

CRANBROOK

ARCHIVES

Wermuth & Son, Inc.

Photograph Collection, 1922-1969
3 linear ft.

Acquisition Number:	1992-16
Acquisition:	Donated in 1992 by Edward H. Wendeln.
Access:	Access to the collection is unrestricted.
Copyright:	Copyright to this collection is held by the Cranbrook Educational Community.
Preferred Citation:	Wermuth & Son, Inc. Photograph Collection, Cranbrook Archives, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.
Processing:	Ellen Vander Kolk, 2011



History

Charles R. Wermuth was born in 1853 in Saxony, Germany. At the age of twenty-three, he traveled to Dresden, Germany, where he learned carpentry and building. He moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1881, working six years before he established his own business. He married Marie Pretchendorf in 1876 and had nine children (only six survived), including son Albert Charles.

Albert Charles “A.C.” Wermuth was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1893. He became a contractor in the early 1920s, and headed the firm of Charles R. Wermuth & Son, Inc. (changed in 1942 to Wermuth, Inc.). In 1923, Wermuth worked on Trinity English Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne with architect Bertram Goodhue. Goodhue had been contracted to design Christ Church Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills, MI, and invited Wermuth to bid on the job. As general contractor, the firm of Charles R. Wermuth & Son constructed Christ Church Cranbrook, Cranbrook School, Kingswood School, Brookside School, Cranbrook Academy of Art, and Cranbrook Institute of Science. Wermuth’s firm also constructed buildings for Booth family members, including a home for Grace Booth Wallace, and a swimming pool for Henry Scripps Booth.

While working at Cranbrook, A.C. Wermuth became friends with architect Eliel Saarinen. Saarinen designed a house for Wermuth in Fort Wayne, Indiana, one of the few residences in the United States he designed. In addition to projects at Cranbrook, Wermuth’s firm handled construction projects throughout the Midwest, including the First Christian Church in Columbus, Indiana, and Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

A.C. Wermuth died September 15, 1977 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. His wife Muriel predeceased him earlier that year, and he was survived by two daughters.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection consists of photographs of buildings constructed by the firm of Charles R. Wermuth & Son, Inc. (Wermuth, Inc.). The original collection was bound in thirteen photograph books. The books have been unbound (with the exception of Book Twelve), but are still in the original order.

Related Collections

- George G. Booth Papers (1981-01)
- Cranbrook Architectural Office Records (1989-01)

Box Number--Description

Box 1

1. Book One: Cranbrook "A Search for Form" – 1932-1982
2. Book One: "the Kingswood School for Girls"; Kingswood Photos
3. Book One: Institute of Science
4. Book One: Art Museum
5. Book One: Carl Milles Statuary
6. Book Two: Cranbrook Publications
7. Book Two: Plot Plan & Aerial Photos
8. Book Two: School for Boys
9. Book Two: Arts & Craft
10. Book Two: Faculty Residences
11. Book Two: Service Personnel Residences
12. Book Three: Adams Central High, Monroe, Indiana
13. Book Three: Albion Library, Albion, Michigan
14. Book Three: Antioch College, N. Hall & Dorm, Yellow Springs, OH – 1947
15. Book Three: Bloomfield Township School, Birmingham, Michigan
16. Book Three: Bank, Old First National; Bluffton, Indiana – 1955
17. Book Three: Booth Residence, George G., Bloomfield Hills, Michigan – 1929
18. Book Three: Brookside School, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
19. Book Three: Caylor-Nickel Clinic, Bluffton, Indiana – 1964
20. Book Three: Centlivre Brewing Corp., Ft. Wayne, Indiana – 1948
21. Book Three: City of Celina Power Plant
22. Book Three: Chelsea Methodist Home, Chelsea, Michigan
23. Book Three: Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan – 1925

Box 2

1. Book Four: City Light Plant, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1934
2. Book Four: Clinical Building, Indianapolis, Ind. – 1937
3. Book Four: Corrugated Paper Co., Hartford, Ind.
4. Book Four: Dam & Pump Station, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1933
5. Book Four: Fels Research Lab, Yellow Springs, Ohio – 1947
6. Book Four: Finlay YMCA, Finlay, Ohio – 1939
7. Book Four: First Church of God, Springfield, Ohio – 1957
8. Book Four: First Methodist Church, Decatur, Ind. – 1965
9. Book Four: First Presbyterian Church, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1954
10. Book Four: Goldens Department Store, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1948
11. Book Four: Robert C. Harris Elementary School, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1969
12. Book Four: Home Telephone & Telegraph, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1949
13. Book Four: Huntington College, Hardy Residence for Women – 1966
14. Book Four: Huntington College Student Center – 1967
15. Book Four: Post Office, Huntington, Ind. – 1967

16. Book Four: IBM Corp., Greencastle, Ind. – 1953
17. Book Four: Indian Village School, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1954
18. Book Four: International Harvester, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1922-1924
19. Book Four: Lagonda Elementary School, Springfield, Ohio – 1949

Box 3

1. Book Five: Alvan Macauley Residence, Birmingham, Mich. – 1930 (1/2)
2. Book Five: Alvan Macauley Residence, Birmingham, Mich. – 1930 (2/2)
3. Book Five: Manchester College, Schwalm Hall, N. Manchester, Ind. – 1966 (1/2)
4. Book Five: Manchester College, Schwalm Hall, (2/2)
5. Book Five: Manchester College Campus Library – 1966 (1/2)
6. Book Five: Manchester College Campus Library – 1966 (2/2)
7. Book Five: Methodist Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan -1941
8. Book Five: Midwestern United Life Insurance Co., Ft. Wayne – 1962 (1/2)
9. Book Five: Midwestern United Life Insurance Co. (2/2)
10. Book Five: G.D. Murphy Co., Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1949
11. Book Five: National Seal Co., Van Wert, Ohio – 1952
12. Book Five: National Seal Co. addition
13. Book Five: Notre Dame University, Lewis Hall, South Bend, Ind. – 1964 (1/2)
14. Book Five: Notre Dame University, Lewis Hall (2/2)

Box 4

1. Book Six: Randolph County Hospital, Winchester, Ind. – 1949
2. Book Six: REMC Bldg., Columbia City, Ind. – 1965
3. Book Six: St. Joe River Dam, Ft. Wayne, Ind. 1934
4. Book Six: Salisbury Axle Division, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1945 (1/2)
5. Book Six: Salisbury Axle Division (2/2)
6. Book Six: Sewage Treatment Plant addition, Indianapolis, Ind. – 1936
7. Book Six: Sexton High School, Lansing, Michigan -1942 (1/2)
8. Book Six: Sexton High School, Lansing Michigan (2/2)
9. Book Seven: Sinclair Service Gas Station, Ft. Wayne – 1939
10. Book Seven: Southeastern Indiana Power Co., Rushville, Ind. – 1950
11. Book Seven: YMCA, Springfield, Ohio – 1939
12. Book Seven: State School, Girls Dorm, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1936
10. Book Seven: State School, Boys Dorm, Ft. Wayne, Ind. 1936
11. Book Seven: Strauss Office Bldg., Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1949
12. Book Seven: Studebaker Corp. Aviation Division, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1941 (1/2)
13. Book Seven: Studebaker Corp. Aviation Division (2/2)
14. Book Seven: Swinney Park Bridge, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1933
15. Book Seven: Tabernacle Church of God, Columbus, Ind. – 1941 (1/2)
16. Book Seven: Tabernacle Church of God (2/2)

Box 5

1. Book Eight: Plant Expansion, Tri-Wall Containers, Inc., Butler, Ind. – 1963
2. Book Eight: U.S. Rubber Co., Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1948
3. Book Eight: Van Wert, Ohio Municipal Bldg. – 1969
4. Book Eight: Wallace, Harold L., Bloomfield Hills, Mich. – 1927
5. Book Eight: Water Softening Plant, Ann Arbor, Mich. – 1941
6. Book Eight: Western High School, Lansing, Mich. – 1941 (1/2)
7. Book Eight: Western High School (2/2)
8. Book Eight: Westview School, Muncie, Ind. – 1952
9. Book Eight: Wood Youth Center
10. Book Nine: The Celina Mutual Insurance Co., Celina, Ohio – 1961 (1/8)
11. Book Nine: The Celina Mutual Insurance Co. (2/8)
12. Book Nine: The Celina Mutual Insurance Co. (3/8)
13. Book Nine: The Celina Mutual Insurance Co. (4/8)
14. Book Nine: The Celina Mutual Insurance Co. (5/8)
15. Book Nine: The Celina Mutual Insurance Co. (6/8)
16. Book Nine: The Celina Mutual Insurance Co. (7/8)
17. Book Nine: The Celina Mutual Insurance Co. (8/8)

Box 6

1. Book Ten: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, Ind. 1924 (1/2)
2. Book Ten: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (2/2)
3. Book Ten: Tri-State College, Angola, Ind. – 1967 (1/6)
4. Book Ten: Tri-State College (2/6)
5. Book Ten: Tri-State College (3/6)
6. Book Ten: Tri-State College (4/6)
7. Book Ten: Tri-State College (5/6)
8. Book Ten: Tri-State College (6/6)
9. Book Eleven: Huntington College, Merillat Phys. Ed. Ctr., 1973-74 (1/4)
10. Book Eleven: Huntington College, Phys. Ed. Ctr. (2/4)
11. Book Eleven: Huntington College, Phys. Ed. Ctr. (3/4)
12. Book Eleven: Huntington College, Phys. Ed. Ctr. (4/4)
13. Book Eleven: Associates Investment Co., South Bend, Ind. 1963-64 (1/6)
14. Book Eleven: Associates Investment Co. (2/6)
15. Book Eleven: Associates Investment Co. (3/6)
16. Book Eleven: Associates Investment Co. (4/6)
17. Book Eleven: Associates Investment Co. (5/6)
18. Book Eleven: Associates Investment Co. (6/6)

Box 7

Book Twelve (Bound)

Sewage Treatment Plant, Ft. Wayne, Ind. 1939

First Methodist Episcopal Church, Ann Arbor, Mich.
 Findlay, Ohio YMCA
 Junior Educational Activities Building, Indiana State Fair Grounds
 YMCA Springfield, Ohio
 Water Treatment & Filtration Plant, Ann Arbor, Michigan
 Stockwell Memorial Library, Albion College, Albion, Mich.
 Clinical Building, Indianapolis, Indiana
 State School Dormitories, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
 Indianapolis Sewage Disposal Plant, Indianapolis, Ind.
 Swinney Park Bridge, U.S. Road # 24, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
 Ft. Wayne City Light Plant
 Anthony Boulevard Dam & Pumping Station, Ann Arbor, Mich.
 Alvan Macauley Residence, Grosse Pointe, Mich.
 Swimming Pool for Henry S. Booth home, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
 Harold L. Wallace Residence, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
 Cranbrook Foundation Offices, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
 Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
 Cranbrook School for Boys, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
 Kingswood School for Girls, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
 Brookside School Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
 Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
 Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
 Greek Theater & Cranbrook Pavilion, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
 Trinity Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
 Wm. Scheele & Sons Co., Ft. Wayne, Indiana
 Shrine Temple, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
 Motor Truck Plant, International Harvester Co., Ft. Wayne, Ind.
 Kruse Store & Garage Building, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
 Zion's Parish Hall, Ft. Wayne, Indiana

1. Book Thirteen: Sears, Roebuck & Co., Battle Creek, Mich. – 1954
2. Book Thirteen: Sears, Roebuck & Co., Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1953
3. Book Thirteen: Sears Service Center & Warehouse, Ft. Wayne, Ind. – 1966
4. Book Thirteen: Sears Service Center & Warehouse
5. Book Thirteen: Sears Service Center – 1966
6. Book Thirteen: Sears Service Center – 1966