

University Realty Company Inc.

The University Realty Company Inc. was started by Maggie L. Walker and some of her associates in 1919. The goal of the realty company was to create a suburban neighborhood in Richmond where middle-class African-American's could purchase homes with land in an upscale neighborhood since they were barred from purchasing in any of the white suburbs. The University Realty Company, Inc. purchased land adjacent to Virginia Union University. The company built a number of model houses on the purchased lots and sold them, likely to teachers and staff from the University and other middle-class African-Americans. In 1957, Justice Spottswood William Robinson III, who eventually became the chief judge for the U.S Court of Appeals in Washington D.C., had a house built in the Fredrick Douglas Court neighborhood where he had grown up. The neighborhood still exists as a Richmond neighborhood with some of the original houses that were built during Maggie L. Walker's lifetime. Some of the existing houses are attributed to the African-American architect Charles T. Russell.

The University Realty Company documents that are part of the Maggie L. Walker Papers consist of financial statements and correspondence from the early years of the company.