

Theophilus P. Chandler, 1845-1928

A Finding Aid for
Architectural Drawings and Photographs, 1878-1916,
in
The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania

Archival Description

Descriptive Summary

- Title: Architectural drawings and photographs, 1878-1916.
- Coll. ID: 082
- Origin: Theophilus P. Chandler, 1845-1928, architect.
- Extent: Architectural drawings: 129 sheets (112 originals, 17 prints);
Photographs: 31 photoprints;
Printed materials: 4 items.
- Repository: The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania
102 Meyerson Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-6311
(215) 898-8323
- Abstract: The bulk of the collection comprises architectural drawings and photographs related to 19 projects by Theophilus P. Chandler and 1 project for Chandler as client. Some projects are notable for personal associations in Chandler's life. The collection also contains a small number of personal photographs and travel sketches. It contains no office files, correspondence or materials related to architectural education. All holdings related to Chandler's commissions for the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Co. are found in the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Collection.
- Indexes: This collection is included in the Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Project, a searchable database of architectural research materials related to architects and architecture in Philadelphia and surrounding regions:
<http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org>
- Cataloging: Collection-level records for materials in the Architectural Archives may be found in RLIN Eureka, the union catalogue of members of the Research Libraries Group. The record number for this collection is PAUP01-A9.

Biographical/Historical Sketch

Theophilus P. Chandler was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He studied one year at Harvard University and later at the Atelier Vaudremer in Paris. He worked in Boston architectural offices until 1872 when he established his own office in Philadelphia. There, family connections helped him to obtain important residential commissions in the region. He is known for his designs for large private houses and churches, but his projects also included housing developments with other architects and developers, speculative houses on his own properties, railroad stations and office buildings for railroad companies that served the rapidly growing suburbs of the region.

Chandler was a leader in architectural education in Philadelphia in the latter part of the nineteenth century. He taught at the Spring Garden Institute in Philadelphia and served on its Board of Trustees. As president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the AIA, he was instrumental in founding the Department of Architecture within the University of Pennsylvania's Towne Scientific School in an effort to reshape the profession in the region. Chandler served as the Department's executive head in 1890-1891.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains architectural drawings, photographs and a few printed items related to nineteen projects by Theophilus P. Chandler and one project for Chandler as client. Projects include residential, ecclesiastical and commercial structures and one mechanical invention, a cable car intended to carry freight and passengers. A number of projects represented are notable for personal associations in Chandler's life, e.g. Chandler's designs for his own country residence at Ithan, Pennsylvania, and his housing development nearby. The collection holds 44 architectural drawings for Chandler's home at Ithan, and a small number of drawings for alterations to his city house and to his office in Philadelphia. Also found is group of drawings and photographs related to several contiguous farms in Chester County, Pennsylvania, which may have been family properties.

The housing developments represented in this collection (at Sharon Hill and at Radnor, both in Delaware County, Pennsylvania) are noteworthy in that Chandler was landowner, housing developer and architect. One house in this collection (at Sharon Hill) was designed for Chandler by another architect, J. Harris Reed of Beverly, New Jersey. There are no materials related to Chandler's collaborations with Robert Copeland in the development of Ridley Park.

The collection contains original drawings for Tabernacle Presbyterian Church in West Philadelphia and prints for St. Peter's Church Parish House, in Germantown. Also found are two modern blueprints made from Chandler's 1889 competition design for the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

Personal materials include a portrait photograph of Chandler by William Shewell Ellis of Philadelphia and five less formal outdoor photographs, two labeled "Uncle Thorf" and one labeled "Pa Chandler." Notable also are two travel sketches, a watercolor and gouache rendering of the interior of Salisbury Cathedral (signed "TPC" and dated 1912) and a watercolor view of a lake (signed "TPC" and dated August 22, 1892).

The collection contains no office records and no correspondence. Nor does it contain any materials related to the University of Pennsylvania or any of Chandler's other work in architectural education. All holdings related to Chandler's commissions for the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Co. are found in the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Collection.

The collection is arranged in two series:

- I. Large-format Materials.
- II. Smaller Materials

A full index to projects represented in this collection is found in Appendix A.

Access Points for Indexing (Controlled Vocabulary)

Chandler, Theophilus P. (Theophilus Parsons), 1845-1928.
Architects -- Archives.
Architectural design -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
Architectural design -- History -- 20th century -- Sources.
Architectural drawing -- United States.
Architecture, Modern -- 19th century -- United States -- Designs and plans.
Architecture, Modern -- 20th century -- United States -- Designs and plans.
Architecture, Domestic -- Philadelphia Region (Pa.) -- Designs and plans.
Architects and Housing Developers.
Philadelphia (Pa.) Suburban Area.
Philadelphia (Pa.) -- Buildings, structures, etc -- History -- Sources.

Genre:

Architectural drawings -- American.
Photographs.

Other Contributors:

Reed, J. Harris.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: This collection is available for research by appointment only.

Preferred citation: Theophilus P. Chandler Collection, The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania.

Acquisition: The bulk of the collection was purchased by G. Holmes Perkins in 1978 and donated to the Rare Book Room of the Fine Arts Library, University of Pennsylvania. The collection was transferred to the Architectural Archives in two groups, in 1983 and 1988 respectively. Additional material was donated by Coxe Associates in 1978, Mrs. Francis James Dallett in 1984, Andropogon Associates, Ltd. in 1987, and Tabernacle Presbyterian Church (through S. Jonathan Bugbee) in 2001.

Processing: The collection was processed and the finding aid prepared by William Whitaker, Emily Cooperman, Laura Stroffolino and Nancy Thorne, with the research assistance of Matthew Pisarski, Julie Dunn, Lynette Stuhlmacher, Bryn Owen, and Suzanne Kortz. Work was substantially completed in 2001, with additions and corrections in 2003.

Container list

Series I. Large-format Materials.

Call#	Descriptive Title
082.1	Houses at Sharon Hill, 17 architectural drawings (16 originals, 1 print)
082.2	Development houses at Radnor for T. P. Chandler, 18 architectural drawings (15 originals, 3 prints),
082.3	House at Radnor for T. P. Chandler, 9 architectural drawings (8 originals, 1 print),
082.4	Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, 3 architectural drawings (originals)
082.5	Parish House for St. Peter's Church, 2 architectural drawings (prints)
082.6	Cathedral of St. John the Divine, competition drawings, 2 architectural drawings (modern blueprints)
082.7	Proposed additions to Independence Hall, 1 lithographic print
082.8	Miscellaneous and unidentified projects, 6 architectural drawings (originals); 1 photoprint; 3 printed items
082.9	House for Theophilus P. Chandler, 23 architectural drawings (18 originals, 5 prints)
082.10	House for Theophilus P. Chandler (details), 21 architectural drawings (originals)
082.11	Alterations to Chandler's residence and Chandler's office, 9 architectural drawings (originals)
082.12	Laurel property, 17 architectural drawings (15 originals, 2 prints); 17 photoprints
082.13	Personal, 2 drawings (originals); one photoprint

Series II. Smaller Materials.

082.14	Unidentified house, 1 architectural drawing (original)
082.15	Baltzley House, 3 photoprints
082.16	Pa-taw-o-meck Cafe, 3 photoprints
082.17	Personal photographs, 5 photoprints
082.18	Portrait photograph of Chandler, 2 photoprints

Appendix A

Project Index

Note: Projects are listed in chronological order, followed by projects for which a date is not available. All projects are by Theophilus Parsons Chandler unless otherwise indicated.

Proposed Additions to Independence Hall

Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1878

description: proposed additions of fireproof wings

typology: public building

date: 1878

holdings:

[082.7] 1 lithographic print

Mrs. Charles Taylor House

Caryl Lane, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1885

description: Large single family dwelling, wood frame on stone base, five story including two floors within base.

note: Published in *L'art*, n.d. Gift of Andropogon Associates Ltd.

typology: single family dwelling

date: built 1880

holdings:

[082.8] 1 printed item (published perspective drawing)

Tabernacle Presbyterian Church

3700 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1884

note: Gift of Jonathan Bugbee

typology: church

date: 1884

holdings:

[082.4] 3 architectural drawings (originals)

Cathedral of St. John the Divine Competition

New York, NY, 1887

note: 1978 prints of an original 1887 competition drawing held by the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, 2 copies of 1 drawing. Gift of Coxe Associates, 1978.

typology: church

date: 1887

holdings:

[082.6] 2 architectural drawings (recent prints)

Gate in Barnyard for Mr. Rudolph Ellis

Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, 1889

description: wood barnyard gate, metal hinges

typology: gate

date: May 7, 1889

holdings:

[082.8] 1 architectural drawing (original)

Residence for Mr. & Mrs. E. Baltzley

Glen Echo, Maryland

date: photographed ca. 1893

typology: single family dwelling

holdings:

[082.15] 3 photoprints

House for Theophilus P. Chandler

Sproul Road [Radnor and Chester Road], Ithan, Radnor Township, Pennsylvania, 1890-1906

note: Also known as Ithan Farm or Ithan Farms

description: large, single family home, large site with barn and garden, load-bearing walls, wood framing

typology: dwelling, barn, stable

span dates: October 28, 1890 - April 6, 1906

holdings:

[082.9-082.10] 44 architectural drawings (39 originals, 5 prints)

Houses at Sharon Hill

Woodland Avenue, Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania, 1894-1905

description: 5 single family residences: 3 row houses, 2 free standing; possible sixth house on a different site; bearing wall, wood frame construction

typology: dwellings

span dates: November 7, 1894 - October 5, 1905

holdings:

[082.1] 14 architectural drawings (13 originals, 1 print)

Alterations for the Residence of T. P. Chandler

249 S. 16th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1895

description: wainscot detail in vestibule, newel post details, vestibule door: 7'3", parlor plan and elevations, sketch of facade windows

typology: alterations

date: October 21, 1895

holdings:

[082.11] 5 architectural drawings (originals)

Bookcases for office of T. P. Chandler

328 Chestnut, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1897-1900

description: wood bookcase, freestanding, 13-14 feet tall

typology: furniture

span dates: December 24, 1897 - February 5, 1900

holdings:

[082.11] 3 architectural drawings (originals)

Parish House for St. Peter's Church

6000 Wayne Avenue, Germantown, Pennsylvania, 1898

description: parish house, 3 stories, Gothic, 64 x 32 footprint, load bearing construction, steel floor

note: Gift of Mrs. Francis James Dallett.

typology: religious building

date: April 27, 1898

holdings:

[082.5] 2 architectural drawings (prints)

"Laurel" Property

Townships of Newlin, East Fallowfield and West Marlborough, Pennsylvania, 1900-1906

description: topographical map of full estate, individual farms, drawings and photos.

note: Near Coatesville, at Laurel Station of Wilmington and Northern Railroad. Includes Homestead Farm, Highbrow Farm, Rosehill Farm and other unnamed properties. One map is labeled "Estate of Louisa Dupont." Some drawings are labeled "Property of Theophilus P. Chandler."

typology: topographical

span dates: October 31, 1900 - March 22, 1906

holdings: 15 drawings, 2 prints, 17 photos

[082.12] 17 architectural drawings (15 originals, 2 prints); 17 photoprints

Development Houses at Radnor for Theophilus P. Chandler

Radnor Avenue, Radnor, Pennsylvania, 1904-1912

description: lot plan, 3 story house w/ porch & back addition; 2 story L-shaped cottage; 3 story house-15 rooms; 2 story square house; 3 story "castle house"; 2 story rectangular house, load-bearing construction, wood frame

typology: dwelling

span dates: March 21, 1904 - August 27, 1912

holdings:

[082.2] 18 architectural drawings (15 originals, 3 prints)

House at Radnor for Theophilus P. Chandler

Radnor Avenue, Radnor, Pennsylvania, 1907

description: 3 story residence plus cellar, 6 chambers, sitting room, parlor, library, kitchen cellar (11 rooms) L-shape: 27'4" x 14'8" and 14'8" x 17'11" (enclosed area), covered at porch entrance, load bearing wall

typology: dwelling

span dates: October 10, 1907 - December 11, 1907

holdings:

[082.3] 9 architectural drawings (8 originals, 1 print)

Iron Gate

249 S. 16th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1916

description: Wrought iron gate, 7 x 5'-7" (h x w)

typology: gate

date: March 6, 1916

holdings:

[082.11] 1 architectural drawing (original)

Undated Projects**Addition to an Unidentified House**

Unknown location

description: 2-story addition to an existing 18th or early 19th century vernacular farmhouse including interior alterations to existing structure, 20'x50' footprint, bearing wall, stone

typology: dwelling

date: n.d.

holdings:

[082.8] 1 architectural drawing (original)

Chandler's Elevated Wire Road

Unknown location

description: gondola-like transportation system for people and goods

typology: cable structure

date: n.d.

holdings:

[082.8] 2 architectural drawings (original), 1 photoprint, 2 printed items

Design for a Bridge

Unknown location

description: arched masonry bridge, 17' span, stone

typology: bridge

date: n.d.

holdings:

[082.8] 1 architectural drawing (original)

House for Theophilus P. Chandler, Jr.

Sharon Hill, Delaware County, Pennsylvania

note: J. Harris Reed, architect. Beverly, New Jersey.

description: single family residence; bearing wall, wood frame construction

typology: dwelling

date: n.d.

holdings:

[082.1] 3 architectural drawings (original)

Pa-taw-o-meck Cafe

client: E. Baltzley

Glen Echo, Maryland

note: Destroyed by fire.

typology: hotel/resort

date: n.d.

holdings:

[082.16] 3 photoprints

Sketches for an Unidentified House

Unknown location

description: 3-story Georgian Revival house, entrance portico: 4 columns, Palladian and thermal windows

typology: single family dwelling

date: n.d.

holdings:

[082.8] 1 architectural drawing (original)

Unidentified Building

Unknown location

description: 4-story rectangular building with attached turret. Veranda extends from ground floor over the water with symmetrical gazebos on either side of veranda.

date: n.d.

holdings:

[082.14] 1 architectural drawing (original)