

# Archives and Special Collections

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## S. E. Arvin and Sons Records 1940-1953 DADA 049

**Title:** S. E. Arvin and Sons Records

**Creator:** S. E. Arvin and Sons

**Inclusive Dates:** 1940-1953

**Extent:** 4.0 cubic feet

**Containers:** 4 MSS boxes, 1 records carton, 1 OVA box, 1 flat file drawer

**Language of Materials:** Materials entirely in English.

### **Preferred Citation:**

S. E. Arvin and Sons Records, Drawings and Documents Archive, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries

### **Biographical Note:**

Sherrill E. Arvin (1901-1987) was married to Isabell A. Arvin (b. 1907) and they had four children, Sherrill T., James, Donald, and Mary Arvin. The family lived primarily in Indianapolis, Indiana, where Arvin worked as a builder in the housing construction industry. During 1947, however, they resided in San Angelo, Texas.

Arvin was associated with the Indianapolis Home Show and his company, S. E. Arvin, Inc. built the "Manor House" designed by architect Leslie F. Ayres for the home show in 1941. During WWII, Arvin served as a Chief Warrant Officer in the US Navy.

After WWII, Arvin returned home and worked on housing developments that featured small, single family, pre-fabricated houses that were very much in demand at the time. His business had always been a family affair due to his wife working as secretary and treasurer, and sometime in the 1940s the name was changed to S. E. Arvin & Sons to reflect the involvement of their sons. They built the Arlington Woods subdivision, among other properties in Indianapolis.

### **Scope and Contents:**

This collection includes business records, financial records, architectural plans, plat maps, and

photographs from S. E. Arvin & Sons in Indianapolis, Indiana, ranging from 1947 to 1952 regarding residential architecture built by the company, with particular emphasis on the Arlington Woods subdivision. There are few personal papers consisting of household purchase receipts, most notably routine purchases from Block's and L. S. Ayres department stores and purchases related to Mary Arvin's wedding. One personal photograph depicts a Sunday service on a Navy ship during WWII.

Architectural plans are from the Strathmoor Company of Detroit, Michigan, a builder of prefabricated houses that were often marketed to returning WWII veterans. Plat maps depict boundaries for Arlington Woods second section and Marlinda Estates, both on the east side of Indianapolis. There are individual folders containing documentation for most houses in the Arlington Woods subdivision.

Photographs show small residences in Indianapolis and are marked as "S. E. Arvin & Sons" and their corresponding addresses. Each address is listed in the finding aid. This collection provides an excellent view into building trends following WWII and how a small house subdivision was created at that time.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

This collection is open for research.

**Copyright Notice:**

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Drawings and Documents Archive, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries, Muncie, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Drawings and Documents Archive.

**Custodial History:**

This collection was received by Drawings and Documents Archive as a donation from Kristi Howard Shultz on 2013/06/12.

**Accruals:**

No additions are expected.

**Processing Information:**

Collection processing completed.

**Arrangement:**

Collection is arranged in the following series:

Series 1: Personal photographs and receipts, 1940s-1953

Series 2: Company records, 1949-1951

Series 3: Architectural drawings, 1940s

**Collection Inventory:**

*Catalog no.* 49-001 *Storage code(s)* MSS 1  
*Project title* Personal Papers: WWII photograph, receipts, and tax returns  
*Location*  
*Authorship, year* S.E. Arvin and Family; 1940s-1953  
*Records* A. Photograph: Sunday service on US Navy ship during WWII  
B. Household receipts, including receipts for Mary Arvin's Wedding,  
C. 1948-1953; personal tax returns, 1947

*Catalog no.* 49-002 *Storage code(s)* MSS 1, Folder 3  
*Project title* Company Records: photographs of Indianapolis houses located on 9th, 32<sup>nd</sup>,  
38<sup>th</sup>, Denny, Eaton, Keystone, Kingsley, Norwaldo, Tacoma, Temple, and  
Woodside  
*Location* Indianapolis, Marion, IN  
*Authorship, year* S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1940  
*Records* >> Photographs: 33 black and white photographs

*Catalog no.* 49-003 *Storage code(s)* MSS 1, Folder 3  
*Project title* Company records: time logs, business stationary  
*Location*  
*Authorship, year* S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1938-1940s  
*Records* >> Papers

*Catalog no.* 49.004 *Storage code(s)* MSS 1, Folder 4  
*Project title* Company records: correspondence  
*Location*  
*Authorship, year* S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1948-1950  
*Records* >> Papers

*Catalog no.* 49-005 *Storage code(s)* MSS 1, Folder 5-8  
*Project title* Company records: contracts  
*Location*  
*Authorship, year* S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1942-1951  
*Records* >> Papers

*Catalog no.* 49-006 *Storage code(s)* MSS 1, Folder 9  
*Project title* Company papers: insurance papers  
*Location*  
*Authorship, year* S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1949  
*Records* >> Papers

<i>Catalog no.</i>	49-007	<i>Storage code(s)</i> MSS 1, Folder 10
<i>Project title</i>	Company records: G.I. housing approval papers, 1949-1950	
<i>Location</i>		
<i>Authorship, year</i>	S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1949-1950	
<i>Records</i>	>> Papers	
<i>Catalog no.</i>	49-008	<i>Storage code(s)</i> MSS 1, Folder 11
<i>Project title</i>	Company records: Veterans Administration and Federal Housing Administration papers	
<i>Location</i>		
<i>Authorship, year</i>	S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1940s-1950	
<i>Records</i>	>> Papers	
<i>Catalog no.</i>	49-009	<i>Storage code(s)</i> MSS 1, Folder 12-16
<i>Project title</i>	Company records: trade catalogs and price quotes	
<i>Location</i>		
<i>Authorship, year</i>	S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1940s-1950	
<i>Records</i>	>> Papers	
<i>Catalog no.</i>	49-010	<i>Storage code(s)</i> MSS 2, Folder 1-2
<i>Project title</i>	Company records: building specification	
<i>Location</i>		
<i>Authorship, year</i>	S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1949-1950	
<i>Records</i>	>> Papers	
<i>Catalog no.</i>	49-011	<i>Storage code(s)</i> MSS 2, Folder 3
<i>Project title</i>	Company records: building permits	
<i>Location</i>		
<i>Authorship, year</i>	S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1949-1950	
<i>Records</i>	>> Papers	
<i>Catalog no.</i>	49-012	<i>Storage code(s)</i> MSS 2, Folder 4
<i>Project title</i>	Company records: financial records	
<i>Location</i>		
<i>Authorship, year</i>	S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1947-1949	
<i>Records</i>	>> Papers	
<i>Catalog no.</i>	49-013	<i>Storage code(s)</i> OVA 35
<i>Project title</i>	Company records: financial ledgers	
<i>Location</i>		
<i>Authorship, year</i>	S.E. Arvin and Sons; undated	
<i>Records</i>	>> Papers	

<i>Catalog no.</i>	49-014	<i>Storage code(s)</i> MSS 2, Folder 5
<i>Project title</i>	Company records: cost breakdown sheets	
<i>Location</i>		
<i>Authorship, year</i>	S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1949	
<i>Records</i>	>> Papers	
<i>Catalog no.</i>	49-015	<i>Storage code(s)</i> MSS 2, Folder 6
<i>Project title</i>	Company records: Thyer Manufacturing Corporation billing records	
<i>Location</i>		
<i>Authorship, year</i>	S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1948	
<i>Records</i>	>> Papers	
<i>Catalog no.</i>	49-016	<i>Storage code(s)</i> MSS 2, Folder 7-11
<i>Project title</i>	Company records: billing and receipts	
<i>Location</i>		
<i>Authorship, year</i>	S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1948-1950	
<i>Records</i>	>> Papers	
<i>Catalog no.</i>	49-017	<i>Storage code(s)</i> MSS 5
<i>Project title</i>	Company records: Arlington Woods and other house project files	
<i>Location</i>		
<i>Authorship, year</i>	S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1949-1950	
<i>Records</i>	>> Papers	
<i>Catalog no.</i>	49-019	<i>Storage code(s)</i> FF 112
<i>Project title</i>	Architectural drawings: Malinda Estates plat map	
<i>Location</i>		
<i>Authorship, year</i>	S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1940s	
<i>Records</i>	>> Plat map: blueprint	
<i>Catalog no.</i>	49-020	<i>Storage code(s)</i> FF 112
<i>Project title</i>	Architectural drawings: Factory Built homes blueprints by Strathmoor Company, Detroit, Michigan	
<i>Location</i>	Detroit, Michigan	
<i>Authorship, year</i>	S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1948	
<i>Records</i>	>> Architectural drawings: blueprint	

*Catalog no.* 49-021 *Storage code(s)* FF 112  
*Project title* Architectural drawings: unidentified residence  
*Location*  
*Authorship, year* S.E. Arvin and Sons; 1940s  
  
*Records* >> Architectural drawings: pencil on tracing paper

**Controlled Access Headings:**

Architecture  
Architecture, American  
Architecture -- Designs and plans -- Working drawings  
Blueprints  
Buildings, residential  
Business records  
Correspondence  
Documents  
Financial records  
Houses and homes  
Housing authorities  
Houses--Michiagan-1940s  
Indianapolis (Ind.)  
Maps  
Photographs  
Plat  
Residential architecture