2019

UA1C2/47 Kentucky Building Photos

WKU Archives

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Home page: https://wku.edu/library/archive
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Administrative History: Artificial collection created by WKU Archives to group Kentucky Building images together. The majority of the photos are from WKU sources, but some donated by individuals.

Date Built - 1931; interior completed 1939
Cost of Construction - $300,000
Architects - Brinton Davis, James Ingram

The Kentucky Building was originally designed as a 40,000 square feet Georgian-Revival style structure. It included reception areas, classrooms, museum galleries and library reading rooms. Construction of the building began in 1931 but due to the Great Depression, only the exterior was completed. The half finished building provided classroom space. President Cherry died in 1937, two years after launching a second fundraising campaign to have the building finished. President Paul Garrett, Cherry's successor, hired James M. Ingram to complete the interior of the building. The Kentucky Building officially opened in the fall of 1939. The building was dedicated on November 16, 1939, Dr. Cherry's birthday.

The people of Kentucky were asked to donate money to for construction of the building as well as artifacts for the museum. "The invitation is extended to every citizen of Kentucky to make a special effort this spring, during the annual spring cleaning, to gather up old Kentucky newspapers, magazines, letters, diaries, manuscripts, and any book printed in Kentucky, about Kentucky, or written by a Kentuckian." ["KY. Bldg. is to be Made Real Museum," Oct. 24, 1935]

The Kentucky Building houses the Kentucky Museum, Kentucky Library, Manuscripts and Folklife Archives, and WKU Archives. "The museum has displays of early textiles and costumes; china, glassware, and silver, jewelry and fans; early musical instruments; Civil War relics; dolls and doll furniture; and South Union Shaker items. Also on exhibit are the early tools, medical equipment, types of lighting, a relief man of Kentucky shown at the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exposition, and a large early still. ["Ky. Building Devoted Entirely To State and Local History," April 5, 1969]

In 1977 the building was renovated and expanded to over 80,000 square feet. The addition houses new gallery space for the museum and a library reading room. An interior courtyard between the original building and the addition was also created. The Kentucky Building was closed for three years during the construction.
Additions:
1977 - $2.7 million renovation and expansion
1993 - Cherry sundial dedicated

Description: Images of Kentucky Building.

Dates: 1936-present

Extent: 14 folders, oversize, negatives & slides

Subject Analytics:
Architectural drawings    Kentucky Museum (WKU)
Architecture              Libraries
Archives                 Museums
Kentucky Building (WKU)   University Libraries (WKU)
Kentucky Library & Museum (WKU) Western Kentucky University

Digital Commons:
Architecture              Library and Information Science
Archival Science          Museum Studies
Construction Engineering  Photography
Interior Architecture

Accession Information: These records transferred to WKU Archives upon its creation.

Access Restrictions: none

Allied Materials:
Images with UA1C2/47 prefix
UA30/1/2 Planning, Design & Construction Building File

Preferred Citation: UA1C2/47 Kentucky Building Photos, WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

Processing Information: Records processed and collection inventory created 2019.
### Finding Aid Report

**03/01/2019**

**UA1C2.47**  
**Print, Photographic**  
**Level** Subseries  
**Title** UA1C WKU Archives Photograph Collection  
**Collection** Series 2. Buildings & Structures  
**Scope & Content** Subseries 47. Kentucky Building Photos  

**Container List**

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**Description**

- Kentucky Building Reconstructed 1939, 1978, 19 x 11 mounted on board 25 x 15
- digitized
- digitized
- digitized
- digitized
- Images housed in F1258

**Subjects**

- Architectural drawings
- Lantern slides
- Negatives
- Negatives
- Negatives
- Negatives
- Western Kentucky University

**Images of Kentucky Building.**
OS Box 5 26  WKU Archives  Kentucky Building
Description  Donated by Jonathan Jeffrey.  Subjects  Drawing
             Belinda, J.  Prints

OS Box 67 8  WKU Archives  Kentucky Building

OS Box 71 3  WKU Archives  Kentucky Building

OS PC  FOS48  WKU Archives  Kentucky Building

PC  F1252  WKU Archives  Kentucky Building - Architectural Drawings
     Subjects  Blueprints
             Facades
             Plans

PC  F1253  WKU Archives  Kentucky Building - Construction
     Subjects  Construction

PC  F1257-F1258  WKU Archives  Kentucky Building - Exterior
     Subjects  Snow
             Flowers
             Flowerpots

PC  F1274-F1276  WKU Archives  Kentucky Building - Interior
     Subjects  Libraries (Rooms)

PC  F1284  WKU Archives  Kentucky Building - Postcards
     Description  DO NOT REPRODUCE

PC  F1282  WKU Archives  Kentucky Building
     Subjects  Architectural drawings
             Construction
             Galleries (Rooms & spaces)
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