INTerviewee NAME: Steele Burden

COLLECTION: 4700.0452

IDENTIFICATION: LSU landscape architect and donor of Rural Life Museum.

INTERVIEWER: Kathy Grigsby

SERIES: University History – Rural Life Museum

INTERVIEW DATE: February 2, 1994

FOCUS DATES: 1930 - 1990s

ABSTRACT:

Family background; begins planting and landscaping on family farm; starts job in City Park in late 1920s; plants every tree in City Park; begins work at LSU in 1931 as "yard man"; relates humorous experiences at LSU; plants live oaks, crepe myrtles, and magnolias at LSU; designs and plants LSU President Smith and Mrs. Smith's garden; comments of Pike Burden's printing business; origins of Rural Life Museum; Steele's gardening style; Ione; Steele's contributions to LSU and to Baton Rouge; landscaping Anita and Payne Breazeale's house; wishes to convert City Park Golf Course into a walking park; comments on lack of aesthetic values by LSU administrators; criticisms of American Legionnaires in Paris, 1929.

TAPES: 1 (T642)

TOTAL PLAYING TIME: 1 hour, 11 minutes

# PAGES TRANSCRIPT: 65 pages

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: Correspondence

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