

Norman N. Rice, 1903-1985

A Finding Aid for
Architectural Records and Papers, 1920-1974,
in
The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania

Archival Description

Descriptive Summary

Title: Architectural Records and Papers, 1920-1974.

Coll. ID: 021

Origin: Norman N. Rice, 1903-1985, architect.

Extent: Architectural drawings 170 items;
Photographs 11 photoprints; 1 photonegative;
Miscellany 6 folders.

Repository: The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania
102 Meyerson Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-6311
(215) 898-8323

Abstract: The collection documents twelve professional architectural projects, 1931-1974. Rice's student drawings and notebook (1920-1924) and his 1972 retrospective notes listing his (and Louis I. Kahn's) studio professors offer insight into the training he and Kahn received at the University of Pennsylvania. The collection does not contain records of the Master's studio he co-taught with Kahn. The collection also contains Rice's travel sketches (1928-1929) and a brief memoir of his time working in the office of Le Corbusier (1929-1930). The collection contains no materials related to Rice's family nor any other materials unrelated to architecture.

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/pab>

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-A25

Biographical/Historical Sketch

Norman Rice was born in Philadelphia, and graduated from Central High School before earning a B. Arch. at the University of Pennsylvania in 1924. After graduation, he worked as a draftsman and designer with a number of Philadelphia firms. Rice left the city in 1928, and after traveling widely in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, worked in the Paris office of Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret between 1929 and 1930. He returned to Philadelphia in 1931 and joined the firm of Howe & Lescaze during the seminal PSFS Building project. In 1932, Rice established an independent practice in Philadelphia that lasted for some fifty years.

In the 1950s he taught at the Philadelphia Museum School of Art, and in 1963 he returned to the University of Pennsylvania to teach, continuing there until 1977. He made a substantial contribution to architectural education at the University of Pennsylvania through the Master's studio he co-taught with Louis I. Kahn, Robert Le Ricolais and August E. Komendant.

Scope and Content Note

This collection is the only archive of the architectural work of Norman Rice known to the staff of the Architectural Archives. The collection contains drawings for twelve professional projects, 1931-1974, four of which are also documented with photographs. Temple Beth Hillel (Wynnewood, PA) has the fullest documentation: design and presentation drawings, construction drawings, photographs, an office file, and structural calculations by August Komendant. The collection does not contain records for Rice's own house and studio on Fitler Square in Philadelphia nor for several other significant houses Rice designed in and around Philadelphia.

Rice was a lifelong friend of Louis I. Kahn, from their years as fellow students at Central High School and the University of Pennsylvania to their years teaching architectural design together at the University. Rice's student drawings and notebook (1920-1924) and his 1972 retrospective notes listing his (and Kahn's) studio professors offer insight into the training he and Kahn received at the University of Pennsylvania. The collection does not contain records of the Master's studio he co-taught with Kahn.

The collection also contains Rice's travel sketches (1928-1929) and a brief memoir of his time working in the office of Le Corbusier (1929-1930). The collection contains no materials related to Rice's family nor any other materials unrelated to architecture.

The collection is arranged in three series:

- I. Architectural Drawings.
- II. Photographs.
- III. Miscellany.

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

Access Points for Indexing

Rice, Norman N., 1903-1985.

Kahn, Louis I., 1901-1974.

Le Corbusier, 1887-1965.

University of Pennsylvania. Dept. of Architecture--History--Sources.

University of Pennsylvania. Graduate School of Fine Arts--History-- Sources.

Architects--Archives.

Architectural design--History--20th century--Sources.

Architectural drawing--United States.

Architecture, Modern--20th century--United States--Designs and plans.

Architectural design--Study and teaching--History--Sources.

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

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

Komendant, August E.

Architectural drawings--American.

Student drawings.

Administrative Information

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

Preferred citation: Norman N. Rice Collection, The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania.

Acquisition: Gift of Norman N. Rice, 1986.

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 Zhou Hong. Work was substantially completed in 2001, with additions and corrections in 2003.

Container list

Series I. Drawings.

Extent: 170 architectural drawings (143 originals, 27 prints).

Call#	Descriptive Title
[021.1]	<p>Studio Apartment Building; design drawing, 1931 (1 original).</p> <p>Unidentified project; presentation drawing 1931 (1 original).</p> <p>Ornstein Residence, alterations; design drawing, 2/24/1942 (1 original).</p> <p>War Memorial; presentation drawing, 1953 (1 original).</p> <p>Monument to Washington Crossing; design and presentation drawings, 9/25/1961 (2 originals).</p> <p>Unidentified playground; design drawing, 7/27/1965 (1 original).</p> <p>Rostrum in Rittenhouse Square; presentation drawing, 5/26/1969 (1 original).</p>
[021.2]	Temple Beth Hillel; design and presentation, 9/1962--5/4/1967 (55 originals, 1 print).
[021.3]	Temple Beth Hillel; construction drawings, 2/17/1965--1/30/1967 (32 originals, 2 prints).
[021.4]	Grover Cleveland Elementary School, additions and alterations; presentation and construction drawings, 9/8/1965--1/21/1966 (35 originals).
[021.5]	District Health Center #10; construction drawings, 9/20/1974 (24 prints).
[021.6]	<p>Student Work, University of Pennsylvania, 1920--1924</p> <p>An Early Christian Church (water color rendering)</p> <p>Untitled (A Chinese Horse, watercolor rendering)</p> <p>The Water Cope Memorial; 1924. (design competition)</p> <p>Untitled; 3/14/1923. (figure drawing)</p> <p>Untitled; 2/29/1924. (figure drawing)</p>
[021.7]	<p>Miscellaneous architectural drawings</p> <p>Stadium Night Club; presentation drawing, November 1932 (1 original).</p> <p>Whitehall Commons Playground; presentation drawing, 7/1/1958 (1 print).</p> <p>Browsing Alcove; design drawing, 2/9/1973 (1 original).</p> <p>Unidentified drawings (2 originals).</p>
[021.8]	<p>Travel sketches, 1928-29</p> <p>"Motif in Gardens, Taormina, Sicily"; 1928</p> <p>"Touggourt, Algeria"; 12/22/1928</p> <p>"Stairway in Gardens of Generalife, Granada, Spain"; 3/13/1929</p> <p>"Oloron-Ste.-Marie, France"; 4/8/1929</p>

Series II. Photoprints

Extent: 11 photoprints, 1 photonegative.

Call#	Descriptive Title
[021.9]	Whitehall Commons; building, undated (2 photoprints).
[021.9]	Unidentified playground; building, undated (2 photoprints). Note: Lawrence S. Williams, Inc. Photography.
[021.9]	Temple Beth Hillel; graphic, model, and site documentation photography, undated (2 photoprints, 1 negative).
[021.9]	Grover Cleveland Elementary School, additions and alterations; building, undated (5 photoprints). Note: Lawrence S. Williams, Inc. Photography.

Series III. Miscellany

Extent: 6 folders

Call#	Descriptive Title
[021.10]	Student work, University of Pennsylvania. Notebook; "Elements of Architecture"; 1920-1921.
[021.11]	Clippings, 1931-1932. "A Low Rental Apartment Group" from <i>Architectural Record</i> , December 1931. "Studio Apartment Building" from <i>Architectural Forum</i> , July 1932.
[021.12]	Typescript (possibly mimeographed), undated. "I Remember 35 Rue de Sevres", by Norman N. Rice (1 leaf). Note: Short memoir of his time working in the office of Le Corbusier, 1929-1930.
[021.13]	Letter, John M. Whitcomb to Norman N. Rice, 8/18/1972. Note: Letter is important for Rice's annotations listing the design critics of his classmate and colleague, Louis I. Kahn.
[021.14]	Temple Beth Hillel; miscellaneous project file, 1965-1966.
[021.15]	Temple Beth Hillel; structural computations by August Komendant, 8/20/1964 (21 sheets).

Appendix A

Project Index

Arrangement: In chronological order by holdings date.

Studio Apartment Building

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: 1931-1932

note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect.

holdings:

[021.1] design drawing, 1931 (1 original).

[021.11] "Studio Apartment Building" from *Architectural Forum*, July 1932.

Unidentified project

Unlocated

dates: 1931 [Note: Rice dated the drawing while framed. The mat and frame were subsequently removed for conservation reasons.]

note/s: Clauss - Daub - Rice [associated] architects

holdings:

[021.1] presentation drawing (1 original).

Stadium Night Club

Hotel Roosevelt

Madison Avenue at 45th Street, New York, New York

dates: November 1932

note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect. Note: project unbuilt.

holdings:

[021.7] presentation drawing (1 original).

Ornstein Residence, alterations

Ornstein, Dr. and Mrs. A. M.

2007 Delancey St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: Feb. 24, 1942

note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect - job#: 4126. Alterations included a carved lunette.

[021.1] design drawing, 2/24/1942 (1 original).

War Memorial

Central High School

1700 West Olney Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: 1953note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect.holdings:

[021.1] presentation drawing, 1953 (1 original).

Whitehall Commons Playground

City of Philadelphia, Department of Recreation

Tulip, Ditman and Wakeling Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: 7/1/1958note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect. Note: Designed and built "Ground-Free Bleachers"holdings:

[021.7] presentation drawing, 7/1/1958 (1 print).

[021.9] Whitehall Commons; building (2 photoprints).

Monument to Washington Crossing

Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: September 25, 1961note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect.holdings:

[021.1] design and presentation drawings, 9/25/1961 (2 originals).

Temple Beth Hillel

1001 Remington Road, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: June 11, 1962 -- May 4, 1967note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect -- job# 473. David Bloom Inc., Structural Engineers. George C. Lewis & Associates, Mechanical Engineers. James T. Clark, Electrical Engineer. Barton & Martin, Engineers. Thomas Matthew Moody, Engineersholdings:

[021.2] design and presentation, 9/1962--5/4/1967 (55 originals, 1 print).

[021.3] construction drawings, 2/17/1965--1/30/1967 (32 originals, 2 prints).

[021.9] graphic, model, and site documentation photography, undated (2 photoprints, 1 negative).

[021.14] miscellaneous project file, 1965-66.

[021.15] structural computations by August Komendant, 8/20/1964 (21 leaves).

Unidentified playground

Unlocated [possibly Whitehall Commons?]

holdings dates: July 27, 1965

note/s: Norman N. Rice, designer.

holdings:

[021.1] design drawing, 7/27/1965 (1 original).

[021.9] building, undated (2 photoprints). Note: Lawrence S. Williams, Inc. Photography.

Grover Cleveland Elementary School, additions and alterations

The Board of Public Education

3701 North 19th Street at Butler Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: September 8, 1965 -- January 21, 1966

note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect -- job# 496. David Bloom Inc., Structural Engineers. George C. Lewis & Associates, Mechanical Engineers. James T. Clark, Electrical Engineer.

holdings:

[021.4] presentation and construction drawings, 9/8/1965--1/21/1966 (35 originals).

[021.9] building, undated (5 photoprints). Note: Lawrence S. Williams, Inc. Photography.

Rostrum in Rittenhouse Square

Center City Residents Association

Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: May 26, 1969

note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect.

holdings:

[021.1] presentation drawing, 5/26/1969 (1 original).

District Health Center #10

City of Philadelphia

2230 Cottman Avenue at Bustleton Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: September 20, 1974

note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect -- job# 553. David Bloom Inc., Structural Engineers. Geo. C. Lewis & Associates, Mechanical Engineers. Donald F. Nardy & Associates Inc., Electrical Engineers.

holdings:

[021.5] construction drawings, 9/20/1974 (24 sepia prints).