

**Shelter Island Historical Society
Clubs & Organizations: Heights Association
Subject Collection, 1887 – 1970s**

FINDING AID AUTHOR

Natalie Hurwitz

ACQUISITION INFORMATION

Over time

PROCESSING INFORMATION

n/a

EXTENT

Number of containers: 2 Boxes

Linear feet of shelf space: n/a

ABSTRACT

Records of Heights Association from 1905 to 1970s

BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY

Shelter Island Heights was listed on both the United States Register and the New York State Register of Historic Places in 1993 “in recognition of its significance in American history and culture.” Designed about 1872 and essentially unchanged since then, the Heights is a beautiful example of the picturesque, naturalistic landscape and romantic rural residential areas created by the first generation of American landscape architects. Among these were Frederick Law Olmsted, the designer of New York City’s Central Park, and Robert Morris Copeland, who laid out the original plan for the Heights, prepared for a Methodist affiliated organization from Brooklyn. The Heights is among the few preserved communities that combined facilities for religious camp meetings with summer resort living close to New York and Connecticut.

The visual and social center of Copeland’s plan was Union Chapel (built 1875 and placed on the national register in 1984), the oldest public building on Shelter Island. It is set in a natural amphitheater, the Grove, which was also the site for an open-air preacher’s stand and tents that accommodated the people who attended the first camp meetings. But from the beginning the Heights was conceived as a community with parks, open spaces, a hotel, and lots for private residences. Between 1872 and 1880 about 70 cottages were constructed; by the late 1880s another 30 were added; by 1890 the current layout was defined.

Today the Heights Historic District consists of 141 buildings, designed in several distinct styles. The original cottages built in the first decade are in the exuberant folk architecture found in camp meeting sites such as Oak Bluffs on Martha’s Vineyard and Ocean Grove in New Jersey. The most striking feature of these steeply pitched gable roof structure is the elaborate and delicate wood trimming on verandas, gables, windows, and doors. (From their website – siheights.com)

COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT

Annual reports, deeds, scrapbook

ARRANGEMENT

Item level.

SEPARATED MATERIAL

None.

SUBJECTS

Shelter Island Heights Association, Financial Records, Historic Places, Unique Architecture

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

This collection is open and available for research use. Copyright restrictions apply.

PREFERRED CITATION

The suggested citation for the collection is:

“Obtained from the collection of the Shelter Island Historical Society, all rights reserved”

RELATED MATERIAL

Shelter Island Grove and Camp Meeting Association Legal Size Folder (original name of the organization)

Pictorial Material → Geography and Place Names → Heights (also postcards)

Maps

LOCATION NOTE

Rolling Bin 1A

LANGUAGES

English

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)	ID #
1	-	Marin Shiebler's Papers (Financial records, stocks, etc.)	1902 – 1950	2011.142
2	--	Board of Directors of Heights Association and Ferry Company	Unknown	1975.34.5
2	--	Letter from Heights Association to residents not share-holders t	1977	1977.50.5a&b
2	--	Ferry Co. Expenses	1977 & 1978	1987.61
2	--	Annual Report (3 Copies)	1922	1990.270a+b 1992.64
2	--	Annual Report	1972 1973 1974 1975 1977	1992.76 1992.77 1992.78 1990.155 1992.79
2	--	Officials of association and SI- Greenport Ferry Company	1926	1995.192
2	--	Tax Payment Record	1892	1999.102a
2	1	Deeds and Indentures	1934 – 1953	2000.108 – 2000.119AR
2	--	Scrapbook of publicity by Fred Hulbert	1933-1937	2006.360

2	--	Indenture of Heights Association to James Spaulding	1887	2007.206
2	2	Annual Reports	1933 – 1969/70	2008.211.14 - .26 1995.193-.197 1999.999a-e
2	3	SI Securities Corp. reports, presidents' reports. Reports 1899, 1922	1899- 1930	2008.211.1-10 1972.15.269 2017.6 1970.87 & 1999.150 1995.200
2	--	Financial report of Corporations related to Heights Association (handwritten & typed)	1898	2008.210
2	--	Notice to Heights residents – not to walk around in bathing suits!	c. 1900	2010.54