

F. O. Butler Foundation Records

Collection Summary

Identifier:	UA 78
Title:	F. O. Butler Foundation Records
Dates:	1942-2023
Extent:	3.42 linear feet (3 record boxes, 1 document case, legal)
Creator:	F. O. Butler Foundation
Language:	English

Repository: South Dakota State University Archives & Special Collections, University Station, Box 2115, 1300 North Campus Drive, Brookings, South Dakota, 57007

Access Note: Open. Materials must be used in-house and do not circulate.

Preferred Citation: Title or description of item, date, UA 78, box number, folder number, F. O. Butler Foundation Records, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Brookings, South Dakota.

Abstract

The F.O. Butler Foundation was established as a trust associated with South Dakota State University to manage assets derived from the estate of Chicago businessman F.O. Butler, whose holdings included the 7-11 Ranch in South Dakota. Formalized through a 1968 trust agreement, the foundation served as the administrative entity overseeing these assets and supporting university development initiatives, including projects such as Butler Plaza.

This collection documents the foundation's administrative, financial, and philanthropic activities from the early 20th century through 2018. Records include legal and trust documents, bylaws, correspondence, board and committee minutes, financial reports, investments, and IRS filings, providing detailed evidence of governance, decision-making,

and long-term asset management. Programmatic materials highlight initiatives such as the Campus Enrichment program, fellowships, scholarships, and other educational and community-focused efforts.

The records offer a comprehensive view of the foundation's role in nonprofit administration and private philanthropy, illustrating its contributions to South Dakota State University and the broader region, as well as the legacy of F.O. Butler and his associated trusts.

Biography

The F. O. Butler Foundation was established as a trust associated with South Dakota State University to manage and administer assets derived from the estate and property of F. O. Butler. A formal trust agreement was carried out in 1968, providing a legal framework for its operation. The foundation held interests in the F. O. Butler Ranch, Inc., commonly known as the 7-11 Ranch, and these holdings were used in connection with its financial and administrative activities. The foundation was involved in institutional development and planning at the university during the late 1960s and 1970s.

F. O. Butler was a Chicago-based businessman in the paper industry who later developed agricultural operations in South Dakota, where he raised polo ponies and Hereford cattle on multiple ranches, including the 7-11 Ranch. Following the establishment of the foundation, its assets supported projects connected to South Dakota State University, including the development of Butler Plaza between 1977 and 1980. The foundation functioned as the administrative entity through which Butler's property and related assets were managed in support of the university.

Scope and Content

The F. O. Butler Foundation Records document the administrative, financial, and activities of the foundation from 1942 to 2023. The collection includes governance records such as articles of incorporation, by-laws, trust agreements, legal documents, and meeting minutes spanning multiple decades. Correspondence files, including general and financial correspondence, provide documentation of the foundation's operations, decision-making processes, and relationships with affiliated individuals and organizations.

Financial and administrative records form a significant portion of the collection and include annual reports submitted to the South Dakota Secretary of State, financial reports, income

and expense records, investment documentation, tax filings, and records of the Investment Committee. Materials related to the management of foundation assets are also present, including documentation concerning the F. O. Butler Ranch, Inc. (7-11 Ranch), legal land descriptions, and related business records.

The collection further documents the foundation's support of South Dakota State University through campus enrichment initiatives, approval requests, scholarships, and specific projects. Additional materials include annual meetings, annual portfolio reviews, public relations records, news releases, award programs, and historical files related to the foundation and F. O. Butler. Later records reflect continued administrative and financial oversight, including nonprofit compliance documentation, investment activity, and recognition programs.

These records provide evidence of the role of a private foundation in supporting a land-grant university through financial management, property holdings, and targeted funding initiatives. The collection documents long-term patterns of institutional support, governance, and investment strategy, as well as the relationship between donor-established foundations and university development activities.

Related Materials

Paper mountain: the story of Frank Osgood Butler, 1861-1955.

Karolevitz, Robert F., Brookings, S.D. : F. O. Butler Foundation, c1980
(HD9830.B87 K37)

President's Office Records, UA 1, Boxes 22, 23, 29, and 30, Folders 28, 47, 22-39, and 1-4, respectively, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Brookings, South Dakota.

Robert F. Karolevitz Papers, MA 39, Boxes 18, 42, and 60, Folders 1-22, 13-24, and 13-16, respectively, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Brookings, South Dakota.

Access Points

Subjects

- Charitable uses, trusts, and foundations

- Universities and colleges--Finance
- Endowments

Names

- Butler, F. O.
- F. O. Butler Foundation

Genre

- Minutes (Records)
 - Records and correspondence
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Conditions Governing Access

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Please contact us in advance so we can prepare for your visit.

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Container List

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	Annual portfolio review	2011-2018
1	2	Annual Report, Domestic Non-Profit (SD Secretary of State)	1991-2018
1	3	Articles of Incorporation	1948-1949, 1977
1	4	Butler Ranch Information	1983-1988, 2012
1	5	By-Laws	1987, 2011-2012, 2023
1	6	Campus Enrichment	1969-1970
1	7	Campus Enrichment	1971 January-May
1	8	Campus Enrichment	1971 August-December
1	9	Campus Enrichment	1972
1	10	Campus Enrichment	1973 January-May

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	11	Campus Enrichment	1973 June-December
1	12	Campus Enrichment	1974
1	13	Campus Enrichment	1975
1	14	Campus Enrichment	1976
1	15	Campus Enrichment - Approved requests	1976
1	16	Campus Enrichment - Approved requests	1977
1	17	Campus Enrichment - Approved requests	1978
1	18	Campus Enrichment - West River Seminar	1973-1977
1	19	Civil Service Employees of the Month Awards	2019-2020
1	20	Contingency funds	1976-1977
1	21	Correspondence	1942-1945
1	22	Correspondence	1946-1979
1	23	Correspondence	1950-1954
1	24	Correspondence	1955-1959
1	25	Correspondence	1960-1961
2	1	Correspondence	1962-1968
2	2	Correspondence	1969 January-May
2	3	Correspondence	1969 June-September
2	4	Correspondence	1969 October-December
2	5	Correspondence	1970 January-June
2	6	Correspondence	1970 July-December
2	7	Correspondence	1971-1972
2	8	Correspondence	1973-1975
2	9	Correspondence	1976-1978
2	10	Correspondence - Financial	1944-1959
2	11	Correspondence - Financial	1960-1976
2	12	Correspondence - Financial	1975-1977
2	13	Correspondence - with IRS	1948-1967
2	14	Financial Reports	1953-1962
2	15	Financial Reports	1964-1968
2	16	Financial Reports	1958-1977
2	17	F. O. Butler Awards	2015-2016
2	18	F. O. Butler Awards	2016-2017
2	19	F. O. Butler Awards	2017-2018
2	20	F. O. Butler Awards Guidelines	1984-2017
2	21	F. O. Butler Plaza	1970-1976

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
2	22	F. O. Butler Projects	1970-1978
2	23	F. O. Butler Ranch, Inc. 7-11 Ranch	1969
2	24	F. O. Butler Story	1975-1977
3	1	Guidelines for F. O. Butler West River Program	1974
3	2	Historical	1945, undated
3	3	Income and expenses	1947
3	4	Income tax exemption	1971, 1973
3	5	In-house Fellowship Program	1970-1978
3	6	Investment Committee minutes	1955, 1983-1994
3	7	Investments	1972-1977
3	8	IRS Forms - Exempt Organization Tax Return, Reviewed Financial Statements	1979, 1985
3	9	IRS Forms - Exempt Organization Tax Return, Reviewed Financial Statements	2005-2009
3	10	IRS Forms - Exempt Organization Tax Return, Reviewed Financial Statements	2010-2013
3	11	IRS Forms - Exempt Organization Tax Return, Reviewed Financial Statements	2014-2015
3	12	IRS Forms - Exempt Organization Tax Return, Reviewed Financial Statements	2016-2018
3	13	Julius W. Butler Trust	1990-1991, 1996
3	14	Julius W. Butler Trust	1992-1996
3	15	Legal Documents	1947-1949, 1959
3	16	Minutes	1945-1959
3	17	Minutes	1959-1964
3	18	Minutes	1959-1982
3	19	Minutes	1965-1970
3	20	Minutes	1970-1979
3	21	Minutes	1980-1985
3	22	Minutes	1986-1989
3	23	Minutes	1990-1992
3	24	Minutes	1993-1995
3	25	Minutes	1996-1999
3	26	Minutes	2000-2014
4	1	Minutes	2015-2018
4	2	News releases	1944, undated

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
4	3	Power of Attorney	1963
4	4	Public relations	1974
4	5	Scholarship	1948-1979
4	6	Scholarship Recognition Day	1959-1960
4	7	SDSU Foundation Investment	2009
4	8	Trust Agreement	1948-1959
4	9	Villa Theresa	1959-1959
4	10	Articles of Incorporation	1932
4	11	Campus Enrichment	1971
4	12	Campus Enrichment	1975
4	13	Campus Enrichment - Approved requests	1977
4	14	Correspondence	1948-1949, 1952, 1955, 1959
4	15	Correspondence	1963-1970, undated
4	16	Correspondence - Financial	1969-1970
4	17	In-House Fellowship	1971-19763
4	18	Investments	1972, 1976, undated
4	19	Legal documents	1932-1969
4	20	Tax information	1959-1965, undated
4	21	Trust agreement	1968
4	22	Villa Theresa	1956