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for Special Collections
The University of Toledo

Finding Aid

➤ **Diocese Of Toledo Architectural Plans, 1912-1949** ◀

MSS-069

Size: 1.5 lin. ft.

Provenance:

Access: Open

Collection Summary: Collection consists of plans, drawings, and other materials relating to the construction of several diocesan buildings, most notably Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral in Toledo, Ohio

Subject(s): [Architecture](#), [Philosophy and Religion](#)

Related Collections:

Processing Note:

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Completed by: Laurie Winters, Spring 1983; revised by Tamara Jones, June 2016

Diocese Of Toledo Architectural Plans, 1912-49

Historical Sketch

The Diocese of Toledo was established in 1910, when Pope Pius X sent a letter approving its formation. In 1911, Bishop Joseph Schrembs arrived in Toledo from Cincinnati and soon after his arrival began planning for the construction of a new cathedral. In 1912, the diocese purchased a tract of land on the southeast corner of Islington Street and Colingwood Avenue, which would become the site of Our lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral (hereafter referred to as Rosary Cathedral). The first building on the site was the Chancery and Episcopal residence, which was built between 1912 and 1914. The cathedral chapel and school soon followed; these were built between 1912 and 1915.

In 1915, Bishop Schrembs revealed his plan to build the new cathedral church that would be modeled after a cathedral in Toledo, Spain. His plan was not carried out, however, and after he was transferred to the Diocese of Cleveland in 1921, his successor, Bishop Samuel Stritch, was left with the task. After a successful 1922 campaign to raise \$500,000 for construction, it was decided that the site for the new cathedral would be the Islington and Collingwood property. In order to make room for construction, the Chancery was moved to a tract of land on Parkwood Avenue that had been purchased in 1922. The move was completed in November of 1925. The groundbreaking for Rosary Cathedral took place on October 18, 1925, with the cornerstone laying ceremony occurring on June 27, 1926. The cathedral was opened to the public in 1929 and again in 1930, although services were not held until 1931. The cathedral was formally dedicated on October 1st and 2nd, 1940.

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Scope and Content Note

The Diocese of Toledo Architectural Plans collection consists of blueprints, drawings, newspaper clippings, and other materials relating to the construction of several diocesan buildings, most notably the Holy Rosary Cathedral. The collection also includes plans for the Holy Rosary Cathedral Tower (which was never built), the Holy Rosary School, the Episcopal Residence and Chancery, St. Francis DeSales Cathedral School, and a Priest's House. These materials are distributed over eleven separate series; each series is divided by building and material type.

Note: Beginning with series 5 (with the exception of series 6), listed items are stored in tubes. The box numbers listed therefore refer to tube numbers. Numbers listed before plan descriptions refer to the plan number.

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Architectural Terms

Blueprint: The blueprinting method, sometimes called the "iron process," has been in use for more than 125 years. Invented in England in 1840, it was introduced in the United States soon after. The blueprint is essentially a negative process, as it produces prints with white lines on a dark blue background. Drawings on translucent paper are placed directly over sensitized paper and fed into the blueprint machine. An ultraviolet light in the machine penetrates the translucent areas of the drawing as it passes through, exposing the sensitive chemical on the paper below but not affecting the areas directly below line work. Blueprints are economical in cost, stand up comparatively well under normal light, and resist aging.

Architectural Plan: A graphic diagram showing a building's layout on a horizontal plane. These diagrams usually depict a specific area. Some of the more common include floor plans, roof plans, basement plans, and foundation plans.

Architectural Elevation: Elevations show the vertical surface of a building. Generally, they depict the true exterior appearance of the building. They are usually drawn to the same scale as the plan, and thus are exact views of each side of the building. Doors, windows, roof shapes, cornice treatment, trim chimneys, and exterior materials are all shown realistically on the elevations so as to provide the builders with a finished appearance.

Details: Details are isolated or individual section views that give detailed, technical information about the construction. Details usually appear in the upper right and left corners of the blueprint. They are frequently used to provide further information on such areas of construction as stairways, doors, and window casements.

Plot Plan: A plot plan gives how a building is to be placed on the property, how it is to be approached from the road, how the surface of the land may have to be modified to utilize it best, and, finally, a complete legal description of the lot.

Specifications: In general, specifications are the written description of the construction prepared by the architect or engineer. Specifications are meant to amplify information found on the drawings, but more specific information about the items is given to clarify and define it. For example, the drawing may show a callout for concrete on a wall detail; the specs under the concrete section, would then state the type, aggregate size, ultimate strength, etc. of the concrete, as well as how the concrete is to be formed, placed, cured, and finished. Essentially, specs are divided into two major parts: General Conditions and Technical Sections.

General Conditions: General conditions deal with the preliminary aspects of the job, such as bidding requirements, terms of agreement, insurance, responsibility for permits, payments for the work, supervision, and temporary utilities.

Technical Sections: Technical sections deal with the actual construction and the trade work involved. Technical information concerning heating, plumbing, etc. is placed in these sections to the extent possible so that each type of work done by one subcontractor will be found in one section.

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Notes on Diocese of Toledo Architectural Plans

Queen of the Holy Rosary Cathedral

Architect: John T. Comes (Pittsburgh, Penn.)

Associate Architects: William Richard Perry and Mills, Rhines, Bellman, and Nordhoff, Architects (Toledo, Ohio)

Landscape Architect: Milton Lee Moore (Toledo, Ohio)

Location: Corner of Islington Ave. and Collingwood Blvd.

Blueprint Dates: 1912 to April 30, 1926

Blueprint Material: Paper unless otherwise indicated

Tower for the Queen of the Holy Rosary Cathedral

Architect: John T. Comes, William Richard Perry, and McMullen (Pittsburgh, Penn.)

Location: The tower was to be part of the Cathedral structure, but due to a lack of funding it was never built.

Blueprint Date: February 16, 1927

Blueprint Material: Paper

Holy Rosary School

Architect: William Richard Perry (Toledo, Ohio)

Location: Corner of Islington Ave. and Collingwood Blvd.

Blueprint Date: June 1, 1938

Blueprint Material: Paper

Episcopal Residence and Chancery

Architect: John T. Comes (Pittsburgh, Penn.)

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Associate Architect: Mills, Rhines, Bellman and Nordhoff, Architects (Toledo, Ohio); John D, Macelwene (Toledo, Ohio); Britsch & Munger (Toledo, Ohio); and The Fred Christen & Sons Co. (Toledo, Ohio)

Location: 2544 Parkwood Ave. (The architectural plans indicate that the Episcopal Residence was originally to be part of the cathedral complex on the corner of Islington St. and Collingwood Blvd.; however, by 1925 the site was changed in favor of its present location on Parkwood Ave.)

Blueprint Dates: July 26, 1912, to October 15, 1949

Blueprint Material: Paper unless otherwise indicated

St. Francis DeSales Cathedral School

Architect: John T. Comes (Pittsburgh, Penn.)

Associate Architect: Joseph C. Huber, Jr. (Toledo, Ohio)

Location: 806 Huron St.

Blueprint Date: February 1913

Blueprint Material: Linen and Paper

Priest's House

Architect: Edward Thal & Steve M. Jokel (Toledo, Ohio)

Location: Corner of Melrose St. & Collingwood Blvd.

Blueprint Date: July 24, 1920

Blueprint Material: Paper unless otherwise indicated

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Folder List

Box	Folder	Item
		Series 1: Queen of the Holy Rosary Cathedral – General
1	1	Articles of the General Conditions, 1912
1	2	Miscellaneous – “Builders of Ohio”, Vol. II, Architects Publishing Co., n.d.
1	3*	Miscellaneous – “Dedication Oct. 1-2” Newsclipping -- Toledo Sunday Times (Pictorial Section), September 29, 1940
1	4	Miscellaneous – “Queen of the Holy Rosary Cathedral, Toledo, Ohio,” n.d.
1	5	Miscellaneous – Report on Guegeon and Turner Properties, Nov. 17, 1917
1	6	Miscellaneous – Subscription for New Catholic Church in Muntanna, Ohio, n.d.
1	7	Miscellaneous – “The Cathedral of Toledo” (dedication brochure), [1940]
		Series 2: Tower for the Queen of the Holy Rosary Cathedral
1	8	Cathedral Tower Specifications, n.d.
		Series 3: Holy Rosary School
1	9	General Contract Specifications (with index), n.d.
1	10	General Contract Specifications (with index), n.d. (duplicate copy)
1	11	Mechanical Specifications (with index), n.d.
		Series 4: Episcopal Residence and Chancery
1	12	Specifications for Cement Pavement, n.d.
		Series 5: Queen of the Holy Rosary Cathedral – Architectural Plans (in tubes)
1	--	Conveyance of properties, n.d.
1	--	Plat of Property, 7/5/1923 (2 copies)
2	--	Proposed cathedral: first floor plan, 1912
3	--	Proposed cathedral: basement floor plan, n.d.
3	--	Proposed cathedral: triforium plan, n.d.
3	--	Proposed cathedral: clerestory plan, n.d.
4	--	#501: First floor plan, 11/22/1928
4	--	#502: Triforium plan, 11/22/1928
4	--	#503: Clerestory plan, 11/22/1928
4	--	#504: Roof space plan, 11/22/1928
4	--	#505: Miscellaneous sections, 11/22/1928
5	--	#506: Miscellaneous sections, 11/22/1928

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5	--	#507: Details of lower nave, 11/22/1928
5	--	#508: Details of upper nave, 11/22/1928
5	--	#509: 1 1/2" Scale of plans of nave and sanctuary, 11/22/1928
5	--	#510: 1 1/2" Scale details of nave and sanctuary, 11/22/1928
6	--	#511: Arches and metal work, 11/22/1928
6	--	#512: Details of vestibule, nave, and gallery, 11/22/1928
6	--	#513: Plan and elevations of main vestibule, 11/22/1928
6	--	#514: Details of epistle and gospel aisles, 11/22/1928
6	--	#515: Details of gospel aisle and office, 11/22/1928
6	--	#516: Detail of nave ceiling panels, 11/22/1928
6	--	#517: Details of baptistry and north vestibule, 11/22/1928
7	--	#518: Details of baptistry, 11/22/1928
7	--	#519: Details of sanctuary, ambulatory, etc., 11/22/1928
7	--	#520: Plans of stair hall "C", 11/22/1928
7	--	#521: Elevations and sections of stair hall "C", 11/22/1928
7	--	#522: Detail of bays and working sacristies, 11/22/1928
7	--	#523: Detail of north vestry and priests' toilet, 11/22/1928
7	--	#524: Detail of south vestry and sacristy entrance, 11/22/1928
8	--	#525: Details of priests' sacristy, 11/22/1928
8	--	#526: Details of priests' sacristy, 11/22/1928
8	--	#527: Details of stair hall "A," "B," "C," and "D", 11/22/1928
8	--	#528: Details of south vestibule and passage, 11/22/1928
8	--	#529: Details of organ space, 11/22/1928
8	--	#530: Details of choir gallery, 11/22/1928
8	--	#531: Details of stair hall "A", 11/22/1928
9	--	#532: Details of stair hall "B," 11/22/1928
9	--	#533: Details of organ gallery, 11/22/1928
9	--	#534: Choir room and rest rooms in basement, 11/22/1928
9	--	#535: Details of basement toilet rooms, 11/22/1928
9	--	#536: Details of windows, 11/22/1928
9	--	#537: Scale and details of windows, 11/22/1928
9	--	#538: Details of basement doors, 11/22/1928
10	--	#539: Miscellaneous door details and schedules, 11/22/1928
10	--	#540: Details of steel sash and glazing, 11/22/1928
10	--	#541: Details of steel sash and glazing, 11/22/1928
10	--	#542: Detail of metal screens and louvers, 11/22/1928
10	--	#543: Detail of metal grilles, 11/22/1928
10	--	#544: Details of interior grilles, 11/22/1928
10	--	#545: Layout of marble floors, 11/22/1928
11	--	#546A: Typical section thro-ceiling panel, 11/22/1928
11	--	Pencil drawing of light on brown paper, n.d.
11	--	Pencil drawing of landscaping on tissue paper, n.d.
11	--	Pencil drawing of landscaping on tissue paper, n.d.
11	--	(5) Pencil drawings of plot plan on tissue paper, n.d.
11	--	(4) Pencil drawings of plot plan on tissue paper, n.d.

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		Series 6: Queen of the Holy Rosary Cathedral Architectural Drawings
*	--	Frontal view of cathedral and proposed tower, n.d.
*	--	View of cathedral apse and proposed tower, n.d.
*	--	Interior view of cathedral nave, 1917
*	--	Exterior view of cathedral and proposed tower with a cross-sectional view of cathedral apse, n.d.
*	--	Exterior view of "lady chapel" and proposed tower, n.d.
*	--	Floor plan of cathedral, n.d.
*	--	Frontal view of cathedral and proposed tower with correction, [1919]
*	--	Frontal view of cathedral and proposed tower, n.d.
		Series 7: Tower for the Queen of the Holy Rosary Cathedral Architectural Plans (in tube)
12	--	#22: Plan sections and elevations of stairway and passage, 2/16/1927 (2 copies)
12	--	#23: Plan of tower floor levels, 2/16/1927 (2 copies)
12	--	#24: East, north, west, and south elevations, 2/16/1927 (2 copies)
12	--	#25: Section through south elevation and 1/2" scale details of upper tower, 2/16/1927 (2 copies)
12	--	#26: Elevation and section, landing plan, section through stairs, detail of col. splice, wind bracing panel, etc., 2/16/1927 (2 copies)
12	--	#27: Plan of tower floor levels, 2/16/1927 (2 copies)
		Series 8: Holy Rosary School Architectural Plans (in tubes)
13	--	#1: First floor plan, 2/28/1938
13	--	#2: Second floor plan, 2/28/1938
13	--	#3: Third floor plan, 2/28/1938
13	--	#4: Cross section and south elevation, 2/28/1938
13	--	#5: West elevation, 2/28/1938
14	--	#1: Basement floor plan, 6/1/1938
14	--	#2: First floor plan, 6/1/1938
14	--	#3: Second floor plan, 6/1/1938
14	--	#4: North and south elevations, 6/1/1938
14	--	#5: West elevation, 6/1/1938
14	--	#6: East elevation, 6/1/1938
14	--	#7: Cross section "A-A," "B-B," "C-C", 6/1/1938
14	--	#8: Sections "D-D" and "E-E", 6/1/1938
15	--	#9: Longitudinal section, 6/1/1938
15	--	#10: Door details, 6/1/1938
15	--	#11: Window schedules and details, 6/1/1938

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15	--	#12: Details of exterior, 6/1/1938
15	--	#13: Wiring diagram, plot plan, 6/1/1938
15	--	#14: Heating diagrams, etc., 6/1/1938
15	--	#15: Foundation 1st floor framing, 6/1/1938
15	--	#16: 2nd floor and roof framing, 6/1/1938
		Series 9: Episcopal Residence and Chancery Architectural Plans (in tubes)
16	--	#0: Basement plan (heating only), 7/26/1912
16	--	#1: Basement plan, 7/26/1912 (2 copies)
16	--	#2: First floor plan, 7/26/1912
16	--	#3: Second floor plan, 7/26/1912
16	--	#4: Third floor plan, 7/26/1912
16	--	#5: Plan of roof, 7/26/1912
16	--	#6: Front elevation, 7/26/1912
17	--	#7: Right and left side elevation, 7/26/1912 (2 copies)
17	--	#8: Rear elevation, 7/26/1912 (2 copies)
17	--	#9: Details for all cupboards and casements, 7/26/1912 (2 copies)
17	--	#10: Elevations of fireplaces, 7/26/1912 (2 copies)
17	--	#11: Elevations of fireplaces, doors and stairs, 7/26/1912 (2 copies)
17	--	#12: Details of front view, 7/26/1912 (2 copies)
18	--	First floor plan (10" x 7 1/2"), n.d.
18	--	Second floor plan (9" x 7 1/2"), n.d.
18	--	Third floor plan (9 1/2" x 7 1/2"), n.d.
18	--	First floor plan (11" x 8 1/2"), n.d.
18	--	Second floor plan (11" x 8 1/2"), n.d.
18	--	Third floor plan (11" x 8 1/2"), n.d.
18	--	Basement plan, n.d.
18	--	First floor plan (16" x 12"), n.d.
18	--	Second floor plan (16" x 12"), n.d.
18	--	Third floor plan (16" x 12"), n.d.
18	--	Front elevation, n.d.
18	--	Rear elevation, n.d.
18	--	East elevation, n.d.
18	--	West elevation, n.d.
18	--	#100: 1/8" layout and 1/2" detail of sidewalk, 2/19/1926 (2 copies)
18	--	Elevation of arcades, 8/20/1915 (2 copies)
18	--	G1: Basement plan, 1/23/1926
18	--	#1: East elevation on linen, 2/11/1927
18	--	#2: North elevation on linen, 2/14/1927
18	--	#3: Front view with landscaping on linen, 2/16/1927
18	--	West elevation, 2/16/1927
19	--	First floor plan on tissue, n.d.
19	--	Second floor plan on tissue, n.d.
19	--	Front elevation on tissue, n.d.

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19	--	Right and left side elevation, n.d.
19	--	#2: 3/4" scale detail capitals, bases, and brackets, 8/25/1915
19	--	#10: Proposed alterations to chancery office, 1946
19	--	Chancery gutter, 10/15/1949
		Series 10: St Francis DeSales Cathedral School Architectural Plans (in tubes)
20	--	#2: Basement plan, Feb. 1913
20	--	#3: First floor plan, Feb. 1913
21	--	#4: Second floor plan, Feb. 1913
21	--	#5: Third floor plan, Feb. 1913
22	--	#6: Roof plan, Feb. 1913
22	--	#7: Front and rear elevation, Feb. 1913
23	--	#8: Left side elevation, Feb. 1913
23	--	#9: Right side elevation, Feb. 1913
24	--	#10: Longitudinal section, Feb. 1913
24	--	#11: Cross section and plan of mullion, Feb. 1913
25	--	#12: First floor framing, Feb. 1913
25	--	#13: Second floor framing, Feb. 1913
26	--	#14: Third floor framing, Feb. 1913
26	--	#15: Roof framing, Feb. 1913
26	--	#16: Column schedule, Feb. 1913
		Series 11: Priest's House Architectural Plans (in tube)
27	--	#1: Plan of basement, 7/24/1920
27	--	#2: Plan of first floor, 7/24/1920
27	--	#3: Plan of second floor, 7/24/1920
27	--	#1: Plan of basement on tissue, 7/24/1920
27	--	#2 Plan of first floor on tissue, 7/24/1920
27	--	#3: Plan of second floor on tissue, 7/24/1920

* = located in oversize folder in Annex drawer 6