

MS-161: Louise Harris Odiorne Papers

Collection Number: MS-161

Title: Louise Harris Odiorne Papers

Dates: 1914-1977 (bulk 1966-1977)

Creator: Odiorne, Louise Harris, 1910-1977

Summary/Abstract:

Louise Odiorne was a landscape architect and planner working out of Yellow Springs, Ohio. The papers in this collection reflect her wide-ranging interests in community planning, environmental architecture, regenerative land use and conservation. Included are personal and professional papers, grants, papers pertaining to several land use projects in and around Yellow Springs, and materials concerned with Odiorne's most important work, the Life-Clime Project, an idea for establishing an indoor symbiotic relationship between plants and people.

Quantity/Physical Description: 3.5 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

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Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-161, Louise Odiorne Papers, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition: The papers of Louise Odiorne were donated by Louise Odiorne's children, Corrine Odiorne Pelzl, Eve Odiorne, Eve Odiorne Sullivan, and Ken Odiorne in October 1982.

Other Finding Aid:

The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at <https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms161.pdf>. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Related Material:

- MS-117 Derostus F. Ladley Papers
(<https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms117.pdf>)
- MS-135 Alice Griffith Carr Papers
(<https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms135.pdf>)
- MS-137 Totten Family Papers
(<https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms137.pdf>)
- MS-138 Oscar D. Ladley Papers
(<https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms138.pdf>)
- MS-139 Jerusha Hall Peacock Papers
(<https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms139.pdf>)
- MS-155 Ladley/ Carr/Totten/Harris/Odiorne/ Families Photographs
(<https://libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms155.pdf>)
- MS-160 Harris Family Papers
(<https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms160.pdf>)

Revisions: Finding aid written according to DACS standards by Alyssa Stark and Toni Vanden Bos, February, 2019.

Processed by: Shelia A. Hammiller, June 11, 1986.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged into three series:

Series I: Correspondence, 1914-1977

Series II: Miscellaneous Papers, 1963-1977

Series III: Projects, 1956-1976

Subseries IIIA: Rough Drafts of Papers, 1972, undated

Subseries IIIB: Diagrams and Photographs, undated

Subseries IIIC: Life-Clime Project, 1967-1976

Subseries IIID: Yellow Springs, 1956-1975

Biographical/Historical Note:

Louise Odiorne was born in McRae, Georgia, on January 8, 1910. She continued to live in Georgia and even began high school there. She and her family then moved to the Dayton, Ohio area where she finished high school in 1929. The same year, she entered Antioch College in Yellow Springs, which she attended until 1933.

In 1934, she accepted a fellowship to attend the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture, in Groton, Massachusetts. In 1935 she transferred to Ohio State University, where, in 1938, she received a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture, from the College of Engineering. Post graduate studies include the Steve Hamlin plant materials course at the Harvard University Department of Landscape Architecture during the summer of 1938; and also in 1938, she attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Architecture and Planning Department.

With her formal education and training completed, Louise Odiorne took a short break in her professional career and married Richard Odiorne in 1938. She resumed her professional interests in 1940 by entering private practice in Landscape Architecture and Planning. What followed was a varied and dynamic professional career in Landscape Architecture.

In addition to her private practice, one of her interests was community planning. This interest landed her in the Ohio Plan Board Office of both Dayton and Yellow Springs, Ohio. She was also extensively involved in the planning and design of Melbourne Village, Melbourne, Florida.

Louise Odiorne was widely respected professionally and as a guest lecturer. She was a guest lecturer at both Ohio State University and Antioch College. In addition, she participated in the Winter Lecture Series at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, and was a visiting lecturer at the Cheekwood Gardens and Tennessee Garden Clubs, Nashville, Tennessee. She also served as a consultant to the Notre Dame Graduate School of Environic Studies.

Louise Odiorne is probably best known for her research and development in building technologies and materials for buildings as human life support systems. This culminated in applying for patents for the "Life Clime Platform," an idea for establishing indoors the symbiotic relationship between living plants and people, called "The Indoor-Eden Effect". Twenty demonstration structures and installations were built. Closely related to this was her work with rural land owners for regenerative, economically feasible land use and conservation practices.

Finally, busy as she was, Louise also had several other business interests. She established Living Space, Inc., which became a franchise of Alside Structural System in 1965 and in 1969, she established Hunatech Foundation for research in environment. In addition, she was the director of Carr greenhouses, Yellow Springs and directed the conversion from commercial use to Human-Climate productive-ornamental plant selection research. In November of 1977, Louise Odiorne passed away.

Scope and Content Note:

Series I: Correspondence, 1914-1977, is the heart of the Louise Odiorne Papers. The first part of the series contains letters to her husband and letters of condolences she received on her husband's death. After her husband, Richard's death in 1963, Louise Odiorne was forced to be the sole provider for her family and this was accompanied by an expansion of her professional interests. Almost without exception, all of the Louise Odiorne Papers are dated after the death of her husband.

The rest of Series I contains both general correspondence from friends and background information. Included with the correspondence is letters and postcards from family and friends. The background information contains legal and professional correspondence, political/social activities, and university correspondence.

Series II: Miscellaneous Papers, 1963-1977, include articles, handwritten notes, and a thesis authored by Louise Odiorne. Professional articles or books she had acquired during her career

are also contained in this series. Finally, this series contains papers from her various business or professional interests, such as Hunatech Tech, Inc.

Series III: Projects, 1956-1976, contains a general section and four sub-series containing information on professional projects of Louise Odiorne. The general section contains mainly information about projects on a national level. These include a National Endowment for the Arts grant application, a Hunatech proposal to the Department of Education, General Services Administration Conference information, and information from the Federal Housing Administration.

Subseries IIIA: Rough Drafts of Papers, 1972, undated, contains rough drafts of important papers involving some of Louise's projects. Included in this series is Life-Clime Project correspondence, truly one of the highlights of her professional career.

Subseries IIIB: Diagrams and Photographs, contains undated diagrams and photographs which provide a pictorial record of some of her projects.

Subseries IIIC: Life-Clime Project, 1967-1976 is probably the second most important section of the Louise Odiorne Papers. The Life-Clime Project is the jewel of Louise's Professional career and will almost certainly be a lasting legacy of this truly remarkable woman.

Subseries IIID: Yellow Springs, 1956-1975, contains the last of the papers. This sub-series is dedicated to projects in and around Yellow Springs, Ohio. Included in this section are several land use projects and the Yellow Springs sewer project. This series also contains a couple of magazine articles written about Louise Odiorne.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Odiorne, Louise Harris, 1910-1977 – Manuscripts

Places

Yellow Springs (Ohio) – History

Subjects (General)

Regional Planning – Ohio – Yellow Springs

Landscape architecture – Ohio

Landscape architects

Material Types

Conceptual drawings

Correspondence

Grant proposals

Photographs

Collection Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
Series I: Correspondence			1914-1977
1	1	Letters to Richard Odiorne	1963 March-1966 November
1	2	Condolences regarding R. Odiorne's Death	1963 July-1963
1	3	Condolences regarding R. Odiorne's Death	undated
1	4	Condolences from Business Associates	1963 July-1963 August
1	5	General Correspondence with Family	1914, 1969, undated
1	6	Friends	1922 December-1977 February
1	7	Friends	undated
1	8	Miscellaneous Post Cards	1934-1973
1	9	Miscellaneous Post Cards	undated
1	10	Randolph Black – Southern Rural Action Inc.	1969
1	11	Political / Social Activities	1966 March-1971 August
1	12	Landscape Architectural Business Information	1964 April-1975 July
1	13	Clubs/Local Leaguer Newspaper	1973 February-1973 August
1	14	Personal/ Legal Business	1964 January-1970 June
1	15	Miscellaneous Professional	1964 April-1976 January
1	16	Alside Homes, Inc.	1963 January-1975 February
1	17	AHF Melborne Village, FL Newspaper	1968 October-1975 November
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	1	University Correspondence	1959-1974
2	2	Environic / Notre Dame	1969 April-1974 June
2	3	National Park Service	1966 June-1970 September
2	4	Educational Facilities Lab	undated
2	5	Handwritten Miscellaneous Rough Drafts	undated
2	6	Handwritten Miscellaneous Rough Drafts	undated
Series II: Miscellaneous Papers			1963-1977
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	1	Personal Information	undated
3	2	Date Books	1977
3	3	Articles on Gardening by Louise and Richard Odiorne	undated
3	4	Dr. Lalla Iverson, MD / Rural Medicine	1963 May-1967 October
3	5	Newsprint Items	undated
3	6	Congress for Parks and Recreation	1966 October 10

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	7	World Futurist Society	undated
3	8	Hunatech Tech Inc.	undated
3	9	Envirionic Found, Intl.	undated
3	10	<u>Envirionic Education</u> by Edward G. Pickard	1970
3	11	'Roof without walls' thesis	undated
3	12	Miscellaneous Reports and Pamphlets	undated
3	13	Drafts and Plants Today – R. Simmons and Lee Fryer	1968
3	14	Handwritten notes 'Living with Plants Concept'	undated
3	15	Handwritten notes – Manual of Eden Climate Building and Living	undated
Series III: Projects			
Box	File	Description	Date
4	1	Senior Citizen Project Drawings	undated
4	2	Senior Citizen Project, Misc. Papers	undated
4	3	National Endowment for Arts, Grant Application	1968 January-1970 April
4	4	National Endowment for Arts, Proposal	undated
4	5	Luornian Ladder – Hunatech Time Management Project	undated
4	6	Hunatech Proposal – Dept. of Education	1972
4	7	D.M.O.C. – Dept. of Education Proposal	undated
4	8	General Correspondence w/ H.U.D., regarding Projects	undated
4	9	Grant Information from National Endowment for Humanities	undated
4	10	General Services Administration Conference Information	undated
4	11	Information from Federal Housing Admin.	undated
4	12	H.E.W.	1969 September 2
4	13	Thesis Project / Carr House Yellow Springs	undated
4	14	Project Outline – Music Metamorphosis	undated
Subseries IIIA: Rough Draft of Papers			1956-1976
Subseries IIIA: Rough Draft of Papers			1972, undated
Box	File	Description	Date
5	1	Regenerative Human Comm. Report N.E.A. Proposal	1972
5	2	Regenerative Human Comm. Report, Hunatech	undated
5	3	Life-Clime Project Correspondence	undated
5	4	Rurban Village Project Notes	undated
5	5	Miscellaneous Handwritten Note Cards	undated
Subseries IIIB: Diagrams and Photographs			undated
Box	File	Description	Date
6	1	Miscellaneous Photos	undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
6	2	Ashbaugh Garden Project	undated
6	3	NA – LA Garden – Hartman Place	undated
6	4	Homeplace Gardens – Georgia	undated
6	5	Ornlake C. D. L. – Children’s Project	undated
Subseries IIIC: Life-Clime Project			1967-1976
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
6	6	Human Climate Plant Study	undated
6	7	Housing Project, Yellow Springs	undated
6	8	Housing Project, Yellow Springs Drawings	undated
6	9	Correspondence to Hubert Humphrey regarding Life-Clime	1969 September-1973 May
6	10	General correspondence regarding Life-Clime	1967 November-1976 March
6	11	Patent Application	undated
6	12	Rough Draft of Life-Clime Papers	undated
Subseries IIID: Yellow Springs			1956-1975
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
7	1	Centennial Booklets: <u>Why they Came?</u>	1956
7	2	Yellow Springs Sewer Project	1959
7	3	Correspondence, Business	1969 May-1974 January
7	4	Land Use Information	undated
7	5	Land Planning	1961-1973
7	6	Development Project	1968-1971
7	7	Unincorporated Area’s Commission	1972 October-1973 June 13
7	8	Newsclippings on Land Use Project	undated
7	9	Rough Draft – Land Use Project	undated
7	10	Rough Draft – Whitehall Project	undated
7	11	Magazine with Article on L. Odiorne	1974-1975
7	12	Magazine with Article on L. Odiorne	1967 October 15