

Gerhardt Kramer (1909-2001) Collection, 1977-1991

1 box; 1 oversize folder

Processed by John T. Furlong, 1994

REPOSITORY

Missouri Historical Society Archives

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DONOR INFORMATION

The Gerhardt Kramer Collection was donated to the Missouri Historical Society by Gerhardt Kramer in 1993.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Gerhardt Kramer was born October 26, 1909, in New Orleans, and graduated from Tulane University in 1930 with a bachelor's degree in architecture. He attended graduate school at Cornell University where he received a master's degree in architecture in 1931. After graduate school he did a brief stint of archaeological work in the Yucatan and later returned to New Orleans where he worked as an architect in the French Quarter. After serving in the navy during World War II, he moved to St. Louis, where he worked with fellow architects Theodore Steinmeyer and Hugo Graf. In 1953 he formed Gerhardt Kramer and Associates, and in 1956 he partnered with Joe Harms and began the firm of Kramer and Harms.

Gerhardt Kramer is responsible for saving more than 20 historic structures in the St. Louis metropolitan area. He was one of the founding members of the Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc. (1958) and was president of the St. Louis chapter of the American Institute of Architects in the late 1950s. In 1987 he was awarded the chapter's highest honor, the Golden Honor Award. He was a member of the Tower Grove Park Commission, the Kirkwood Historic Buildings Commission, and other local historic preservation committees. He died December 4, 2001.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection details the beginnings of the historic preservation movement in St. Louis in the 1950s, of which Gerhardt Kramer was a principal member. The collection contains correspondence regarding the founding of the Landmarks Association of St. Louis; articles written by Kramer regarding the history of the Landmarks Association of St. Louis, the Eugene Field House, the Chatillon-DeMenil House, and the Rock House; a typescript of an interview with Kramer conducted by Charles B. Hosmer; and drawings of Kramer's residence in Kirkwood, Missouri.

Box 1

- Folder 1 Correspondence of Joseph Passonneau, Carolyn Toft, Nancy B. O'Leary, and Roberta L. Harris regarding the founding of the Landmarks Association of St. Louis, 1989.
- Folder 2 Typescript article by Gerhardt Kramer, "The Beginning: A Chapter in the History of Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc.," no date.
- Folder 3 Typescript article by Gerhardt Kramer, "Heritage/St. Louis: A Chapter in the History of Landmarks Association of St. Louis," no date.
- Folder 4 Typescript article by Gerhardt Kramer, "The Eugene Field House: A Chapter in the History of Landmarks Association of St. Louis," 1977, 1985.
- Folder 5 Typescript article by Gerhardt Kramer, "The Chatillon-DeMenil House, 1965-1985, Facts and Fiction," January 31, 1985.
- Folder 6 Article by Gerhardt Kramer, "Rock House Had Served Area in Many Ways," *Downtowner*, October 12, 1982, with hand-written inscription on back.
- Folder 7 Typescript of oral interview with Gerhardt Kramer by Charles B. Hosmer, circa 1980s. Discussion of founding of Landmarks Association of St. Louis, Inc., and various other restoration projects in the city of St. Louis.
- oversize Drawings (pencil on trace) of residence for Mr. & Mrs. Gerhardt Kramer, by Gerhardt Kramer, at North Fillmore & East Jefferson (Kirkwood, Missouri). 8 sheets (oversize)