

Guide to the Jack O. Holmes collection, 1926-1978

Descriptive Summary

Title : Jack O. Holmes collection
Creator: Holmes, Jack Oliver (1905-1996)
Dates : 1926-1978
ID Number : H30
Size: 9 boxes
Language(s): English

Repository: Special & Digital Collections
University of South Florida Tampa Library
4202 East Fowler Ave., LIB122
Tampa, Florida 33620
Phone: 813-974-2731 - Fax: 813-396-9006
[Email Special & Digital Collections](#)

Administrative Summary

Provenance: Holmes, Jack Oliver, 1905-1996
Acquisition Information: Donated by Mary Fisher Holmes, widow of Jack Oliver Holmes.
Access Conditions: None. The contents of this collection may be subject to copyright. Visit the United States Copyright Office's website at <http://www.copyright.gov/> for more information.
Processing History: Complete; The Landmark Motor Lodge folder contains photographs of a palm tree that Holmes persistently argued to obtain. In the end, he won and planted the grouping of palms at the landmark motor lodge.
Preferred Citation: *Jack O. Holmes collection, Special Collections Department, Tampa Library, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida.*

Biographical Note

Jack Oliver Holmes was born in Sistersville, West Virginia in 1905. He came to Florida in 1923, starting as a nurseryman in the landscape industry. From 1923 -- 1928 he worked as architect in charge of landscapes for William F. Knull. In 1928, Holmes purchased Knull's landscape business and opened an office in Tampa, which he maintained until 1934. He played a large role in the development of Florida's landscaping industry. His collection of rare plants covered 30 acres, incorporated into a business in 1932 as Holmes Nursery. Holmes' career spanned from the Florida land boom of the 1920s to the 1990s. Jack Holmes studied plants and landscaping on trips around the world, always looking for rare plants. He is known for introducing various types of azaleas, philodendrons, double yellow hibiscus, red bougainvillea, and orchids to Florida. He designed landscaping for many prominent Florida attractions and businesses such as the University of South Florida's original landscaping, Busch Gardens, Cypress Gardens, the Tampa Electric Building, the Hillsborough County Court House, the WTVT building in Tampa, St Leo College, the People's Bank in Lakeland and many more. Holmes played an active role in his profession and the community until his death in 1996.

Scope Note

The collection contains materials documenting the career of Florida landscape architect Jack O. Holmes and consists of business records, landscape planting plans, photographs and slides of Holmes' work, schematic designs and specifications. The collection primarily consists of photographs divided into businesses and residences. Some of the photographs are mounted. Many of the photographs include hand written notes.

Arrangement Note: Organized into the following series: records, landscape planting plans, photographs, oversized, and slides. The flat boxes contain mounted photographs, schematic designs/specifications, and landscaping plans too large to fit in a document box.

Arrangement

Organized into the following series: records, landscape planting plans, photographs, oversized, and slides. The flat boxes contain mounted photographs, schematic designs/specifications, and landscaping plans too large to fit in a document box.

Subject Headings

Geographic Names: Florida
Hillsborough County (Fla.)
Subject Terms: Landscape architects

COLLECTION CONTENTS

Series 1 : Records

BOX 1

- FOLDER 1 : Certificates, licenses, and registration
- FOLDER 2 : Correspondence
- FOLDER 3 : Receipts
- FOLDER 4 : Research
- FOLDER 5 : Sketches
- FOLDER 6 : Newspaper Clippings
- FOLDER 7 : Publications- Better Holmes and Gardens Catalog
- FOLDER 8 : Publications- The Florida Nurseryman, June 1978

Series 2 : Landscape Planting Plans

BOX 1

- FOLDER 9 : Rick Michaels
- FOLDER 10 : Steve Ayers
- FOLDER 11 : First Baptist Church
- FOLDER 12 : Busch Gardens
- FOLDER 13 : Kennedy Center
- FOLDER 14 : Cypress Gardens
- FOLDER 15 : Hillsborough Community College

Series 3 : Photographs

Scope/Content: The numbers in the brackets represent the number of photograph contained in the individual folders listed.

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- FOLDER 17 : Busch Gardens (Part 1) [44]
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- FOLDER 19 : Busch Gardens (Part 3) [34]

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- FOLDER 1 : Busch Gardens (Part 4) [17]
- FOLDER 2 : Busch Gardens (Part 5) [3]
- FOLDER 3 : Busch Gardens (Part 6) [4]
- FOLDER 4 : Christian Medical [12]
- FOLDER 5 : Continental Can Company [12]

FOLDER 6 : Curtis Hixon Convention Center Exhibit [9]
FOLDER 7 : Duval Funeral Homes [12]

FOLDER 8 : Ferman Auto [4]
FOLDER 9 : First Federal Bank [3]
FOLDER 10 : First Financial Tower [11]
FOLDER 11 : First National Bank [8]
FOLDER 12 : Florida State Fair- Tampa Electric Company Exhibit (No Date) [7]
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FOLDER 14 : Florida State Fair Exhibit [6], 1966
FOLDER 15 : Florida State Fair Exhibit [2], 1967
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BOX 3

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FOLDER 3 : International Inn [13]
FOLDER 4 : Jim Walter Corporation (Part 1) [48]
FOLDER 5 : Jim Walter Corporation (Part 2) [4]
FOLDER 6 : John Burkes Dade City Plandscaping [8]
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FOLDER 8 : Kraft Foods Division Traffic Department [12]
FOLDER 9 : Landmark Motor Lodge [46]
FOLDER 10 : Lincoln Center [10]
FOLDER 11 : Methodist Church [2]
FOLDER 12 : Metropolitan Bank [6]
FOLDER 13 : Metropolitan Life Insurance (Part 1) [26]
FOLDER 14 : Metropolitan Life Insurance (Part 2) [4]
FOLDER 15 : Metropolitan Life Insurance (Part 3) [4]
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FOLDER 18 : Northside Bank [18]
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FOLDER 4 : Rocky Point Beach Motel [16]

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FOLDER 10 : Tampa Electric Company [19]
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Sub-Series : Landscape Planting Plans

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Sub-Series : Photographs, 1955-1978

Scope/Content: The numbers in the brackets represent the number of photographs contained in the individual folders listed.

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- FOLDER 1 : Temple Schaarai Zedek [2]
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ITEM : Howard Franklin House

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ITEM : People's Bank of Lakeland

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ITEM : Sam and Molly Farrar

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ITEM : Forum Office Building

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Sub-Series : Oversized Photographs and Slides, 1927-1926

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ITEM : Photographs - Society of American Florists and Ornamental Horticulturalists, 1926

ITEM : Slides- Bush Gardens [9]

ITEM : Slides - Dr. Akey [14]

ITEM : Slides - First Financial Tower [6]

ITEM : Slides - Lincoln Center [37]

ITEM : Slides - Tampa Electric Company [14]

ITEM : Slides - University of South Florida [19]

ITEM : Slides - Residence - Steve Ayers [36]

ITEM : Slides - Residence - Bill Van Dyke [12]

ITEM : Slides - Residence - James Ferman [4]

ITEM : Slides - Residence - W.E. Hamner [6]

ITEM : Slides - Residence - Mary Nettle [15]

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