

the work of over 1,000 architects. Many images can be viewed via the Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Project (www.philadelphiabuildings.org). Researchers can conduct searches by architect's name, by building name or type, and by location. PBA is especially useful for those interested in tracing bank architecture, mill and manufactory design, and technological improvements as evidenced via architectural design and engineering.

Papers:

The Athenaeum houses many collections of architects' papers, and a few of them date to before 1860. Most notable are the Thomas Ustick Walter collection, and the Thomas Fletcher papers.

Thomas Ustick Walter Collection, papers (1837-ca. 1900)

Thomas Ustick Walter (1804-1887), born in Philadelphia, is considered one of the most important American architects of the time. He began his architectural career in 1831 with a design for the Moyamensing Prison and went on to design the extension of the United States Capitol in 1850. The Walter papers, arranged chronologically and comprising 17 boxes of material, span the years from 1837 to about 1900. Containing diaries, ledger books, letter books, and account books, the papers record Walter's career as a self-employed businessman/architect, documenting the rise and fall of his fortunes and his constant struggle to maintain his family's standard of living in the face of mounting indebtedness. There is a finding aid for the collection consisting of box inventories.

Thomas Fletcher papers, (ca. 1780s-1880s)

Fletcher was a member of a Philadelphia silversmithing family and conducted business as Fletcher & Gardiner and Fletcher & Bennett during the nineteenth century. The papers, uncatalogued, are comprised of 13 boxes arranged chronologically. They contain personal and business correspondence, insurance policies, letters of commission, balance sheets, letter books (1813-1832), and account books (1809-1819), in addition to information regarding brother Charles's business as a commission merchant.

William Palmer collection of architectural drawings and personal papers, 1787-1815

Thirty-seven architectural drawings including those for a steam pipe, residences, and a cotton works.

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