

**Physical Description:** 4½ cu. ft. of card files, specifications for contracts, and large landscape drawings as follows: approximately 200 professional activity cards (5"x8") in an agate box; 2000 client cards (5"x8") in a two-drawer steel file cabinet; 1800 specification files in six fibredex boxes; and 1600 landscape drawings in twelve map drawers.

**Acquisition:** Given to the North Carolina State Archives by Doan Reber Ogden, Landscape Designer, Asheville, N.C., on June 1, 1987.

North Carolina State Archives  
Raleigh, North Carolina

**Description:** Doan Reber Ogden (1907-1989) graduated from Michigan State University in 1931 and obtained a job with the Presbyterian-supported Asheville Farm School, an agricultural school (subsequently incorporated into Warren Wilson College). He married in 1933 during the Depression, and shortly thereafter returned to Michigan with his wife. The Ogdens, however, continued to visit the Asheville area on vacations. After serving in World War II, Ogden and his wife returned to Asheville and bought property on Lake Kenilworth (now within the corporate limits of Asheville). In 1952, he began developing the Ogden Gardens on the nine acres surrounding his home. These gardens, pictured in Peter Loewer's American Gardens (Simon and Schuster, 1988), were eventually opened to the public by Ogden, but were closed again as private gardens shortly before his death.

This collection of Ogden's professional papers begins in 1952, the year he is presumed to have opened his practice in Asheville, and ends in 1984 with his retirement. His practice was not confined to North Carolina, but took him as far away as Michigan and New Mexico in the early years (1952-1956). He also worked in South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Ogden's North Carolina practice was chiefly confined to the mountain counties, but he did work as far north as Boone and as far east as Monroe. His work in New Mexico included landscaping the famous Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, owned by the Presbyterian Church. Ogden also did landscaping for the Biltmore Estate, for the Rev. Billy Graham and for Sen. Sam Ervin. He planned and planted in part or in whole the gardens for the Cherokee Historical Association, Asheville-Biltmore Botanical Garden (now styled the University Botanical Gardens at Asheville, Inc.), Canton Recreation Park, and Daniel Boone Botanical Gardens. His practice included design and plantings for Warren Wilson College, Western Carolina University, and numerous business firms and corporations in western North Carolina. Ogden was a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and was, in 1978, on the executive board of the North Carolina chapter.

The Ogden Papers contain four small series of interrelated files:  
(1) Professional Card Files; (2) Client Card Files; (3) Specification Files;  
and (4) Landscape Plans.

The Professional Card File contains a key to the numerical code that Ogden used on his landscape plans to indicate plant materials, a small file of articles submitted for publication (only one of which is designated as having been sold to a publisher), and speeches he delivered over the years to various groups. The key and articles submitted were left in the order that Ogden left them. Speeches have been arranged chronologically with undated speeches placed last.

The Client Card Files served Ogden as billing information for all clients. Cards were prepared for those clients for whom he merely provided consultation, as well as for clients for whom he prepared complete specifications and landscape drawings. Each card is given a job number that corresponds to the number on the specification and on the landscape drawing. If only a consultation was done, this left a gap in the numerical sequence of the specifications and the drawings. This happened quite often, but it is important to remember that gaps in the drawings are probably only apparent gaps since drawings and specifications were never prepared for clients who received consultative services only. The job number was devised as a two-segment, hyphenated number. The first two digits of the job number indicate the year. This is followed by a two, three, or four digit job number separated from the year by a hyphen. Examples of job numbers are: 56-109 and 84-1075. The later years of his practice have the higher numbers. The Client Card File is arranged alphabetically and is stored in a two-drawer steel file cabinet.

Specification Files have been organized according to the type of job undertaken. For instance specifications for landscape design for churches are gathered into one category; schools form another category; offices and public buildings are gathered into a category; parks, gardens, and town-landscape planning form a single category; and residential design files form the last category. All the specifications within these categories are arranged alphabetically by the client's surname, or, in the case of institutions and business firms, the client's corporate name.

Landscape Plans (drawings), 1952-1984, are almost all either blue-line prints or India ink drawings; one or two are pencil. They are organized chronologically according to year and by job number within the year. With the exception of the years 1952-1953, which have been placed within one folder, drawings for each year have been filed in separate folders. In order to facilitate access, a card finding aid has been prepared. A card has been made for each drawing indicating the client's name, town, county (or state, if not North Carolina), job number, number of drawings in the set, scale and type of drawing. These cards have been categorized by state: North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Michigan, and New Mexico. The cards for North Carolina landscape projects have been further subdivided by county.

Arrangement of Papers

- PC.1766.1 Professional Card Files (an agate box)
- PC.1766.2a Client Card File, A - H (steel drawer)
- PC.1766.2b Client Card File, I - Z (steel drawer)

The following in fibredex boxes

- PC.1766.3 Specification Files--Churches, Parks, Schools
- PC.1766.4 Specification Files--Offices, Public Buildings
- PC.1766.5 Specification Files--Private Residences, Ab - Ev
- PC.1766.6 Specification Files--Private Residences, Fa - Le
- PC.1766.7 Specification Files--Private Residences, Lh - Robe
- PC.1766.8 Specification Files--Private Residences, Robi - Z

The following in folders in map case drawers

- Drawer 1 { PC.1766.9 Landscape drawings, 52-3 to 53-37
- PC.1766.10 Landscape drawings, 54-14 to 54-79
- PC.1766.11 Landscape drawings, 55-50 to 55-152
- Drawer 2 { PC.1766.12 Landscape drawings, 56-156 to 56-207
- PC.1766.13 Landscape drawings, 57-210 to 57-261
- PC.1766.14 Landscape drawings, 58-102 to 58-306
- PC.1766.15 Landscape drawings, 59-258 to 59-392
- Drawer 3 { PC.1766.16 Landscape drawings, 60-50 to 60-462
- PC.1766.17 Landscape drawings, 61-48 to 61-530
- PC.1766.18 Landscape drawings, 62-166 to 62-600
- Drawer 4 { PC.1766.19 Landscape drawings, 63-51 to 63-683
- PC.1766.20 Landscape drawings, 64-139 to 64-771
- Drawer 5 { PC.1766.21 Landscape drawings, 65-134 to 65-832
- PC.1766.22 Landscape drawings, 66-27 to 66-895

Landscape drawings in map case drawers, continued

Drawer 6	PC.1766.23	Landscape drawings, 67-50 to 67-690
	PC.1766.24	Landscape drawings, 68-50 to 68-1041
Drawer 7	PC.1766.25	Landscape drawings, 69-50 to 69-1121
	PC.1766.26	Landscape drawings, 70-255 to 70-1194
Drawer 8	PC.1766.27	Landscape drawings, 71-102 to 71-1286
	PC.1766.28	Landscape drawings, 72-292 to 72-1369
Drawer 9	PC.1766.29	Landscape drawings, 73-139 to 73-1446
	PC.1766.30	Landscape drawings, 74-133 to 74-1513
Drawer 10	PC.1766.31	Landscape drawings, 1975
	PC.1766.32	Landscape drawings, 1976
	PC.1766.33	Landscape drawings, 1977
Drawer 11	PC.1766.34	Landscape drawings, 1978
	PC.1766.35	Landscape drawings, 1979
	PC.1766.36	Landscape drawings, 1980
Drawer 12	PC.1766.37	Landscape drawings, 1981
	PC.1766.38	Landscape drawings, 1982
	PC.1766.39	Landscape drawings, 1983
	PC.1766.40	Landscape drawings, 1984

Arranged and described by Janet G. Blanchard