

Alfred Easton Poor Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.**

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LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm88075450>

Prepared by Bradley E. Gernand

Collection Summary

Title: Alfred Easton Poor Papers

Span Dates: 1866-1985

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1919-1983)

ID No.: MSS75450

Creator: Poor, Alfred Easton, 1899-1988

Extent: 600 items ; 9 containers ; 3.5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Architect and naval officer. Correspondence, writings, publications, reports, and appointment calendars pertaining primarily to Poor's architectural career, particularly his designs for public buildings, and his naval service during World War I and World War II.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Poor, Alfred Easton, 1899-1988.

Organizations

Library of Congress James Madison Memorial Building (Washington, D.C.)

National Academy of Design (U.S.)

United States Capitol (Washington, D.C.)

United States. Naval Reserve.

United States. Navy--Officers.

Subjects

Architecture--Washington (D.C.)

Library buildings--Washington (D.C.)

Memorials--North Carolina.

Public buildings--United States.

World War, 1914-1918--Naval operations, American.

World War, 1939-1945--Naval operations, American.

Places

United States--Capital and capitol.

Wright Brothers National Memorial (N.C.)

Occupations

Architects.

Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Alfred E. Poor, architect and naval officer, were given to the Library of Congress by Poor in 1979. An addition was received from his estate in 1988.

Processing History

The papers of Alfred Easton Poor were arranged and described in 1992. The register was revised in 2008.

Transfers

Some photographic images, architectural drawings and plans, construction reports, and related materials have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Albert Easton Poor Papers.

Related Material

No specifications, drawings, or conceptualizations for any of Poor's designs are found in these papers, but a collection of such items is available in the Library's Prints and Photographs Division.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Albert Easton Poor is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Albert Easton Poor are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Alfred Easton Poor Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1899, May 24	Born, Baltimore, Md.
1911-1916	St. George's School, Newport, R.I.
1918-1919	Ensign, United States Navy
1920	A.B., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1923	B.A., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.
1923-1925	Draftsman, Peabody; Wilson & Brown; John Russell Pope
1924	M.A., University of Pennsylvania
1925	Woodman traveling fellow in architecture
1925-1927	Independent practice as architect
1927-1932	Partner, Rodgers & Poor, New York, N.Y.
1929	Married Janet Sheppard
1932	Published <i>Colonial Architecture of Cape Cod</i> . New York: W. Helburn
1942-1946	Commander, United States Naval Reserve

1946-1947	Partner, Walker & Gillette, New York, N.Y.
1947-1952	Partner, Walker & Poor
1972-1975	Partner, Poor and Swanke
1975-1988	Partner, Poor, Swanke, Hayden & Connell
1988, Jan. 13	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Alfred Easton Poor (1899-1988) span the years 1866-1985, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period from 1919 to 1983. The papers are organized into [Correspondence](#), [Subject Files](#), and [Miscellany](#) series.

Poor was an architect who designed and renovated some of the nation's most prominent public spaces. He was principal architect of the memorial to the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, and was principal or contributing architect of the James Madison Memorial Building of the Library of Congress. He was also involved in the restoration of the West Front and renovation of the Old Supreme Court chamber of the United States Capitol. Other designs by Poor included government buildings in New York and military airfields and buildings around the world. .

The [Correspondence](#) series, dated 1866, 1901, and 1919-1983, chiefly concerns Poor's military service during the world wars and the activities of his architectural firm in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Much of Poor's correspondence regarding his architectural career was destroyed after his death. The remaining correspondence is disparate and sporadic, except for a surviving two-year segment of office chronological files from 1979 to 1981, which Poor accumulated while associated with Poor, Swanke, Hayden & Connell.

The [Subject Files](#) consist of correspondence, reports, and related material regarding Poor's architectural designs, his activities as an official of the National Academy of Design, family matters, and aircraft during World War II.

The [Miscellany](#) series includes Poor's daily calendars, notes and notations, programs, publications containing information about his designs, and a small number of writings by Poor and his father.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [Correspondence, 1866-1983](#)
- [Subject Files, 1866-1985](#)
- [Miscellany, 1910-1983](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1

Correspondence, 1866-1983

Letters and attached material to and from Poor regarding a variety of subjects, chief of which are his military service during the world wars and the activities of his architectural firm. Arranged chronologically by year, month, and day.

BOX 2-4

Subject Files, 1866-1985

Correspondence, reports, and related material regarding several subjects, most notably Poor's major design contracts. Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.

BOX 4-9

Miscellany, 1910-1983

Daily appointment calendars, publications, and writings. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

Container List

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BOX 2-4	Subject Files, 1866-1985 Correspondence, reports, and related material regarding several subjects, most notably Poor's major design contracts. Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.
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Miscellany, 1910-1983

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BOX 9	1975, undated
BOX 9	Speeches and lectures, 1958-1970, undated
BOX 9	Writings
BOX 9	Poor, Alfred Easton (short stories), circa 1917-1938
BOX 9	Poor, Charles Lane (science papers), 1946