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## Wilk, Joseph Peter, 1926-1994 (MSS 728)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
 Department of Library Special Collections  
 Western Kentucky University  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 728 WILK, Joseph Peter, 1926-1994**

1 box. 18 folders. 122 items. 1954-1992. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

1994.120.1

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Joseph P. Wilk, the son of Joseph Steven Wilk and Sophie (Kazak) Wilk, was born in Port Chester, New York on 24 September 1926. Wilk obtained his high school diploma from Greenwich High School in Greenwich, Connecticut, served in the Army-Air Force in 1945, then earned a B.S. degree in Architecture from Clemson University in 1949. From 1949-1952, he worked for the Greenville, South Carolina architectural firm of W. E. Freeman, Jr. & Associates. After moving to Louisville, Kentucky in December 1952, he was employed as a draftsman by the firm of W. S. Arrasmith, then with Arrasmith & Tyler, Architects. Wilk was registered to practice architecture in Kentucky in January 1954, and also obtained registration in Tennessee. In July 1957, he moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky and entered into a brief partnership with Frank D. Cain, Jr. In 1958, he established his own practice as Joseph P. Wilk, A.I.A., Architect, at 811 Fairview Ave., Suite 2, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Wilk's practice was wide ranging and included residences, school and university buildings (including several at Western Kentucky University), churches, bank buildings, health centers, libraries and other commercial buildings. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects as well as civic organizations such as Rotary International, the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce, and the Knights of Columbus. A member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Wilk served on the Board of Advisors of Saint Mark's Priory in South Union, Kentucky.

In 1988, finding practice as an independent architect increasingly difficult to sustain, Wilk took the job of chief building inspector for Bowling Green. Shortly after retiring for health reasons, Wilk died on 26 February 1994. Wilk was married twice: to Ella Elizabeth Riddle (1923-2006) on 11 November 1950; and to Judy C. Vanmilligan on 14 June 1980. He had two daughters, Nancy Elizabeth (Wilk) Willis, Susan Elaine (Wilk) Anderson, and a son, Joseph P. Wilk, Jr.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This small collection relates to the architectural practice of Joseph P. Wilk, Bowling Green, Kentucky. The materials do not widely represent his career; rather, they consist mostly

of printed matter, photographs, and miscellaneous documents respecting a handful of his architectural commissions. The most complete data on Wilk's body of work that this collection offers is in a folder of biographical data (Folder 2) and a cabinet index of tracings that he maintained (Folder 4). Materials collected in the course of Wilk's civic involvement with the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce and St. Mark's Priory in South Union, Kentucky are in Folders 9 and 15-16, respectively.

Although architectural drawings by Wilk are not included in this collection, WKU's Department of Library Special Collections holds many of his drawings; they are [cataloged](#) separately.

### ***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Joseph P. Wilk</b>	<b>1954-1992</b>	<b>122 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Biographical data	1954-1980, n.d.	12 items
Folder 3	Papers regarding Wilk home, 1818 Normal Drive, Bowling Green, Kentucky	1978-1982, n.d.	4 items
Folder 4	Tracings file index	n.d.	1 item
Folder 5	General correspondence	1969-1976	4 items
Folder 6	Adair County (Ky.) Public Library – Open House Program	1979	1 item
Folder 7	Auburn Banking Company (Auburn, Ky.) – Financial report, photograph	1981-1983	2 items
Folder 8	Bowling Green (Ky.) High School – Data sheet, negatives of design plans	1969	4 items
Folder 9	Bowling Green-Warren County (Ky.) Chamber of Commerce – Committee lists, 1963 report	1961-1966	4 items
Folder 10	Broadway Methodist Church, Bowling Green, Ky. – Programs, photographs	1959-1960	2 items
Folder 11	First Federal Savings and Loan Association – Financial condition statements	1960-1963	3 items

Folder 12	First Presbyterian Church, Mayfield, Ky. – Brochure on building expansion program	1958	1 item
Folder 13	Newman Center, 1403 College St., Bowling Green, Ky. – Data for award application, sketches, photographs	1967-1968, n.d.	17 items
Folder 14	St. Helen Catholic Church, Glasgow, Ky.– Photographs, program	1990-1992	12 items
Folder 15	St. Mark's Priory, South Union, Ky. – Advisory Board materials, miscellaneous	1972-1987, n.d.	23 items
Folder 16	St. Mark's Priory, South Union, Ky. – Bulletins, postcards, photographs	1978, n.d.	20 items
Folder 17	St. Mary's Catholic Church, Franklin, Ky. – Photographs	1988	7 items
Folder 18	Harvey Willis residence, 1 Indian Hills Trail, Louisville, Ky. – Sketch plan, photographs	1990-1991	4 items

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS WILK, Joseph Peter, 1954-1992  
728 1926-1994

Printed matter, photographs, and correspondence relating to a small number of commissions executed by Bowling Green, Kentucky architect Joseph P. Wilk. Also includes some biographical data.

1 box. 18 folders. 122 items. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

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### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Architects – Bowling Green

Banks and banking – Auburn B1,F7

Banks and banking – Bowling Green B1,F11

Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce B1,F9

Churches – Bowling Green B1,F10

Churches – Franklin B1,F17

Churches – Glasgow B1,F14

Churches – Mayfield B1,F12  
Libraries – Adair County B1,F6  
Ogden College – Bowling Green – Relating to B1,F5  
Schools – Bowling Green B1,F8  
Shakers – South Union – Relating to B1,F5  
St. Mark's Priory – South Union – Relating to B1,F15,16  
Willis, Harvey – Relating to B1,F18

***SEE or SEE ALSO***

St. Maur's Priory – South Union  
    See also  
    St. Mark's Priory – South Union

Niedermeier 10/12/2021