

5600HM-GSM-gau (USMARC)

City of Savannah Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia [GSG (OCLC/LYRASIS)]

**Record Series #:** 5600HM

**Name:** City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Harbor Master

**Dates:** 1883-1944, 1952-1965 (some gaps)

**Extent/Size:** 41 volumes (7.5 cubic feet)

**Organizational History:**

The office of the Harbor Master for the port of Savannah was established under Act No. 230 of the State of Georgia on March 12, 1774. The Harbor Master was appointed by the Governor until November 24, 1824, when an Act of the Legislature made the office elective by Council (Gamble, pg 496). An October 3, 1844 Ordinance determined that the Harbor Master would be elected on the first Monday of January annually. After 1955, the City Manager became responsible for the appointment of the Harbor Master. The position was created because the increase in trade at Georgia's ports necessitated a person to be appointed to overlook and regulate vessels coming into port (*Watkin's Digest of Georgia Laws*, pg. 194). The primary responsibilities of the Harbor Master include establishing, distributing, and enforcing the rules and regulations for the government of pilots and masters of vessels in the port of Savannah and collecting fees from said vessels. Additionally, the Harbor Master is responsible for ensuring that vessels do not illegally dispose of their ballast or other waste into the Savannah River. Rules established by the Harbor Master were required to first have been submitted to and approved of by the Board of Commissioners of Pilotage for the port of Savannah. Since at least 1849, the Mayor and Aldermen set the rate of Harbor fees to be paid to the Harbor Master by each vessel entering the port. The rate is determined by the nature, size, and country of origin of each vessel. The Harbor Master was required to submit a report accounting for all fees due or received by his office to the City Treasurer (Code of Savannah, 1854). In 1868, the duties of the Harbor Master were amended to include requiring the officer to obtain any permits to enter port issued by the Quarantine Officer and convey it to the Mayor. In 1945, the Harbor Master was given authority to board ships in the Port of Savannah in order to fulfill their duties. The duties of the Harbor Master are outlined in Section § 4-6 of the current City Code (2023). Distinct but related government functions include the Pilotage Commission and Port Warden positions.

**Scope and Content:**

Record Series 5600HM - City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Harbor Master (1883-1944, 1952-1965), is arranged into the following sub-series. See Scope and Content notes for each sub-series for further information about the content and arrangement of the materials.

5600HM-010	Harbor Master Records
5600HM-020	Exports, Coastwise and Foreign

**Related Collections:**

[Record Series 0115-001 \(HAR\) – Council Meeting Papers, Committee on Harbors and Wharves](#)

**Note:**

Records in this collection were originally described as 5600CT-700 and 56000CT-710, but in May 2023, they were re-processed into 5600HM-010 and 5600HM-020. Volume numbers remain unchanged.

**Conditions Governing Access:**

None

**Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:**

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***Preferred Citation:***

Record Series 5600HM, City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Harbor Master. City of Savannah Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia.

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City of Savannah Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia [GSG (OCLC/LYRASIS)]

**Sub-series #:** 5600HM-010

**Name:** Harbor Master Records (Indexed)

**Dates:** 1883-1944, 1952-1965 (some gaps)

**Extent/Size:** 35 volumes (6.7 cubic feet)

**Sub-series description:**

Sub-series 5600HM-010 Harbor Master Records (1883-1944, 1952-1965, some gaps) includes twenty-one registers and fourteen receipt books. The registers and log books record: name of vessel; name of harbor master; date of arrival; tonnage; point of origin; cargo description; consignee name; destination; date of sailing; amounts; depth; and charge. Several of the registers include indexes arranged alphabetically by name of ship followed by date. The receipt books include numbered copies of receipts indicating amounts received by shipping company and notes of explanation.

**Note:**

Records in this collection were originally described as 5600CT-700 Harbor Master Records, but in May 2023, they were re-processed into 5600HM-010.

**Arrangement:**

Chronological.

**Inventory:**

*Port Registers:*

5600HM-010 Volume 1	Port Register, 1883-1885
5600HM-010 Volume 2	Port Register, 1897-1899
5600HM-010 Volume 3	Port Register (Indexed), 1899-1900
5600HM-010 Volume 4	Port Register (Indexed), 1900-1901
5600HM-010 Volume 5	Port Register (Indexed), 1902-1903
5600HM-010 Volume 6	Port Register (Indexed), 1903-1905
5600HM-010 Volume 7	Port Register (Indexed), 1905-1906
5600HM-010 Volume 8	Port Register (Indexed), 1906-1908
5600HM-010 Volume 9	Port Register (Indexed), 1909-1912
5600HM-010 Volume 10	Port Register, 1912-1916
5600HM-010 Volume 11	Port Register, 1916-1922
5600HM-010 Volume 12	Port Register, 1926
5600HM-010 Volume 13	Port Register, 1926-1931
5600HM-010 Volume 14	Port Register, 1931-1934
5600HM-010 Volume 15	Port Register, 1935-1938
5600HM-010 Volume 16	Port Register, 1938-1944
5600HM-010 Volume 30	Log Book, 1955-1964
5600HM-010 Volume 31	Port Register, 1944-1951
5600HM-010 Volume 32	Port Register, 1951-1954
5600HM-010 Volume 33	Port Register, 1955-1958
5600HM-010 Volume 34	Port Register, 1958-1961
5600HM-010 Volume 35	Port Register, 1961-1964

*Receipt Books:*

5600HM-010 Volume 17	Money Receipt Book, 1952-1953
5600HM-010 Volume 18	Money Receipt Book, 1955
5600HM-010 Volume 19	Receipt Book, 1955-1956
5600HM-010 Volume 20	Money Receipt Book, 1958
5600HM-010 Volume 21	Money Receipt Book, 1958-1959
5600HM-010 Volume 22	Receipt Book, 1959-1960
5600HM-010 Volume 23	Money Receipt Book, 1960
5600HM-010 Volume 24	Receipt Book, 1960-1961
5600HM-010 Volume 25	Money Receipt Book, 1962-1963
5600HM-010 Volume 26	Money Receipt Book, 1963-1964
5600HM-010 Volume 27	Money Receipt Book, 1964-1965
5600HM-010 Volume 28	Port Register, 1890
5600HM-010 Volume 29	Fees Register, 1921

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**City of Savannah Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia [GSG (OCLC/LYRASIS)]**

**Sub-series #:** 5600HM-020  
**Name:** Exports, Coastwise and Foreign (Indexed)  
**Dates:** 1892-1894, 1897-1898  
**Extent/Size:** 6 volumes (0.75 cubic feet)

**Sub-series description:**

Sub-series 5600HM-020 Exports, Coastwise and Foreign (1892-1894, 1897-1898) includes six volumes of Harbor Master records recording exports from Savannah to foreign and coastal destinations. Indexes at the front of each volume list product and produce in alphabetical order (including, cotton, lumber, pitch, molasses, bananas, turtles, phosphate and wool), followed by amounts exported and destinations.

**Note:**

Records in this collection were originally described as 5600CT-710 Harbor Master Records, but in May 2023, they were re-processed into 5600HM-020. Volume numbers remain unchanged.

**Arrangement:**

Alphabetical by product.

**Inventory:**

5600HM-020 Volume 1	Coastwise Exports, 1892
5600HM-020 Volume 2	Coastwise Exports, 1894
5600HM-020 Volume 3	Coastwise Exports, 1898
5600HM-020 Volume 4	Foreign and Coastwise Exports, 1893
5600HM-020 Volume 5	Foreign and Coastwise Exports, 1894
5600HM-020 Volume 6	Foreign and Coastwise Exports, 1897