

Stewart Bell Jr. Archives
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Taylor Hotel Collection
Collection Number: 1145 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: Processed by Archives staff. Last updated by Buffy Knappenberger in May 2025.

EXTENT: .21 linear feet.

DATE: 1859-2012

SCOPE AND CONTENT: This collection contains reports and news articles from 1859 to the present concerning the historic Taylor Hotel in Winchester, Virginia. Articles will cover the many uses of this building and its renovation.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL: Located at 129 North Loudoun Street, the first hotel located at the site was opened by Edward McGuire in 1755. After McGuire's death, the property was sold to Bushrod Taylor who constructed the Taylor Hotel, which opened its doors for business around 1836 and closed in 1911 when it was sold to the J. G. McCrory Company. They operated a dime store, and a movie theater there until 1995. Since then, a variety of businesses, none of which lasted long, have operated on the site. After sitting vacant for several years, the building's roof collapsed in 2007. Several organizations united with plans for the building's renovation, but funding had been slow. In its hey-day during the mid-19th Century, the Taylor Hotel was considered the finest hotel in the area, and among its guests were Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay, Stephen A. Douglas, Stonewall Jackson, and several Union generals.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: *The Winchester Star*, January 2, and March 22, 2011, *Images of the Past, A Photographic Review of Winchester and Frederick County, Virginia*, Winchester, VA: Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, 1980.

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION: Gift of multiple donors.

CONTAINER LIST:

BOX 1

History of the site of the Taylor Hotel, Goodman, 1997, 3 leaves

“Intensive Level Documentation of the Taylor Hotel”, Prepared for the City of Winchester Office of Economic Redevelopment by Anne Stuart Beckett, May 16, 2012, 21 leaves, printed (photocopy)

“Spot Blight and the Taylor Hotel, What Fate Awaits the Landmark”, Preservation of Historic Winchester, Inc., Vol. 43, No. 1 (Spring, 2011), 5 leaves, printed

News Clippings – 1859-2000, unnumbered leaves, printed (photocopy)

News Clippings – 2001-present, unnumbered leaves, printed (photocopy)