Finding Aid to the
Walter B. Hancock Papers

Hancock, Walter B., 1863 – 1929
Walter B. Hancock Papers, 1881 – 1935
.2 linear ft.
Collection number: Mss 15

Biography Scope and Content Box and Folder List

OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is in off-site storage. A 24-hour turn-around is required to make the records available for use at the Institute Research Room. The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Provenance: Donated by Helen Douglass, 1956 (Acc. 780).

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Citation: [Identification of item]. Walter B. Hancock Papers, MS 15, Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

BIOGRAPHY

Walter Benjamin Hancock was born September 5, 1863, in Gloucestershire, England. He came to Fargo in 1882 to work for his brother, architect George Hancock. Several years later Mr. Hancock went to Syracuse University, where he graduated with a degree in architecture in 1889. He then returned to Fargo and practiced with his brother in the Hancock Brothers firm until George's death in 1924. The brothers were among North Dakota's leading architects and designed such buildings in Fargo as the Masonic block, the Island Park bandstand, First Congregational Church, Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral, and

McKinley and Washington schools. They also designed Old Main, Ceres Hall, and Festival Hall on the campus of North Dakota State University.

Mr. Hancock was a director of the Dakota National Bank and the Northern and Dakota Trust Company. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects, Dakota National Guard, Commons Club, Fargo Country Club, Century Club, and several other social clubs. He also was a member of the Shiloh Masonic Lodge, Keystone chapter of the Auvergne Commandery.

On October 17, 1895, he married Augusta LaVerna Douglass, a teacher in Fargo. She was born to Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Douglass in Olmsted County, Minnesota, on June 13, 1865. The Hancocks had no children but raised a foster son, Edward. They were members of the Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral. Mr. Hancock died November 23, 1929, and Mrs. Hancock died December 24, 1955. They were buried at Riverside Cemetery in Fargo.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Walter B. Hancock Papers consist of an eclectic collection of mementos from Mr. Hancock's life. The correspondence contains several personal letters and a memorial resolution on Mr. Hancock's death. Of special note is a copy of the first issue of the Hancock Brothers' monthly publication *Architecture* (November 1906). Included are articles on Walter Hancock's home in Fargo and the C.S. Marden home in Barnesville, Minnesota. The certificates are from the Dakota National Guard, Knights of Pythias, and the American Institute of Architects. The *Empress of Australia* brochure came from the Hancocks' voyage in September 1929 after a trip to Europe. Another memento is a good copy of the *Fargo Souvenir*, a promotional publication from 1897. The few newspaper clippings are on Edward Hancock and the Island Park bandstand that Walter Hancock designed. The sketch book contains drawings by Walter Hancock in 1897 of bases and columns of famous buildings in Venice, Milan, Rome, Paris, and London. The drawing book contains drawings presumably done by him in 1881 from printed copies. The final item, the warranty deed, is for lots in Fargo.

SEPARATIONS RECORD

The following non-manuscript material has been removed from the Walter B. Hancock collection and sent to the section indicated.

Newspapers (Institute Newspaper Collection)

Argus Fire Anniversary edition, June 7, 1894.
Evening Post, March 28, 1883 (incomplete).

Photographs (Institute Photograph Collection) (1)

1 photograph of Augusta Hancock as a young woman.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
1/1	Finding aid, and Biographical material
1/2	Correspondence, 1929
1/3	*Architecture*, November 1906
1/4	Certificates, 1887-1907, 1922
1/5	*Empress of Australia* steamship brochure, 1929
1/6	*Fargo Souvenir*, 1897
1/7	Newspaper clippings, 1920s
1/8	Sketch book, 1897
1/9	Vere Foster's drawing copy book, 1881
1/10	Warranty deed, 1903

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