



THE ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVES  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

MINERVA PARKER COLLECTION

Minerva Parker Nichols, ca. 1861-1949

A Finding Aid for  
Architectural Drawings for a Pair of Houses  
for M. and J. Campbell, ca. 1891,  
in  
The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania

## Archival Description

### Descriptive Summary

- Title: Architectural Drawings for a Pair of Houses for M. and J. Campbell, ca. 1891.
- Coll. ID: 100
- Origin: Minerva Parker Nichols, ca. 1861-1949, Architect.
- Extent: Architectural drawings 11 items  
Specifications 1 item
- Repository: The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania  
102 Meyerson Hall  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-6311  
(215) 898-8323
- Abstract: This collection comprises drawings and specifications for a single project, a twin dwelling.
- 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.philadelphiabuilding.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-A16

## **Biographical/Historical Sketch**

Minerva Parker Nichols was born ca. 1861 near Chicago, IL., daughter of Amanda Melvina Doane Parker and granddaughter of the architect-builder Seth Brown Doane. During her early years her mother worked as a very active assistant in Doane's architectural office, an experience which made a strong impression on her young mind. She studied architecture in Philadelphia at the Franklin Institute Drawings School (honorable mention, 1884-1885; certificate, 1886), and entered active practice in Philadelphia in 1888. During her first year of practice she worked in the office of Edwin W. Thorne and studied at the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Arts (1888-1889).

Minerva Parker was one of the first American female architects to establish a successful professional practice without entering into a partnership with a male architect. She also lectured in architecture and ornamental design at the Philadelphia School of Design for Women (later the Moore School of Art and Design). Fifty-three commissions are listed in the Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide between 1888 and 1893. Her professional practice specialized in residential architecture, and in addition she designed churches, schools, commercial buildings and women's clubs. She received national recognition by being selected to design the Queen Isabella Pavilion for the World's Columbian Exhibition in Chicago in 1893, but her design was not built.

In 1891 Minerva Parker married the Reverend William Ichabod Nichols. She continued active architectural practice until the birth of her first child in 1894, when she moved her office into her home and continued to practice on a more limited basis. After she and her husband moved to Brooklyn in 1896, she undertook only a small number of projects, primarily for friends and relatives.

## **Scope and Content Note**

This collection comprises drawings and specifications for a single project, a twin dwelling.

## **Access Points for Indexing (Controlled Vocabulary)**

Nichols, Minerva Parker, ca. 1861-1949.

Architects--Archives.

Architectural design--History--19th century--Sources.

Architectural drawing--United States.

Architecture, Modern--19th century--United States--Designs and plans.

Architecture, Domestic--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia--Designs and plans.

Philadelphia (Pa.)--Buildings, structures, etc--History--Sources.

Germantown (Philadelphia, Pa.)--Buildings, structures, etc--History--Sources.

Architectural drawings--American.

Specifications.

## **Administrative Information**

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

Preferred citation: Minerva Parker Collection, The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania.

Acquisition: Gift of Willman Spawn, 1997.

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 Jennifer Webb. Work was substantially completed in 2001, with additions and corrections in 2003.

## Container list

### Series I. Architectural Drawings and Specifications.

Extent: 11 architectural drawings, specifications.

Call#	Descriptive Title
100.1	Architectural Drawings for a Pair of Houses for M. and J. Campbell. 9 architectural drawings ( 1 original, 8 prints)
100.2	Specifications
100.3	Details, window frames. 1 architectural drawing (original) 32" x 28".
100.4	Detail of Dormers and Triple Window in Parlor. 1 architectural drawing (original) 40" x 22 1/2".

## Appendix A

### Project Index

#### Pair of Houses for M. and J. Campbell

Misses Mary and J. Campbell

417-419 School House Lane, Germantown, Philadelphia

holdings dates: ca. 1891

note/s: [Location confirmed by W. Whitaker, July 9, 2001.]

holdings:

[100.1] 9 architectural drawings ( 1 original, 8 prints)

[100.2] specifications

[100.3] 1 architectural drawing (original)

[100.4] 1 architectural drawing (original)