



Eugene Sternberg collection

NUMBER: 92-374-1-6

TITLE: Eugene Sternberg collection

CREATOR: Eugene Sternberg

DATES: 1954-1973

MEDIA: Papers

LOCATION: Collection Facility, upstairs, Rack 1, Sec. D, Shelf 4 & Rack 1, Sec. C, Shelf 1

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: Collection is open for Research and Use. Permission to publish material must be obtained from Tread of Pioneers Museum, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

PREFERRED CITATION: Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Eugene Sternberg collection: Tread of Pioneers Museum, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

ACQUISITION INFORMATION: The Sternberg documents were donated to the Tread of Pioneers Museum from E. Sternberg. A Deed of Gift was signed in 1992.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: The processing, arrangement, and description of the Sternberg collection was completed in 2018 by curator Katie Adams.

BIOGRAPHY:

Eugene Sternberg was born in 1915 in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. He earned an architectural engineering degree in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and was pursuing his graduate degree in architecture at Cambridge University in England when World War II broke out. He remained in London through the war teaching part-time at Cambridge, then joined the firm of Sir Patrick Abercrombie, where he was involved in the rebuilding of housing destroyed by the German bombing of London.

In 1945, like many European architects displaced by the war, Sternberg emigrated to the United States. He had accepted a teaching invitation at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, but quickly became dissatisfied with Cornell's restrictions on combining an architectural practice with teaching. At the urging of his friend, Lewis Mumford, Sternberg accepted a teaching offer from Carl Feiss, Director of the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of Denver. Sternberg was the first faculty member to be hired for the University of Denver's new School of Architecture. He and his English-born wife Barbara settled into a faculty housing complex of prefabricated, military-surplus quonset huts and buildings on the University Park Campus. In 1949, developer Edward Hawkins convinced Sternberg to participate in the development of Arapahoe Acres in Englewood. Hawkins' ideas appealed to the architect's interest in the creation of socially conscious modern housing combining quality architectural design and economical construction.

Locally, Sternberg had a great affinity for Steamboat Springs. His first project was the Yampa Valley Electric Association's office building, located at 10th and Yampa. He also designed the Steamboat Apartments at 11th and Pine (1958), the Chamber of Commerce building at 1201

Lincoln (circa 1960), an addition to the Steamboat Springs Elementary School (1960), several homes, the Craig Memorial Hospital (1959).

After reviewing the documents in this collection, it appears that Sternberg was instrumental in helping to create a City of Steamboat planning department. Sternberg worked with city officials to master plan key Steamboat Springs areas such as the Bath House, Howelsen Hill jumping complex, and areas around the mineral springs.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF COLLECTION:

Papers belonging to Denver architect Eugene Sternberg, gifted to the Tread of Pioneers Museum in 1992 by Sternberg. The papers include letters sent to and from representatives and contacts from Steamboat Springs. Newspaper clippings from articles published in the *Steamboat Pilot* and Denver newspapers, as well as brochures.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION:

The Eugene Sternberg collection is organized by building projects

| Box | Folder | File Title | Dates |
|-----|--------|--|-----------|
| 1 | 1 | Yampa Valley Electric Association | 1954-1956 |
| | 2 | City Master Planning | 1958-1959 |
| | 3 | Plans for Methodist Church and Lowell-Whiteman | 1958-1959 |
| | 4 | Booklet (“Steamboat: the first 40 years”) | 1973-1974 |