

Stewart Bell Jr. Archives
Handley Regional Library & Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society
P.O. Box 58, Winchester, Virginia 22604
Tel.: (540) 662-9041, ext. 17 • Email: archives@handleyregional.org
Website: www.handleyregional.org/archives

Equity Improvement Company of Winchester, Virginia, Collection
Collection Number: 495 THL

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS: Collection is open to all researchers.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE: Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Initial processing undertaken in 1986. Last updated by Buffy Knappenberger in November 2024.

EXTENT: 0.21 linear feet

DATE: 1888-1917

EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF COPIES: Photographs in this collection have been digitized and are available to view online through the Past Perfect online database: <http://handley.pastperfectonline.com/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT: This collection contains organizational information, prospectuses, and stock certificates, as well as maps of Winchester including improvements proposed by the Equity Improvement Company of Winchester, VA.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL: John Handley began visiting friends in the Winchester area in the 1880s. By 1888 he had decided that he wished to do something to benefit the local citizens and he subsequently established the Equity Improvement Company of Winchester, which was formally incorporated on January 25, 1890. The Company began selling stock to support a number of projects to provide employment and improve housing in the area. However, only "The Winchester Inn" was completed. By August 11, 1899 the venture was a clear failure and the Board of Directors decided to dissolve the corporation and sell all of the property.

RELATED MATERIAL: Similar material from companies such as the Equity Improvement of Scranton, PA is filed in the John Handley Collection, 522 THL.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Quarles, Garland R., *John Handley and the Handley Bequest to Winchester, Virginia*, Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, Winchester, VA, 1998, pgs. 41-52.

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Gift of multiple donors.

CONTAINER LIST:

BOX 1

News article - annual meeting of stockholders, September 23, 1891, 1 leaf, printed (photocopy)

Plan of organization, January 25, 1890, 1 page, printed

Prospectus booklet, 1890, 1 item, 2 copies, printed

Stock certificates, 1891, 2 copies, 2 leaves, manuscript on printed form
1892, 1 leaf, manuscript on printed form

Receipt for Equity Improvement Company papers, books, etc., May 12, 1917, 1 leaf, typescript (copy)

MAPS

W13 - "Map of Winchester, Virginia Addition, made by Equity Improvement Co.," with drawing of Hotel Winchester, by Albert von Olszewski, no date, 8 copies, 1 leaf, printed

W14 - Map, showing new addition for development in Winchester, compiled by J. Howard Gore, no date, 2 copies, 1 leaf, printed

Physical Location: Map Collection

PHOTOGRAPHS

- [495-001] Stock certificate in Equity Improvement Company of Winchester, entitling John R. Snapp(?) to six shares of stock. Signed by B.A. Wade and Albert Baker, October 17, 1891.
- [495-002] Stock certificate in Equity Improvement Company of Winchester, entitling Jos. M. Barton to fifteen shares of stock. Signed by B.A. Wade and Holmes Conrad, December 6, 1892.