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**ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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**MS 1251**

**Place & Place Architects Collection  
Manuscript Collection, ca. 1920-1976**

**DESCRIPTION**

Architectural drawings and photographs of buildings designed by Roy and Lew Place, father and son, respectively, who were architects in Tucson from 1916 to 1976. Individually, and as a team, they designed some of the most distinctive architecture in the city. There is very little biographical material in this collection.

3 boxes, 1 oversize folio, 2 linear feet

**ACQUISITION**

This collection was donated to the Arizona Historical Society by Katherine Place in 1987.

**RELATED MATERIALS**

*Places in the Sun* by James F. Cooper with Lew Place, published by Westernlore Press, Tucson, Arizona, 1989.

**ACCESS**

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

**COPYRIGHT**

Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society-Tucson, Library and Archives Department.

**PROCESSING**

This collection was processed by Dena McDuffie in November 2003.

**ARRANGEMENT**

This collection is arranged in three series: 1) Biographical; 2) Drawings; and 3) Photographs.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

### **Roy Place**

Roy Place was born in San Diego on December 17, 1887. He was the son of Harry J. and Stella T. Place and had one sister, Irene Place Choate. Roy graduated from high school in San Diego in 1906, then went to Sacramento where he apprenticed in architecture. He worked as an architect in California and Chicago before moving to Arizona in 1916. Roy married Wynne Crowe (nicknamed "Jim"); they had two sons, Lew and Meade.

In 1914, the San Diego architecture firm of L.T. Bristow and John B. Lyman was awarded the architectural contract for the design of the University of Arizona agriculture building. While working on the project, Roy Place got to know Tucson. In 1916, Roy moved to Tucson, where, with his lifelong friend, Jack Lyman, he established the architectural firm Lyman & Place with offices on the east side of Stone Avenue between Broadway and Congress. Between 1914 and 1924, John B. Lyman and Roy Place designed 39 buildings on the University of Arizona campus, including the Mines & Engineering Building in 1916; Mechanical Arts Building in 1918; Pyro Metallurgy Building in 1919; Maricopa Hall and the Alexander Berger Memorial Fountain in 1920; Cochise Hall in 1921; Steward Laboratory Observatory (dome was designed by Godfrey Sykes) in 1923; and the Main Library (now Arizona State Museum) in 1927.

In 1924, Lyman left the firm and moved back to San Diego to become president of S.M. Bingham Co., a large department store owned by his father-in-law who had died. He returned to Tucson in 1954 and died in 1959. After Lyman's departure, Roy set up office on the second floor of the Steinfeld Grocery Store, on the northwest corner of Pennington Street and Stone Avenue, in the space formerly occupied by Henry Buehman as a photo studio.

Roy's work as an architect is widely evident in Tucson. He designed the Pioneer Hotel; Pima County Courthouse; the Benedictine Sanctuary; Tucson High School; St. Mary's Hospital; Veterans Administration Hospital; Pima County Courthouse; Mansfeld Junior High School; Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind; Tucson Medical Center; Corbett Lumber & Hardware Co.; U.S. post office. Outside of Tucson, he designed the Cochise County Courthouse in Bisbee; U.S. Post Office in Yuma. He was among four architects who laid out and developed Colonia Solana. Teenage son Lew worked there as a "water specialist," watering the palm trees in the subdivision

On the University of Arizona campus, he built Bear Down Gym, 1926; West Stadium, 1929; Old Baseball Stadium, 1929. With Public Works Administration monies, he designed the Humanities Building, 1935; R.O.T.C. Stables, 1936; The Women's Building (became Gallagher Theatre, part of Student Union), 1936; Infirmary, 1936; Chemistry and Physics, 1936; Arizona State Museum, 1935; Administration Building, 1937; Auditorium, 1937; Yuma Hall, 1937; Gila Hall, 1937; East Stadium and Dormitory, 1937.

In 1940, Roy's son Lew joined the architecture firm. They opened offices for Place and Place on the second floor of the building on the southeast corner of Stone Avenue and Pennington Street.

In later life, Roy bought the Bear Valley Ranch in Santa Cruz County in partnership with his sons. Meade managed the ranch, and later ranched in Oklahoma and Montana.

Roy belonged to Masons, Rotary Club, and was a member of Old Pueblo Club, El Rio Golf & CC, Engineer Club, American Institute of Architects; was a poker player and politically savvy.

Roy Place died in Tucson on September 22, 1950.

### **Lew Place**

Lew Place was born in San Diego in 1913, the son of Roy and Wynne Place. The family moved to Tucson in 1916 when Lew was 3. He attended Roskrige elementary and junior high schools and Tucson High School. He studied art at the University of Arizona and, during the

Depression, worked as a cowboy at Canoa Ranch and as a driver, bookkeeper and estimator for the Webster Land, Cattle Broker.

Lew began working in his father's architecture office in 1930, though it was another ten years before he became a partner in the firm. In 1938 and 1939, he was an inspector for the Federal Public Works Administration in Chandler, Mesa and Williams, Arizona.

During World War II, Lew served in the U.S. Army. He was stationed in Guam where he used his architecture training to draw maps for command centers. Lew married Katherine Kendall; they had one daughter Pamela (Mrs. Eugene P. Weber Jr.).

After his father retired in 1950, Lew Place was the sole proprietor of Place & Place architecture firm. He designed Great American Tower (originally home Federal Tower); Wells Fargo Bank (originally Southern Arizona Bank); First Interstate Bank; Tucson Electric Power Co.; and Pueblo, Rincon and Salpointe high schools.

On the University of Arizona campus, Lew designed the new Administration Building, 1966; Fine Arts Complex, 1953; UA Biological Sciences East Building, 1956; UA Anthropology Building, 1961; UA Acacia Fraternity House, 1961; UA Science Library, 1963; UA Ina Gittings Building, 1964; McKale Memorial Center, 1973.

From the late 1960s to the early 1970s, Lew was also a partner in Associated State Capitol Architects who designed the Legislative wings at the State Capitol in Phoenix, Industrial Commission Building, and Coliseum in Phoenix.

Lew retired in 1976. He was a member of the Mountain Oyster Club, Old Pueblo Club, St. Philip's in the Hills, Sigma Chi and Tucson Country Club. He served on the Arizona State Racing Commission and Tucson Airport Authority and belonged to Rotary Club, Elks Club, Arizona Historical Society, Poets' Club and Quiet Birdmen. He collected old photographs and autographed books on the Southwest and was an amateur boatman.

Lew Place died in Tucson in 1986.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The papers of Roy and Lewis Place, Architects, span the period from 1846 to 1934, although the bulk of the material dates from ca. 1920 to 1976. The papers include primarily architectural drawings and photographs of buildings designed by Place and Place Architects.

## **BOX & FOLDER LIST**

### **Box 1**

#### **Series 1: Biographical Materials**

- F. 1A Certificates
- F. 1B News Clippings
- F. 2 Publications

#### **Series 2: Drawings**

##### **Places-Arizona**

- F. 3 Bisbee-Cochise County Courthouse
- F. 4 Miscellaneous [floor plans for "new high school, Casa Grande, Arizona," "proposed office building, Phoenix, Arizona," "Phoenix National Bank" and "proposed banking room, Calexico, Calif."]
- F. 5 Tucson-Businesses [Sears-Roebuck & Co. building, Southwest Brewing Company, J. Knox Corbett Lumber and Hardware Co., Warehouse for People's Storage and Transportation Co., Pima Building, V.F.W., Home Federal Savings Tower]
- F. 6 Tucson-Churches [First Baptist Church, proposed University Catalina project of the Methodist Church, Sts. Peter and Paul]
- F. 7 Tucson-Dwellings [Villa Maria de Guadalupe]
- F. 8 Tucson-Government Buildings [Pima County Courthouse, U.S. Post Office and Courthouse]
- F. 9 Tucson-Hotels [Hotel Pioneer, proposed hotel building for Robert Brickman, Westerner Hotel]
- F. 10 Tucson-Medical [Thomas Davis Clinic, St. Mary's Hospital]
- F. 11 Tucson-Schools [Mansfeld Junior High School, Tucson High School, Roosevelt School, Salpointe]
- F. 12 Tucson-University of Arizona [Auditorium, sorority house for the Alpha Epsilon Chapter of the Gamma Phi Beta]
- F. 13 Tucson-Utilities [Mountain Bell, Tucson Gas & Electric Light and Power Co.]

#### **Series 3: Photographs**

##### **People**

- F. 14 People-Biographical [Roy Place, Lew Place, Ed Echols, J.F. Weadock, sculptor Hewlett "Tex" Wheeler and J. Rakin Jelks Sr., Jake Meyer]
- F. 15 People-Historical [Pearl Hart, Jake Meyer, Jay Parsons, Carl Young, Walter Lovejoy, Charles Yabrunovich, Black Bill, Henry Percy, Peter Pemperton, Charlie Moss, Lou Moss, Greg Rawlins, R.C. Creswell]

##### **Places-Arizona**

- F. 16 Bisbee-Cochise County Courthouse
- F. 17 Chinle
- F. 18 Sells
- F. 19 Tucson-Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind
- F. 20 Tucson-Augustus Brichta Elementary School
- F. 21 Tucson-Businesses, Miscellaneous [Includes Tucson Airport Control Tower, Sears Building, Reilly Funeral Home, Pioneer Hotel, Thomas-Davis Clinic, O'Dowd Title Insurance Building, Tucson Realty and Trust Co., Sparky's]
- F. 22 Tucson-J. Knox Corbett Lumber and Hardware Co.
- F. 23 Tucson-Downtown-Aerials

- F. 24 Tucson-Dwellings [George Westinghouse residence, Tanque Verde]
- F. 25 Tucson-El Presidio Hotel
- F. 26 Tucson-Mansfeld Junior High School
- F. 27 Tucson-Mountain Bell Telephone

**Box 2**

- F. 28 Tucson-Pima County Courthouse, built in 1929, designed by Roy Place
- F. 29 Tucson-St. Mary's Hospital
- F. 30 Tucson-Southern Arizona Bank & Trust Co.
- F. 31 Tucson-Tucson Federal Savings
- F. 32 Tucson-Tucson High School
- F. 33 Tucson-University of Arizona [Includes McKale Center, Bear Down Gym, University Art Museum, Fine Arts Complex, Auditorium]
- F. 34 Tucson-Westerner Hotel
- F. 35 Yuma

**Places-Outside Arizona**

- F. 36 California
- F. 37 Wyoming

**Places-Other**

- F. 38 Historical [Includes San Xavier, Fort Lowell Ruins ca. 1917, Nogales ca. 1920, downtown Tucson]
- F. 39 Miscellaneous

**Subjects**

- F. 40 Slides [Depicting various buildings designed by Place and Place, including Tucson Airport tower, Benedictine Sanctuary, McKale Center, University of Arizona stadium, schools, banks, Grunewald Home, etc.]
- F. 41 Historical-Transportation

**Box 3, Oversize**

- F. 42 Biographical [Certificates: Merit Award for Excellence in Architecture from Bell Telephone System to Place and Place Architects, 1960; Appointment of Lew Place to the State Board of Technical Registration, 1968; Citation of Merit to Lew Place from Raul Castro, Governor of Arizona, in recognition of his service as Racing Commissioner, 1976]
- F. 43 Drawings [Architectural renderings of: Pueblo Nuevo Lodge, C.C. Souerbry, Organizer; Gila County Hospital; U.S. Post Office, Yuma, Arizona; St. Mary's Hospital; Benedictine Convent and Chapel of Perpetual Adoration]
- F. 44 Photographs [Includes unidentified portrait of a man wearing a suit and a black patch over his left eye; aerial views of Tucson; St. Mary's Hospital; University of Arizona Womens Building; Pima County Courthouse; Cochise County Courthouse]

**Folio 1:** Architectural rendering of the Pima County Governmental Center, Place & Place Architects