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2019

## UA1C2/47 Kentucky Building Photos

WKU Archives

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## Western Kentucky University UA1C2 WKU Archives Building & Structures Subseries 47 Kentucky Building Photos

### Contact information:

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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.

### Building History:

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 foot 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

Architecture

Archives

Kentucky Building (WKU)

Kentucky Library & Museum (WKU)

Kentucky Museum (WKU)

Libraries

Museums

University Libraries (WKU)

Western Kentucky University

**Digital Commons:**

Architecture

Archival Science

Construction Engineering

Interior Architecture

Library and Information Science

Museum Studies

Photography

**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 2015, revised 2021.



NC	N13790	WKU Archives	1930-1939	Kentucky Building Subjects Negatives Automobiles
OS Box 5	26	WKU Archives		Kentucky Building
Description	Donated by Jonathan Jeffrey. Belinda, J.			Subjects Drawing 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)
Description	Combs, Elizabeth Davenport, Claire Farley, Jeanette Kentucky Room McGregor Room Moore, Mary Pearson, Virginia Robertson, Gabrielle Shutt, Catherine Van Dyke, Karen West, Mrs. John			
PC	F1284	WKU Archives		Kentucky Building - Postcards
Description	DO NOT REPRODUCE			
PC	F1282	WKU Archives		Kentucky Building Subjects Architectural drawings Construction Galleries (Rooms & spaces)
Description				

PC	F1281	WKU Archives	Kentucky Building
Description	Cranes Power washer Robert Penn Warren Room Rice Room		Subjects Desks Typewriters Dictating machines Columns Scaffolding Dormers Gutters (Roofs) Pen works Libraries (Rooms) Archives
PC	F1256	WKU Archives	Kentucky Building - Exterior
Description	Image donated by Mrs. Marshall Love Franklin #406		Subjects Snow Signs (Notices) Rain
PC	F1255	WKU Archives	Kentucky Building - Construction
			Subjects Construction
PC	F1260	WKU Archives	Kentucky Building - Exterior
			Subjects Snow Courtyards
SC	S3941-S3969	WKU Archives	Slides
Description	Digitized Kentucky Building (WKU)		Subjects Slides
SC	S4074-S4076	WKU Archives	Slides
Description	Digitized Kentucky Building (WKU)		Subjects Slides