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Adina E. De Zavala Papers. Inclusive: 1830 (copy) -1940, undated, Bulk: 1893-1936

Summary Information

Creator	De Zavala, Adina Conger, Roger N.
Extent (quantity/size)	1 document box
Language	English; Spanish
Abstract	The Adina E. De Zavala Papers consist of correspondence, photographs, legal material, and literary material of Adina De Zavala, who was active in 20th Century preservation of early Texas landmarks.

Subjects

De Zavala, Adina, 1861-1955. / Historic preservation -- Texas. / San Antonio (Tex.) -- History. / Texas -- Centennial celebrations, etc.

Administrative Information

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Preferred Citation When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is:

Adina De Zavala Papers, Accession #191, Box#, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

Processing Information Described by Michelle Herbelin and released on 2013-02-27.

Scope and Content

The Adina De Zavala Papers were acquired by purchase and gift in two transactions. The first purchase from an unknown donor, came in 1970 December 11. The second gift given by Roger Conger at an unknown date.

The collection begins in 1893 and ends in 1940. The Photographic Materials series and the Historical and Genealogical Materials series are the largest in the collection. This collection contains Texas and San Jacinto Centennial documents. Also included is the floorplan of the Spanish Governor's Palace in San Antonio, Texas, and a map dealing with the 1836 appearance of the Alamo compound.

Administrative/Biographical History

Texas historic preservationist Adina De Zavala was born in 1861 to Augustine and Julia Tyrrell De Zavala in Harris County. She was the granddaughter of Lorenzo de Zavala, eminent Mexican statesman turned Texas Revolutionary and provisional Vice President of the Republic of Texas. (Adina's father Augustine De Zavala began the practice of capitalizing "De.") After college at Sam Houston Normal Institute and a music education in Missouri, Adina De Zavala spent most of the 1880s teaching school in Terrell and San Antonio.

She is best known for her role with the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) in saving the Alamo Long Barrack from destruction. De Zavala and others later split with the DRT over questions about the building's authenticity. The split is now popularly known as the Second Battle of the Alamo, and the Adina De Zavala Papers contain several related newspaper clippings and letters chronicling this event. De Zavala also spearheaded efforts for the preservation of the Spanish Governor's Palace in San Antonio and the Mission San Francisco de Los Tejas near Crockett. Photographs and a negative of the floor plan of the Governor's Palace are included in the Papers. Active in many historical organizations, Adina De Zavala founded the Texas Historical and Landmarks Association and was a charter member and honorary life fellow of the Texas State Historical Association. She was appointed to the Texas Historical Board in 1923 by Governor Neff and served on the advisory board of the Texas Centennial Committee.

De Zavala authored several works on Texas history, most notably *The History and Legends of the Alamo and Other Missions in and Around San Antonio*. She died in 1955 at the age of ninety-four.

Related Resources

Related citations

Ables, Robert L. "Zavala, Adina Emilia De." *Handbook of Texas Online*. (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fzafg>). Accessed January 28, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Hafertepe, Kenneth. "Restoration, Reconstruction, or Romance? The Case of the Spanish Governor's Palace in Hispanic-Era San Antonio, Texas." *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 67, no. 3 (September 2008): 412-33.

Crawford, Ann Fears and Crystal Sasse Ragsdale. *Women in Texas: their lives, their experiences, their accomplishments*. 1982. Reprint, Austin: State House Press, 1992.

Texas Historical Commission. *Adina De Zavala*. 1994. Historical marker. Alamo Plaza. San Antonio.

Archival Arrangement

The Adina De Zavala Papers were organized by topic prior to this finding aid. This form of organization was kept, along with some of the original folder titles.

Currently, the Adina De Zavala Papers are arranged in four series: I. Dodson Flag, II. Historical and Genealogical Materials, III. Photographic Materials, IV. San Jacinto Centennial.

Series 1: Dodson Flag. 1894-1933

Administrative/Biographical History

The series contains clippings, correspondence, and memoranda describing the history of the Sarah Dodson flag. The Dodson flag was one of the first "Lone Star" flags carried by Texas Army volunteers from the Harrisburg area.

Item List

Box 1. Folder 1. Dodson Flag: General, 1894-1933

Series 2: Historical and Genealogical Materials. 1893-1933**Administrative/Biographical History**

The series contains correspondence, clippings, and legal materials concerning Adina De Zavala's genealogical and historical research.

Item List

Box 1. Folder 2. Historical and Genealogical Materials: Correspondence, 1893-1933

Box 1. Folder 3. Historical and Genealogical Materials: General, 1890-1902

Series 3: Photographic Materials. 1901-1940**Summary Information**

Media	Photo negative; Photographic print
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Administrative/Biographical History

The series contains photographs and negatives relating to Adina De Zavala, De Zavala family members, and various places.

Item List

Box 1. Folder 4. Photographic Materials: Photographs: General, undated

Box 1. Folder 5. Photographic Materials: Photographs: Lorenzo and Emily de Zavala, 1901, undated

Box 1. Folder 6. Photographic Materials: Photographs: Adina De Zavala, 1938-1940

Box 1. Folder 7. Photographic Materials: Negatives, undated

Series 4: San Jacinto Centennial. 1936**Administrative/Biographical History**

This series contains invitations and programs relating to the San Jacinto Centennial celebrations of 1936.

Item List

Box 1. Folder 8. San Jacinto Centennial, 1936