

Guide to the Owen S. Posey Collection

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Owen Sherman Posey, 1924-

Title: Owen S. Posey Collection

Dates: 1967-1980

Quantity: 1.5 Linear Feet

Abstract: The Owen S. Posey Collection contains documents and ephemera related to the work Owen S. Posey did for the Mobile I-10 Tunnel, also known as the Wallace Tunnel, and for the renovation of the Bankhead Tunnel.

Accession: 717-2018

Biographical Note:

Owen Sherman Posey was born October 20, 1924 in Alabama. After a stint as an engineer for Alabama Power in Montgomery, Alabama in 1951, he and his family moved to Mobile, Alabama. Once in Mobile he worked for Winston Brothers Company on the Mobile Tunnel Construction project. Posey installed the electrical components of the Mobile (Wallace) Tunnel and the electrical renovation of the Bankhead Tunnel.

The Wallace Tunnel (named for Governor George Corley Wallace) was designed by Palmer and Baker Engineers Inc. and built by Mobile Tunnel Constructors. After the Wallace Tunnel was built they filled in the area above it and created the replica of Fort Conde. The work on the tunnel occurred between 1969 and 1973. The tunnel officially opened to traffic on February 9, 1973.

The Bankhead Tunnel (named for Senator John Bankhead, grandfather of actress Tallulah Bankhead) was designed by Oliver Fowlkes and constructed under the direction of Wayne Palmer. Work on the Bankhead tunnel occurred between 1938 and 1940. It was opened on February 20, 1941 to passenger cars with a toll of 25 cents. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. The lighting was renovated in 1980.

Scope and Content:

This collection is composed of two large folios belonging to the master electrician Owen S. Posey. One shows the original layout of the Mobile Tunnel and the other shows the layout of the Renovation of the Bankhead Tunnel. There is also a booklet on the Mobile Tunnel for the bid, a commemorative ceramic tile from the tunnel, photographs, a stamp and a certificate of competency.

Provenance:

Gift of Melissa Furman, 2018.

Access Restrictions:

None

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Guide prepared by: Kristina Polizzi

Guide updated by:

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Related Content:

Overbey Safety: Accession #003-1985

Stillings / Cutter's Souvenir: Accession #038-1980

Downing Papers: Accession #137-1987

ADDSCO Records: Accession #200-1990

Babcock Photographs: Accession #242-1992

Skipper Papers: Accession #256-1992

Werneth Album: Accession #264-1993

Bankhead Tunnel Slides: Accession #318-1996

History Museum of Mobile Collection: Accession #330-1998

St. John Postcards: Accession #353-1999

Mims Papers: Accession #459-2006

Arthur L. Sclater Collection: Accession #556-2012

ALDOT Bankhead and Wallace Tunnels Photographs: Accession #631-2012

See also photographic slideshow at

<https://www.southalabama.edu/libraries/mccallarchives/bankhead.html#prettyPhoto>

Content List:**Box # 1**

1. Plans and Profile of State Highway No. ER-4749(4) Bankhead Tunnel Repair and Modifications, January 23, 1980
2. Plans of Highway Department of Alabama Mobile Urban Section No. 1-10-1 (33) 27 The Mobile Tunnel, August 31, 1967
3. Alabama Registered Engineer Stamp

Box # 2

1. Scrapbook of Mobile Tunnel Construction and Docks
2. Loose Prints
3. Commemorative Ceramic Tile from the Mobile Tunnel, 1972
4. Certificate of Competency for Owen S. Posey, 1973
5. "Mobile River Tunnel" Booklet