

Samuel Wilson, Jr. Papers

SOUTHEASTERN ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVE COLLECTION 2



Samuel Wilson, Jr. Sketch of Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop, Bourbon Street, New Orleans. From a sketchbook titled *Old Houses of New Orleans*, which won the Frank G. Churchill Prize, 1930. Pen and ink on heavy paper.

SCOPE and CONTENTS

Correspondence, typescripts, photographs, etc.

Ca. 1938 – 1975

49 boxes; one flat file drawer

Papers of New Orleans architect and architectural historian, Samuel Wilson, Jr. (1911-1993). Papers include personal correspondence, typescripts of Wilson articles and lectures, and drawings.

Drawings include designs for buildings, restoration projects, and sketches and measured drawings of demolished historic Louisiana buildings, including the Delord Sarpy house and Alexandre Baure house, both in New Orleans.

Samuel Wilson, Jr. was born in New Orleans to Stella Poupene and Samuel Wilson, Sr. After graduating from Warren Easton High School at the age of 16, he entered the Tulane School of Architecture in 1927. He started working for New Orleans architect Moise Goldstein, while a student at Tulane, and went on to a full time position with his firm after graduating in 1931.

In 1934, Wilson went to work for the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under the direction of New Orleans architect Richard Koch, who was the district HABS officer for Louisiana. In 1935, Wilson was hired by Koch as an architect in his firm. In 1938, the American Institute of Architects awarded Wilson the Edward Langley Scholarship, which allowed him to travel to Europe, spending time in Germany, Britain, and Scandinavian countries. He spent much time in France, where he did research at the French National Archives on the history of colonial Louisiana architecture. Wilson served in the United States Coast Guard during World War II, and served as a skipper in the Sea Scouts (Sea Scout scrapbooks are in the Louisiana Research Collection's Samuel Wilson, Jr. Collection). In 1945, Wilson returned to work in Richard Koch's office, and began teaching a Louisiana architecture course at Tulane University, which he taught for 38 years. Wilson had a lifelong interest in architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe, and edited *Impressions Respecting New Orleans by Benjamin Henry Boneval Latrobe* in 1951. While in Baltimore, researching Latrobe, he met Ellen Elizabeth Latrobe, great-great-granddaughter of B.H.B. Latrobe. The two married the same year the Latrobe book was published.

In 1955, Wilson became the partner of Richard Koch, and they established the firm of Richard Koch and Samuel Wilson, Jr., which was later changed to Koch and Wilson, and is still in operation today. In 1955, Wilson was also elected Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Wilson was active in many architecture and preservation efforts, including being a founding member and first president of the Louisiana Landmarks Society.

PROVENANCE

Samuel Wilson, Jr. gave the first group of papers to Tulane in the 1960s. Additional papers were given in 1981 through the early 1990s.

ACCESS

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