (photo by Bass Photo Co., #223430-F, 3 May 1932).

Robert W. Littell residence, 5122 Grandview Drive (photo by Bass Photo Co., #223431-F, 3 May 1932).

#### CONTAINER

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Photographs, Box 1,  
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Photographs, Box 1,  
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Photographs, Box 1,  
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Photographs, Box 1,  
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Photographs, Box 1,  
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Photographs, Box 1,  
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Façade of Robinson House at 151 E. Hampton Drive,  
n.d. Photographs, Box 1,  
Folder 3

### **Lebanon, Indiana**

Ivan Jack's residence, Ulen Country Club district,  
1931 (2 copies). Photographs, Box 1,  
Folder 4

### **Unknown Locations**

"Old Timbers" cabin, 1933, torn down and rebuilt by  
Ross Caldwell: 100-year-old Abraham McCorkle  
cabin of yellow poplar logs [possibly in Pike  
Township of Marion County]. Photographs, Box 1,  
Folder 5

Byers House, designed and built by Ross Caldwell,  
n.d. Photographs, Box 1,  
Folder 5

## **Series 2: Transient Service Activities – Camps and Shelters**

### **CONTENTS**

Bedford, Indiana, aerial view, 1932

Evansville, Indiana, aerial view of T.S.A. camp,  
18 May 1935

Muncie, Indiana, aerial view, n.d.

North Terre Haute, Indiana, aerial view of T.S.A.  
camp, 18 May 1935

Fort Wayne, Indiana, aerial view of T.S.A. shelter,  
21 April 1935, remodel under supervision of Ross  
Caldwell

Terre Haute, Indiana, aerial view of T.S.A. shelter,  
18 May [1935], remodel under supervision of Ross  
Caldwell

Gary, Indiana, aerial view of T.S.A. shelter, n.d.,  
remodel under supervision of Ross Caldwell

### **CONTAINER**

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Hammond, Indiana, aerial view of T.S.A. shelter, n.d., remodel under supervision of Ross Caldwell. Circled in ink on this photo is the Superior Courthouse that was built in 1901 [or 1903] by Caldwell & Drake of Columbus, Indiana.

Photographs, Box 1,  
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T.S.A. Camp Kankakee [Starke County, Indiana], three aerial views, 9 March 1935. Note: “eventually housed 1200 men.”

Photographs, Box 1,  
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Camp Kankakee [Starke County, Indiana] – three photos on one album page: old entrance (1 January 1935), new gateway (ca. 1935), and contact station (n.d.)

Photographs, Box 1,  
Folder 6

### **Series 3: Structures in State Parks and Other Sites**

#### CONTENTS

Three real photo postcards of Clifty Falls State Park: two of the Clifty Inn, and one of the Guthrie Entrance from the south, n.d.

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One real photo postcard of Turkey Run State Park: log cabin on Sunset Point, n.d.

Photographs, Box 1,  
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One postcard-size photograph of The Old Mill Garden in Hammond, Indiana, n.d.

Photographs, Box 1,  
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Abraham Lincoln’s Indiana Home: halftone printed postcard (© 1933 The Reuben H. Donnelley Corporation, Chicago)

Photographs, Box 1,  
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### **Series 4: Aerial Photographs**

#### CONTENTS

Two aerial views with handwritten note below each identifying the location as a “Jewish Boy Scout Camp,” n.d.

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Aerial view with handwritten description below indicating that it is an Indianapolis Country Club, n.d.

Photographs, Box 1,  
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Aerial view of Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial, 8 April 1934, shows several people on a platform with a crowd of people gathered near. Stamped on the back: Star Gravure Section / Apr 15 1934.

Photographs, Box 1,  
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### **Series 5: Indianapolis Home Show House, 1937**

#### CONTENTS

Photograph of a drawing of the exterior of the house (photo by W.H. Bass Photo Co.).

Photograph of a drawing of the doorway of the house (photo by W.H. Bass Photo Co.).

Photograph of a drawing of the terrace window of the house (photo by W.H. Bass Photo Co.).

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Photographs, Box 1,  
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Photographs, Box 1,  
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### **Series 6: Empty Photograph Album**

#### CONTENTS

Ross Caldwell's album, from which pages of photographs were removed and put into series 1 and series 2.

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