



Heritage Square Foundation  
Finding Aid for  
The Ron Stevens Collection  
Date range: 1976-1983

Finding Aid created by Jordan Lammert, 2023  
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**Summary Information:**

Creator: The Heritage Square Foundation

Extent: 6 linear inches

Abstract: The records of the Ron Stevens Collection include photo negatives, photographs, newspaper clippings, blue prints, sketches and restoration notes for all aspects of the Rosson House restoration project from demolition of post-1915 additions through to furnishing the house museum.

Language: The material is in English

**Access and Use:**

Acquisition Information: This assortment of records was collected in 2022 and processed in 2023. The file folder titles were recorded digitally in Past Perfect software. The finding aid was written in 2023 to make the records more available to researchers.

Access Restrictions: The record group is open to public research.

Copyright: Copyright remains with Heritage Square Foundation.

Cite as: [item], folder, Ron Stevens Collection, Heritage Square Foundation.

**Background Information:**

The Rosson House Restoration Project was a privately funded effort to bring the 1895 Rosson House back to its original form. This brick Queen Anne style Victorian house was built in 1895 by Roland and Flora Rosson and was considered the finest residence in Phoenix in its day. Over time, the house evolved into an apartment house and porches were turned into kitchens and bathrooms to accommodate more apartments and people.

By the 1970s the Rosson House stood on the last remaining residential block in the original town site, which had grown dramatically around it. Mayor John Driggs formed the Rosson House Restoration Committee to rehouse its 19 residents and restore the house. It was decided that the restored house would become a historic house museum and open to the public in 1980. It was to become the centerpiece for a historic district which led to the restoration of the Adams Street houses and the construction of the Lath Pavilion.

The Ron Stevens Collection in particular, was a gift in memoriam from Jeremy Piel in 2022 after his parents passed. Jeremy Piel's parents, Lee and Rhonda Zierolf collected storage units, one in particular was abandoned by Ronald Stevens. Found inside was a large box of scrap books, rolled blueprints, framed photos and other Rosson House and personal memorabilia belonging to Ron Stevens. Ron Stevens was a carpenter and superintendent during the restoration of the Rosson House and other buildings on campus from 1976 to 1981. His belongings gave insight to

the stages of restoration and historic information found along the way, the tragic death of beloved caretaker Kai “Speedy” Skounborg, and the progress and daily workings of the construction crew.

The scrapbooks were deconstructed and compiled into a comprehensible archive while still containing the importance of Stevens’ order.

### **Scope and Content and Arrangement:**

Scope and Content: The records of the Ron Stevens collection include correspondence with Mayor John Driggs, construction notes, financial transactions, photos of the Rosson House restoration stages, notes and photos of hardware used and restoration photos of other buildings on campus. The archive is housed in one archival box: 14 letter sized folders and one oversized sized folder stored in the map case.

### **Subject Terms:**

Subjects:

- Historic Preservation
- Restoration
- Arizona History
- Rosson House
- Heritage Square
- Phoenix History

### **Related Materials:**

Rosson House Restoration archive

Other materials in the historical society holdings may relate to the topics in this archive. See the archivist for further research assistance.

### **Contents listing:**

#### **2022.03.F01 Lath House Newspaper and Photos P001-006**

Six photos of the interior and exterior Lath Pavilion. Newspaper article about the Pavillion design and award winner, Robert Frankenberger.

#### **2022.03.F02 Steven-Haustgen House Photos P007-011**

Five photos of the house exterior during restoration.

### **2022.03.F03 Stevens House Newspaper and Photos P012-015**

Four photos of the house exterior during restoration.

### **2022.03.F04 Speedy Newspaper and Photos P016-022**

Seven photos of Rosson House before Restoration and newspaper clippings about the death of Caretaker Kai "Speedy" Skounborg.

### **2022.03.F05 Silva House Newspaper and Photos P023-045**

A page of notes containing the history of the house as well as the dates and previous owners. 23 photos of the interior and exterior during restoration.

### **2022.03.F06 Teeter House Photos P046-051**

Five photos of the house exterior during restoration.

### **2022.03.F07 Burgess Carriage House Photos P052-064**

13 photos of the house exterior during restoration.

### **2022.03.F08 Teeter Carriage House Photos P065-093**

28 photos of the house exterior during restoration.

### **2022.03.F09 Rosson House Restoration Sketch and Photos P094-239**

145 photos of the different restoration stages of the interior and exterior Rosson House. Sketches with notes of Hardware purchased and used.

### **2022.03.F10 Duplex and Miscellaneous Photos P240-251**

11 photos in total. One photo of the Duplex house. Ten photos of construction crew and moments of interest to Ron Stevens during Rosson House restoration.

### **2022.03.F11 Rosson House Newspapers and Marketing**

Multiple newspaper clippings and magazine pages of Rosson House with written notes by Ron Stevens. Brochures and maps from previous marketing during viewings of the Rosson House after opening to the public.

### **2022.03.F12 Correspondence, Sketches, Notes and workbooks**

Correspondence of financial transactions from the office of Mayor John Driggs. Work history for Ron Stevens. Sketches of Rosson House exterior. Three workbooks with notes and checklists about restoration of the Rosson House.

### **2022.03.F13 Descriptions of Decisions and Reasoning with History**

Original notes with sketches and further information about the history and findings in the Rosson House.

### **2022.03.F14 Rosson House Scanned Negatives**

Film Strips that have been scanned and are available on Heritage Square hard drive as RH Negatives 2022.03 Ron Stevens Collection. Contains Rosson House restoration and Ron Stevens personal photo negatives. Photos irrelevant to Rosson House restoration not included on the hard drive.

### **2022.03.F15 Rosson House Building Plans**

Nine blueprints of the building floor plans and elevations for Rosson House restoration with written notes. Stored in a Map case inside Steven-Haustgen house.