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## Harrison W. Fox Real Estate Collection : A Finding Aid

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Special Collections and University Archives.

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HARRISON W. FOX  
REAL ESTATE COLLECTION

*A Finding Aid by  
Candace S. Whitaker*

*June 1997*

*Special Collections  
Nelson Poynter Memorial Library  
University of South Florida  
St. Petersburg*

## INTRODUCTION AND PROVENANCE

In 1996, Dr. Raymond Arsenault, Professor of History at the University of South Florida, donated the Fox Real Estate Collection to the Special Collections department of the USF St. Petersburg Library. The collection contains the personal papers of Harrison W. Fox, a prominent and successful third generation real estate developer in post-WWII St Petersburg. Mr. Fox was a very active member of the National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB), and an officer in both the Homebuilder's Association of Greater St. Petersburg (of which he was a charter member and the Association's first secretary) and the St. Petersburg Builder's and Contractor's Association.

The bulk of the collection consists of documents of these professional associations and includes correspondence, membership information, telegrams, board meeting notes and bylaws covering the period of 1946-1987, with the majority concerning 1946-1960. The collection also contains numerous photographs and floor plans of homes constructed by Fox & Fox Builders and Contractors during the 1940's and 1950's in St. Petersburg. Corporate information consisting of ledger books, payroll records and accounts for the period of 1946-1956 is also within the collection as well as some early records (c. 1925) regarding the Empire Realty Company of William G. Fox (grandfather of Harrison W. Fox).

This finding aid will assist the researcher who is interested in the history of real estate construction in Post-WWII St. Petersburg.

## RESTRICTIONS/PRESERVATION NOTE

The acidic paper often used on printing process has prompted the rapid physical deterioration found in some files of papers in this collection. To prevent further damage, please refrain from placing any additional stress on the paper fibers by folding or creasing, or by exposing them to light for an extended period of time. Please refrain from creating any marks or attempting to erase any marks currently existing. Report any tears or other damage so the library staff may take appropriate preservation or conservation measures. While no restrictions limit access to the papers and photographs, library staff will evaluate photocopying requests on an individual basis to ensure the long-term preservation of this collection.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The primary media of this collection consists of paper and photographs. It occupies six (6) storage boxes and measures 2.5 linear feet of space. Since the bulk of the collection traces the years immediately following WWII (1946-1955), it serves as an excellent micro-study of construction trends and concerns during this period in St. Petersburg. Please note there is also a portion of the collection containing incorporation and charter materials (c. 1925) of the Empire Realty Company of William G. Fox (grandfather of Harrison W. Fox). The collection's brochures, photographs and floor plans illustrate the popular designs of the period, while the personal correspondence and professional association papers indicate a feel for the costs and policies of that time. Although the collection is necessarily regional in nature, several NAHB

documents contained within the collection characterize some of the building industry's particular concerns of the time period, such as veteran's housing and economics, that extends beyond purely regional concerns. Researchers interested in the architecture, real estate development, and building practices of the time period will find these primary source materials especially useful and interesting.

### CONTAINER LISTING

Box 1: **RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION  
FOX & FOX BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS**

- I. Folder:
  - A. Photos and Floor Plans - Residential Properties - Numbered (from photo book) (n.d.)
  - B. Photos and Floor Plans - Residential Properties - Numbered (From photo book) (n.d.)
  - B. Photos and Floor Plans - Residential Properties - Numbered (n.d.)
  - C. Photos and Floor Plans - Residential Properties - Unnumbered (5/29/48 and n.d.)
  - D. Residential Building Floor Plans and Elevations - Numbered (n.d. except as indicated)
  - E. Floor Plans (unnumbered)
  - F. Construction Figures/Budget Quotes (11/6/53, 2/9/56, 3/23/56 and n.d.)
  - G. Fox & Fox Home Brochures and other Building Brochures (n.d.)

Box 2 **HOMEBUILDER'S ASSOCIATION**

- II. Folder:
  - A. Correspondence and Memorandums between Harrison W. Fox and the NAHB (1946-1951); NAHB Washington Letters (1948).

- B. Homebuilder's Association of Greater St. Petersburg - Membership Rosters (1946-1950)
- C. Homebuilder's Association of Greater St. Petersburg - Telegrams (1946-1949)
- D. Homebuilder's Association of Greater St. Petersburg - Newsletters (1946-1949)
- E. Homebuilder's Association of Greater St. Petersburg - Meeting Notes (1946-1949)
- F. Homebuilder's Association of Greater St. Petersburg - Bylaws and Budget (1952-1962)

Box 2, continued

### **POST-WWII BUILDING**

III. Folder:

- A. Homebuilding and Veterans Housing Policy (1946)
- B. St. Petersburg Planning Commission Brochures (n.d.)

IV. Folder:

- A. **ST. PETERSBURG BUILDER'S AND CONTRACTOR'S ASSOCIATION DOCUMENTS (1949-1987) (bulk: 1953-1962)**

Box 2, continued

### **HARRISON W. FOX**

V. Folder:

- A. Biographical Information
- B. Awards and Citations
- C. Miscellaneous Fox Correspondence (1949)

## VI. Folder:

- A. **NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS - HBA-Fox Photos (1946-1952) (bulk 1951-1952)**

Box 3 **LEDGER BOOKS (1946 - 1956)**

## VII. Folder:

- A. Finished Jobs, Job List Summaries (Large Ledger) (1946-1956)

Box 4 **LEDGER BOOKS, continued**

## B.

1. Corporation Record - Saratoga Construction Co. (1930)
2. Payroll Book (1945 - 1946)
3. Early Books (1926- 1928)

Box 5 **LEDGER BOOKS, continued**

## C.

1. Ledger Book (Small) (1946-1956)
2. Closed Accounts (Fox & Fox) (1946-1956)

Box 6 **COMMERCIAL REPAIRS TO BLDGS.  
& HOTELS DURING WWII**

## VIII. Folder:

- A. Bldg. Mait. Recs. & Cert. Of War Necessity (1943)
- B. Bldg. Mait. Recs. - Large Sheets
- C. Bldg. Mait. Recs. - (A - F) (Large Sheets) (1942-1943)
- D. Bldg. Mait. Recs. - (G-O) (Large Sheets) (1942-1943)

- E. Bldg. Mait. Recs. - (P-Z) (Large Sheets) (1942-1943)
- F. Bldg. Mait. Recs. - (Small Sheets)
- G. Bldg. Mait. Rec.s - (A-F) (Small Sheets) (1942-1943)
- H. Bldg. Mait. Recs. - (G-P) (Small Sheets) (1942-1943)
- I. Bldg. Mait. Recs. - (R-Z) (Small Sheets) (1942-1943)

Box 6, continued      **EMPIRE REALTY COMPANY (1925)**

- IX. Folder:
  - A. Incorporation and Charter Materials
  - B. Blank Stock and Dividend Sheets

## Harrison W. Fox Real Estate Collection

### Addendum

Harrison W. Fox donated supplemental material in January 2000. This segment of his papers contains materials related to his career as a banker at Home Federal Savings and Loan and First Federal Savings and Loan, later Florida Federal.

Folder A: Home Federal Savings and Loan.

Folder B: First Federal Savings and Loan.

Folder C: Miscellaneous materials on various Pinellas County real estate developments, including Ridgewood, Bayfront Tower, Jamestown, and Villa Maria.

Folder D: Mr. Fox's collected speeches and reports.

Folder E: His thesis for the Savings and Loan Graduate School, "Nursing Homes as an Income Opportunity in Specialized Lending," 1964.

Folder F: Transcript of his testimony to the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Housing and Urban Affairs regarding proposed flood insurance legislation, June 14, 1973.

Folder G: Miscellaneous materials concerning flood insurance and hurricane hazards in Pinellas County.

Folder H: Photocopy of *Hurricanes III*, by Bernard E. Ross and Melvin W. Anderson, 1973. This work deals with computer storm modeling for Pinellas County coastal areas.