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Finding Aid to the Physical Plant Records

Physical Plant

Physical Plant Records, 1964-1991 Record Group 16.15.2 12.5 linear ft.

<u>History</u>

Scope and Content

Box and Folder List

OVERVIEW

Links: Finding Aid to the: Physical Plant Directors Records

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the University Archives.

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Citation: [Identification of item]. Physical Plant Records, University Archives, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

HISTORY

The first record of building maintenance appeared in the Agricultural College Faculty Committee minutes for September 16, 1897. The committee discussed the need for "an annual outlay for repair of buildings" and passed a recommendation to the Board of Trustees that the financial expenditure should come from an additional student fee of one dollar per term.

Since then, the responsibilities for the maintenance and daily operation of the buildings and grounds of North Dakota State University have come under several positions. In 1909, Richard Kraft became the

"Custodian of Buildings." At the same time, George L. Tibert became the Superintendent of Construction to oversee the rapid development of the campus as the institution's faculty and staff numbers began to swell. Responsibility for the Heating Plant (Power Plant) merged with those for the Buildings and Grounds Department during Erling Q. Thorson's twenty-eight-year appointment. The present Physical Plant Department is a direct descendent of the Buildings and Grounds Department.

Supervisory responsibility for the Physical Plant passed from the President to the Business Office when it was created in 1948. In 1966, the University created the position of Comptroller, which managed many of the institution's financial aspects. In creating the position of Vice President for Business and Finance in 1969, the responsibilities of the Business Office—including the Physical Plant—were combined with half the responsibility for managing the Computing services on campus.

Custodian of Buildings

1909-1922	Richard Kraft
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Superintendent of Construction

-	
1909-1912	George L. Tibert

Superintendent of Heating Plant (later Power Plant)

1909-1914	John Anderson
1915-1917	George L. Tibert
1917-1946	Paul Larson
1947-1953	John H. Mickelson

Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds

1923-1942	Richard Kraft
1942-1970	Erling Q. Thorson
1970-1978	Gary C. Reinke

Director of Physical Plant

1979-1994	Gary C. Reinke
1994-1996	Dennis L. Gilbertson (interim)
1996-2000	Dennis L. Gilbertson
2002-present	Bruce S. Frantz

Managing Positions

Business Manager

1948-1954	Forrest Fernald Skinner
1954-1972	Edythe L. Toring

Assistant Business Manager

1954-1956	B.B. Brandrud
1956-1961	Sherwood A. Barrow
1961-1962	vacant
1962-1971	Ronald J. Corliss

Comptroller

1966-1969	H. Donald Stockman
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Vice President for Business and Finance

1969-1992	H. Donald Stockman
1992-2004	Richard L. Rayl

Sources consulted: University Senate Records, Box 14; College Catalogs, 1891-2004; College Directories, 1925-2004; NDSU Staff Biography Files.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records of the physical plant consist completely of subject files concerning the construction and renovation of buildings and supporting infrastructure on the North Dakota State University campus for the years 1964 to 1991. These twenty-seven years encompass a very active period of construction in the University's history.

Each building subject may contain one or more files of the following types: bids, contracts, contract amendments, correspondence, inspection reports, minutes, and purchase orders. Bid folders contain legal advertisements of bids, bidding specifications and amendments, contractor bids and bonds, and bid tabulation data. Contracts between the University and both architects and contractors have been retained, as have their related correspondence, in contract folders. Contract amendments, otherwise known as "change orders," have also been retained with their related correspondence. Correspondence folders often contain valuable information concerning architects, contractors, and suppliers as well as the University officials overseeing construction. Inspection reports by architects provide valuable records of construction events. Both individual building committee minutes and North Dakota University System board minutes have been included in minutes folders. The purchase order files contain many financial documents related to the purchase of goods and payment for services rendered. Other file divisions have been provided as deemed appropriate. The building subjects are arranged alphabetically. Within each file, all items have been arranged in chronological order.

Although this collection spans only a portion of the building history of the University, these records provide a valuable picture of construction progress on campus. The records address planning, financing, architect and contractor selecting, purchasing, and constructing for most of the modern buildings. Unfortunately, this breadth of records is not consistent for all building subjects. The following inventory provides greater detail of the remaining records for each subject.

NOTE: Physical Plant became Facilities Management on 7/1/03

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1/4	Contract Amendments, 1982
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	Auxiliary Services Building
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1/10	Contracts, 1979
1/11	Correspondence, 1979
1/12	Minutes, 1979
1/13	Purchase Orders, 1979-80
	Bentson/Bunker Fieldhouse (Old Fieldhouse)
1/14	Bids, 1975-76, 1980, 1983
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1/15	Contracts, 1975-76, 1979-80, 1983
1/16	Contract Amendments, 1976-77, 1980
1/17	Correspondence, 1975-80, 1983
1/18	Inspection Reports, 1980
1/19	Minutes, 1975-77, 1979-80
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1/23	Contracts, 1982, 1984, 1988
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2/15	Correspondence, 1978, 1987
2/16	Minutes, 1978
2/17	Purchase Orders, 1978

	E. Morrow Lebedeff Hall (Home Economics)
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2/28	Valuation Report, 1969-72
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