



Fairfield Museum and History Center Library  
370 Beach Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824

### **Manuscript Finding Aid**

Title: The Carles M Gilman House Plans Collection  
Collection #: Ms 57  
Dates: ca. 1871-1900  
Size of Collection: 14 items  
Accession Number: L97.5 (L97 Feb 11)  
Donor: Andrew M Smith  
Restrictions: None  
Processed by: Barbara Austen  
Date: February 1997

#### Biographical/ historical note:

Charles Gilman, a Bridgeport lawyer, constructed his house on the ridge parallel to Main Street in Southport between 1871-1874. The building is a fine example of the “Stick Style” of architecture, in which the decoration on wall faces and gable ends reflects the building’s internal structure. In spirit it resembles a Swiss Chalet. For more information about this style, see *Southport: the Architectural Legacy of a Connecticut Village* by Jan Cigliano and Ralph Schwarz.

Gilman used the services of two New York architects, J. C. Cady and William H. Beers, to design the house and the later library addition, respectively. Both architects has offices on Broadway in New York City. The addition, built about 1900, continues the architectural style of the original structure.

Scope and content note:

The collection consists of floor plans, details, and elevations in blue print and ink on linen, for the Gilman house and the later library addition. The plans have been organized in chronological order, followed by a copy of the mason and carpenter's specifications for the renovations and addition planned by Beers.

GILMAN, CHARLES M.  
House plans, ca. 1871-1900

Series A. J. C. Cady drawings, ca. 1871

- Folder 1. Set of ink on linen drawings of house, n.d. 8 sheets, 44 x 57 cm. Includes foundation, 1st and 2d stories, and attic plans; west, south, east and north elevations; sections.  
Set of ink on linen drawings of stable, n.d. 5 sheets, 32 x 47 cm. Includes 1st and 2d story plans; west, north and east elevations.

Series B. William H. Beers drawings, 1899-1901

- Folder 1. Set of ink on linen drawings for additions and alterations, October -December 1899. 19 sheets, 85 x 78 cm. Includes sections; north, east, south and west elevations; attic, roof, 1st floor, 2d story and foundation plans.  
Set of ink on linen drawings of changes made to original plans, n.d.. 4 sheets, 51 x 33 cm. Includes 2d story, 1st story and cellar plans.  
Two sets of blueprints for library addition, January 38, 1901. 19 sheets, 46 x 54 cm. Includes cellar, 1st story, 2d story and attic plans; east, south, west and north elevations; and details of trims, doors, windows, etc.  
Ink on linen drawings of fireplace openings on 1st and 2d stories, n.d. 1 sheet, 41 x 97 cm.  
Ink on linen plan of ceiling showing position of gas in library, n.d. 1 sheet, 30 x 50 cm.  
Blueprint of application of storage tank to buried gas generator, n.d. 1 sheet, 27 x 45 cm.
- Folder 2. Blueprints with full sized details of trim, book cases, windows, doors, etc., n.d. 4 sheets, 103 x 140 cm.
- Folder 3. Mason and carpenter's specifications, n.d.
- Folder 4. Photographs

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Subject headings:

Architecture--Designs and plans  
Architecture, Domestic  
Beers, William H.  
Cady, J. C.