

12-10-2010

# UA3/4/2 President Dero Downing - Construction File

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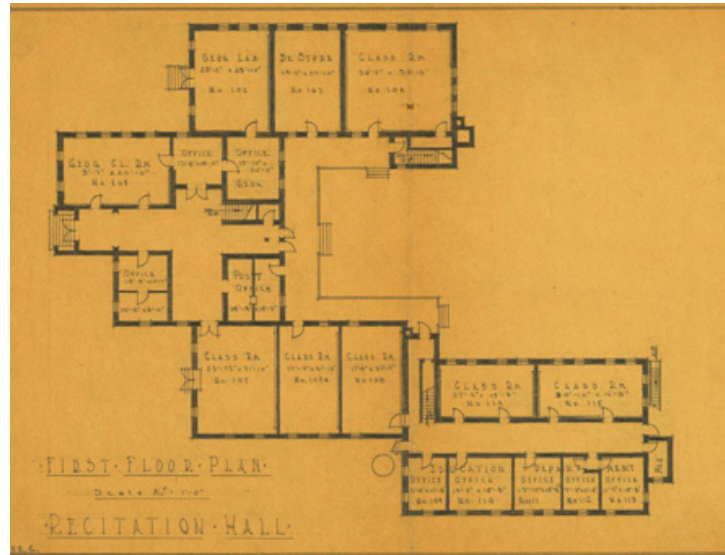
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**Western Kentucky University**  
**UA3 President's Office**  
**Series 4 Dero Downing**  
**Subseries 2 Construction File**



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**Biographical/Historical Note:** The president's office was created in 1906. The search for the fourth president of WKU began with Kelly Thompson's resignation announcement May 21, 1969. Vice President for Administrative Affairs Dero Downing indicated that he would serve if asked. The Board of Regents elected him president on August 22, 1969. He served until his retirement in 1979.

Dero Downing was born September 10, 1921 at Fountain Run in Monroe County, Kentucky, and grew up at Horse Cave in Hart County. He enrolled at WKU in 1939 where he played basketball and earned both a bachelor's and master's degree. After serving in the Navy in World War II, he returned to Western as a mathematics teacher and coach at the College's Training School. He later became director of the Training School, college registrar, dean of admissions, dean of business affairs, and vice-president for administrative and business affairs. Upon his resignation as president in 1979 Downing became president of the College Heights Foundation.

**Description:** Records regarding the planning, construction and maintenance of buildings on the WKU campus. Downing held several positions at WKU before becoming president. Some of these records date to that earlier period.

**Dates:** 1958-1979

**Subject Analytics:**

Architectural drawings

College High (WKU)

Construction

Downing, Dero Goodman, b. 1921

Grise Hall (WKU)

Guest Houses (WKU)

Heating Plant (WKU)

Home Economics (WKU)  
Nursing (WKU)  
Training School (WKU)  
Western Kentucky University

**Accession Information:** These records were transferred to the University Archives upon its creation.

**Access Restrictions:** none

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**Processing Information:** Finding aid created by Suellen Lathrop 12/10/2010, revised 4/2011.

# Finding Aid Report

04/05/2011

|                            |   |                       |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| <b>UA3.4.2</b>             | <b>Records</b>  | <b>Date</b>           |
| <b>Level</b>               | <b>Subseries</b>  | <b>Linked toUA3.4</b> |
| <b>Title</b>               | <b>UA3 President's Office Series 4. Dero Downing Sub-Series 2. Construction File</b>  |                       |
| <b>Collection</b>          | <b>University Archives</b>  |                       |
| <b>Scope &amp; Content</b> | <b>Records regarding the planning, construction and maintenance of buildings on the WKU campus. Downing held several positions at WKU before becoming president. Some of these records date to that earlier period.</b> |                       |

## Container List

| <b>Container</b> | <b>Folder</b>  | <b>Creator</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>Title</b>                                    |
|------------------|--|----------------|-------------|---|
| Box 53           | 1  | Downing, Dero  | 1967-1970   | Grise Hall                                      |
| Description      | Downing, Dero<br>General Electric<br>Harrison, William<br>Johnson & St. Clair<br>Johnson, Kemble<br>Kentucky. Department of Finance<br>Largen, Harry<br>Lawson, Owen<br>Oppitz, James<br>R. Ben Johnson Architect<br>Waldron, Batey & Wade |                |             | Subjects Mechanical systems<br>Air conditioners |
| Box 18           | 44   | Downing, Dero  | 1971-1976   | Grise Hall                                      |
| Description      | Downing, Dero<br>Harrison, William<br>Johnson, Kemble<br>Largen, Harry<br>Lawson, Owen<br>Oppitz, James<br>Waldron, Batey & Wade   |                |             | Subjects Mechanical systems<br>Air conditioners |
| Box 39           | 21   | Downing, Dero  | 1967-1968   | Grise Hall                                      |
| Description      | Kentucky. Department of Finance<br>Largen, Harry<br>Lawson, Owen<br>R. Ben Johnson Architects<br>Southern Plumbing & Heating Co.<br>Waldron, Batey & Wade, Inc.  |                |             |   |
| Box 39           | 22   | Downing, Dero  | 1966        | Grise Hall                                      |
| Description      | Kentucky. Department of Finance<br>Lawson, Owen<br>R. Ben Johnson Architects<br>Thompson, Kelly<br>Waldron, Batey & Wade, Inc.   |                |             | Subjects Construction                           |
| Box 39           | 23   | Downing, Dero  | 1965        | Grise Hall                                      |
| Description      | Kentucky. Department of Finance  |                |             | Subjects Construction                           |

Lawson, Owen  
Leo Miller Company  
R. Ben Johnson Architects  
Southern Plumbing & Heating Company  
Thompson, Kelly  
Waldron, Batey & Wade, Inc.

|             |  |               |                          |   |
|-------------|--|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| Box 39      | 24   | Downing, Dero | 1964                     | Grise Hall  |
| Description | oversize<br>Kentucky. Department of Finance<br>Largen, Harry<br>Lawson, Owen<br>Leo Miller Company<br>R. Ben Johnson Architects<br>Smith, L.T.<br>Southern Plumbing & Heating Company<br>Thompson, Kelly   |               |                          | Subjects Construction<br>Specifications<br>Contracts        |
| Box 39      | 25   | Downing, Dero | 1970-1974; 1978          | Heating Plant Expansion                                     |
| Description | B.G. Plumbing & Heating Co., Inc.<br>E.R. Ronald & Associates<br>Kentucky. Bureau of Facilities Management<br>Kentucky. Council on Higher Education<br>Kentucky. Department of Finance<br>Largen, Harry<br>Lawson, Owen<br>Waldron, Batey & Wade, Inc. |               |                          | Subjects Construction                                       |
| Box 39      | 26   | Downing, Dero | 1966-1967                | Home Economics - Nursing Building                           |
| Description | oversize<br>Kentucky. Department of Finance<br>Lawson, Owen<br>Natcher, William<br>R. Ben Johnson Architect<br>Thompson, Kelly<br>U.S. Department of Health, Education & Welfare<br>Waldron, Batey and Wade<br>White & Congleton Company               |               |                          | Subjects Construction                                       |
| Box 39      | 27   | Downing, Dero | 1974-1975;<br>1977-1979  | Industrial Education Building & Annex                       |
| Description | Cook, Paul<br>Cravens, Raymond<br>Frank Cain Architect<br>Kentucky. Bureau of Facilities Management<br>Kentucky. Council on Public Higher Education<br>Largen, Harry<br>Lawson, Owen   |               |                          | Subjects Construction                                       |
| Box 39      | 28   | Downing, Dero | 1969-1970;<br>1974-1977  | Industrial Technology Building Renovation (Training School) |
| Description | Frank Cain Architect<br>Kentucky. Bureau of Facilities Management<br>Lawson, Owen  |               |                          | Subjects Construction                                       |
| Box 39      | 29   | Downing, Dero | 1966-1967; 1969;<br>1971 | Old Fort Johnson - Site Development of the Hill             |
| Description | Johnson, Johnson & Roy, Inc.<br>Johnson, Kemble<br>Kentucky. Department of Finance<br>Largen, Harry<br>Lawson, Owen<br>Thompson, Kelly   |               |                          | Subjects Construction                                       |

Box 18

45

Downing, Dero

1963-1975

Guest Home

Description

oversize  
Johnson, Kemble  
Largen, Harry  
Lawson, Owen  
Thompson, Kelly

Subjects Landscape drawings