

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

Record Series #: 5600DC

Name: City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Drainage Commission

Dates: 1877-1920

Extent/Size: 2 volumes (0.3 cubic feet)

Organizational History:

As early as 1817, the City provided for commissioners of drainage. The Georgia Code of 1873 gave City Council the power to establish a drainage system in and around Savannah (Gamble, p. 444; Georgia Code of 1873, no. 4854). However, the yellow fever epidemic of 1876 was blamed on the failure to maintain proper drainage and poor sanitary conditions in and around the city, especially of the Springfield lands. City officials applied to the state for assistance, and under an act of the legislature in 1877 funds were appropriated and a drainage commission was appointed to supervise the project to drain Springfield plantation and other area lowlands (Gamble, p. 304).

In 1891, the City passed an ordinance to establish another drainage commission to recommend a system of home drainage. Then in 1895, drainage responsibilities were transferred to the Commissioner of Public Works (Gamble, p. 445). By an act of the legislature in 1898, this commission was abolished, and the office of the Director of Public Works was created (Gamble, p. 447). The municipal reports for 1914-1917 document the existence of a standing committee on drainage; however, the supervision of city drainage was not officially transferred to an appointed committee on drainage until 1929 (City Code 1936, p. 61).

As of 1989, the maintenance of the City's drainage systems was the responsibility of the Drainage and Streets Maintenance Division of the Facilities Maintenance Bureau (Urban, Serving Savannah, p. 28). By 2008, this division had evolved and the responsibility for maintaining and repairing the City's open and closed drainage system fell under the Stormwater Management department, of the Facilities Maintenance Bureau (2008 Service Program and Budget, pp. 96, 105).

Scope and Content:

Record Series 5600DC City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Drainage Commission (1877-1920), 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.

5600DC-010 Commissioners of Drainage Minute Book

5600DC-020 Voucher Register

Related Series:

5600EN City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Engineering Department.

5600HA City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Board of Health.

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Sub-series #: 5600DC-010

Name: Commissioners of Drainage Minute Book

Dates: 1877-1885

Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.15 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600DC-010 Commissioners of Drainage Minute Book (1877-1885) includes one volume of minutes from meetings of the Commissioners of Drainage. The minutes include: meeting date; names of those present; correspondence; committee reports; and any other business presented before the Commission.

Arrangement:

Chronological.

Inventory:

5600DC-010 Volume 1 Commissioners of Drainage Minute Book, 1877-1885

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Sub-series #: 5600DC-020

Name: Voucher Register

Dates: 1914-1920

Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.15 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600DC-020 Voucher Register (1914-1920) includes one volume of vouchers related to drainage work. The record includes: voucher number; date of invoice; date of voucher; recipient of funds; reason for payment; amount; and monthly balances.

Note:

Although the available sources indicate the Drainage Commission was no longer functioning during the time span of this record, the register is labeled as such throughout. The register may have been printed during the life of the Commission and later maintained by the standing Committee on Drainage.

Arrangement:

Numerical by voucher number.

Inventory:

5600DC-020 Volume 1 Voucher Register, 1914-1920