

**McLean County Museum of History**

**Joseph Orme Evans Collection**

Processed by  
Gretchen D. Monti  
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**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: One box

COLLECTION DATES 1952-1979

PROVENANCE

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATIVE FORMATS: Photographs

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

LOCATION: Archives

NOTES: See Evans Associates vertical file

## **Historical Sketch**

Joseph Orme Evans (December 22, 1923-March 5, 2007) was a native of Bloomington, Illinois. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago in 1947, having had his studies interrupted by service in World War II. Orme, as he was familiarly known, next trained as an architect at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. He married in 1950, with the first of his four children being born soon after. In 1953 Evans returned to Bloomington to take a position with the venerable architecture firm Schaeffer, Hooton & Wilson, which dated back to 1895 when it was known as Pillsbury & Evans.

Orme Evans was named a partner in Schaeffer and Wilson Architects on January 1, 1957. At that time, the firm became known as Schaeffer, Wilson and Evans. Evans continued as managing partner in a new partnership of Schaeffer, Wilson and Evans, created in April 1963 after the January 1963 death of Archie N. Schaeffer. The firm became known as Evans Associates in 1966. On July 1, 1974, the firm changed its name to Evans, Mills, Gardner.

During the period between the late 1950s and 1970s, Evans and the firm were very active in construction of university facilities as Illinois met the demand to educate the young people flocking to those public institutions of higher education. In the early 1970s the firm was the lead architect for the new Governors State University constructed at the edge of Chicago's southern suburbs. During the years Evans was active in the firm, it designed many commercial, medical and religious facilities in Bloomington-Normal, as well as some residences.

As he had planned, Orme left architecture and Bloomington behind when he and his wife Barbara moved to Ouray, Colorado in 1978. He took up real estate and ranching there. In later retirement years they lived in southern California, Tennessee, Georgia and Amelia Island, Florida.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The documents, correspondence and newspaper clippings which constitute the Joseph Orme Evans Collection cover the years from 1952 through 1979. The collection is almost entirely devoted to his architecture business affairs.

The materials are organized in one box consisting of 18 folders.

## Folder Inventory

<b>Folder 1</b>	<b>Joseph Orme Evans Obituaries</b>
1.1	“Joseph Orme Evans” obituary, <i>Pantagraph</i> , March 7, 2007.
1.2	“Joseph Orme Evans (FERNANDINA BEACH, Fla.)” obituary, <i>Augusta Chronicle</i> [online edition reprint] March 7, 2007.
<b>Folder 2</b>	<b>Award and Memberships</b>
2.1	Pride Award certificate, City of Bloomington, September 1966.
2.2	Membership certificate, Colorado West chapter of the American Institute of Architects, October 12, 1984.
2.3	Membership certificate, AIA/Orange County, American Institute of Architects, March 8, 1991.
<b>Folder 3</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
3.1	Letter to W. W. McKnight, Jr., Second Presbyterian Building Committee, from J. O. Evans [unsigned carbon copy] May 14, 1955; with reply from “Bill” attached [no date].
3.2	Letter from E. L. Hiser to J. O. Evans, January 2, 1957.
3.3	Letter from Jack Bowles to J. O. Evans, January 3, 1957.
3.4	Letter from Horace A. Soper to J. O. Evans, February 27, 1957.
3.5	Letter from Harold R. Martin to Schaeffer, Wilson and Evans “gentlemen,” February 27, 1957.
3.6	Letter from John S. Shew to J. O. Evans, February 27, 1957.
3.7	Letter from Merrill J. Holmes to J. O. Evans, February 28, 1957.
3.8	Letter from Henry W. Capen to Schaeffer and Wilson “gentlemen”, February 28, 1957.
3.9	Letter from Z. H. Dorland to J. O. Evans, March 1, 1957.

3.10	Letter from John Byron Hackler to J. O. Evans, March 8, 1957.
3.11	Letter from Shelton B. Leach to J. O. Evans, March 18, 1957.
3.12	Letter from Architect C. Rogers to J. O. Evans, May 2, 1957.
3.13	Letter from "Dick" to J. O. Evans, January 12, 1963.
3.14	Letter from Darwin L. Rust to J. O. Evans, May 4, 1976.
3.15	Letter from "Lucia" to "Mother," July 19, [no year].
<b>Folder 4</b>	<b>Partnership Documents</b>
4.1	Card - Schaeffer and Wilson Architects announcing partnership of Joseph Orme Evans, 1957.
4.2	Schaeffer, Wilson and Evans Partnership Agreement, carbon copy of 1957 document, with annotations and 1/27/1963 penciled in at top.
4.3	Amendments to April 1, 1963 Schaeffer-Wilson-Evans Partnership Agreement, carbon copy. April 20, 1965.
4.4	Memorandum of Agreement, January 18, 1967.
4.5	Statement of purpose, Evans/Mills/Gardner. [no date].
4.6	Amendment No. 1 to June 8, 1972 Partnership Agreement. May 1, 1973.
4.7	Memorandum regarding October 9, 1973 partnership meeting. October 10, 1973.
4.8	Memo to partners, signed "Joe." January 21, 1974.
4.9	"Architectural firm to take new partner." <i>Pantagraph</i> , June 28, 1974.
4.10	Letter from "Darrell" to J. O. Evans. February 24, 1976.
4.11	Letter to "Darrell" from J. O. Evans, March 10, 1976, with March 5, 1976 letter from E. Hugh Henning attached.
4.12	Addendum No. 1 to Jan. 1, 1977 Partnership Agreement. June 13, 1977.
4.13	Agreement, carbon copy, no date.
4.14	Suggested Revision of Proposed Partnership Agreement, no date.
4.15	Agreement, no date.

4.16	Minutes of partnership meeting held December 4, 1978.
4.17	Letter to "Darrell" from J. O. Evans, photocopy. September 28, 1979.
4.18	Covenant Not To Sue Or Continue Suit, Board of Regents. April 18, 1979.
4.19	Financial chart for years 1954-1975.
4.20	Evans Associates Architects letterhead copy. [no date].
<b>Folder 5</b>	<b>Proposal for Architectural/engineering Services</b>
5.1	Evans, Mills, Gardner proposal for architectural/engineering services to First Church of Christ Scientist [no date].
5.2	List of church projects completed in recent years [no date].
5.3	Recent projects [no date].
5.4	Recent bank projects [no date].
5.5	Principals [no date].
<b>Folder 6</b>	<b>Bloomington Commercial Projects</b>
6.1	"New Life for Dying Block," <i>Pantagraph</i> [no date].
6.2	"New St. Mary's School To Rise Soon," <i>Pantagraph</i> , October 10, 1954.
6.3	"Students Design City Facelift," <i>Pantagraph</i> , November 21, 1959.
6.4	"Firm to Alter Building for Quarters," <i>Pantagraph</i> , December 23, 1965.
6.5	"New Occupant, New Front," <i>Pantagraph</i> , June 19, 1966.
6.6	"Bank Headed for Shopping Area," <i>Pantagraph</i> [no date].
6.7	"Unveil Modernization Plan For Main St. Business Area," <i>Pantagraph</i> , June 10, 1967.
6.8	"Eye Clinic To Double Its Size," <i>Pantagraph</i> , September 30, 1970.
6.9	"Economic outlook for 1974 anybody's guess," <i>Pantagraph</i> , January 6, 1974.
6.10	Bloomington Unlimited, Inc. Annual Report. 1978.

<b>Folder 7</b>	<b>Bloomington-Normal Residential Projects</b>
7.1	Photograph of Mrs. E. M. Evans' home, 25 Norbloom Ave., Normal. <i>Pantagraph</i> , April 18, 1959.
7.2	"Architect Designs House for Mother," <i>Pantagraph</i> , May 17, 1959.
7.3	"Twin Cities Potpourri of Architectural Design," <i>Pantagraph</i> , Sept. 24, 1961.
7.4	"Favorite houses running to vintage," <i>Pantagraph</i> , April 27, 1975.
7.5	"Concern over energy led builder to grant," <i>Pantagraph</i> , October 21, 1978.
7.6	"Welcome to Timberlake," <i>Pantagraph</i> , July 30, 2010. Realty advertisement for home (Monti's) designed by Jim Gardner of Gardner Mills. Plus emails from 2015 and 2010.
<b>Folder 8</b>	<b>Governors State University Project Correspondence</b>
8.1	Note to J. O. Evans from the Smiths. [no date].
8.2	Letter to Dr. William E. Engbretson, President, Governors State University from J. O. Evans. January 6, 1970
8.3	Notes collected from the symposium at Wayne State University, February 16 and 17, 1970. Typescript carbon copy.
8.4	Memo to Frank Lawyer, CRS, from Ralph Carroll. March 6, 1970.
8.5	Letter to J. O. Evans from William W. Allen. August 25, 1970.
8.6	Photocopy of letter to J. O. Evans from William W. Allen. August 25, 1970.
8.7	Letter to J. O. Evans from William E. Engbretson, President, Governors State University. December 17, 1971.
8.8	Photocopy of letter to J. O. Evans from William E. Engbretson, President, Governors State University. December 17, 1971.
8.9	Photocopy of letter to "Harber" from J. O. Evans. May 17, 1972.
8.10	Compilation: Letter to J. O. Evans from William M. C. Lam, April 9, 1974; attached drawing; letter to Jerry Ramshaw, Brown, Davis, Mullins & Associates, April 16, 1974.
8.11	Letter to J. O. Evans from William M. C. Lam. April 15, 1975.

8.12	"Evaluations and Recommendations, Governors State University." William Lam Associates, Inc.
8.13	"Field trip evaluation" [handwritten title]. William Lam Associates, Inc.
8.14	Copy of e-mail from J. O. Evans to "Nancy" re GSU memorabilia. July 27, 2006.
<b>Folder 9</b>	<b>Governors State University Project Documents</b>
9.1	Governors State University Educational Planning Guidelines booklet. [no date].
9.2	"...no other university has ever been planned in quite this way..." booklet. [no date].
9.3	Governors State University groundbreaking ceremony program. June 12, 1971. [copy 1].
9.4	Governors State University groundbreaking ceremony program. June 12, 1971. [copy 2].
9.5	<i>Consulting Engineer</i> periodical. November 1971 issue.
9.6	"The Dedication of Governors State University," booklet. Sunday, April 20, 1975.
9.7	"Your Self-Guided Tour of Governors State University." Pamphlet. [no date].
9.8	Holiday greeting card from the Governors State University family. [no date].
<b>Folder 10</b>	<b>Governors State University Project Publicity</b>
10.1	"Evans Assoc., Caudill Rowlett Scott, for Governor's State," Dodge Construction News. September 19, 1969. photocopy.
10.2	"Campus Plan To Evans Firm," <i>Pantagraph</i> , September 21, 1969.
10.3	"Governors State: a new adventure in suburban education," <i>Suburban Week</i> , October 4-5, 1972.
<b>Folder 11</b>	<b>Illinois State University Union Project</b>
11.1	"This is Illinois State University," booklet. [no date].

11.2	"Illinois State University University Union Complex," [no date].
11.3	Illinois State University Alumni Quarterly. Spring issue 1967. [copy 1].
11.4	Illinois State University Alumni Quarterly. Spring issue 1967. [copy 2].
11.5	"University Union Complex and North Residence Tower...Bid Tabulation." February 29, 1968.
11.6	"University Auditorium Premiere Season 1973-74," booklet.
<b>Folder 12</b>	<b>ISU Dormitory Projects</b>
12.1	Laying of Cornerstone Women's Residence Hall Group program. November 14, 1959.
12.2	ISNU Residence Halls 1960 brochure.
12.3	Hamilton-Whitten Residence Halls and Feeney Center Dedication program. November 5, 1960. Copy 1.
12.4	Hamilton-Whitten Residence Halls and Feeney Center Dedication program. November 5, 1960. Copy 2.
12.5	Atkin-Colby Residence Halls Dedication program. November 3, 1962.
12.6	Ground Breaking Ceremony West Campus Residence Hall Complex program. May 24, 1963.
12.7	Hewett hall, Manchester Hall, Vrooman Center Dedication and Cornerstone Laying Ceremony program. October 15, 1966.
12.8	Pen-and-ink sketch, unidentified, no date.
<b>Folder 13</b>	<b>Illinois State University Projects Newspaper Clippings</b>
13.1	"State To Build Four 10-Story Dormitories on ISNU Campus," <i>Pantagraph</i> , July 21, 1958.
13.2	"State Teachers College Board Approves Architects' Plans For Ten Story 'Skyscraper' Dormitories For Women," <i>Vidette</i> , September 10, 1958.
13.3	"Architect's Artistry Unfolds," <i>Pantagraph</i> , October 18, 1959.
13.4	"ISNU Planning \$10 Million in Buildings," <i>Pantagraph</i> , February 11, 1963.
13.5	"Low Bids Total \$5.6 Million For ISNU Building Project," <i>Pantagraph</i> , May 9, 1963.



13.6	"ISU Halls, Plant Addition OK'd," <i>Pantagraph</i> , January 18, 1965.
13.7	"ISU Bids Near Cost Estimates," <i>Pantagraph</i> , March 19, 1965.
13.8	"Going Up: \$8,000,000," <i>Normal News</i> , April 14, 1965.
13.9	"College Board OK's Plans For Two 17-Story ISU Halls," <i>Pantagraph</i> , [no date].
13.10	"Twin Towers Change Normal Skyline," <i>Pantagraph</i> , October 17, 1965.
13.11	"Plan for ISU Union Complex Outlined to State Board," <i>Pantagraph</i> , February 21, 1966.
13.12	"Praises Research on ISU Project," <i>Pantagraph</i> , February 21, 1966.
13.13	"Tall Hall Invasion Near," <i>Pantagraph</i> , August 21, 1966.
13.14	"ISU To Dedicate Halls Saturday," October 13, 1966.
13.15	"Third Time Charm for Hovey Hall Bids," <i>Pantagraph</i> , November 12, 1967.
13.16	"\$26 Million in ISU Buildings OK'd," <i>Pantagraph</i> , January 6, 1967.
13.17	"Student Union Almost City Within Self," <i>Pantagraph</i> , January 6, 1967.
13.18	"Timetable Announced For ISU Student Union," and "Parking Going Under," <i>Pantagraph</i> , June 19, 1967.
13.19	"ISU Union, Tower Get Board's Tentative OK" and "Historical Décor For Union" and "High Bond Market Forces Delay in Bid Scheduling," <i>Pantagraph</i> , October 2, 1967.
13.20	"Poor Bond Market Threatens ISU Plan," <i>Pantagraph</i> , November 6, 1967.
13.21	"Bids Opened on New Union Building Wed.," <i>Normal News</i> , January 25, 1968.
13.22	"ISU Union, Tower Bids Appear High," <i>Pantagraph</i> , January 25, 1968.
13.23	"Regents ask master plan delay," <i>Pantagraph</i> , [no date].
13.24	"Architect fee approved," <i>Pantagraph</i> , [no date].
13.25	"Construction of ISU Union Slated for '70," <i>Pantagraph</i> , October 7, 1968.
13.26	"ISU Gets OK to Re-Design Union-Auditorium Complex," <i>Pantagraph</i> , [no date].
13.27	"Regents Favor Ramp-Plaza Idea To Link ISU Campuses," <i>Pantagraph</i> , January 6, 1969.

13.28	"Regents Approve ISU Bond Sale, Building Contracts," <i>Pantagraph</i> , [no date].
13.29	"ISU Union-Auditorium Bids Total \$9,868,693," <i>Pantagraph</i> , July 30, 1970.
13.30	"University Union taking shape rapidly," <i>Vidette</i> , [no date].
13.31	"ISU union: Preview," <i>Pantagraph</i> , May 28, 1972.
13.32	"ISU Union opens Saturday," <i>Pantagraph</i> , August 20, 1973.
<b>Folder 14</b>	<b>Illinois Wesleyan University Projects</b>
14.1	The Alice Millar Center for the Fine Arts brochure. [no date].
14.2	"Women's Hall next at IWU," <i>Pantagraph</i> , January 13, 1955.
14.3	"Wesleyan To Dedicate New Drama building April 17," <i>Pantagraph</i> , March 31, 1963.
14.4	Program for the Dedication of McPherson Hall at Illinois Wesleyan University. April 17, 1963.
14.5	Today At Illinois Wesleyan, Series 6, No. 1. April 1963.
14.6	Service of Breaking Ground Methodist Office Building program. October 15, 1963.
14.7	Mid-Year Convocation Honoring the Founders and Dedicating the Earl Edward Sherff Hall of Science program. February 5, 1964.
14.8	"Three 7-Story Dormitories Planned for IWU's Campus," <i>Pantagraph</i> [no date].
14.9	"Wesleyan To Break Ground Tuesday for Two Buildings," <i>Pantagraph</i> , September 5, 1965.
14.10	"Contracts Awarded for IWU Library," <i>Pantagraph</i> , December 9, 1966.
14.11	"Waffle Design In IWU Library," <i>Pantagraph</i> , July 1, 1967.
14.12	"Shaping Up" and "Floating Stairway" photo captions. July 1, 1967.
14.13	Illinois Wesleyan University Bulletin. November 1967.
14.14	"Mortar Applied" photo caption. <i>Pantagraph</i> , October 15, 1967.
14.15	The Illinois Wesleyan University Library booklet. [no date].
14.16	"IWU gets telescope," <i>Pantagraph</i> [no date].
14.17	"Sees Results of Gift" photo caption. <i>Pantagraph</i> , September 18, 1970.

<b>Folder 15</b>	<b>Lincoln College Projects</b>
15.1	Dedication of McKinstry Memorial Library program. February 7, 1971.
15.2	Johnston Center For Performing Arts, Lincoln College, Dedication program. February 6, 1972.
<b>Folder 16</b>	<b>Northern Illinois University Projects</b>
16.1	Northern Illinois University Elementary and Junior High School, Fine Arts Building, Neptune Residence Hall Group, Married Student Housing Open House brochure. April 24, 1960.24, 1960.
16.2	Northern Illinois University Elementary and Junior High School, Fine Arts Building, Neptune Residence Hall Group, Married Student Housing Dedication program. April 24, 1960.
16.3	National Association of College and University Food Services Conference Program. May 9, 10, 11, 1960.
16.4	Winners in The 17 <sup>th</sup> Food Service Award Program. [no date].
16.5	University Center, Lincoln Residence Hall, Douglas Residence Hall, Watson Classroom Building Dedication program. May 19, 1963. Copy 1.
16.6	University Center, Lincoln Residence Hall, Douglas Residence Hall, Watson Classroom Building Dedication program. May 19, 1963. Copy 2.
16.7	“ISNU’s Sister Schools Building” photo caption. <i>Pantagraph</i> , September 29, 1963.
16.8	Stephen A. Douglas Hall, Abraham Lincoln Hall brochure. [no date].
16.9	Women’s Residence Hall Group brochure. [no date].
16.10	Stevenson Towers Cornerstone Laying Dedication Luncheon program. May 16, 1967.
<b>Folder 17</b>	<b>Northern Illinois University Litigation</b>
17.1	Letter to William R. Brandt of Livingston, Brandt, Barger, Slater & Schroeder from Richard D. Mills with memo attached to J. O. Evans from Darrell Schroeder. March 8, 1979.
17.2	Memo to J. O. Evans from Darrell Schroeder with attached document. March 13, 1979.

17.3	Letter from Peter C. John of Phelan, Pope & John to J. O. Evans with attached letter and document. March 27, 1979.
17.4	Letter to Peter C. John from William R. Brandt. March 30, 1979.
17.5	Letter to Richard D. Mills from William R. Brandt. April 4, 1979.
17.6	Letter to Harrold B. Wilson from Richard D. Mills. April 10, 1979.
17.7	Letter to Peter C. John from Richard D. Mills. April 11, 1979.
17.8	Letter to J. O. Evans from Richard D. Mills. April 20, 1979.
17.9	Letter to Minette Zimmerman, CNA Insurance, from Richard D. Mills. April 27, 1979.
17.10	Letter to J. O. Evans from Peter C. John, April 23, 1979, with undated carbon copy of letter to Peter C. John from J. O. Evans attached.
17.11	Letter from Peter C. John to J. O. Evans, May 31, 1979, with carbon copy of letter to Peter C. John from J. O. Evans, June 7, 1979, attached.
17.12	Carbon copy of memo to "Dick/Mike/Darrell" from unidentified person. July 25, 1979.
17.13	Letter to J. O. Evans from Darrell Schroeder. August 6, 1979.
17.14	News release - Northern Illinois University Office of Information and Public Affairs. August 30, 1979.
17.15	Legal document from the Circuit Court for the 16 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, DeKalb County, Illinois. Filed August 28, 1979.
17.16	"Northern Illinois University gets \$1 million in suit settlement." <i>Pantagraph</i> , September 6, 1979.
17.17	Carbon copy of letter to Kathy McKinney, Daily Pantagraph, from J. O. Evans. September 10, 1979.
17.18	Letter to Peter C. John from Richard D. Mills, September 6, 1979 with Evans letter, news story copy and memo from Darrell Schroeder to J. O. Evans attached.
17.19	Letter to J. O. Evans from Davis U. Merwin of the Pantagraph with internal memo from Bill Wills to Merwin attached. September 18, 1979.
17.20	Carbon copy of letter to Roland Schreiber of Northern Illinois University from J. O. Evans. September 27, 1979.
17.21	Carbon copy of letter to Davis U. Merwin from J. O. Evans. September 27, 1979.
17.22	Letter to J. O. Evans from Peter C. John with attached carbon copy of memo to Darrell Schroeder from J. O. Evans. November 5, 1979.

17.23	Letter to Peter C. John from Richard D. Mills with attached carbon copy of letter to Marvin Maurer. November 14, 1979.
17.24	Carbon copy of letter to Peter C. John from Richard D. Mills. November 20, 1979.
17.25	Letter to J. O. Evans from Peter C. John with legal documents attached. November 26, 1979.
17.26	Carbon copy of memo to Darrell Schroeder from J. O. Evans. November 30, 1979.
<b>Folder 18</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>
18.1	"Block Island As Designers Would Have It," Boston <i>Sunday Herald</i> , January 20, 1952.
18.2	"Idealizing A Resort," New York <i>Times</i> , March 16, 1952.
18.3	"Three Proposals For Streamlining Block Island," New York <i>Times</i> , March 16, 1952.
18.4	Letter from Citizen Committee for Fair Housing [J. Orme Evans on Executive Committee]. February 29, 1968.
18.5	Dedication Program Adlai E. Stevenson Memorial Tower, Eastern Illinois University. February 18, 1969.
18.9	"City Leaders Write for Time Capsule," <i>Pantagraph</i> , December 4, 1969.
18.10	Responding to your need - brochure. Evans Associates Architects. [no date].