

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY
ABILENE, KANSAS

BRAINARD, CHARLES L.: Papers, 1945-69

Accessions 71-48, 76-37 & 78-26
Processed by: HP and TB
Date Completed: August 2001

The papers of Charles L. Brainard were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by Mr. Brainard in 1971. Small accretions to the collection were received from Mr. Brainard in 1976 and 1977.

Linear feet:	2
Approximate number of pages:	3700
Approximate number of items:	2000

Mr. Brainard signed an instrument of gift for his papers on April 27, 1971. Literary rights in the writings of Mr. Brainard in this collection, and in all other collections of papers at the Eisenhower Library, were retained by Mr. Brainard until his death in 1988, and thereafter passed to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift, the following classes of documents are withheld from research use:

1. Papers relating to Mr. Brainard's family and private business affairs.
2. Papers relating to the family and private business affairs of persons who have had correspondence with Mr. Brainard.
3. Papers relating to investigations of individuals or to appointments and personnel matters.
4. Papers containing statements made by or to Mr. Brainard in confidence unless in the judgment of the Director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.
5. All other papers which contain information or statements that might be used to injure, harass, or damage any living person.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Charles L. Brainard (1903-1988) was a native of Colorado. He attended Kansas State University where he studied architecture and then moved to Abilene in 1937 to work for the Duckwall department store. Brainard was active in the development of the Eisenhower Center. In 1945 he became a member of the Eisenhower Foundation, a private organization created to develop a memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower. The Foundation acquired the Eisenhower family home in 1947 and opened it to the public. The Foundation also conducted a national fundraising campaign to build a museum to hold the military memorabilia of Dwight D. Eisenhower. This eventually became the Eisenhower Museum. Due to his architectural training Brainard had an interest in landscaping, and he served on a committee to improve the grounds surrounding the home and the museum.

In 1954, President Eisenhower decided to donate his personal papers to the public provided an archives building could be constructed near the Eisenhower Museum to hold them. In 1955 the state of Kansas created the Eisenhower Presidential Library Commission to develop such an archives. Brainard resigned from the Eisenhower Foundation in order to accept an appointment to the Commission. He served as secretary of the Commission during its entire existence.

As Secretary, and as the only member of the Commission living in Abilene, Brainard handled most of the Commission's duties. He worked with Abilene officials to acquire land for the Eisenhower Center. He worked with the Kansas State Architect to develop plans for the buildings, and closely followed the work of the contractors to make sure the buildings were properly constructed. The Commission established a separate committee, known as the Kansas Governor's National Committee for the Eisenhower Presidential Library, to handle a national fund-raising drive to pay for the buildings. The Committee was based in Abilene. Brainard assisted the Committee's director, Ellison Ketcham, with the fund drive and helped deposit the donations with the state treasurer in Topeka.

The papers of Charles Brainard pertain to his interest in the development of the Eisenhower Center. The material has been arranged in three series. The first series concerns the work of the Eisenhower Foundation. Most of the series relates to public events at the Center, including Dwight D. Eisenhower's homecoming parade in 1945, and Eisenhower's funeral in 1969. The series also contains a small quantity of information on the preservation of the Eisenhower family home and the landscaping of the grounds.

The second series pertains to the financial and legal affairs of the Eisenhower Presidential Library Commission. The material includes Brainard's correspondence with state officials and the general public concerning the work of the Commission, copies of reports on the Commission's budget, and reports on efforts to acquire land for the Eisenhower Center. These items appear to be material that Brainard retained among his personal papers for reference purposes. The official records of the Commission have not been located. Although it was an agency of the state of Kansas, the records were not turned over to the state archives when the Commission went out of business in 1967, and it is possible that they were destroyed. As a result, Brainard's files on the Commission are the most extensive existing records of its work. A

detailed history of the Commission, compiled by J. Earl Endacott, is available at the Eisenhower Library. The records of the Kansas Governor's National Committee, which handled the fund raising campaign for the Library building, are also available at the Eisenhower Library.

The third series pertains to the construction of the Eisenhower Library, the Service Building, the Place of Meditation, and various other structures on the grounds of the Center. Most of the material consists of correspondence, reports and legal documents Brainard received from the Kansas State Architect, who was responsible for the actual design and construction of the buildings. These include bids and contracts negotiated with the construction firms, reports on the progress of construction, and reports on changes made to the plans of the buildings after construction had begun. A few files on the technical aspects of the security, electrical and mechanical systems of the buildings have been closed to research to protect the security of the Eisenhower Center as required by Kansas law.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	<p>Series I: Eisenhower Foundation</p> <p>Eisenhower Homecoming Parade June 22, 1945</p> <p>Eisenhower Home – Engineer’s Preliminary Report on Preservation of, February 1956</p> <p>Eisenhower Foundation – Landscape Committee – Hershey Estates (H.L. Erdman, Director of Horticulture), Correspondence, 1953-54</p> <p>Eisenhower Foundation – Landscape Committee, Correspondence 1953-58 (1)(2)</p> <p>Eisenhower Foundation – Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1952-57</p> <p>Eisenhower Memorial Foundation Recreation Center for World War II Veterans (early Drawing of)</p> <p>Scrapbook (1)(2) [A78-26; programs, photos, clippings, congratulatory letters and other memorabilia re events at Eisenhower Center, 1953-69; originals returned to Mr. Brainard after being copied]</p> <p>Series II: Eisenhower Presidential Library Commission</p> <p>Appropriation by Kansas State Legislature, 1961</p> <p>Budgets (Annual), 1961-65</p> <p>Commendation Letters for Harry Darby, Member of Commission, 1965</p> <p>Contributions, 1956-66</p> <p>Correspondence re purchase of Cadillac automobile used as General Eisenhower’s personal staff car, World War II</p> <p>Correspondence, 1955-66 (Members) (1)(2)</p> <p>Correspondence, 1956-66 (State) (1)-(3)</p> <p>Deed for Transfer of Property – Commission to United States, Feb. 4, 1964</p>

- Easement and Agreement, Aug. 16, 1963, among Eisenhower Presidential Library Commission, City of Abilene, Eisenhower Foundation
- Financial Records – Audit Reports, 1954-67 [A76-37]
- 2 Financial Records – Monies Received, 1959-61
- Financial Records – Miscellaneous Reports, 1959-62
- Financial Records – Status of Funds, 1960-61
- General Correspondence, 1956-60 (1)-(3)
- General Correspondence, 1961 (1)(2)
- General Correspondence, 1962
- General Correspondence, 1963-66
- Governor's National Committee [fund-raising group for construction of the library; Benjamin F. Fairless, chairman; Ellison Ketcham, executive director]
- Legislation Creating Commission, Members, Plans for Transferring Facility to General Services Administration, etc. (1)(2)
- Minutes of Meetings, 1959-66 [incomplete]
- Occupancy Permits [between General Services Administration and Library Commission, for operation of facility]
- Photographs
- Purpose and Organizational Structure
- Senate Bill No. 234 [an act relating to allowances for subsistence expenses, etc.]
- Site, 1956-67 (1)-(3) [re acquisition of land, removal of previous buildings, etc.]
- 3 Series III: Construction of Eisenhower Presidential Library and Its Adjuncts
- History of Construction of Eisenhower Library and Service Building
- Labor Agreements

- Simmons, Chester T., Correspondence, 1960-61 (1)-(3) [architect's superintendent for construction of Eisenhower Library and Service Building]
- Simmons, Chester T., Correspondence, 1962-63 (1)(2)
- Specifications for Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, November 4, 1959 (1)-(3)
- Specifications for Service Building, September 4, 1959 (1)(2)
- ADT System
- Architectural Drawings (Miscellaneous) for the Eisenhower Center
- Auditorium Seating and Furnishings
- 4 Change in Construction Orders, 1960-61 (1)(2)
- Change in Construction Orders, 1962-66
- Contract Estimate Vouchers, 1960-61
- Dondlinger & Sons Construction Company (1)(2)
- Installation of Book and Archive Shelving
- Diesel Engine Cooling for Eisenhower Library
- Driving, Parking, Sidewalks and Landscaping
- Installation of Exhibit Cases
- Interior Court Development, Eisenhower Library
- Library Building (1)(2)
- Lighting (Ceiling) [for exhibit of J. Anthony Wills' painting of General Eisenhower, 2nd floor gallery, Library building]
- Custom Lighting Fixtures
- The Place of Meditation (Chapel) (1)-(4)
- Interior and Exterior Railings

5 Furnishing and Decorating Research and Conference Rooms

Sanitary Sewer Main Relocation, Eisenhower Library [includes copy of specifications]

Service Building to Library Building (1)-(3)

Speaker's Platform, Grounds of Eisenhower Library

Sprinkler System

Extension of Street Lighting on Fourth Street, Eisenhower Center

Vinyl Wall Coverings

Vouchers Not in Contract, 1959-62 (1)(2) [includes expenses for Library dedication, May 1962]

END OF CONTAINER LIST