

5600AP-GSM-gau (USMARC); GSG (OCLC/SOLINET)
City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia

Record Series #: 5600AP
Name: City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Municipal Airport
Dates: 1925, 1929-1931, 1934-1935, no date
Extent/Size: 1 document case (0.5 cubic feet)

Organizational History:

In 1928, when commercial air travel was beginning to grow, Thomas Hoynes (Mayor of Savannah), Oliver T. Bacon (Chairman of the Chatham County Commission), John L. Cabell (Chairman of the Savannah City Council), George W. Tiedeman (Chairman of the City Council's General Aviation Committee), and William H. Robertson (Superintendent of the Park & Tree Commission) recommended the site known as the Belmont Tract be used for the new municipal airport. The land was purchased from J.C. Lewis and the City and County teamed up to begin work on the site. On September 20, 1929 an Eastern Air Express aircraft named the "City of Savannah" became the first plane to land, thus officially opening the airport. In 1932, the landing field was named Hunter Field in honor of Captain Frank O'Driscoll Hunter, a native of Savannah who was a pilot in World War I.

In September 1940, the U.S. Army Air Corps took over the Savannah Airport to use as an airbase during the war with the promise to return the airport to the city when the war was over. At this time the airport was handling both commercial and military traffic. City officials began looking for a new location for the municipal airport. They broke ground on the new location in November 1940. The new field was named Chatham Field. The U.S. Army used the new field as well as Hunter. By 1950, the U.S. Army took over Hunter permanently and all commercial traffic was moved to Chatham Field, now Travis Field.

Source:

The History of Aviation in Savannah (1998). By Georgia R. Byrd, Delph Thorn, and Rich Wittish.

Scope & Content:

Record Series 5600AP – Municipal Airport (1925, 1929-1931, 1934-1935, no date) contains papers relating to the building of the airport including administrative files, correspondence, equipment manuals, and lighting recommendations. It also includes log books documenting early flights into and out of the airport.

This series is arranged alphabetically into the following sub-series:

5600AP-010 Administrative Files
5600AP-020 Correspondence
5600AP-030 Equipment
5600AP-040 Log Books

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Sub-series #: 5600AP-010

Name: Administrative Files

Dates: 1929-1931, 1934-1935

Extent/Size: 3 folders (0.075 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600AP-010 Administrative Files (1929-1931, 1934-1935) contains three folders that include engineering agreements between the City of Savannah and the Austin Company for a preliminary engineering survey and report, as well as contracts between the City of Savannah and Eastern Air Transport. It also includes Board of Purchase slips and budgets.

Arrangement:

Alphabetical and then Chronological

Inventory:

5600AP-010 Folder 1: Budget/Purchases, 1929, 1931, 1934-1935

5600AP-010 Folder 2: Contracts, 1929, 1931

5600AP-010 Folder 3: Newsletters, 1930, 1934

5600AP-GSM-gau (USMARC); GSG (OCLC/SOLINET)

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Sub-series #: 5600AP020

Name: Correspondence

Dates: 1929-1931, 1934-1935, no date

Extent/Size: 1 folder (.025 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600AP-020 Correspondence (1929-1931, 1934-1935, no date) contains 1 folder that includes correspondence between William H. Robertson, Secretary of the Airport Committee, the County Engineer and various companies in relation to the building of the municipal airport.

Arrangement:

Chronological

Inventory:

5600AP-020 Folder 1: Correspondence 1929-1931, 1934-1935, no date

5600AP-GSM-gau (USMARC); GSG (OCLC/SOLINET)

City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia

Sub-series #: 5600AP-030

Name: **Equipment**

Dates: 1925, 1930, no date

Extent/Size: 3 folders (0.2 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600AP-030 Equipment (1925, 1930, no date) contains three folders of material relating to the maintenance of the airport including equipment manuals, equipment brochures, and lighting recommendations from Westinghouse Lighting and General Electric.

Arrangement:

Alphabetical

Inventory:

5600AP-030 Folder 1:	Equipment Brochures/Manuals, 1925, 1930, no date
5600AP-030 Folder 2:	Lighting Recommendation, General Electric, November 19, 1930
5600AP-030 Folder 3:	Lighting Recommendation, Westinghouse, July 26, 1930

5600AP-GSM-gau (USMARC); GSG (OCLC/SOLINET)

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Sub-series #: 5600AP-040

Name: Log Books

Dates: 1931-1934

Extent/Size: 3 folders (0.2 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600AP-040 Log Books (1931-1934) contains three log books recording: date; owner; make of ship; pilot license number; from; where to; passenger stopping for; time in; and time out.

Arrangement:

Chronological

Inventory:

5600AP-040 Folder 1:	March 18, 1931 – December 3, 1931
5600AP-040 Folder 2:	December 5, 1931 – March 17, 1932
5600AP-040 Folder 3:	November 15, 1932 – January 28, 1934