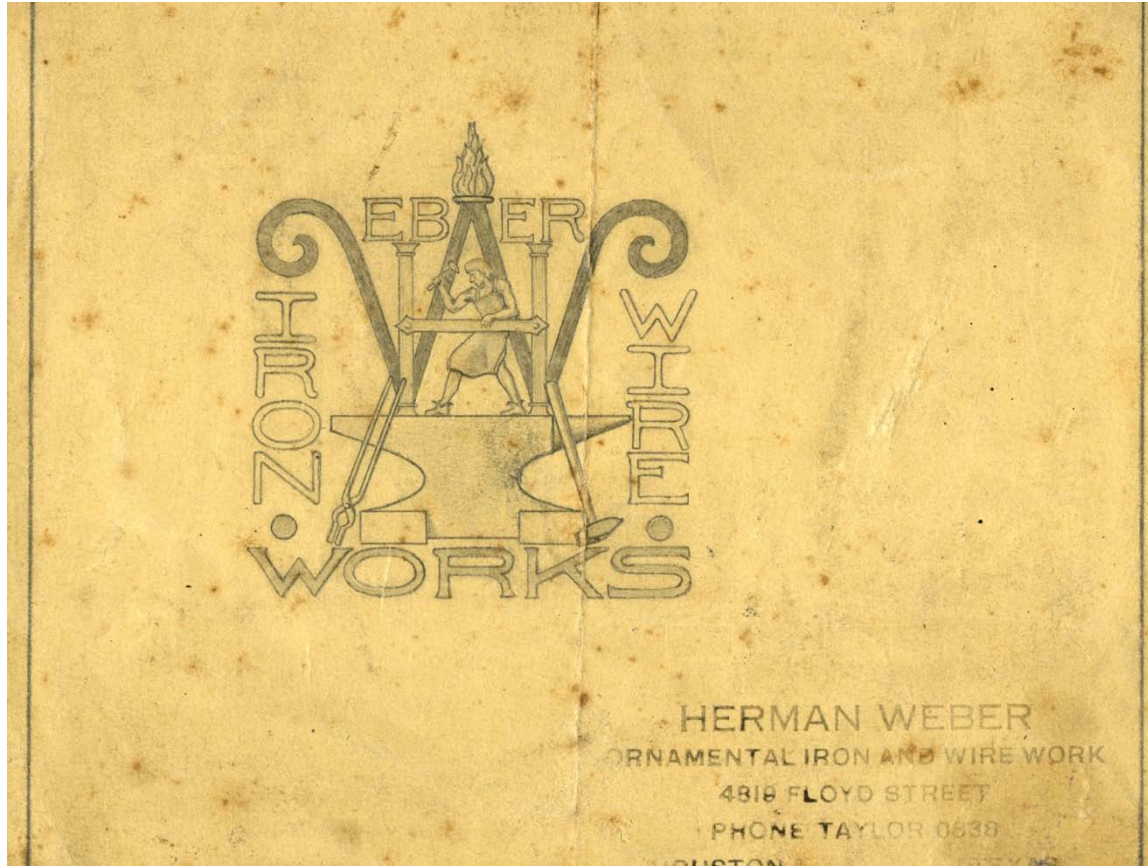

Wrangling Realia:

Architectural Materials in the Archives





Audience for the collection

Houston members of the AIA (American Institute of Architects)

Scholars in the field of Architecture

Researchers in early 20th Century architecture in Houston

The challenge:



- 215 large pattern boards (design molds)
- 20 plaster patterns
- 15 dies
- A number of metal castings from the pattern boards
- Plaster casts
- Wood carvings
- Hundreds of smaller castings, tools, and miscellaneous items
- Drawings and photographs of the designs
- 40 years of company invoices
- 4 books about ornamental ironwork

Arrangement



Developing the workflow- overview

The screenshot shows a Wiki page titled "Weber Staub Briscoe Overview" in a workspace environment. The page content includes:

- Collection Description and Scope:** The Weber Staub Briscoe project includes digital images of ornamental ironworks/metalworks and related pattern boards (molds) from the larger collection known as the Weber Staub Briscoe architectural collection, MS 586. The finding aid for this collection is available online at <http://library.rice.edu/collections/WPC/finding-aids/manuscripts/0586>. None of the objects in the collection have been digitized for online exhibition before, although some of the architectural details fabricated by Weber Iron & Wire Company have been photographed in the locations where they were installed for print media.
- Source of donated collection:** The Weber Iron & Wire Company is a fabricator of high-quality custom architectural details in metal and other materials. Founded in the late 1920's by Herman Weber as Weber Iron Works, Weber Iron & Wire Company became instrumental in creating original designs and duplications of fine nineteenth-century ornamental ironwork and metalwork for the projects of many of Houston's leading architects and builders, most notably John F. Staub and Birdswall P. Briscoe. Gustav Raimers, a vice-president of the company and son-in-law to Herman Weber, spearheaded this part of the operations of the company until his death in 1942. Jim Weber, the grandson of the founder, joined the firm in 1965 and presided over the company until its sale in 2008. In order to produce the exceptional metalwork exactly as specified by the designs of the architects, scale and full-sized drawings of the designs were created. Some designs were forged by hand. Most were created by a detailed process including the formation of a replica of the design in clay which was cast in aluminum and placed on a pattern board used to make the final castings in iron, bronze, or aluminum. The body of work produced by Weber enriched Houston's heritage for the greater part of the 20th century, and continues to be admired in many of Houston's architectural treasures.
- Target audience:** The target audience of the collection is the membership of the AIA Houston (American Institute of Architects), the general membership of the AIA, scholars in the architectural field, and researchers interested in early 20th century architecture in Houston. Stephen Fox of the School of Architecture at Rice University has been a major supporter of the acquisition of the collection for research purposes.
- Digital Objects:** There are 1089 images representing 940 digital objects. The items were photographed by Fondren Library staff and named with a file naming convention serving as the digital identifier. Master images were captured using a Panasonic Lumix DMZ-FZ150 camera. Images were captured in RAW format and converted to Master TIFF images using Adobe Photoshop and Irfanview software, with 24-bit color, 300 ppi. Derivative files for web use are JPG and JPEG2000 for images. All images were captured with a long side of 7 inches (not the dimensions of the materials in the collection).
- File naming convention:** The digital identifier is usually the same as the file name: the manuscript id (ms586) plus 5-digit number including leading zeros. File names are sequentially ordered as :ms58600001 through ms58600940.

The interface also shows a sidebar with a "Navigator" panel listing the page and other related items, and a "Recent Activity" panel showing the current page was edited by Dara Finn.

Metadata creation

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying the URL: <https://digitalriceprojects.pbworks.com/w/page/61533379/Weber%20Metadata%20Creation%20Guidelines>. The browser tabs include 'Weber-Staub-Briscoe Archt...', 'Rice University - Calendar', 'PB Digital Projects for Fondren L...', and 'Weber-Staub-Briscoe Archt...'. The page title is 'Digital Projects for Fondren Library'. The main content area is a Wiki page titled 'Weber Metadata Creation Guidelines', last edited by Monica 4 months, 3 weeks ago. The page contains a list of guidelines and a list of DC metadata elements.

VIEW **EDIT**

Weber Metadata Creation Guidelines

last edited by [Monica](#) 4 months, 3 weeks ago [Page history](#)

- Do not use square brackets or any other markup normally used in AACR2 to indicate missing or incorrect information.
- Do not add any ending punctuation at the end of fields, unless stated otherwise.
- Do not use abbreviations. Please spell out words completely.
- Do not use a semi-colon to separate entries. Please put each entry in a new additional field.

- [dc.contributor.architect](#)
- [dc.creator \(required\)](#)
- [dc.date.digital \(required\)](#)
- [dc.date.issued \(required\)](#)
- [dc.date.original](#)
- [dc.description \(required\)](#)
- [dc.description.abstract](#)
- [dc.digitization.specifications \(required\)](#)
- [dc.format.extent \(required\)](#)
- [dc.identifier.digital \(required\)](#)
- [dc.publisher \(required\)](#)
- [dc.rights \(required\)](#)
- [dc.rights.uri \(required\)](#)
- [dc.source.collection \(required\)](#)
- [dc.source.location \(required\)](#)
- [dc.source.provenance \(required\)](#)
- [dc.subject.lcsh \(required\)](#)
- [dc.title \(required\)](#)
- [dc.type.dcmi \(required\)](#)
- [dc.type.genre \(required\)](#)

dc.contributor.architect

Architect's name

To join this workspace, [request access](#).

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Navigator

- Project: Weber-Staub-Briscoe [← back](#)
- Weber Metadata Creation Guidelines**
- Weber Metadata Outline
- Weber Staub Briscoe Overview
- Weber workflow and schedule

Pages No Files [options](#)

SideBar

- [Documentation and other guidelines](#)
- [Repository Metadata](#)
- [Digital Projects](#)
- [Staff Research and Internal Reports](#)
- [About the Institutional Repository](#)
- [Digital Preservation Support](#)
- [Registries and data provider](#)
- [Conference highlights](#)
- [Wiki help page](#)

Recent Activity

- [Publisher Archiving Policies](#) edited by [sk60@rice.edu](#)
- [Publisher Archiving Policies](#) edited by [sk60@rice.edu](#)
- [Publisher Archiving Policies](#) edited by [sk60@rice.edu](#)

Metadata (continued)

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://digitalriceprojects.pbworks.com/w/page/61533634/Weber%20Metadata%20Outline>. The page is titled "Weber Metadata Outline" and was last edited by Dara Finn 4 months, 4 weeks ago. The page content includes a table of metadata elements created by library staff, categorized under "Descriptive Metadata".

This table view relates to the narrative [Metadata Creation Guidelines](#).

Metadata created by Library Staff

Element	Definition	Repeatable	System Required	Short Display	Input rules Data Values : Free Text/Controlled Vocabulary/Standardized entry
Descriptive Metadata					
dc.title	Title of resource	Yes	Yes	Yes	Free text. Construct per guidelines.
dc.contributor.architect	Architect's name if known.	Yes	No	Yes	Controlled vocabulary: LC Name Authority Headings
dc.creator	Maker of the original resource	Yes	No	Yes	Standard entry: Weber Iron & Wire Company, Houston, Texas
dc.subject.lcsh	Subject terms	Yes	No	Yes	Controlled vocabulary: LCSH Use terms from Library of Congress Subject Headings: http://authorities.loc.gov/
dc.description	Description of the physical resource	Yes	No	Yes	Free text.
dc.description.abstract	Description of historical context of resource	Yes	No	No	Free text.
dc.date.issued	Date of creation of original resource	No	Yes	Yes	YYYY or YYYY-MM-DD Date and Time Formats (W3C-DTF) http://www.w3.org/TR/NOTE-datetime/ USED FOR SORTING
dc.date.original	Date of creation of original resource	No	No	desired if applicable	Textual field for specific dates or when wish to include words such as "ca. 1970" or "pre-1950". Is NOT used for sorting but can explain approximate dates, unlike dc.date.issued.

The sidebar on the right contains the following sections:

- To join this workspace, request access.** Already have an account? [Log in!](#)
- Navigator**
 - Project: Weber-Staub-Briscoe
 - Weber Metadata Creation Guidelines
 - Weber Metadata Outline**
 - Weber Staub Briscoe Overview
 - Weber workflow and schedule
- Pages** No Files
- SideBar**
 - [Documentation and other guidelines](#)
 - [Repository Metadata](#)
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 - [Staff Research and Internal Reports](#)
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 - [Conference highlights](#)
 - [Wiki help page](#)
- Recent Activity**
 - Publisher Archiving Policies** edited by sk60@rice.edu
 - Publisher Archiving Policies** edited by sk60@rice.edu
 - Publisher Archiving Policies** edited by sk60@rice.edu

Processing and storing

- Tagging the materials
 - ❑ Digital identifier
 - ❑ Physical dimensions
 - ❑ Location in the Archives
 - ❑ Description
 - ❑ Architect
 - ❑ Date
 - ❑ Address
 - ❑ Citation in Staub books



Digitization

- Panasonic Lumix camera with Leica lens
- Manfrotto tripod
- 250 watt blue incandescent lamps



Finding Aid

You are here: Home | Collections | Woodson Research Center Special Collections & Archives | Finding Aids | Manuscripts | Weber-Staub-Briscoe Architectural Collection, 1909-2010 (MS 586)

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Weber-Staub-Briscoe Architectural Collection, 1909-2010 (MS 586)

Woodson Research Center

Guide to the Weber-Staub-Briscoe Architectural Collection, 1909-2010 MS 586

Boxes 1-24 are stored offsite. This collection requires an appointment for viewing. Please call ahead at 713-348-2586 or e-mail woodson@mc.manu.edu.

Repository
Woodson Research Center

Title
Weber-Staub-Briscoe Architectural Collection

ID
MS 586

Date [Bulk]
Bulk, 1930-1990

Date [Inclusive]
1909 - 2010

Extent
100.0 linear ft. (85 boxes plus oversized materials)

Language
English

Abstract

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Summary Information](#)

[Biographical/Historical note](#)

[Scope and Contents note](#)

[Arrangement](#)

[Administrative Information](#)

[Related Materials](#)

[Controlled Access Headings](#)

[Additional](#)

[Collection Inventory](#)

[Series I: Weber Iron Works invoices](#)

[Series II: Photographs, documents, and reference books](#)

Online exhibit

Webster-Staub-Briscoe archi: x

← → ↻ scholarship.rice.edu/handle/1911/68494

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Weber-Staub-Briscoe architectural collection, 1909-2010 [940 Items]

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This collection includes photographs of 940 pattern boards (design molds) and metal castings of architectural details such as stair rails, fencing, and other metalwork ornaments manufactured by Weber Iron & Wire Company from the 1930's to the 1990's in Houston, Texas. Some were designed by architects John F. Staub and Birdsall P. Briscoe. The original boards and molds are also available for research through the Woodson Research Center.

The collection also includes photographs, architectural drawings, reference books, and tools used in the manufacturing process, along with invoices from the company from 1933 to 1987. These materials are not available online here but can be accessed through the [Woodson Research Center](#). A finding aid to the entire collection can be found [online](#).

Founded in the late 1920's by Herman Weber as Weber Iron Works, Weber Iron & Wire Company became instrumental in creating original designs and duplications of fine nineteenth-century ornamental ironwork and metalwork for the projects of many of Houston's leading architects and builders, most notably John F. Staub and Birdsall P. Briscoe. Gustav Reimers, a vice-president of the company and son-in-law to Herman Weber, spearheaded this part of the operations of the company until his death in 1942. Jim Weber, the grandson of the founder, joined the firm in 1965 and presided over the company until its sale in 2008. In order to produce the exceptional metalwork exactly as specified by the designs of the architects, scale and full-sized drawings of the designs were created. Some designs were forged by hand. Most were created by a detailed process including the formation of a replica of the design in clay which was cast in aluminum and placed on a pattern board used to make the final castings in iron, bronze, or aluminum. The body of work produced by Weber enriched Houston's heritage for the greater part of the 20th century, and continues to be admired in many of Houston's architectural treasures.



Recent submissions [\(see all\)](#)

[Small ornament](#)
Weber Iron & Wire Company, Houston, Texas (Rice University, 1930)

[Small ornament](#)
Weber Iron & Wire Company, Houston, Texas (Rice University, 1930)

[Small ornament](#)
Weber Iron & Wire Company, Houston, Texas (Rice University, 1930)









[See all 940 items in this collection »](#)

DSpace

Browsing Weber-Staub-Br... x

← → ↻ scholarship.rice.edu/handle/1911/68494/browse?type=datassued ☆ ☰

Imported from Firefox


Ornaments Weber Iron & Wire Company, Houston, Texas (Rice University, 1940)	
Ornaments Weber Iron & Wire Company, Houston, Texas (Rice University, 1940)	
Small ornament Weber Iron & Wire Company, Houston, Texas (Rice University, 1940)	
Botanical design mold Weber Iron & Wire Company, Houston, Texas (Rice University, 1939)	
Shell design mold Weber Iron & Wire Company, Houston, Texas (Rice University, 1939)	
Shell design ornament Weber Iron & Wire Company, Houston, Texas (Rice University, 1939)	
Botanical design mold Weber Iron & Wire Company, Houston, Texas (Rice University, 1939)	
Ornaments Weber Iron & Wire Company, Houston, Texas (Rice University, 1939)	

Full item record:

<http://scholarship.rice.edu/handle/1911/68786?show=full>

Botanical and geometrical design ornament

Files in this item

Files	Size	Format	View	Description
ms58600246.jp2	248.6Kb	image/jp2	View/Open	zoom and pan version
ms58600246.jpg	104.1Kb	image/jpeg		download version

Item Metadata [Show simple item record](#)

dc.creator	Weber Iron & Wire Company, Houston, Texas
dc.date.accessioned	2013-01-09T21:03:26Z
dc.date.available	2013-01-09T21:03:26Z
dc.date.issued	1940
dc.identifier.uri	http://hdl.handle.net/1911/68786
dc.description	metal casting (white) with central oval design with flowers, vines and leaves, circle shapes at top and bottom, rectangular shapes at corners
dc.description.abstract	The object was originally installed at the Anderson/Burdine Clayton house, 3820 Willowick, Houston, Texas.
dc.format.extent	29 1/2 inches H X 11 3/4 inches W
dc.publisher	Rice University
dc.rights	The rights to this material belong to Rice University. The digital version is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License.
dc.rights.uri	http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/
dc.subject.lcsh	Architecture--Texas--Houston-- 20th century
dc.title	Botanical and geometrical design ornament
dc.digitization.specifications	Images were captured using a Panasonic Lumix DMZ-FZ150 camera. Images were captured in RAW format and converted to Master Tiff images using Adobe Photoshop and Irfanview software, with 24-bit color, 300 ppi. Derivative files are JPG and JPEG2000 for images. All images were captured with a long side of 7 inches (not the dimensions of the materials in the collection.)

Blog

Announcement to the Rice University community

Weber-Staub-Briscoe Archi... X

weber-staub-briscoe-architectural-collection-online/

What's On-line @ Woodson Research Center

Rare and unique resources at Fondren Library, Rice University, Houston, TX

Blog Behind the scenes About Woodson Online

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Weber-Staub-Briscoe Architectural Collection online!

Published January 27, 2012 Houston | Uncategorized | [Leave a Comment](#)

Fondren Library is happy to announce the digitization of 940 objects from the Weber-Staub-Briscoe Architectural Collection.



Botanical and geometrical design ornament originally installed at the Clayton house in Houston.

Founded in the late 1920's by Herman Weber as Weber Iron Works, Weber Iron & Wire Company was a fabricator of high-quality custom architectural details in metal and other materials, and became instrumental in creating original designs and duplications of fine nineteenth-century ornamental ironwork and metalwork for the projects of many of Houston's leading architects and builders, most notably John F. Staub and Birdsall P. Briscoe. In order to produce the exceptional metalwork exactly as specified by the designs of the architects, scale and full-sized drawings of the designs were created. Most pieces were created by a detailed process including the formation of a replica of the design in clay which was cast in aluminum and placed on a pattern board used to make the final castings in iron, bronze, or aluminum. The body of work produced by Weber enriched Houston's heritage for

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Rice University

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Architectural
Collection
1909-2010
-
catalog*

Design stage

From drawings to clay:



Pattern board

Clay pattern is cast in aluminum and placed on the pattern board





Manufacturing the design

Molten metal is poured into the mold cavity and allowed to cool.

The casting is then removed from the sand.

Design in place



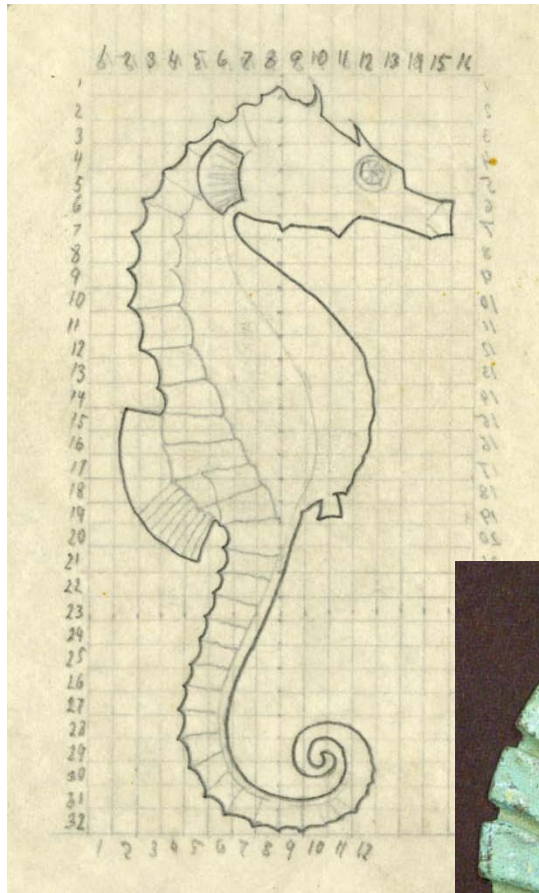
Bayou Bend



Hall Windfohr house



Other materials



Dara Flinn, CA

Woodson Research Center, Rice University

dflinn@rice.edu

(713) 348-2542

