Smithsonian Institution Archives


Finding aid prepared by Smithsonian Institution Archives

Smithsonian Institution Archives
Washington, D.C.
Contact us at osiaref@si.edu
# Table of Contents

Collection Overview ................................................................. 1  
Administrative Information ..................................................... 1  
Historical Note ........................................................................ 1  
Descriptive Entry ..................................................................... 1  
Names and Subjects .................................................................. 1  
Container Listing ....................................................................... 3
Collection Overview

Repository: Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title: National Museum Building Construction Records
Identifier: Record Unit 80
Date: 1902-1909, 1917-1919, 1928-1929
Extent: 0.5 cu. ft. (1 document box) (1 folder oversize materials)
Creator: United States National Museum. Administrative Assistant
Language: Language of Materials: English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation
Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 80, United States National Museum. Administrative Assistant, National Museum Building Construction Records

Historical Note
In 1903 Congress authorized the Board of Regents to begin a new museum building, construction to be under the direction of Bernard R. Green, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds of the Library of Congress. Construction began in June 1904 and ended in 1911. Richard Rathbun, Assistant Secretary, spent much of his time from 1901 to 1911 planning and supervising construction of the new building, including extensive consultation with foreign and domestic museum experts.

Descriptive Entry
These records, together with record units 79, 81, and 187 contain full documentation of construction of the 1911 National Museum Building, from internal planning and contracts to construction details and costs. Rathbun prepared a history of the museum construction, which was published as A Descriptive Account of the Building Recently Erected for the Departments of Natural History of the United States National Museum. United States National Museum Bulletin 80, Washington, 1913.

Names and Subject Terms
This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:
Subjects:
Architectural design
Buildings -- Maintenance
Buildings -- Repair and reconstruction
Museum buildings
Smithsonian buildings

Types of Materials:
Manuscripts

Names:
Green, Bernard R. (Bernard Richardson), 1843-1914
Library of Congress. Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds
National Museum of Natural History (U.S.)
Rathbun, Richard, 1852-1918
United States National Museum
United States. Bureau of War Risk Insurance
Container Listing

Box 1

Box 1 of 1  Folders 1-2 Correspondence, mostly copies, regarding construction of the museum (1902-1909)

Box 1 of 1  Folders 3-6 Correspondence 1917-1919 regarding the use of Museum of Natural History (MNH) building by Bureau of War Risk Insurance

Box 1 of 1  Folder 7 Correspondence 1928-1929 regarding repair of dome of MNH building

Oversize

Oversize  Architectural Drawings