

Charles Willing, 1884-1963

A Finding Aid for  
Architectural Records, 1905-1933,  
in  
The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania

## Archival Description

### Descriptive Summary

- Title: Architectural Records, 1905-1933.
- Coll. ID: 205
- Origin: Charles Willing, 1884-1963, architect.
- Extent: Drawings 3 items;  
Photographs 3 photoprints;  
Three-dimensional objects 1 item.
- Repository: The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania  
102 Meyerson Hall  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-6311  
(215) 898-8323
- Abstract: This collection comprises materials documenting aspects of the student, architectural and garden design work of Charles Willing of Willing, Sims & Talbutt, architects.
- 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-A30.

## **Biographical/Historical Sketch**

Charles Willing, senior partner of the firm of Willing, Sims & Talbutt, was born in Philadelphia, the son of George and Anna Shippen Willing. He attended Chestnut Hill Academy in the city before graduating from St. Paul's School in Concord, NH in 1902. Willing studied architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a B. S. Arch. in 1906. After graduation, he worked in the office of Brockie & Hastings for five years, and then joined the firm of Furness, Evans & Co., where he was named an associate before his departure. During World War I, Willing served as a first lieutenant in the Sanitary Corps, remodeling and building hospitals. At the close of the war he returned to Philadelphia, opening an architectural office in 1919 with another former associate from the Furness office, Joseph P. Sims, who had completed his degree at Penn shortly after Willing. Willing & Sims were joined in 1921 by James Talbutt, who had been a classmate of Willing's at Penn and also had been in the Furness office. Willing's interest and skill in landscape architecture played a significant role in the firm's success in domestic commissions for the region's elite in the period before World War II, and even led him into the development and marketing of a line of garden ornaments.

## **Scope and Content Note**

This collection comprises three groups of items that document aspects of the student, architectural and garden design work of Charles Willing (Willing, Sims & Talbutt, architects). These groups include: one example of Willing's student work from the University of Pennsylvania; three photographs of the Tyler Residence (one of the firm's most significant commissions); and a third group of items (two drawings and a cast concrete garden edge), prepared for an "Exhibit of Original Garden Ornament at Willing'swood," illustrating various garden ornaments for sale.

The collection contains no correspondence or accounts of Willing, Sims & Talbutt, no architectural drawings for the Tyler Residence and no architectural drawings for buildings at the Willing Residence (Willingswood).

The collection is arranged in three series:

- I. Drawings
- II. Photographs.
- III. Three-dimensional Objects.

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

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

Willing, Charles, 1884-1963.

Willing, Sims & Talbutt.

University of Pennsylvania. Dept. of Architecture--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.

Architecture, Domestic--Philadelphia (Pa.) Suburban Area.

Form/Genre:

Architectural drawings--American.

Photographs.

### **Administrative Information**

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

Preferred citation: Charles Willing Collection, The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania.

Acquisition: Gift of Edward Swain III, 1983, 1991.

Processing: The collection was processed and the finding aid prepared by William Whitaker, Emily Cooperman, Laura Stroffolino and Nancy Thorne. Work was substantially completed in 2001, with additions and corrections in 2003.

## Container list

### Series I. Drawings.

Extent: 3 items

Call#	Descriptive Title
[205.1]	Student work from the University of Pennsylvania; "Central Facade of a City Hall," ink and wash elevation, signed and dated April 14, 1905 (1 original; size 25 x 35 inches).
[205.2]	Willing Residence; Title page "Exhibit of Original Garden Ornament at Willing'swood", dated 1933 (1 original).
[205.3]	Willing Residence; Example page of various garden ornaments for sale. Vignettes with dimensions, costs, and ordering information, dated [1933] (1 original).

### Series II. Photographs.

Extent: 3 photoprints.

Call#	Descriptive Title
[205.4]	Tyler Residence; as-built photographs by Dana Barnes, undated (3 photographs).

### Series III. Three-dimensional Objects.

Extent: 1 item.

Call#	Descriptive Title
[205.5]	Willing Residence; Original cast cement garden ornament with scalloped crown, 10"H x 6"W. The design of ornament "flower bed edging" appears as the central vignette in item 205.3.

## Appendix A

### Alphabetical Project Index

#### **Tyler Residence (later Tyler Hall, Bucks County Community College)**

Tyler, George F.

275 Swamp Road, Newtown Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: undated

note/s: Built, 1930-1932, Willing, Sims & Talbutt. As-built photographs, Dana Barnes, photographer. One photograph has an exhibition label from the Architectural League of New York Annual Exhibition that identifies the project by location only, "Indian Council Rock, Newtown, Pennsylvania."

holdings:

[205.4] 3 photographs

#### **Willing Residence (Willingswood)**

Willing, Charles

154 Hillcrest Avenue, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: 1933

note/s: Built, 1925-1926, Willing, Sims & Talbutt. Title page "Exhibit of Original Garden Ornament at Willing'swood", dated 1933. Example page of various garden ornaments for sale. Vignettes with dimensions, costs, and ordering information. Original cast cement garden ornament with scalloped crown, 10"H x 6"W. The design of ornament "flower bed edging" appears as the central vignette in item 205.3.

holdings:

[205.2] 1 drawing.

[205.3] 1 drawing.

[205.5] 1 garden ornament