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Stilwell Heritage and Educational Foundation collection, 1891-1997

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Stilwell Heritage and Educational Foundation Collection, MS 303

The Stilwell Heritage and Educational Foundation Collection

Collection Number	MS 303
Title	The Stilwell Heritage and Educational Foundation Collection
Repository	Pittsburg State University, Special Collections & University Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas 1701 S. Broadway Pittsburg, Kansas 66762 (620) 235-4883 speccoll@pittstate.edu
Dates	1891-1997
Collection Size	1 linear foot
Scope and Content	A collection of financial and legal documents, board records, and publications related to the Stilwell Heritage and Educational Foundation of Pittsburg, Kansas.
Access Restrictions	This collection is open for access. Researchers must use the collection in accordance with the policies of the Special Collections & University Archives, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University.
Languages	English
Historical Note	<p>The Stilwell Heritage and Educational Foundation, incorporated in 1992, is a nonprofit organization that was created, as per its mission, “To promote and encourage research of Crawford County history and architecture; to acquire, by purchase, gift, devise or otherwise, the title to, or the custody and control of, historic buildings, sites, artifacts and other property of historic interest to Crawford County; to develop such historic properties, when feasible, for affordable housing to meet the needs of the low and middle-income elderly in Crawford County; to work cooperatively with other non-profit providers of housing for low and middle-income elderly in Crawford County; to provide for the protection, preservation and restoration of building, land, homes or other property of historic or architectural significance to Crawford County.” The Hotel Stilwell, in Pittsburg, Kansas, was one of their first projects. Built in 1890, it was one of the first modern buildings in the town and the setting of many speeches held by figures like Susan B. Anthony and Theodore Roosevelt. It also served as a temporary capital of Kansas when Governor Henry J. Allen set up office for three weeks in 1919. In 1926, the hotel had Otto’s Café added on to the side, and during World War II it served as housing for training pilots. The building was set for demolition in the early 1980s,</p>

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but was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. However, the building went bankrupt in 1984 and was empty until 1996 when restoration and renovation projects were set in motion by the Stilwell Heritage and Educational Foundation. The hotel was restored in 1997, and now houses apartments, retailers, Otto's Café, and a ballroom for events.

Content Description:

The Hotel Stilwell Hotel collection contains documents regarding the original establishment of the hotel, the history of the building, blueprints, architectural plans, proposals, financial records, legal matters, press releases, newspaper clippings, magazines and other publications, board and agenda notes from meetings of the Hotel Stilwell Board, historical registry papers, loans, grants, correspondence, and information from similar corporations including Camptown and the Little Balkans Foundation. This collection is divided into the following nine series: **Historical; Registry; Legal; Financial; Correspondence; Board Notes; Publications; and Miscellaneous.**

Detailed Description of Collection:

F. 1 Stilwell History

F. 2 Registry Papers

Papers, forms, and grants related to the preservation of Hotel Stilwell

F. 3 Legal: Amendments

Stilwell Heritage and Educational Foundation By-Laws, Articles of Incorporation, and Business Plan

F. 4 Legal: Court Cases

Stilwell Heritage and Educational Foundation v Stilwell Development Corporation

F. 5 Business

Floor Plans (1897-1923), Renovation plans and proposals

F. 6 Financial & Tax Issues

F. 7 Correspondence, 1991-1996

F. 8 Board of Directors Meetings 1992

F. 9 Board of Directors Meetings 1993

F. 10 Board of Directors Meetings 1994

F. 11 Board of Directors Meetings 1995-1997; 2010

F. 12 Board of Directors: Committees

F. 13 Publications: Brochures

F. 14 Publications: *Spirit of Stilwell*

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F. 15 Publications: Newspapers & Clippings

F. 16 Publications: Press Releases & Promotions

F. 17 Miscellaneous & Video: Stilwell Hotel- Before Restoration