Horace Rackham Hall records
015.HRH
Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Searls

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit
October 18, 2017
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
Table of Contents

Summary Information .................................................................................................................. 3
Historical note .......................................................................................................................... 4
Administrative Information ...................................................................................................... 4
Controlled Access Headings ................................................................................................... 4
Collection Inventory ................................................................................................................ 6
  Photographs ............................................................................................................................ 6
Summary Information

Repository  Eastern Michigan University Archives

Title  Horace Rackham Hall records

Date  1938

Extent  18.0 Linear feet 3 flat boxes, 3 oversize folders, 1 object

Language  English

Abstract  The **Horace Rackham Hall records** include original floor plans, as well as photographs of Horace Rackham and the decorative tiles in the building. Rackham Hall originally constructed for the Special Education Department, housed the Children's Institute and after much remodeling in 2013, it now houses the Physicians Assistant Program. The collection does not contain information about the building planning process, or specifics of the building.

Preferred Citation note

Please cite materials from the University Archives in the following manner: Item. Collection Title. Eastern Michigan University Archives.
Historical note

The Special Education department received a building of its own in 1938 with a donation made by the Horace H. and Mary A. Rackham fund of $350,000. The new building met the criteria set by Rackham’s will since it aided the disabled.

Rackham Hall was the first facility in the nation built specifically for teacher training in special education. The new building not only housed the Special Education Department, but also a Laboratory School where teachers learned techniques for educating students with special needs. Student teachers taught classes for the deaf and hard of hearing, blind and partially-sighted, cognitively impaired, and physically handicapped. Architects sited the building so that all the entrances to the building were made from ground level, relieving children, especially the disabled, from climbing steps to enter the building. Inside, Franklin Tiles decorate the areas around water fountains and along walls. Designs include fish, frog, crabs, a cougar, cranes, and leaves. Some of the tile designs are listed in the Franklin design sheets as early as the 1920s. The school could accommodate more than two hundred children. The ground floor contained six classrooms as well as a gymnasium and auditorium.

Today, most of the Special Education classes are housed in the Porter College of Education. Rackham was home to the Children’s Institute until 2011 when it underwent renovations. It now houses the recently established physician assistant program, whose inaugural courses were held in May 2014.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Eastern Michigan University Archives 2014 September 29

Conditions Governing Access note

Researchers are asked to request materials 24 hours prior to visiting the the University Archives.

Controlled Access Headings
Personal Name(s)

- Rackham, Horace

Subject(s)

- Buildings
- Eastern Michigan University
- Special education
## Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Floor plans</th>
<th>Oversize</th>
<th>Floor plans</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Oversize</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graphic materials</td>
<td></td>
<td>Graphic materials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(32307023293948)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Graphic materials</td>
<td></td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(32307023283626)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Graphic materials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(32307023288971)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Graphic materials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(32307023298152)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Photographs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Object</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horace Rackham 1938</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rackham Hall lightbulb chandelier post 1938</th>
<th>1.0 Linear feet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>