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Guide to the Fred Merryfield Papers, 1916-1978

Title

Fred Merryfield Papers (MSS Merryfield)

Dates

1916-1978 (inclusive)

1945-1965 (bulk)

Creator

Merryfield, Fred, 1900-

Summary

The Merryfield Papers consist of materials generated and assembled by Fred Merryfield documenting his career as an Oregon State engineering professor and his work as a founding engineer of the CH2M consulting firm. The Papers include publications and reports, correspondence, course materials, technical drawings, photographs, licenses, and certificates.

Quantity

1.5 cubic feet, including 4 photographs (3 boxes, including 1 oversize box)

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research.

Oregon State University Libraries, University Archives

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Oregon State University

Corvallis, OR 97331-4501

Phone: 541-737-2165

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Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Nielsen, 2009.

Biographical Note

Born in 1900 in England, Fred Merryfield came to the United States after serving as a pilot for the Royal Air Force in World War I. He completed his undergraduate education in civil engineering at Oregon Agricultural College in 1923. Specializing in the study of sanitary engineering (later known as environmental engineering), Merryfield was a faculty member in the School of Engineering from 1927 until 1966. With fellow Oregon State alumni Holly Cornell, Jim Howland, and T. Burke Hayes, Merryfield founded CH2M, an engineering consulting firm, in 1946. With a focus on sewage treatment projects and water engineering problems, Merryfield became well known as an advocate for pollution control and abatement. This led to his appointment by the Oregon governor to the State Water Resources Board in 1955. Merryfield died in 1977.

Content Description

The Merryfield Papers consist of materials generated and assembled by Fred Merryfield. They document his teaching and research as an Oregon State engineering professor, his work as a founding engineer of the CH2M consulting firm, and his membership on the State Water Resources board and the State Planning Board Advisory Committee on Stream Purification. The Papers include publications, reports, article reprints, and conference papers; correspondence; meeting minutes; course materials; technical drawings; licenses; newspaper clippings; and certificates, plaques, and membership cards.

The reports include information about the Pacific Northwest Regional Pollution Control Laboratory and the sanitary engineering program at Oregon State. The publications include items from the American Water Works Association, descriptions of CH2M projects, and handbooks used by Merryfield during his World War II service and his later work. The collection also includes the report of a study of Willamette River pollution co-authored by Merryfield and issued by the Oregon State College Engineering Experiment Station.

The correspondence relates to honors received by Merryfield, his involvement in professional and civic organizations, and construction of his home at 3513 Willamette Avenue in Corvallis.

The drawings were produced by Merryfield in his work with CH2M and document municipal sewage treatment facilities and water systems for the towns of Forest Grove, Eugene, McMinnville, Toledo, Corvallis, and Hood River in Oregon. Drawings for the Oaklawn Memorial Park in Corvallis are also included.

The photographs consist of an image of Hydraulic Engineering Department exhibits and one of an engineering student/faculty musical group (that includes Merryfield) taken in the 1920s. A group portrait photograph (circa 1960s) of the four CH2M founders is also included.

Preferred Citation

Fred Merryfield Papers, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

Acquisition Information

The materials were transferred from the College of Engineering in 2009.

Processing Note

This collection is not fully processed; this guide is preliminary.

Additional Reference Guides

[Preliminary container list](#) available online.

Related Material

Additional materials pertaining to engineering research and academic programs are available in the [College of Engineering \(RG 062\)](#) and Civil Engineering Department (RG 030) Records. Biographical information about Merryfield is available in the [Memorabilia Collection](#) (MC-Merryfield, Fred). The Archives' holdings include the papers of several engineering alumni and faculty, including Grant A. Covell, [Samuel H. Graf](#), [John W. Green](#), Orville Kofoid, [Edgar Raymond Shepard](#), and Robert C. Wilson.

Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the OSU Libraries Catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog (<http://oasis.oregonstate.edu>) using these headings.

Organizations

Oregon State College. School of Engineering.
Oregon State University. School of Engineering.
Oregon. State Water Resources Board.

Topics

Engineering--Study and teaching--Oregon.
Sanitary engineering--Oregon.
Sewage disposal plants--Oregon.
Water--Pollution--Oregon--Willamette River.

Forms of Materials in the Collection

Photographic prints.

Other Creators

CH2M Hill, inc.
Oregon State College. Engineering Experiment Station.