

# Gunn Meyerhoff Shay architectural drawings

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Repository:</b>	Georgia Historical Society
<b>Creator:</b>	Gunn Meyerhoff Shay (Architects)
<b>Title:</b>	Gunn Meyerhoff Shay architectural drawings
<b>Dates:</b>	1965-2003
<b>Extent:</b>	1.5 cubic feet (16 roll boxes, 1 folder, 1 CD-R)
<b>Identification:</b>	MS 1682

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## Biographical/Historical Note

Robert "Bob" Gunn and Eric Meyerhoff met as architecture students at the University of Florida and became lifelong friends. Although Gunn was a Florida native, his family had moved to Savannah, Georgia, in 1939, and he returned to the city after earning his Bachelor of Architecture. Meyerhoff, who was born in Germany but immigrated to Florida with his family in 1937, worked in Florida for several years after receiving his architecture degree.

The two men joined in 1956 to form the Savannah architecture firm Gunn and Meyerhoff. Their first project in Savannah was the design of the Group Headquarters Building and a hangar for the Georgia Air National Guard at Travis Field. Over the years, the firm built or preserved over 100 buildings in Savannah's Historic District alone. Gunn and Meyerhoff lead the 1963 restoration of Troup Square, the city's first urban renewal project.

In 1973, River Street was considered an area of blight. However, Gunn and Meyerhoff lead the fight to turn the space into a public area rather than a city parking lot. The Savannah Riverfront Urban Renewal project came to fruition in 1977. The riverfront became not only the center for Savannah tourists, it also helped to foster the tourism industry. The riverfront design won the 1979 Governor's award for best design in an urban area and a 1980 award for Cultural Achievement from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Gunn and Meyerhoff did both preservation work and new design. Their preservation projects included the Savannah Visitors' Center in the old Central of Georgia Station, Fort Jackson, the Oliver Sturges House, and the First African Baptist Church. New construction design work included the Palmer and Cay Building, the Commerce Building on Oglethorpe Avenue, Armstrong Atlantic State University's Fine Arts Building, the Fahm Street Post Office, and the Marine Education Center at Skidaway Island.

The Gunn and Meyerhoff partnership lasted nearly forty years. In 1995, shortly before Gunn's death, they merged with Patrick O. Shay and Associates, Inc, creating Gunn Meyerhoff Shay Architects. It continues to be a well-known and respected Savannah architecture firm.

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## Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of seventeen sets of architectural drawings done by the firm from 1965 to 2003. The collection contains only preservation project drawings, but not all of the firm's preservation projects are represented. There are no new construction designs. Most of the sets contain original drawings but there are also some blueprints and reproductions of historic drawings. An assortment of information can be found in the elevations, sections, floor plans, details, electrical plans, site plans, and various other types of drawings. The majority of the drawings were done by Robert Gunn, Eric Meyerhoff, and their associates.

Drawing # 17 is documentation of a building that was demolished in February 2003. Digital images accompany this measured drawing on a CD-R; these files were printed and are included in this set. Please note that GHS received digital files # 6-22 only; there are no files 1-5. The original CD-R is located in the collection security file.

The information has been entered in a Microsoft Access database. There is a table of contents that lists the records

alphabetically by name of project. More detailed information can be found in the numerical listing. More refined searches are possible with the help of the archival staff.

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## **Index Terms**

Architects.  
Architectural design--Georgia.  
Architectural drawings (visual works)  
Architecture--Awards--United States.  
Architecture--Conservation and restoration--Georgia.  
Architecture--Designs and plans.  
Baptist church buildings--Georgia--Savannah.  
Gunn Meyerhoff Shay (Architects)  
Gunn, Robert Donald, approximately 1928-1995.  
Historic buildings--Conservation and restoration.  
Historic preservation--Georgia--Savannah.  
Methodist church buildings--Georgia--Savannah.  
Meyerhoff, Eric, b. 1929.  
Public spaces--Georgia--Savannah.  
Urban beautification--Georgia--Savannah.  
Urban renewal--Georgia--Savannah.  
Waterfronts--Georgia--Savannah.

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## **Physical and Technical Access Restrictions**

A computer and CD or DVD-ROM drive are required to access a portion of this collection.

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## **Administrative Information**

### **Custodial History**

Material was acquired from creator.

### **Preferred Citation**

[item identification], Gunn Meyerhoff Shay (Savannah, Ga.) architectural drawings, MS 1682, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

### **Acquisition Information**

Gift of Gunn Meyerhoff Shay, 2002-2003.

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## **Restrictions**

### **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research.

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## Sponsorship

Encoding funded by a 2012 Documenting Democracy grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

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## Container List

Drawing: 01: City Market, Savannah, GA, 1985 March 01

Type of Project: Streetscape Project, Address: Area bound by Montgomery St., Bryan St., Barnard St., and Congress St., Owner/Name of Bldg: Mayor and Aldermen of Savannah, Architect: Gunn & Meyerhoff, Description: Paving and Grading Plans, Demolition Plans, Details, Utility and Planting Plans, Electrical Plans, Job #: 547, Building Type: Streetscape, Geographic Location: Franklin Ward and Decker Ward, Number of pages: 9

Drawing: 02: Southside of Congress Street, Savannah, GA, 1989 March 01

Type of Project: Sidewalk Improvements, Address: Area bound by Montgomery St., Congress St., Barnard St., and lane, Owner/Name of Bldg: Mayor and Aldermen of Savannah, Architect: Gunn & Meyerhoff, Description: Existing Conditions, Paving and Grading Plans, Details, Job #: 547, Building Type: Sidewalk, Geographic Location: Franklin Ward and Decker Ward, Number of pages: 3

Drawing: 03: Franklin Square, Savannah, GA, 1984 February 01

Type of Project: Renovation, Address: Montgomery St. between Congress St. and Bryan St., Owner/Name of Bldg: Mayor and Aldermen of Savannah, Architect: Gunn & Meyerhoff, Description: Demolition Plan, Paving and Grading Plan, Landscape Plan, Irrigation and Plumbing Plan, Electrical Plan, Details, Job #: 547, Building Type: Square, Geographic Location: Franklin Ward, Number of pages: 7

Drawing: 04B: Riverfront, Savannah, GA, 1975 January 01

Type of Project: Urban Renewal Project, Address: Area bound by Bay St. to Savannah River between Montgomery St. and Houston St., Owner/Name of Bldg: Mayor and Aldermen of Savannah, Architect: Hussey, Gay & Bell–Gunn & Meyerhoff, Description: Sanitary Sewer and Water Distribution Plans, Lighting and Distribution Plans, Job #: 467, Building Type: Streetscape/Riverfront, Number of pages: 20

Drawing: 04A: Riverfront, Savannah, GA, 1975 January 01

Type of Project: Urban Renewal Project, Address: Area bound by Bay St. to Savannah River between Montgomery St. and Houston St., Owner/Name of Bldg: Mayor and Aldermen of Savannah, Architect: Hussey, Gay & Bell–Gunn & Meyerhoff, Description: Site Plan, Graphic Boring Logs, Surface Improvements and Planting Plans, Paving and Storm Drainage Plans, Pile Layout and Deck Framing Plans, Excavation and Slope Protection Plans, Misc. Details, Job #: 467, Building Type: Streetscape/Riverfront, Number of pages: 41

Drawing: 05: Trinity Methodist Church, Savannah, GA, 1969 January 01

Type of Project: Restoration, Address: 127 Barnard St., Owner/Name of Bldg: Trinity Methodist Church, Architect: Gunn & Meyerhoff, Original Architect: John B. Hogg, Description: Floor Plans, Interior Elevations, Dummy Pipe Organ Details, Choir Details, Job #: 415, Building Type: Church, Geographic Location: Heathcote Ward, Number of pages: 18

Drawing: 06: First Baptist Church, Savannah, GA, 1965 January 01

Type of Project: Modifications to Sanctuary, Address: 223 Bull St., Owner/Name of Bldg: First Baptist Church, Architect: Gunn & Meyerhoff, Original Architect: Elias Carter, Description: Interior Perspective, Floor Plans, Site Plan, Ceiling Plan, Electrical Plans, Job #: 589, Building Type: Church, Geographic Location: Brown Ward, Number of pages: 11

Drawing: 07: First Baptist Church, Savannah, GA, 1988 October 01

Type of Project: Remodelings, Address: 223 Bull St., Owner/Name of Bldg: First Baptist Church, Architect: Gunn & Meyerhoff, Original Architect: Elias Carter, Description: Handicap Ramp Plans, North Entry Modification, Archive Room Plan and Details, Roof Repair Plans, Job #: 589, Building Type: Church, Geographic Location: Brown Ward, Number of pages: 8

Drawing: 08: Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center, Savannah, GA, 1973 November 01

Type of Project: New Offices, Address: 301 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Owner/Name of Bldg: Mayor and Aldermen of Savannah, Architect: Gunn & Meyerhoff, Original Architect: Augustus Schwaab, Description: Floor Plans, Interior and Exterior Elevations, Ceiling and Structural Details, HVAC Plans, Plumbing Plans, Electrical Plans, Job #: 466, Building Type: Railroad Building, Central of Georgia, Geographic Location: Oglethorpe Ward, Number of pages: 24

Drawing: 09: Central of Georgia Passenger Station, Savannah, GA, 1973 June 21

Address: 301 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Owner/Name of Bldg: Mayor and Aldermen of Savannah, Architect: Gunn & Meyerhoff, Original Architect: Augustus Schwaab, Description: Floor Plan, Window Elevation, Job #: 484, Building Type: Railroad Passenger Station, Central of Georgia, Geographic Location: Oglethorpe Ward, Number of pages: 2

Drawing: 10: Central of Georgia Train Shed, Savannah, GA, 1976 November 01

Type of Project: Alterations and Repairs, Address: 301 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Owner/Name of Bldg: Mayor and Aldermen of Savannah, Architect: Gunn & Meyerhoff, Original Architect: Augustus Schwaab, Description: Floor Plans, Roof Plan and Details, Job #: 484, Building Type: Railroad Train Shed, Central of Georgia, Geographic Location: Oglethorpe Ward, Number of pages: 3

Drawing: 11: Fort Jackson Maritime Museum, Savannah, GA, 1965 June 01

Address: 1 Fort Jackson Rd., Owner/Name of Bldg: Coastal Heritage Society, Architect: Gunn & Meyerhoff, Description: Site Plan, Museum and Residence Floor Plans and Elevations, Plumbing and Electrical Plans, HVAC Plans, Road Layout Plan, Misc. Details, Historic Drawings (8), Job #: 365, Building Type: Fort, Number of pages: 35

Drawing: 12: First African Baptist Church, Savannah, GA, undated

Address: 23 Montgomery St., Owner/Name of Bldg: First African Baptist Church, Architect: Gunn & Meyerhoff, Description: Site Plan, Floor Plans, Exterior Elevations, Transverse Section, Longitudinal Section, Job #: 478, Building Type: Church, Geographic Location: Franklin Ward, Number of pages: 7

Drawing: 13: First African Baptist Church, Savannah, GA, 1995 August 21

Type of Project: Elevator and Ramp, Address: 23 Montgomery St., Owner/Name of Bldg: First

African Baptist Church, Architect: Gunn & Meyerhoff, Description: Floor Plans, Details and Elevations, Electrical and Plumbing Plans, Job #: 478, Building Type: Church, Geographic Location: Franklin Ward, Number of pages: 5

Drawing: 14: Sturges House, Savannah, GA, 1972 March 07

Type of Project: Restoration, Address: 27 Abercorn St., Owner/Name of Bldg: Morris Newspaper Corp., Architect: Gunn & Meyerhoff, Description: Handrail Detail, Parking Lot and Garden Plan, Site Plan, Floor Plans, Exterior Elevations, Trim and Cabinet Details, HVAC Plans, Electrical Plans, Lighting Plan, Job #: 452, Building Type: Dwelling, Geographic Location: Reynolds Ward, Number of pages: 20

Drawing: 15: Fort King George, Darien, GA, 1967 March 01

Type of Project: Exhibit Building, Address: Fort King George Dr., Owner/Name of Bldg: State of Georgia, Architect: Gunn & Meyerhoff, Description: Revised Footing Plan, Floor Plans, Site Plan, Elevations, Sections, Details, Framing Plan, Plumbing and HVAC Plans, Electrical Plans, Job #: 399, Building Type: Fort, Number of pages: 11

Drawing: 16: New Echota Museum, Calhoun, GA, 1966 May 01

Address: 1211 Chatsworth Hwy., N.E., Owner/Name of Bldg: State of Georgia, Architect: Gunn & Meyerhoff, Description: Site Plan, Foundation Plan, Floor Plan, Framing Plan, Elevations, Sections and Details, Plumbing Plan, HVAC Plan, Electrical Plan, Job #: 381, Building Type: Museum, Number of pages: 11

Drawing: 17: West Bay Street, Savannah, GA, 2003 January 31

Type of Project: Documentation, (Demolished February 2003), Address: 307 W. Bay St., Owner/Name of Bldg: West Bay Associates LLC, Architect: Gunn, Meyerhoff, Shay, Description: Floor Plan, Printouts of Digital Photographs, Building Type: Stable, Geographic Location: Franklin Ward, Number of pages: 16