WALTER H. KISER
COLLECTION, 1934–1948

Collection Information

Biographical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

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April 2, 2013

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:  
Manuscript Materials: 5 manuscript folders, 5 bound volumes  
Visual Materials: 1 OVA graphics box, 1 OVB graphics box

COLLECTION DATES:  
1934–1948

PROVENANCE:  
Walter H. Kiser, New Albany, Indiana, 1948

RESTRICTIONS:  
None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:  
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER:  
1948.0607

NOTES:
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Walter H. Kiser (1902–1980) was born in New Albany, Indiana. After graduating from New Albany High School, he was awarded a Scholarship at the John Herron Art Institute in Indianapolis, Indiana. Later he studied under Paul Plaschke at the Louisville Art Academy in Louisville, Kentucky. Kiser is known for his ink drawings of interior and exterior views of regional historic buildings in Indiana and Kentucky.

From 1934 to 1942 Kiser ran a weekly column, “The Neighborhood Sketches” in The Louisville Times; these were later compiled in a book, Historic Houses, published by the Kentucky Library in Bowling Green.

Sources:
www.askart.com
www.koar.org.publications

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Indiana Historical Society purchased fifty-one drawings of historic Indiana homes and buildings from artist Walter H. Kiser in 1948. The illustrations document historic buildings in five Indiana counties along the Ohio River. These include: Switzerland, Jefferson, Clark, Floyd, and Harrison County. Kiser created the drawings to illustrate his weekly column “Neighborhood Sketches” for the Louisville Times from 1934 to 1942.

Kiser also collected histories on some of the buildings through correspondence from various sources. These letters are included in the collection along with scrapbooks he compiled of his “Neighborhood Sketches” newspaper articles. Other newspaper articles used in his research featured the historic buildings and were tucked into the scrapbooks. Because of their fragile nature these loose newspapers have been photocopied and stored separate from the bound volumes.

The newspaper column “Neighborhood Sketches” appeared in the Louisville Times beginning December 10, 1934 and ended on December 7, 1942. The last article is accompanied by a notice that it was the last picture by Walter as he had gone to war.

A print by American illustrator J. Knowles Hare titled No Worries is included in the collection. The connection to Kiser and his work is not known.
<table>
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<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>CONTAINER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. James Welsh House; Vevay, Switzerland County. History and description of house; typewritten</td>
<td>Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland County Courthouse; Vevay. History and description of Courthouse: typewritten</td>
<td>Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.P. Schenck Home; Vevay, Switzerland County. Description of home; typewritten report from handwritten rough draft</td>
<td>Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Eggleston Birthplace; Vevay, Switzerland County. Description of house, biographical notes on Eggleston; typewritten sheets and letter with handwritten sheets and notes</td>
<td>Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong Tavern; Vevay, Switzerland County. History and description of building; typewritten sheet with handwritten notes</td>
<td>Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George G. Knox Homestead; Vevay, Switzerland County. History and description of house; typewritten sheets with handwritten corrections</td>
<td>Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Ferry House or home of Francis Dufour; Vevay, Switzerland County. Description and history of house; two page typewritten report</td>
<td>Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean Daniel Morerod Homestead; Vevay, Switzerland County. Description and history of house; typewritten report</td>
<td>Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John W. Wright Homestead; near Vevay, Switzerland County. Description of house; typewritten report with handwritten rough draft</td>
<td>Folder 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grisard Home; Vevay, Switzerland County.  
Description of house; typewritten report  
No drawing of this building in collection

Francis M. Costigan House; Madison, Jefferson County.  
Description of house; typewritten report

Hutchings House; Madison, Jefferson County.  
Description and history of house; typewritten report and handwritten notes

John Sheets House; Madison, Jefferson County.  
Description and history of house; typewritten sheets with handwritten notes

Sullivan House; Madison, Jefferson County.  
Description of house and information about Judge Sullivan; typewritten report and handwritten notes, newspaper clipping  
No drawing of this building in collection

Blackiston Mill; near New Albany, Floyd County.  
History of mill; brief typewritten account

Old Salem Log Church; near Edwardsville, Floyd County.  
History and description of church; typewritten report

Very-Blackiston Homestead: New Albany, Floyd County  
History and description of house and well, poems about fireplace and well written by Adelaide Blanton; typewritten accounts  
No drawing of this building in collection

Yenawine Homestead; near Edwardsville, Floyd County.  
History of homestead; typewritten account  
No drawing of this building in collection

John Conner Homestead (now Masonic Temple); New Albany, Floyd County.  
History of Homestead; typewritten sheet, several handwritten sheets  
No drawing of this building in collection
Glasscock home history, no location
newspaper clippings for the Swiss Inn in Vevay,
Beck’s Mill in Washington County, and Yenowine
homestead in Floyd County

Typed list of sketches in collection
Exhibit list of art work of Walter H. Kiser 1938 at
Russell Art Shop in New Albany

Title: *No Worries*
Medium: dot matrix lithograph by J. Knowles Hare of
boy sitting on a fence with his dog
Size: 12 ½ x 9 ½ inches

**Series 2: “Neighborhood Sketches,” 1934–1942**

**CONTENTS**

Scrapbook Volume 1
“Neighborhood Sketches”
*Louisville Times*, Dec. 10, 1934–June 15, 1936

Newspaper clippings removed and copied from
BV1582

Scrapbook Volume 2
“Neighborhood Sketches”
*Louisville Times*, June 22, 1936–May 10, 1938

Newspaper clippings removed and copied from
BV1583

Scrapbook Volume 3
“Neighborhood Sketches”
*Louisville Times*, May 17, 1938–Nov. 21, 1939

Newspaper clippings removed and copied from
BV1584

Scrapbook Volume 4
“Neighborhood Sketches”
*Louisville Times*, Nov. 28, 1938–Oct. 20, 1941

Newspaper clippings removed and copied from
BV1585

OVA Graphics:

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4
Series 3: Switzerland County Drawings

CONTENTS

Title: *Dr. James Welch House*, Vevay
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 x 15 ¾ inches

Title: *Switzerland County Courthouse*, Vevay
Medium: Graphite
Size: 15 ½ x 10 inches

Title: *Ulysses P. Schenck Home*, Vevay
Medium: India ink
Size: 10 x 16 inches

Title: *Birthplace of Edward Eggleston*, Vevay
Medium: India ink
Size: 10 x 15 ¾ inches

Title: *Swiss Inn or Le Clerc House*, Vevay
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 x 16 inches

Title: *Armstrong Tavern*, Vevay
Medium: India ink
Size: 10 x 16 inches

Title: *An Old Mill*, near Vevay
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 ½ x 16 inches

Title: *George Pleasant house*, Vevay
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 ¼ x 16 ¾ inches
Title: *Knox homestead*, Vevay
Medium: India ink
Size: 10 x 15 ¾

Title: *Detraz home*, Vevay
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 x 16 ¼ inches

Title: *Dufour house*, Vevay
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 x 16 inches

Title: *Henry Ink Factory*, near Vevay
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 x 15 ¾ inches

Title: *Old Ferry House or Home of John Francis Dufour*, Vevay
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 x 15 ¾ inches

Title: *Julia L. Dumont home*, Vevay
Medium: India ink and dry marker
Size: 10 ¼ x 16 inches

Title: *Jean Daniel Morerod homestead*, Vevay
Medium: India ink and dry marker
Size: 10 ½ x 16 inches

Title: *“Bird Hill”*, near Vevay
Medium: India ink and dry marker
Size: 10 ¼ x 16 inches

Title: *Wright homestead*, near Vevay
Medium: Marker
Size: 10 x 16

Title: *Cain homestead*, near Vevay
Medium: marker
Size: 10 x 16
## Series 4: Jefferson County Drawings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Original Medium</th>
<th>Original Size</th>
<th>Container</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moody Park-Rachael Hiatt house, Madison</td>
<td>Graphite</td>
<td>10 x 15 ¾ inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Whitsett home, Madison</td>
<td>Graphite</td>
<td>10 ¼ x16 inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Masonic Home, Madison</td>
<td>Graphite</td>
<td>11 ¾ x 17 ¾ inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis M. Costigan residence Madison</td>
<td>India ink and dry marker</td>
<td>10 ½ x 15 ¾ inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanier home, Madison</td>
<td>India ink and dry marker</td>
<td>10 ¼ x 16 inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hutchings house or Richard Bright Place, Madison</td>
<td>India ink and dry marker</td>
<td>10 x 15 ¼ inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sullivan house, Madison</td>
<td>Graphite</td>
<td>10 ½ x 16 inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitcher home, Madison</td>
<td>Graphite</td>
<td>10 ¼ x 16 inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford homestead, Madison</td>
<td>Graphite</td>
<td>10 ¼ x 15 ¾ inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonial Inn or the First Lanier home, Madison</td>
<td>Graphite</td>
<td>10 ¼ x 16 ¼ inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>Medium:</td>
<td>Size:</td>
<td>OVB Graphics:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson County Courthouse, Madison</td>
<td>Graphite</td>
<td>16 x 10 inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Sheets residence, Madison</td>
<td>India ink and dry marker</td>
<td>10 ¼ x 16 inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Paul Lutheran Church, Madison</td>
<td>Graphite</td>
<td>10 ¾ x 16 inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Finley Crowe homestead, Hanover</td>
<td>Graphite</td>
<td>10 ½ x 16 inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claybeade Springs and school, Jeffersonville</td>
<td>Graphite</td>
<td>12 x 17 ¾ inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grisamore homestead, Jeffersonville</td>
<td>Graphite</td>
<td>10 ¼ x 16 ¼ inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Church, Speed</td>
<td>Graphite</td>
<td>13 x 9 ¾ inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackiston Mill, Floyd County</td>
<td>Printer’s oil ink</td>
<td>5 x 6 inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Creek Baptist Church, Floyd County</td>
<td>Graphite</td>
<td>10 ½ x 16 ¼ inches</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Title: Scribner home, New Albany
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 x 16 inches

Title: Old National Bank, New Albany
Medium: Printer’s oil ink
Size: 7 x 10 inches

Title: McCormick Theological Seminary, New Albany
Medium: Graphite
Size: 9 ½ x 13 inches

Title: Korb homestead, New Albany
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 ½ 16 inches

Title: William Vaughan Moody, New Albany
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 ¼ x 16 inches

Title: Judge Thomas L. Smith house, New Albany
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 ¼ x 16

Title: Old Salem Log Church, near Edwardsville
Medium: Printer’s oil ink
Size: 7 ½ x 10 inches

Title: Stoy and Hessing homestead, Edwardsville
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 x 16 inches

Title: Mill at Galena, Galena
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 x 15 ¾ inches

Series 7: Harrison County Drawings

CONTENTS

Title: Thomas Lloyd Posey home, Corydon
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 ½ x 16 inches
Title: Old State Capitol, Corydon
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 x 15 ¾ inches

Title: Old State Treasury, Corydon
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 x 16 inches

Title: Oldest house in Corydon, Corydon
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 ½ x 16 inches

Title: Porter-Griffin homestead, Corydon
Medium: Graphite
Size: 10 ¼ x 16 inches
CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
   http://opac.indianahistory.org/

2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.

4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC0924).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.