

T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Steele Burden

COLLECTION: 4700.0318

IDENTIFICATION: LSU landscape architect and donor of Rural Life Museum.

INTERVIEWER: Susan Turner

SERIES: University History – Rural Life Museum

INTERVIEW DATE: July 19, 1993

FOCUS DATES: 1930 - 1970s

ABSTRACT:

Tape 447

Broussard hires Burden to improve LSU landscape; Steele designs President and Mrs. Smith's roof garden; McIlhenny's nursery provides most of shrubbery for LSU; McIlhenny and Huey Long; Steele testifies in McIlhenny case; comments on Middleton's decision to put library in quad; Burden camouflages Middleton library; comments on President Middleton's character and contributions to the University; Hill family contributions; dumping trash in the river and Burden's recycling efforts; Burden's landscaping experience prior to LSU; Burden family background; early interests in planting; buys antiques in St. Francisville; plants garden for Francis Parkinson Keyes; works on Beauragard-Keyes house in French Quarter; childhood interests and family influences; how rural life museum came to be; Ione Burden's contributions to museum; Burden designs the gardens for museum; learning to sculpt; plants live oaks in City Park; plants garden in Magnolia Mound plantation; proposal to eliminate Indian mounds to make a parking area; works on LSU golf course; comments on parking lots and cars on campus; works with Mr. Cyfreud, trained landscape architect; Burden's plans to convert city golf course into a walking park; opposition to his plan; maintaining live oaks in Baton Rouge.

TAPES: 1 (T447)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour, 23 minutes

PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 86 pages

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