

F. C. W. Kuehn Papers

Collection Summary

Identifier: MA 4

Title: F. C. W. Kuehn Papers

Dates: 1883-1970

Extent: 1.05 linear feet (2 document cases, 1 oversize box)

Creator: Kuehn, Frank Charles William, 1884-1970

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, MA 4, box number, folder number, F. C. W. Kuehn Papers, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Brookings, South Dakota.

Abstract

Frank Charles William Kuehn (1884-1970), an influential architect based in Huron, South Dakota, is known for his work on schools, commercial buildings, churches, and residential properties. His designs for public works, including auditoriums, fire stations, and service stations, reflect his impact on the region's architectural development. Notable projects in the collection include the Huron Dairy Products Company, several South Dakota Standard schools, and the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Doland. The plans capture the growth of South Dakota during the early to mid-20th century and highlight Kuehn's role in shaping the architectural landscape of the region.

Biography

Frank Charles William Kuehn was born on September 4, 1884, in LeMars, Iowa. His family moved to Dakota Territory when he was just seven months old, settling on a claim in Jackson Township, Sanborn County, on March 1, 1885. The family lived in a sod shanty, surrounded by Kuehn's extended family, including his grandfather and the siblings of his parents, Elizabeth, and Frank Theodore Kuehn. In March 1903, the family relocated to Huron, South Dakota, where Kuehn would live for the next 67 years. On June 3, 1914, Kuehn married Amelia Johanna Wagner, and together they had three daughters: Jeannette, Lois, and Margaret. Amelia passed away in October 1950 due to a heart attack, and Kuehn remarried Florence Dokken Hanson on August 15, 1954.

From a young age, Kuehn was determined to become an architect. He enrolled in the International Correspondence Schools in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and in 1907 began working for Huron architect George Issenhuth. He continued working for Issenhuth through 1909 while furthering his studies. On September 9, 1909, Kuehn opened his own architectural office in Huron, SD, and quickly established himself as a school architect with a design for a two-story brick school in Frankfort, SD. This building, a notable example of Prairie-School Style architecture, marked the beginning of his 41-year relationship with the South Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

In 1918, to supplement his income during a decline in building projects due to World War I, Kuehn began selling insurance. He continued this work alongside his architecture throughout his life. In the early 1920s, Kuehn designed homes and notable downtown Huron buildings, and began producing county maps for South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota. In the 1930s, he founded the Huron Blueprint Co., which provided services during the Great Depression. He also worked for the Homeowners Loan Corporation, inspecting homes for financing. During the 1940s, Kuehn's Standard Rural School Plans gained recognition beyond South Dakota.

In the 1950s, Kuehn shifted his focus exclusively to his expanding county map business. By the 1960s, he had broadened his maps to include highway maps for Minnesota counties and compiled books combining maps from South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota, which sold well. Kuehn passed away in 1970 following an illness. Over the course of his career, he designed numerous projects, many of which are detailed in the 1984 publication *F.C.W. Kuehn Prairie Architect*, written by his daughters, which documents his life and architectural contributions.

Scope and Content

The F. C. W. Kuehn Papers consist of architectural plans for various buildings, primarily located in South Dakota, spanning from 1917 to 1952. It includes designs for one-story and other structures, such as commercial buildings, schools, churches, and residential properties. Notable examples include the Huron Dairy Products Company, several South Dakota Standard and Kuehn's Standard school buildings, and the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Doland. Additionally, the collection features plans for public works projects, including city auditoriums, fire stations, and service stations, as well as residential structures and a variety of renovations and repairs. These plans reflect the architectural development and growth of South Dakota during the early to mid-20th century, highlighting a range of construction types and purposes.

Access Points

Subjects

- Architecture—Designs and plans
- Architects
- 20th Century architecture
- Rural schools--Design and construction

Names

- Kuehn, Frank Charles William, 1884-1970

Places

- South Dakota

Genre

- Architectural drawings
 - Cartographic materials
-

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to all researchers, with materials accessible on-site only and not available for circulation.

For extensive research, scheduling an appointment in advance via phone or email is encouraged, including details about the research topic and intended use.

To access materials, researchers must complete and sign the Registration Form and provide proof of identity (e.g., University ID or driver's license). By signing, researchers agree to adhere to the Reading Room Rules. The registration document also includes guidelines on making copies of materials, correct referencing, and copyright obligations.

Conditions Governing Reproduction

South Dakota State University supports access to its collections, both published and unpublished. However, access to certain items may be restricted due to their fragile condition, donor agreements, or copyright.

Reproduction of materials is allowed for research purposes only, and written permission is required for publication or distribution.

Due to the delicate nature of some items, reproduction may be limited.

Copyright and Use Statement

In Copyright: This Item is protected by copyright and/or related rights. You are free to use this Item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses, you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s).

Materials in this collection are made available for research and educational purposes in accordance with Title 17, Section 108 of the United States Copyright Act, which permits libraries and archives to reproduce and distribute copies of copyrighted works for non-commercial use in specific circumstances.

Users are responsible for ensuring that their use of the materials complies with applicable copyright laws and are advised to seek permission from the copyright holder for any commercial use or other use not covered under fair use or statutory allowances.

Container List

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	1	Architectural drawings: Blueprints	1907-1954
1	2	Architectural drawings: Drawings (linen)	1907-1908
1	3	Architectural drawings: Drawings (paper)	1906-1938
1	4	Architectural drawings: Drawings (parchment)	undated
1	5	Christmas card	undated
1	6	Composite poster: Sixty-years-in-business Celebration	1964
1	7	Diploma: International Correspondence Schools	1909
1	8	Green visor	undated
1	9	Kuehn's County Highway Maps [blue binder; 70 p.]	1955-1970
1	10	Kuehn's Standard Approved Elementary School Plans	undated
1	11	Letter of Criticism Accompanying Grecian Doric	1908
1	12	Microfilm: Map of Yankton, SD	undated
1	13	Photographs: F.C.W. Kuehn	1956
1	14	Print: Pen drawing of Huron, SD	1883
1	15	Redwing Sewer Pipe Corp. pamphlet	undated
1	16	Random specifications: Addition: Huron Corps: Huron S.D.: Plan No. 2/3/48-1	1948
1	17	Random specifications: Brick Addition: Huron Light and Power Company: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. E 3-26-3	1924
1	18	Random specifications: Brick and Tile Auditorium-Gymnasium: Board of Trustees: Lebanon, S.D.: Plan No. Q 12-12-5: Docket 1036-D	1936
1	19	Random specifications: Brick and Tile Building: Northwestern Public Service Company: Highmore, S.D.: Plan No. 3-24-48-3	1948
1	20	Random specifications: Brick School Building: Raymond Independent School: Raymond, S.D.: Plan No. Q 11-30-10: Docket 1178-D	1936
1	21	Random specifications: Field House: Municipal Field House: Wessington Springs, S.D.: Plan No. P 7-27-2	1935
1	22	Random specifications: Fireproof Store Building: Habicht and Habicht: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. K 5-4-4	1930

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	23	Random specifications: Frame Addition: Logan Consolidated School: Raymond, S.D.: Plan No. V 3-14-4	1941
1	24	Random specifications: Frame Band Shell with Basement: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. 8 U-28-2	1940
1	25	Random specifications: Frame Church Building: Methodist Church: Woonsocket, S.D.: Plan No. V 6-3-3	1941
1	26	Random specifications: Frame Dwelling: L. C. Fullerton: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. 20-28-4	1940
1	27	Random specifications: Frame Service Station: H. J. Kurth: Rapid City, S.D.: Plan No. V 6-4-2	1941
1	28	Random specifications: Frame Stucco Dwelling: George Costain: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. 4445	1921
1	29	Random specifications: Heat Tunnel and Jail Addition: Kingsbury County Courthouse: De Smet, S.D.: Plan No. V 8-16-4	1941
1	30	Random specifications: Heating, Plumbing and Wiring: Community Church: Geddes, S.D.: Plan No. E 8-4-3	1924
1	31	Random specifications: Heating, Plumbing, Gas Piping and Wiring: F. D. Kinyon: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. H 4-4-3	1927
1	32	Random specifications: Labor and Material Required: Power Plant Addition State College: Brookings, S.D.: Plan No. L-11-10-4	1931
1	33	Random specifications: Light Fixtures, Furniture and Equipment: Raymond Independent School: Raymond, S.D.: Plan No. Q 11-30-10: Docket 1178-D	1937
1	34	Random specifications: Mechanical Equipment: Independent District: Wolsey, S.D.: Plan No. V 5-5-1	1941
2	1	Random specifications: One Story and Basement Frame School Building, Fairfield Township, Beadle County, S.D.	1919
2	2	Random specifications: One Story Frame School Building, Theresa Township, Beadle County, S.D., Plan No. 337-2	1917
2	3	Random specifications: Story and a Half Residence, De Smet, S.D., Plan No. 426-5	undated

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
2	4	Random specifications: One Room Frame School Building with Basement: Beulah Common School District: Hanson County, S.D.: Plan No. R 1-3	1944
2	5	Random specifications: One Room Frame School Building with Basement: Board of Education: Marvin, S.D.: Plan No. R 1-3,	1944 July 26
2	6	Random specifications: One Room Frame School Building with Basement: Crow Township School District No. 6: Wessington Springs, S.D.: Plan No. S 2-7-3,	1940
2	7	Random specifications: One Room Frame School Building with Basement: District No. 3 Roberts County: Milbank, S.D.: Plan No. 5-1-52-3	1952
2	8	Random specifications: One Room Frame School Building with Basement: District No. 33: Henry, S.D.: Plan No. S 2-7-3	1944
2	9	Random specifications: One Story and Basement Brick Building: Huron Dairy Products Company: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. G 2-24-4	1926
2	10	Random specifications: One Story and Basement Frame School Building: Kuehn's Standard Approved Elementary School Plan: Design No. 2-A	1939
2	11	Random specifications: One Story and Basement Frame School Building: South Dakota Standard Rural School: Design No. 21-A	undated
2	12	Random specifications: One Story and Basement Frame School Building: Whitewood Township School: Lake Preston, S.D.: Design No. 2A	1939
2	13	Random specifications: One Story and Basement Hollow Tile Church: first Methodist Episcopal Church: Doland, S.D.: Plan No. C-6-7	1922
2	14	Random specifications: One Story and Basement Tile Building: Wilmot City Auditorium: Wilmot, S.D.: Plan No. P 6-5-3	1935
2	15	Random specifications: One Story Brick Addition: The Independent Order of Odd Fellows: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. 438-6	1920

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
2	16	Random specifications: One Story Brick Creamery: Huron Dairy Products: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. F 7-9-4	1925
2	17	Random specifications: One Story Brick Laundry: Immaculate Conception Church: Stephan, Hyde County, S.D.: Plan No. F 5-21-2	1925
2	18	Random specifications: One Story Brick Store Building: Lampe Market Company: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. G 3-9-5	1926
2	19	Random specifications: One Story Concrete and Brick Shop: Volga School District: Volga, S.D.: Plan No. 4 V-30-1	1940
2	20	Random specifications: One Story Concrete Building: De Smet, S.D.: Plan No. T 9-30-2	1939
2	21	Random specifications: One Story Law Building: Warren and Eggen: De Smet, S.D.: Plan No. K 9-27-2	1930
2	22	Random specifications: Plumbing, Heating, and Electric Work: Huron Independent School District: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. P 11-15-4	1935
2	23	Random specifications: Plumbing, Heating, and Wiring: L. C. Fullerton: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. 30-15-1	1940
2	24	Random specifications: Remodeling a Frame School Building without Basement: Plummer School District No. 1: Kimball, Brule County, S.D.: Plan No. 6-3-52-2	1952
2	25	Random specifications: Remodeling a Two-Story School Building into a four Story and Basement Hospital: St. Teresa Hospital: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. V 6-30-11	1942
2	26	Random specifications: Remodeling North Part of Grade School Basement: Onida Independent School District: Onida, S.D.: Plan No. 1-2-45-1	1945
2	27	Random specifications: Repairing the Sauer Block Fire Loss: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. X 1-25-1	1943
2	28	Random specifications: Repairs of the Roof and Fire Wall of the Grade School Building: Onida Independent School District: Onida, S.D.: Plan No. 7-20-46-1	1946
2	29	Random specifications: Report on Pugsley's Apartments: Huron, S.D.	1939

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
2	30	Random specifications: Re-roofing Masonic Temple: Huron, S.D.	1947
2	31	Random specifications: Schedule of Labor Classifications and Wage Scales: Huron School: Huron, S.D.: Docket 1130	1933-1935
2	32	Random specifications: School Building: Stockholm, S.D.: Plan No. S 11-26-2: Docket 1262-F	1938
2	33	Random specifications: School Improvements: Ramona, S.D.: Plan No. S 11-25-1: Docket 1277-F	undated
2	34	Random specifications: Shop Addition: Hoven Independent School District: Hoven, S.D.: Plan No. 6-2-49-2	1949
2	35	Random specifications: Structural Concrete Building: City Auditorium: Ree Heights, S.D.: Plan No. 5 U--31Ã¸â, -â€4	1940
2	36	Random specifications: Super-Service Station: F. W. Schwenk: Yankton, S.D.: Plan No. S-9-16-3	1938
2	37	Random specifications: Tile Fire Station: Hoven, S. D.: Plan No. 5/16/49-2	1949
2	38	Random specifications: Two Story and Basement Brick Building: F. D. Kinyon: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. H 3-30-7	1927
2	39	Random specifications: Two Story Brick School Building: Tulare Independent School District No. 36: Tulare, S.D.: Plan No. I 7-10-4	1928
2	40	Random specifications: Two Story Farm Elevator: State College - State Board of Regents: Brookings, S.D.: Plan No. C 5-4	1922
2	41	Random specifications: Two Story Fireproof Building: Goethal and Leak Building: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. I 12-20-6	1928
2	42	Random specifications: Two Story Frame Stucco Dwelling: H. A. Dravis: Waukon, Iowa: Plan No. 434-6	1920
2	43	Random specifications: Two Story Tile Building: Faulkton, S.D.: Plan No. 8/23/48/2	1948
2	44	Random specifications: Ventilation, Heating, Plumbing and Wiring: Huron Independent School District: Huron, S.D.: Plan No. H 2-28-3	1927
3	1	Random specifications: One Story and Basement Frame School Building: Fairfield Township: Beadle County, S.D.	1919

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
3	2	Random specifications: One Story Frame School Building: Theresa Township, Beadle County, S.D.: Plan No. 337-2	1917
3	3	Random specifications: Story and a Half Residence: De Smet, S.D.: Plan No. 426-5	undated