

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY
ABILENE, KANSAS

DRAPER, ELISABETH C.: Papers, 1948-80 (photocopies)

Accession 91-14
Processed by: TB
Date Completed: December 2001

Copies of the papers of Elisabeth C. Draper were deposited in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library by the National Park Service in 1991.

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| Linear feet: | -1 |
| Approximate number of pages: | 400 |
| Approximate number of items: | 200 |

Seth Low, son of Elisabeth Draper, signed an instrument of gift for his mother's papers on November 25, 2001. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Elisabeth Draper in this collection, and in all other collections of papers received by the National Archives, have been donated to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift, the following classes of items are withheld from research use:

1. Papers which constitute an invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.
2. Papers which are required to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy, and are properly classified.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Elisabeth C. Draper (1900-1993) was a prominent interior decorator in New York City. In 1948 she was hired by Columbia University to refurbish the President's house to make it ready for the new President of Columbia, Dwight D. Eisenhower. This brought Mrs. Draper into close contact with the Eisenhower family. In 1954, when the Eisenhowers were remodeling their farmhouse at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, they hired Mrs. Draper to design the interior.

After Mamie Eisenhower's death in 1979 the National Park Service took over management of the Eisenhower farm. In 1980 Mrs. Draper was hired as a consultant to help the National Park Service document the history of the interior of the farmhouse. Mrs. Draper allowed the National Park Service to make copies of her files relating to the Eisenhower farm. In 1991 the National Park Service deposited copies of the material at the Eisenhower Library.

The collection pertains primarily to Mrs. Draper's work on the Eisenhower farmhouse in 1955, and to her work for the National Park Service in 1980. The 1955 material consists of documents on the design of the interior of the farmhouse. This includes planning designs, cost estimates, newspaper clippings, photographs, and correspondence with the Eisenhowers and subcontractors regarding the furnishings. The 1980 material includes Mrs. Draper's contract and expense account, and a transcript of interviews the National Park Service conducted with her and Dolores Moaney regarding the contents of the farmhouse. The interview is vague and disjointed. Apparently it was made as the people walked through the farmhouse and discussed the various pieces of furniture they encountered. The nature of the furniture is not always specified in the transcript. A few comments were made on how the Eisenhowers used various items.

Container List

| <u>Box No.</u> | <u>Contents</u> |
|----------------|--|
| 1 | Accessories & Miscellaneous Notes |
| | Clippings |
| | Correspondence (1)(2) |
| | Drawings (1)(2) |
| | Eisenhower Toile (1)(2) [special design created by Draper for use on cotton fabrics] |
| | Estimates (1)(2) |
| | Interviews 1980 (1)-(3) [Elisabeth Draper & Dolores Moaney re furnishings at farm] |
| | National Park Service Contract 1980 |

END OF CONTAINER LIST