

Field Notes

SCRC Series: Lewis Clarke Oral Histories Project – MC00191

Field Notes: William Warren Edwards (compiled March 7, 2011)

Interviewee: WILLIAM WARREN (“WARREN”) EDWARDS

Interviewer: Yona R. Owens

Interview Date: Friday, January 12, 2011

Location: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Length: Approximately 72 minutes

THE INTERVIEWEE A native of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Warren Edwards graduated from North Carolina State College (now University) School of Design (now College) in 1958 in landscape architecture. Between 1956 and 1965, he worked for Fred B. Stresau, O’Neil Ford, Richard Bell, and Lewis Clarke. In 1965, he opened his own practice in Oklahoma City where he was highly successful, especially with his large residential garden designs. His work has been featured in several publications including *Southern Architect* and *Southern Living*. In 1986, he won a local chapter American Society of Landscape Architects award. Edwards has been an adjunct instructor or professor for approximately 20 years in the landscape architecture departments at Oklahoma State University and University of Oklahoma.

THE INTERVIEWER Yona R. Owens is the Lewis Clarke Oral Histories project manager at North Carolina State University Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center (SCRC).

DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVIEW The interview was conducted at a large antique dining room table at Edwards’ 100 year old house. We spent the morning discussing the content of the interview in general and then actually took the interview in the afternoon. Edwards was relaxed, as he is used to speaking in front of people, and answered questions in a story telling way.

CONTENT OF THE INTERVIEW The basic interview questions were generated long before the interview using a pre-furnished resume as a guideline to glean dates and chronological order of events. Additionally, during the morning discussion, I made mental notes to bring up anecdotes Edwards told about School of Design professors and visiting critics so that he could retell them on the recording.

NOTE ON RECORDING I used the SCRC’s Edirol R-09 recorder, recording in stereo. I recorded the interview as a WAV file. We were sitting in reed bottom, dining room chairs, so there is an occasional light “crackling” noise. Also, Edwards’ dog barked a few times. Other than that, the quality of the recording is good. The transcriptionist reports, however, that the audio level could have been a bit louder.