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Joint Advisory Committee on Planning and Development of the United Nations Headquarters Records 6611376

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Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

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Summary Information

Repository: Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

Creator: Adams, Frederick J. (Frederick Johnstone), 1901-1979

Creator: Allison, David C

Creator: Bennett, Richard Marsh, 1907-

Creator: Brinckerhoff, A. F (Arthur Freeman)

Creator: Goldstein, Moise H., 1882-1972

Creator: Griswold, Ralph E. (Ralph Esty), 1894-1981

Creator: Gugler, Eric, 1889-1974

Creator: Harrison, Wallace K (Wallace Kirkman), 1895-1981

Creator: Hoyt, Burnham, 1887-1960

Creator: La Beume, Louis, 1873-1961

Creator: Lewis, Harold M. (Harold MacLean), 1889-1973

Creator: Litchfield, Electus D. (Electus Darwin), 1872-1952

Creator: Locraft, Thomas Hall, 1903-

Creator: Maginnis, Charles Donagh, 1867-1955

Creator: Morrow, C. Earl (Cornelius Earl), 1897-

Creator: Norton, C. McKim

Creator: Opperman, Paul

Creator: Pancoast, Russell T (Russell Thorn), 1899-1972

Creator: Pfau, J. W

Creator: Pirnie, Malcolm

Creator: Morin, Roi L

Creator: Saarinen, Eliel, 1873-1950

Creator: Shaw, Alfred P

Creator: Shay, Howell Lewis

Creator: Walker, Ralph, 1889-1973

Creator: Wurster, William Wilson

Creator:	Joint Advisory Committee on Planning and Development of the United Nations Headquarters
Title:	Joint Advisory Committee on Planning and Development of the United Nations Headquarters Records
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Date [bulk]:	1946-1947
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Joint Advisory Committee on Planning and Development of the United Nations Headquarters Records. Located in the Dept. of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.

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Historical Note

In early 1946, the Preparatory Commission of United Nations determined that the international headquarters of the new organization, established a year before, should be located in the United States. Initiated by the American Institute of Architects and joined by the American Institute of Planners, the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the American Society of Civil Engineers, representatives from the four technical societies established a joint advisory committee to offer professional advice to the United Nations Headquarters Commission. New York-based architect Eric Gugler was appointed chairman of the Joint Advisory Committee and the first meeting was held at the Harvard Club in New York City on March 2, 1946.

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Historical Note

From March 1946 through early 1947, the Joint Advisory Committee participated actively in various phases of the Union Nations Headquarters project, from selection of the site, to

preparation of a planning requirement, to call for an international competition, to early stage of design. On December 12, 1946, the United Nations Headquarters Commission voted to accept a tract of Manhattan real estate overlooking the East River, donated by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., for the final headquarters site. On January 6, 1947, New York architect Wallace K. Harrison was appointed Director of Planning for the United Nations' Permanent Headquarters, assisted by an international team of architects and engineers. However, without any formal authority, the influence of the Joint Advisory Committee was minor and, having fulfilled its mission, the committee was officially discharged in January 1948. On September 14, 1948, a groundbreaking ceremony took place for the new headquarters complex.

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Historical Note

During its existence, the Joint Advisory Committee was known by several names. The various titles and personnel are listed as below.

Special Committee of Architects on United Nations Center, A.I.A. [earliest title]

- 1 Allison, David C.
- 2 Bennett, Richard Marsh, 1907-
- 3 Goldstein, Moise H., 1882-1972
- 4 Gugler, Eric, 1889-1974
- 5 Harrison, Wallace K. (Wallace Kirkman), 1895-
- 6 Hoyt, Burnham, 1887-1960
- 7 La Beume, Louis, 1873-
- 8 Locraft, Thomas Hall, 1903-
- 9 Maginnis, Charles Donagh, 1867-1955
- 10 Pancoast, Russell T. (Russell Thorn), 1899-1972
- 11 Morin, Roi L.
- 12 Saarinen, Eliel, 1873-1950
- 13 Shaw, Alfred P.
- 14 Walker, Ralph, 1889-1973
- 15 Wurster, William Wilson

Committee (of Architects) on United Nations Center [title used from mid-1946 through 1947]

- 1 Allison, David C.
- 2 Bennett, Richard Marsh, 1907-
- 3 Goldstein, Moise H., 1882-1972
- 4 Gugler, Eric, 1889-1974
- 5 Harrison, Wallace K. (Wallace Kirkman), 1895-
- 6 Hoyt, Burnham, 1887-1960
- 7 La Beume, Louis, 1873-
- 8 Litchfield, Electus D. (Electus Darwin), 1872-1952
- 9 Locraft, Thomas Hall, 1903-

- 10 Maginnis, Charles Donagh, 1867-1955
- 11 Pancoast, Russell T. (Russell Thorn), 1899-1972
- 12 Morin, Roi L.
- 13 Saarinen, Eliel, 1873-1950
- 14 Shaw, Alfred P.
- 15 Shay, Howell Lewis
- 16 Walker, Ralph, 1889-1973
- 17 Wurster, William Wilson

Joint Advisory Committee on Planning and Development of the United Nations Headquarters [last and official title, used from 1946 through 1948]

- 1 Adams, Frederick J., 1901-
- 2 Brinckerhoff, A. F.
- 3 Griswold, Ralph E.
- 4 Gugler, Eric, 1889-1974
- 5 Harrison, Wallace K. (Wallace Kirkman), 1895-
- 6 Lewis, Harold MacLean, 1889-
- 7 Morrow, C. Earl
- 8 Norton, C. McKim
- 9 Opperman, Paul
- 10 Pfau, J. W.
- 11 Pirnie, Malcolm
- 12 Walker, Ralph, 1889-1973

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Scope and Content

This collection contains documents, statements, minutes, correspondence, notes, and reference materials related to the activities of the Joint Advisory Committee on Planning and Development of the United Nations Headquarters. Although materials relating to Wallace Harrison appear in this collection, there is otherwise no direct connection between this group of papers and the team of international architects who designed the Headquarters.

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Scope and Content

In addition, Series I contains founding papers regarding committee formation and mandate and examples of historic competitions. Series II contains minutes of ten meetings that occurred between March 2, 1946 and October 29, 1946. Series III contains documents related to the

"Statement on the Report of the Headquarters Commission," released by the Joint Advisory Committee on October 24, 1946. The largest portion of the collection, Series IV, contains correspondence between participating members dating from the assembling of the Joint Advisory Committee in January 1946 to its disbanding in January 1948. Series V contains general papers, including vouchers, personnel, memos, notes, correspondence, etc. Lastly, Series VI contains reference files, primarily clippings from the *New York Times* and the *New York Herald Tribune* dating from February 1946 to September 1947.

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Arrangement

This material is arranged in six series: Founding Documents; Minutes; Report of the Headquarters Commission; Correspondence; General Papers; and Reference Files. Within each series, materials are arranged in chronological order.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

Revision Description

File created. File revised. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2008-04-30 2009-07-16 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

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Acquisition

This collection was a gift given by the Office of Eric Gugler to Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library in 1969. Its accession number is 1969.009.

Processing Information

Records Processed MYW 04/29/08.

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Related Materials

Related Material

Avery Library's Dept. of Drawings & Archives holds many architectural drawings and records relating to the United Nations Headquarters. Principle collections include the [Wallace K. Harrison Architectural Records and Drawings](#); the [Max Abramovitz Architectural Records and Drawings](#); the [Hugh Ferriss Architectural Drawings and Papers](#); and the [Joseph Molitor Photographs](#). The department also holds the personal and professional papers of two committee members, Eric Gugler and [Electus Litchfield](#).

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Controlled Access Headings

- Architecture -- New York (State) -- New York -- History -- 20th century
- City planning
- Governmental installations
- Group work in architecture -- United States
- United Nations

Collection Inventory

Series I. Project Records

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence., 1938 Aug 08-1946 Jul 05 and undated	box 1	folder 1
Scope and Contents		
Typewritten papers and printed papers		
Scope and Contents		
Regarding committee formation and mandate and examples of historic competitions.		
Reference lists, offers of services, and correspondence., 1945 May-1946 Mar 04 and undated	box 1	folder 2
Scope and Contents		
Typewritten papers and printed papers		

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Series II. Minutes

Title/Description	Instances	
Minutes of eight meetings between March 2 and April 4, 1946., 1946 Mar 02-1946 Apr 04	box 1	folder 3
Scope and Contents		
Typescript papers and holograph papers		
Scope and Contents		
Lacking Mar 25, 1946.		
Minutes of eight meetings between April 26 and August 6, 1946., 1946 Apr 26-1946 Aug 06	box 1	folder 4
Scope and Contents		
Typescript papers and holograph papers		
Meeting on September 5, 1946., 1946 Aug 22-1946 Oct 05 and undated	box 1	folder 5
Scope and Contents		
Typescript papers, holograph papers, and telegrams		

Scope and Contents

Correspondence.

Meeting on September 5, 1946., 1946 and undated	box 1	folder 6
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Scope and Contents

Printed papers, typescript papers and holograph papers

Scope and Contents

Notes and clippings.

Meeting on September 5, 1946., [1946 Sep 05]	box 1	folder 7
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers and holograph papers

Scope and Contents

Untitled drafts begins with "Your Committee was appointed to put itself at the disposal of the proper authorities..."

Meeting on October 29, 1946., 1946 Oct 29	box 1	folder 8
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers

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Series III. Report of the Headquarters Commission

Title/Description	Instances	
<p><i>Report of the Headquarters Commission</i>, with correspondence., 1946 Oct 01</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Bound volume and typescript papers</p>	box 1	folder 9
<p>Correspondence., 1946 Sep 04-1946 Oct 25</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Typescript papers and holograph papers</p>	box 1	folder 10
<p>"Statement on the Report of the Headquarters Commission," three drafts., 1946 Sep 27 and undated</p>	box 1	folder 11

Scope and Contents

Typescript papers and holograph papers

Notes and clippings., 1946 Oct 19 and undated	box 1	folder 12
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Scope and Contents

Printed papers, typescript papers and holograph papers

"Statement on the Report of the Headquarters Commission," final version., 1946 Oct 24	box 1	folder 13
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers

"For Release.", 1946 Oct 24	box 1	folder 14
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers

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Series IV. Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
Robert Gray Taylor., 1934 Feb 08-1946 Jul 19 and undated Scope and Contents Printed papers, pamphlets, typescript papers, holograph papers, and printed papers Scope and Contents Correspondence and reference.	box 1	folder 15
Department of State, Washington, D.C., and UNO Office., 1946 Jan 04-1946 Jun 25 and undated Scope and Contents Typescript papers and holograph papers	box 1	folder 16
General., 1946 Jan Scope and Contents Typescript papers	box 1	folder 17
General., 1946 Feb	box 1	folder 18

Scope and Contents

Typescript papers and diazo prints

General., 1946 Mar	box 1	folder 19
Scope and Contents		
Typescript papers, printed papers, and telegram		
General., 1946 Apr	box 1	folder 20
Scope and Contents		
Typescript papers		
General., 1946 May	box 1	folder 21
Scope and Contents		
Typescript papers and holograph papers		
General., 1946 Jun	box 2	folder 1
Scope and Contents		
Typescript papers		
General., 1946 Jul	box 2	folder 2
Scope and Contents		
Typescript papers		
General., 1946 Aug	box 2	folder 3
Scope and Contents		
Typescript papers and holograph papers		
General., 1946 Sep	box 2	folder 4
Scope and Contents		
Typescript papers		
General., 1946 Oct	box 2	folder 5
Scope and Contents		
Typescript papers		
General., 1946 Nov	box 2	folder 6
Scope and Contents		
Typescript papers		
General., 1946 Dec	box 2	folder 7

Scope and Contents

Typescript papers

General., 1947 Jan	box 2	folder 8
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers

General., 1947 Feb	box 2	folder 9
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers

General., 1947 Mar	box 2	folder 10
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers and telegrams

General., 1947 Apr	box 2	folder 11
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers

General., 1947 May	box 2	folder 12
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers and telegrams

General., 1947 Jun	box 2	folder 13
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers, holograph papers, and sepia diazo print

General., 1947 Jul	box 2	folder 14
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers

General., 1947 Aug	box 2	folder 15
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers and printed papers

General., 1947 Sep	box 2	folder 16
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers

General., 1947 Oct	box 2	folder 17
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers and holograph papers

General., 1948 Jan	box 2	folder 18
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers

General., undated	box 2	folder 19
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers and holograph papers

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Series V. General Papers

Title/Description	Instances	
Expenses, vouchers and correspondence regarding expenses., 1946 Mar 08-1947 Mar 03 and undated	box 2	folder 20
Scope and Contents		
Printed papers, typescript papers and holograph papers		
"Committee of Professional Societies U.N.O.", 1946 Mar 25	box 2	folder 21
Scope and Contents		
Typescript papers		
Personnel of the Committee on United Nations Center., 1946 Mar 28-1946 Sep 09 and undated	box 2	folder 22
Scope and Contents		
Printed papers, typescript papers, holograph papers, and telegram		
Scope and Contents		
Correspondence and notes.		
Selection of candidates for the Directorship and Assistant Directorship of the permanent site planning staff under the Headquarters Site Planning Committee., 1946 Mar 02-1946 Apr 30	box 2	folder 23
Scope and Contents		
Typescript papers		

Scope and Contents

Correspondence and notes.

Selection of candidates for the Directorship and Assistant Directorship of the permanent site planning staff under the Headquarters Site Planning Committee., 1946 Mar 30-1946 Apr 30	box 2	folder 24
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers, holograph papers, and printed papers

Scope and Contents

Correspondence and notes.

Selection of candidates for the Directorship and Assistant Directorship of the permanent site planning staff under the Headquarters Site Planning Committee., 1946 May 07-1946 May 27 and undated	box 2	folder 25
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers, holograph papers, and printed papers

Scope and Contents

Correspondence and notes.

Selection of candidates for the Directorship and Assistant Directorship of the permanent site planning staff under the Headquarters Site Planning Committee., undated	box 2	folder 26
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers, holograph papers, and printed papers

Scope and Contents

Correspondence and notes.

"An Interim City for the U.N.O., Columbia University, School of Architecture.", 1946 Mar	box 2	folder 27
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers

Memos, A-H., 1946 Dec 18-1947 Mar 17	box 2	folder 28
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Scope and Contents

Typescript papers and printed papers

General., 1946-1947 and undated

Scope and Contents box 2 folder 29
 Typescript papers and printed papers

"Items for Agenda.", undated box 2 folder 30
Scope and Contents
 Typescript papers

Notes on old folders., undated box 2 folder 31
Scope and Contents
 Holograph papers

"U.N.O. Capital Should be Worthy of Its High Purpose, Institute of Architects Declares.", undated box 2 folder 32
Scope and Contents
 Typescript papers

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Series VI. Reference Files

Title/Description	Instances	
<i>Geographical Review.</i> , 1946 Jul Scope and Contents Bound volume	box 3	folder 1
<i>New York Times</i> and <i>New York Herald Tribune</i> clippings., 1946 Feb 18-1946 Jul 30 Scope and Contents Printed papers	box 3	folder 2
<i>New York Times</i> and <i>New York Herald Tribune</i> clippings., 1946 Aug 01-1946 Aug 12 Scope and Contents Printed papers	box 3	folder 3
<i>New York Times</i> and <i>New York Herald Tribune</i> clippings., 1946 Aug 13-1946 Aug 28	box 3	folder 4

Scope and Contents

Printed papers

New York Times and *New York Herald Tribune* clippings., box 3 folder 5
1946 Oct 25-1946 Nov 07

Scope and Contents

Printed papers

New York Times and *New York Herald Tribune* clippings., box 3 folder 6
1947 Jan 06-1947 Sep 04

Scope and Contents

Printed papers

New York Times and *New York Herald Tribune* clippings., box 3 folder 7
undated

Scope and Contents

Printed papers

Miscellaneous clippings and journal pages, with attached box 3 folder 8
letters., 1946 Feb-1947 Apr and undated

Scope and Contents

Typescript papers and printed papers

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