

∞ The Ward M. Canaday Center ∞
for Special Collections
The University of Toledo

Finding Aid

➤ **Ted J. Ligibel Collection, 1906-94** ◀

(Bulk dates: 1985-94)

MSS-087

Size: 6 linear feet

Provenance: Received from Ted J. Ligibel, former research associate of the Urban Affairs Center, University of Toledo on February 14, 1995.

Access: Open with the exception of folders 41-43 of box 1. These closed files have been removed from the collection. Written permission must be made to the Director of the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections.

Collection Summary: Papers include course materials on various classes taught by Ligibel, including Architectural Regionalism; Historic Preservation Planning; Historic Resources Survey; and Urban Visual History Planning. Also included are materials related to various committees on which he served, newspaper clippings, student papers, and subject files devoted to issues of particular interest to Ligibel.

Subject(s): [Architecture](#), [Civic Interests](#), and [Education & Schools](#)

Related Collections: Ted Ligibel Historical Glass Collection, MSS-207

Processing Note:

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Completed by: Sandra L. DuVal Bell, February 20, 1997; revised and reformatted by Tamara Jones, September 2016

Ted J. Ligibel
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Biographical Sketch

Ted J. Ligibel was born in 1949. He is a descendant of early northwest Ohio settlers, the Machen family, for whom a street near Scott High School is named. Ligibel grew up with a landmark in the family. A. Rensch & Co., importers, has been using the same building on 607 Monroe Street since 1882. The firm, run by Ligibel's mother, has belonged to her family for over a century.

Ligibel received a Bachelor of Science degree in human ecology and anthropology from the University College at the University of Toledo in 1972. Ligibel began his historical preservation career in 1974 when he joined the Maumee Valley Historical Society, where he worked in the landmarks committee. He was chairman of that committee until 1984.

Ligibel continued his education at Bowling Green State University, where he received his Master of Arts degree in American Studies in 1981. While pursuing his M.A, he served northwest Ohio as a state historical preservation officer. He first became well-known locally during this time, as he fought the demolition of historic downtown Toledo buildings. He held the post from 1976 to 1982. After budget cuts eliminated funding for the preservation officer position, Ligibel oversaw historic acquisitions for the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library and helped write two books: *Lights Along the River*, which is an architectural guide to the Maumee River Valley, and *Island Heritage - A Guided Tour to Lake Erie's Bass Islands*.

Ligibel came to the University of Toledo in 1986 and assumed the position of research associate in historic preservation and resource planning with the University's Urban Resource Center. Ligibel's post was funded by UT, under contract with the City of Toledo, as part of a project in which Ligibel developed curriculum materials in historic preservation. Furthermore, Ligibel assisted the city's community development department in identifying and documenting historic buildings in Toledo neighborhoods. In late 1985, Ligibel further took on instructing duties in the University of Toledo's history and geography and planning departments, and took the post of research associate at the University's Urban Affairs Center.

While at the University of Toledo, Ligibel conducted numerous studies and architectural inventories of homes, buildings, churches and landmarks of the city. He also gave numerous talks and walking tours of UT's campus, and held seminars concerning the University and the surrounding Toledo area. In particular, Ligibel gave a series of free public lectures on the role of historic preservation in the revitalization of downtown areas.

It was not until the mid-1980s, however, that community leaders listened to Ligibel's pleas to save downtown landmarks. In the 1970s and early 1980s, during a period when Toledo was in a rush to revitalize an ailing downtown, Ligibel fought unsuccessfully to save more than a dozen historic structures from the wrecking ball. Ligibel was particularly noted for his studies of the city's working-class areas. This was indicative of his commitment to broad based preservation.

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Furthermore, Ligibel's theories on urban preservation won him growing respect within the national preservation movement. He has been asked to serve on key committees for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. When the trust held its 1991 convention, Ligibel led discussions regarding the twenty-fifth anniversary of the national Historic Preservation Act. Also, Ligibel was one of the principal organizers of the Historic Neighborhood Council (HNC), which was formed in 1988 to develop a "blueprint" for preservation activities in Toledo's historic neighborhoods. As Ohio adviser to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Ligibel worked to nominate the homes for the National Register of Historic Places.

Ligibel received recognition for his accomplishments. Former mayor Harry Kessler nominated Ligibel for an award from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments. In 1987, Ligibel was awarded the Chairman Emeritus Award from the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, recognizing contributions to community development through his activities in historic preservation. In 1989, Ligibel received one of the eight public education and awareness awards from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio Historical Society, in recognition of his role in increasing public awareness of the importance of preserving the historic and architectural resources of Toledo and Northwest Ohio. In addition, *The Blade* invited Ligibel to write a series of articles on historic buildings.

In September of 1991, Ligibel, Toledo's leading preservationist, left the University of Toledo to become an associate professor of historic preservation at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

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Scope and Content Note

The *Ted J. Ligibel Collection* contains two series. These series comprise of **Personal Papers** and **Printed Materials**.

The **Personal Papers Series** contains syllabi and required class assignments instructed by Ted Ligibel, and is further divided into four subseries: Classes, Committees, Conferences, and Interests. (Box 1) Adult Liberal Studies, Architectural Regionalism, Historic Preservation Planning, Historic Resource Survey and Urban Visual History Planning are all courses that Ligibel taught. In his 1989 Historic Resource Survey Planning course, the class produced Historic Resource Surveys and Developmental Reports for three historic areas in Toledo, namely the Warehouse District, the Historic South Side and East Toledo. In his Urban Visual History Planning course, Ligibel had his students conduct a Historic Resource Inventory of structures in Birmingham. His inventories helped residents, community leaders, and city officials establish priorities for restoring and preserving the area's historic buildings.

Also included in this series are personal papers concerning committees, conferences and interests. Ligibel participated in committees such as Family Service of Northwest Ohio and Image 2000 Design which contain pamphlets, brochures and reports. Ligibel was also part of the National Docent Symposium Conference held at the Toledo Museum of Art. Particular interests of Ligibel's include materials pertaining to the Bicentennial Celebration, in which Ligibel took an active role in local celebration activities, and Junior Achievement, where Ligibel was on the selection committee of the Northwestern Ohio Business Hall of fame selection committee. (Box 1)

The rest of the collection is composed of the series **Printed Materials**, which are organized by the sub-series of news clippings and student papers.

Newspaper clippings, both original and photocopied, comprise of a large part of this collection. Clippings date from 1906 to 1994 and particularly deal with specific buildings and individuals in Toledo, Ohio. Newspaper clippings are organized by location or region in Toledo and the surrounding area. (Boxes 1-3) The clippings subseries contain the Toledo Magazine, which features an article written by Ligibel. (Box 1)

Student papers also are organized by location. This subseries contains reports students completed in Ligibel's classes. The reports focus on various architecture in Toledo and the surrounding area. Some of these papers are accompanied with Ohio Historic Inventories (OHIs) and include attached pictures of the structures students researched. (Boxes 3 and 4) Notably, favorite places for students to examine were areas such as Downtown Toledo, Old Orchard, the Old West End, and the West Side.

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Folder List

Box	Folder	Item
		SERIES 1: PERSONAL PAPERS
		Subseries A: Classes
1	1	Adult Liberal Studies, 1986-1988
1	2	Architectural Regionalism, 1987
1	3	Architectural Regionalism, 1988
1	4	Architectural Regionalism, 1988
1	5	Historic Preservation Planning, 1986
1	6	Historic Preservation Planning, 1986
1	7	Historic Preservation Planning, 1987
1	8	Historic Preservation Planning, 1987
1	9	Historic Preservation Planning, 1987
1	10	Historic Preservation Planning, 1988
1	11	Historic Preservation Planning, 1989
1	12	Historic Preservation Planning, 1990
1	13	Historic Preservation Planning, 1991
1	14	Historic Resource Survey, 1987
1	15	Historic Resource Survey, 1988
1	16	Historic Resource Survey, 1989
1	17	Historic Resource Survey, 1990
1	18	Historic Resource Survey, 1991
1	19	Overheads (Indian Hills & Individual)
1	20	Urban Visual History Planning, 1986
		Subseries B: Committees
1	21	Family Service of Northwest Ohio, 1989-1990
1	22	Image 2000 Design, 1990
1	23	Image 2000 Design, 1990-1991
		Subseries C: Conferences
1	24	National Docent Symposium, 1986-1987
		Subseries D: Interests
1	25	Bicentennial Celebration, 1986
1	26	Bicentennial Celebration, 1986
1	27	Bicentennial Celebration, 1987
1	28	Bicentennial Celebration, 1987-1988
1	29	Five Points Association, 1990
1	30	Junior Achievement, 1987
1	31	Junior Achievement, 1988
1	32	Junior Achievement, 1989

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		SERIES 2: PRINTED MATERIALS
		Subseries A: Clippings
1	33	Toledo Magazine Article Written by Ligibel, 1990
1	34	Beaches, 1906-1910
1	35	Bedford Township, 1994
1	36	Bowling Green, 1984
1	37	Bridges, 1906-1988
1	38	Buildings, 1906-1989
1	39	Buildings, 1906-1990
1	40	Buildings, 1991-1994
1	41	Closed File (Removed to Range 4)
1	42	Closed File (Removed to Range 4)
1	43	Closed File (Removed to Range 4)
2	1	Buildings – Downtown Toledo
2	2	Buildings – Downtown Toledo
2	3	Buildings – Downtown Toledo
2	4	Building Permits
2	5	Central Toledo, 1990 – Milburn Hotel
2	6	Churches
2	7	Construction
2	8	Dixon Block
2	9	Downtown Toledo
2	10	Downtown Toledo
2	11	Downtown Toledo
2	12	Downtown Toledo – Birckhead Place
2	13	Downtown Toledo – Valentine Theater
2	14	Downtown Toledo – Vistula
2	15	Downtown Toledo – Vistula
2	16	East Bay Shore
2	17	East Toledo
2	18	East Toledo
2	19	East Toledo – Birmingham
2	20	East Toledo – Ironville
2	21	Fayette, Ohio
2	22	Fremont, Ohio
2	23	Grand Rapids, Ohio
2	24	Henry County – Hamler, Ohio
2	25	Holland, Ohio
2	26	Hospitals
2	27	Indian Hills
2	28	Indian Hills
2	29	Individuals
2	30	Individuals
2	31	Infrastructure
2	32	Libraries

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2	33	Lima, Ohio
2	34	Lyons, Ohio
2	35	Maumee
2	36	Monclova
2	37	Neighborhood Housing Services
2	38	North Toledo
2	39	North Toledo – Lagrange
2	40	North Toledo – Manhattan
2	41	Northwood
2	42	Old Orchard – Hopewell
2	43	Old Orchard
2	44	Old South End
2	45	Old West End
2	46	Old West End
2	47	Old West End
2	48	Old West End
2	49	Old West End
2	50	Oregon
2	51	Ottawa Hills
2	52	Parks
2	53	Perrysburg
2	54	Point Place
2	55	Railway
2	56	Real Estate Gen. Tax Inquiry
2	57	Rossford
2	58	Schools
2	59	South Toledo
2	60	Spencer Township
2	61	Springfield
2	62	Suburbs
2	63	Sylvania
2	64	Sylvania
3	1	Tiffin
3	2	Toledo, City of
3	3	Uptown
3	4	Warehouse District
3	5	Warehouse District
3	6	Warren-Sherman, 1989
3	7	Waterville
3	8	Westmoreland
3	9	West Toledo
3	10	West Toledo
3	11	West Toledo – Ottawa Park
3	12	West Toledo – Ottawa Park
3	13	West Toledo – University of Toledo

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3	14	Whitehouse
3	15	Wood County
		Subseries B: Student Papers
3	16	Adrian, Michigan, 1988
3	17	Architecture, 1987
3	18	Architecture, 1988
3	19	Art Deco, 1988
3	20	Bancroft Hills, 1991
3	21	Bancroft Hills
3	22	Blissfield, Michigan, 1988
3	23	Bowling Green, 1987
3	24	Bridges
3	25	Clubhouses
3	26	Columbus, Ohio
3	27	Curtice, Ohio, 1987
3	28	Downtown Toledo
3	29	Downtown Toledo
3	30	Downtown Toledo
3	31	Downtown Toledo
3	32	Downtown Toledo – St. Pat
3	33	Downtown Toledo – Boyer
3	34	Downtown Toledo – Valentine
3	35	Downtown Toledo – Vistula
3	36	Downtown Toledo – YWCA
3	37	Dundee, Michigan, 1991
3	38	East Toledo
3	39	East Toledo
3	40	East Toledo – 1987-1988
3	41	East Toledo – Weber Block
3	42	Fast Food Restaurants, 1988
3	43	Fire Station, 1988
3	44	Frank Lloyd Wright, 1988
3	45	Grand Rapids
3	46	Grand Rapids, 1990
3	47	Harvard Terrace, 1987
3	48	Indian Hills, 1990
3	49	Indian Hills, 1991
3	50	Lambertville, MI, 1986-1990
4	1	Manhattan, 1990
4	2	Marblehead, Ohio, 1988
4	3	Marion, Ohio, 1987
4	4	Maumee, 1987-1990
4	5	Maumee, 1991
4	6	Maumee Valley, 1978-1988

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4	7	Maumee Valley, 1988
4	8	Maumee Valley, 1988
4	9	Maumee Valley (photos)
4	10	Monroe, Michigan, 1986-1988
4	11	North Toledo, 1987
4	12	North Toledo – Manhattan
4	13	Old Orchard, 1987
4	14	Old Orchard
4	15	Old Orchard, 1991
4	16	Old Orchard
4	17	Old West End, 1972-1987
4	18	Old West End, 1987
4	19	Old West End, 1987-1989
4	20	Old West End, 1989-1990
4	21	Oregon, Ohio
4	22	Ottawa County, 1990
4	23	Perrysburg, 1986-1989
4	24	Perrysburg, 1990
4	25	Providence Township
4	26	Railway – Toledo, Angola & Western
4	27	Sandusky, Ohio
4	28	Schools
4	29	South Toledo – Lenk’s Hill
4	30	Swanton \ Whitehouse
4	31	Sylvania, 1986-1989
4	32	Sylvania
4	33	Texas, Ohio, 1990
4	34	Warehouse District, 1987-1989
4	35	Waterville
4	36	Wauseon
4	37	West Toledo, 1987
4	38	West Toledo – Firefighters Museum, 1987
4	39	West Toledo, 1991
4	40	West Toledo – University of Toledo
4	41	Westmoreland, 1987
4	42	Wood County, Ohio – Perry Township, 1987
4	43	Wyoming – Yellowstone National Park, 1989