

Collection #  
BV 5476

**JOHN S. SPANN AND COMPANY  
LEDGER, 1892-1898**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1 Bound Volume

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1892-1898

**PROVENANCE:** Berkley W. Duck, III, Carmel, Indiana, July, 2015

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** Spann and Rassman Account Books: BV 0624-0637; Spann Family Business Records M 1122

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2015.0227

**NOTES:**

## SKETCH

John S. Spann, born in Jennings County, Indiana in May 1823, was a prominent businessman in Indianapolis. He began his career in the newspaper business by working for both the *State Sentinel* and the *Indiana Statesman*. He then engaged in real estate, founding the firm of John S. Spann & Company in 1860. His son, Thomas H. Spann, later took over the company. In 1847, John married Hester Sharpe, with whom he had eight children, four of whom lived to maturity.

Thomas H. Spann was born on June 8, 1848 in Indianapolis. Thomas took over the family company, which primarily built structures in Indianapolis. He married Sarah Smith in 1872, and they had two daughters: Sarah and Louise. The real estate business was so depressed beginning in the late 1870s that Thomas took a job in life insurance for ten years to make a living. John S. Spann & Company was incorporated in 1902.

The Spann Investment Company was created in 1916 by Thomas H. Spann, Berkley W. Duck (Thomas's son-in-law), and Paul Robertson. The objective of the company was to buy, sell, and lease lands, buildings, and other structures. Another part of its mission was to erect dwellings and other buildings on lands leased or purchased. Both of Thomas Spann's daughters were involved in the company. The name was changed in 1937 to Plaza Investment Company.

Sources:

IHS collection guide, M 1122

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This bound volume contains information from the Indianapolis Inspection Bureau regarding “tariffs” and has fire insurance information records for buildings in the downtown area of Indianapolis, 1892-1897. It is divided by street names and includes street numbers and descriptions of the structure at that number.

## **CONTENTS**

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Indianapolis Inspection Bureau Tariff Book,  
1892-1897

### CONTAINER

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