FINDING AID FOR
Collection on McCormick Theological Seminary

DePaul University, Special Collections and Archives
2350 N Kenmore Ave., Chicago, IL 60614
archives@depaul.edu 773-325-7864
Collection Description

Collection on McCormick Theological Seminary
Date Range: 1893-1995
Quantity: 2 LF, 6 boxes

Creator
Locally assembled

History
The McCormick Theological Seminary Collection is primarily a product of the research and work completed by Elizabeth Ware, a 1998 graduate of DePaul's Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program. Ware purchased one of the 1880s row houses sold by McCormick Seminary in 1975 and was inspired to research her home and neighborhood as part of her graduate program. In 1998 Ware prepared an exhibition titled "Within the Wrought Iron Fence: The Hidden Heritage of McCormick Theological Seminary." Materials from the Lincoln Park Collection and DePaul University Archives were added to Ware's original donation.

McCormick Theological Seminary was founded in Hanover, Indiana in 1829 as the Indiana Theological Seminary. Lured to Chicago in 1859 by Cyrus H. McCormick's substantial gift of $100,000, the seminary relocated and changed its name to the Presbyterian Seminary of the Northwest. The seminary started building on a plot of land on the south side of Fullerton Avenue which was donated by Joseph Sheffield and William Ogden in 1863. In 1886 the seminary was renamed to honor the McCormick family who continued to financially support the institution's building program through the 1920s. The institution experienced another name change in 1928 due to a request made by the McCormick family. For fifteen years the institution was known as the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Chicago until the McCormick family gave permission to change the name back to McCormick Theological Seminary in 1943. In 1957 the Seminary embarked on a new building plan for the campus which called for the demolition of many of the Victorian era buildings. The Seminary made the decision to move from its Lincoln Park location and put the property up for sale in 1974. Although it wanted to sell the property in one parcel, McCormick Theological Seminary agreed to sell the row houses on Belden, Fullerton, and Chalmers Place to the Seminary Townhouse Association (STA) in 1975. DePaul University purchased the east and west ends of the Seminary campus in 1976 and 1977.

Scope
The McCormick Theological Seminary Collection contains publications, newspaper clippings, correspondence, maps, ephemera, and photographs related to the history of the McCormick Theological Seminary.

Arrangement
This collection is organized into three series: 1. Publications; 2. Administrative Files; 3. Photographs. See series-level descriptions for individual arrangement details.

Provenance
Donated by Liz Ware, Accession 2015.062; Donated by Fr. Edward Udovic. Accession records were not completed at the time of the various donations.
Location
3/34/F; 3/44/D

Restrictions
This collection is open for research use.

Language
In English

Prepared By
C. Kidney 2004
DePaul Special Collections and Archives: Collection on McCormick Theological Seminary

Series Descriptions

Series 001: Publications
Date Range: 1893-1998
Quantity: 0.33 LF

Scope:
The Publications series contains newsletters, newspaper articles, yearbooks, essays, books, a campus directory, and other publications generated by or written about the McCormick Theological Seminary.

Arrangement:
Materials are grouped together by subject or format, then arranged chronologically. Miscellaneous publications are arranged chronologically at the end of the series.

Restrictions: None

Container List

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<td>001.001</td>
<td>Histories of McCormick Theological Seminary: A History of McCormick Theological Seminary Preface- Chapter VI</td>
<td>1893</td>
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<td>Histories of McCormick Theological Seminary: A History of McCormick Theological Seminary Chapters VII-XIV</td>
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<td>Histories of McCormick Theological Seminary: Institutional Study of McCormick</td>
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<td>001.013</td>
<td>Histories of McCormick Theological Seminary: Within the Wrought Iron Fence by Elizabeth Ware</td>
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001.016 Newspaper Articles: Newspaper Articles 1974-1976
001.017 Newspaper Articles: Newspapers Clippings and Articles 1977
001.018 Miscellaneous Publications: Class of 1904 1904
002.001 Miscellaneous Publications: McCormick Seminary Yearbook 1895
002.002 Miscellaneous Publications: General Catalogue 1830-1912 1912
002.003 Miscellaneous Publications: Catalog 1933
002.004 Miscellaneous Publications: Campus Directory 1969
002.005 Miscellaneous Publications: McCormick Seminary Annual Letter 1952-1955
002.006 Miscellaneous Publications: The Spirit of McCormick, senior class pamphlet 1921

Series 002: Administrative Files
Date Range: 1957-1991
Quantity: 0.66 LF

Scope:
The Administrative Files series contains correspondence, flyers, development plans, reports, and ephemera, as well as materials documenting social protests, urban renewal efforts, and projects spearheaded by or related to the McCormick Theological Seminary.

Arrangement:
Materials are grouped together by subject, then arranged chronologically. Miscellaneous materials are arranged chronologically at the end of the series.

Restrictions: None

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<td>Faculty: Davies, Paul E. and Marjorie Billings</td>
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<td>Social Protest: Postmortem McCormick Sit-In by Harold Blake Walker</td>
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<td>002.021</td>
<td>Urban Renewal: Plan for the Development of the Campus of McCormick Theological Seminary</td>
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<td>002.022</td>
<td>Urban Renewal: Commission on Chicago Historical and Architectural Landmarks</td>
<td>1975</td>
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002.023 Urban Renewal: For Sale Brochure 1976
002A.001 Miscellaneous: McCormick Seminary Printer's Block undated

002A.002 Miscellaneous: Photocopied drawings, floor plans, sketches of campus 1920s
002A.003 Miscellaneous: Map of Campus 1961
002A.004 Miscellaneous: Drawings and Captions of Places in McCormick 1970s

Series 003: Photographs
Date Range: 1909-1969, undated
Quantity: 0.99 LF

Scope:
The Photographs series contains images of McCormick Theological Seminary buildings and events. This series also includes aerial images, photographs of protest activities, and photographs of people associated with the Seminary.

Arrangement:
Materials are grouped together by subject, then arranged chronologically. Miscellaneous and oversized photographs are arranged chronologically at the end of the series.

Restrictions: None

Container List
Box#.Folder# Folder Title Date
002A.005 Aerial View and General: Aerial View looking northwest from Belden Ave. 1957
002A.006 Aerial View and General: Buildings - Reference view use only 1909
002A.007 Aerial View and General: Halsted Street Enterence 1950s
002A.008 Aerial View and General: McCormick Theological Seminary Sign undated
002A.009 Aerial View and General: People walking into Chalmers Place undated
002A.010 Buildings: Belden St. Entrance, Virginia Library in the background 1950s
002A.011 Buildings: Architect's sketch of Zenos Hall (now McCabe) 1957
002A.012 Buildings: 835 Chalmers Place undated
002A.013 Buildings: Fowler Hall being razed 1966
002A.014 Events: Outside Graduation 1950s
002A.015 Events: Commons as a Dining Hall 1950s
002A.016 Events: Commons during Christmas 1950s
002A.017 Events: Carrying books from the Virginia Library to new McGaw Library 1963
002A.018 People: Mrs. Lydia Niebuhr 1950s
002A.019 People: Hulda or Lydia Niebuhr 1950s
002A.020 People: Students 1960s
002A.021 Miscellaneous: Social Protestors Occupy Stone Administration Building 1969
002A.022 Miscellaneous: Fowler Hall undated
003.001 Mounted Oversized Photos of the Rowhouses undated
004.001 Mounted Oversized Photos of the Rowhouses undated
005.001 Mounted Oversized Photos of the Rowhouses undated