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John Mead Howells albums of photographs of historic East Coast architecture6999306

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

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Summary Information

Repository:	Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library
Creator:	Howells, John Mead, 1868-1959
Creator:	Cousins, Frank, 1851-1925
Creator:	Codman, Ogden
Creator:	Historic American Buildings Survey
Creator:	Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.)
Creator:	Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities
Title:	John Mead Howells albums of photographs of historic East Coast architecture
ID:	6999306
Date [inclusive]:	1930-1940
Physical Description:	8 Volumes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

John Mead Howells albums of photographs of historic East Coast architecture. Located in the Dept. of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.

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Biographical / Historical

John Mead Howells was a New York-based architect, best-known for his design for the Chicago Tribune Tower (1923), done with partner Raymond Hood. Howells studied architecture at Harvard and at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris and was in practice with architect I. M. Phelps Stokes before joining Hood. During the 1920s, Howells began a comprehensive study of colonial and early-American architecture in the Atlantic States and New England, resulting in the publication of three monographs on the subject between 1931 and 1941.

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Summary

These albums contain mounted black-and-white photographic prints documenting historic sites and structures along the East Coast of the United States, from the South to New Hampshire, created and collected by architect and historian John Mead Howells. These albums appear to have been created as reference sources for Howell's publications *LOST EXAMPLES OF COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE* (New York, W. Helbrvn, 1931), *THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF THE PISCATAQUA* (New York: Architectural Book Publishing Company, 1937), and *THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF THE MERRIMACK* (New York: Architectural Book Publishing Company, 1941). However, many additional images may be found in these albums than were used in these publications. The images were taken during the second half of the 19th-century and the early 20th-century of historic buildings and sites constructed during the 18th- and 19th-centuries. Most images have annotations and caption information in typescript or in Howell's own hand. Howells collected most of the images from a variety of sources, including the Frank Cousins image collection at the Essex Institute, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, architect Ogden Codman, and the Historic American Buildings Survey. The remainder were taken by Howells himself.

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Arrangement

These volumes are titled by Howells as follows: Vol. A: Southern States to Washington, D.C.; Vol. B. Southern States to Washington, D.C.; Vol. C: New York City and New York State; Vol. D.: New England General; Vol. E: Boston District; Vol. F: Salem and Newburyport; Vol. G: Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Architectural Heritage of the Merrimack.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

Restrictions on Access

This collection is available for use by appointment in the Department of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University. For further information, please email avery-drawings@library.columbia.edu.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Transfer to Avery Library from the Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art. Accession number--2009.006.

Ownership and Custodial History

These volumes were originally donated by John Mead Howells to the Watson Library of the Metropolitan Museum of Art between 1932 and 1942.

Processing Information

Albums Processed AvR 02/01/08.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Architecture, Colonial -- United States
- Architecture -- United States -- Pictorial works
- Architecture -- United States -- History -- 18th century
- Architecture -- United States -- History -- 19th century
- Historic buildings -- United States -- Pictorial works
- Historic sites -- United States -- Pictorial works

Collection Inventory

**Request Collection: John Mead Howells
albums of photographs of historic East Coast
architecture, 1930-1940**

item
Request
Collection

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