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The University Archives  
and Records Center

A Guide to the  
Frank H. Taylor Collection  
1915-1924

18.0 Items

UPX 2 T251

November 2012

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**PROVENANCE**

The collection was transferred from the Architectural Archives (originally part of Fine Arts Library collections) on October 7, 2009 (Accession # 2009: 048).

**ARRANGEMENT**

The Collection is in its original order.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Frank Hamilton Taylor was born in Rochester, NY on April 21, 1846. In 1865 he came to Philadelphia to serve an internship at a lithography firm. Taylor chose Philadelphia because of its strong publishing industry and vibrant art community. By 1870 he had established his own lithography firm, and was serving as a special artist for various newspapers and publications in the city. Additionally, Taylor collaborated on many guidebooks and wrote several publications, most notably Philadelphia in the Civil War, and the Official Office Building Directory and

Architectural handbook of Philadelphia. Taylor entered semi-retirement in 1910 to focus on a series of watercolors, washes and drawings of Philadelphia. He eventually published these images as Ever-Changing Philadelphia in 1915.

By 1927 Taylor's health had begun to decline to the point where the Court of Pleas of Philadelphia declared him "an alleged weak-minded person" and had him placed under the guardianship of the Commonwealth Title Insurance Company. He died two months later.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection contains eighteen images done by Frank H. Taylor between 1915 and 1924. The majority of the images relate to houses in West Philadelphia that were later used by University fraternities.

Additional information on Frank Taylor's work can be found at: <http://www.brynmawr.edu/iconog/fht/fht1.html>. In 1922, Taylor donated a large collection of photographs to the Free Library of Philadelphia, which are available online <http://libwww.freelibrary.org/HIP/collection.cfm>.

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**INVENTORY**

<b>ART REPRODUCTIONS</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Unidentified houses, probably West Philadelphia 1924	1	
Epsilon Zeta Chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha, 225 S. 39th Street 1922	1	
Theta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu, 3817 Walnut Street 1922	1	
Theta Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau (former Thomas L. Latta Residence), 3819 Spruce Street 1922	1	
Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity, 3940 Spruce Street 1922	1	
Phi Phi Chapter of Sigma Chi (former Drexel-Paul Residence), 3809 Locust Street 1922	1	
Beta Rho Chapter of Sigma Nu (former William Kayser, of Allman and Kayser, Residence), 3819 Walnut Street 1922	1	
International Students' House (former Potts Residence), 3905 Spruce Street 1922	1	
<b>ORIGINAL SKETCHES</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Beta Rho Chapter of Sigma Nu (former William Kayser, of Allman and Kayser, Residence), 3819 Walnut Street 1922	1	
Phi Phi Chapter of Sigma Chi (former Drexel-Paul Residence), 3809 Locust Street 1922	1	

Theta Chapter of Zeta Beta Tau (former Thomas L. Latta Residence), 3819 Spruce Street 1922	1
Epsilon Zeta Chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha, 225 S. 39th Street 1922	1
Theta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu, 3817 Walnut Street 1922	1
International Students' House (former Potts Residence), 3905 Spruce Street 1922	1
Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity, 3940 Spruce Street 1922	1
"Shop south of Friends Grave Yard west of 3d St supposed to have been occupied by Benj. Franklin as a Printer" n.d.	1
The Bijou, Pioneer 'Movie' Theatre n.d.	1
Franklin's First Home in Philadelphia 1915	1