

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

Record Series #: 5600WO

Name: City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Water Operations Department

Dates: 1865-1942

Extent/Size: 16 volumes (4.0 cubic feet)

Organizational History:

The problem of providing a potable water supply to the city has been an ongoing issue in the City's history. An 1850 study resulted in the construction of the first City water works. The water works was completed in 1854, and a filtration system was added in 1855 (Gamble, pp. 215-217). A Board of Commissioners, made up of the Mayor, two aldermen, and three citizens, administered the water works until control was transferred to City Council's Committee on Water Works in 1880 (Code of Savannah 1854, p. 457; Code of Savannah 1888, p. 167-168; Gamble, p. 219).

To meet the growing needs of the city, a new water works was built in 1882 (Gamble, p. 219), and plans to drill artesian wells were implemented in 1886. The well drilling program proved to be ineffective and was abandoned by 1889 (Gamble, pp. 373-374). In 1936, the City Council elected a Superintendent of the Water Works to head the Water Department, which was at this time under the supervision of the Committee on Water (Code of Savannah 1936, p. 154). In 1989, the Water Operations Department was a division of the Facilities Maintenance Bureau and was responsible for providing water for drinking and fire protection (Urban, Serving Savannah, p. 30).

By 2008, only the Stormwater Department, responsible for the city's drainage system, was still a division of the Facilities Maintenance Bureau. The Water and Sewer Bureau is now responsible for the City's water and sanitary sewer infrastructure through the departments of: Water and Sewer Planning and Engineering; Water Supply and Treatment; Water Distribution; Utility Services; and Industrial and Domestic Plant (I&D). The Water Supply and Treatment department is responsible for providing a safe and dependable supply of potable ground water for Savannah citizens and outlying communities, including Wilmington Island, Whitemarsh Island, Dutch Island, and Georgetown. The Water Distribution department operates and maintains the City's six water distribution systems. The Industrial and Domestic Plant is responsible for water production to meet the quality and quantity demands of the industrial base throughout greater Savannah. (2008 Service Program and Budget, pp. 239, 246, 259, 277)

Scope and Content:

Record Series 5600BP City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Water Operations Department (1865-1942), 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.

- 5600WO-05 Minute Book - Water Works Board
- 5600WO-10 Letter Book - Water Works
- 5600WO-20 Daily Report Book - Water Works
- 5600WO-30 Monitoring Report Books - Water Works
- 5600WO-40 Artesian Well Record - Water Works
- 5600WO-50 Payroll Ledger Book - Water Works

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- 5600WO-60 *The Water Supply of Savannah, Ga.*, by R.B. Dole
- 5600WO-70 Meter Records
- 5600WO-80 Meter Book
- 5600WO-90 Water Works Payment Journal
- 5600WO-100 Water Works Customer Account Ledgers see 5600CT-470 Water Works Customer Account Ledgers for series description and inventory

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Sub-series #: 5600WO-005

Name: Minute Book – Water Works Board

Dates: 1865-1881

Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.27 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600WO-005 Minute Book – Water Works Board (1865-1881) includes one volume of minutes from meetings of the Board of Commissioners of the Water Works. The records include: meeting date; members present; and the business conducted.

Arrangement:

Chronological.

Inventory:

5600WO-005 Volume 1 Minute Book, 1865-1881

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Sub-series #: 5600WO-010

Name: Letter Book – Water Works (Indexed)

Dates: 1891-1893

Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.27 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600WO-010 Letter Book – Water Works (1891-1893) includes one volume of copies of letters from Abbott Thomas, Engineer of the Water Works.

Arrangement:

Chronological.

Inventory:

5600WO-010 Volume 1 Letter Book, 1891-1893

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Sub-series #: 5600WO-020

Name: Daily Report Book – Water Works

Dates: 1892-1893

Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.27 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600WO-020 Daily Report Book – Water Works (1892-1893) includes one volume of daily progress reports on water works projects, including charts and inventories with usages delineated.

Arrangement:

Chronological.

Inventory:

5600WO-020 Volume 1 Daily Report Book, 1892-1893

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Sub-series #: 5600WO-030

Name: Monitoring Report Books – Water Works

Dates: 1902-1920

Extent/Size: 7 volumes (1.5 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600WO-030 Monitoring Report Books – Water Works (1902-1920) includes seven volumes of records documenting conditions at the water works pumping station. The records include: date; steam in pounds; vacuum in inches; tons of coal used; hours each boiler was run per day; average revolutions per minute; number of revolutions per hour; number of gallons pumped in twenty-four hours; and the average depth in the wet wells. There are also monthly totals for: coal usage; hours run; gallons pumped; average number of gallons pumped per twenty-four hours; average consumption of coal per twenty-four hours; and number of gallons pumped per 100 pounds of coal.

Arrangement:

Chronological.

Inventory:

5600WO-030 Volume 1	Monitoring Report Book, 1902-1909
5600WO-030 Volume 2	Monitoring Report Book, 1907
5600WO-030 Volume 3	Monitoring Report Book, 1909-1910
5600WO-030 Volume 4	Monitoring Report Book, 1909
5600WO-030 Volume 5	Monitoring Report Book, 1910-1920
5600WO-030 Volume 6	Monitoring Report Book, 1914
5600WO-030 Volume 7	Monitoring Report Book, 1916

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Sub-series #: 5600WO-040

Name: Artesian Well Record – Water Works

Dates: circa 1913

Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.27 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600WO-040 Artesian Well Record – Water Works (circa 1913) includes records of artesian wells in the city, including: location; owner; and depth of private artesian wells. There are very few entries in this volume.

Inventory:

5600WO-040 Volume 1 Artesian Well Record, circa 1913

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Sub-series #: 5600WO-050

Name: Payroll Ledger Book – Water Works

Dates: 1940-1942

Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.27 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600WO-050 Payroll Ledger Book – Water Works (1940-1942) includes one volume of payroll records for the City water works. The records include: employee's name; position; service; wage rate; amount; deductions; balance due; check number; and monthly totals for the department.

Arrangement:

Chronological.

Inventory:

5600WO-050 Volume 1 Payroll Ledger, 1940-1942

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Sub-series #: 5600WO-060

Name: *The Water Supply of Savannah, Ga.*

Dates: 1915

Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.27 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600WO-060 *The Water Supply of Savannah, Ga.* (1915) is a report written by R. B. Dole as the result of a U. S. Geological Survey study. The report includes a brief history of Savannah's water works, an in-depth description of the current water system (1915), and ideas for the future development of the water system.

Inventory:

5600WO-060 Volume 1 *The Water Supply of Savannah, Ga., 1915*

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Sub-series #: 5600WO-070

Name: Meter Records

Dates: 1904-1907

Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.27 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600WO-070 Meter Records (1904-1907) includes one volume documenting monthly water usage by citizens of Savannah and contains: name and address of user; present meter reading; previous meter reading; cubic feet used; rate; and amount owed.

Arrangement:

Chronological.

Inventory:

5600WO-070 Volume 1 Meter Records, 1904-1907

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Sub-series #: 5600WO-080

Name: Meter Book (Indexed)

Dates: 1913

Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.27 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600WO-080 Meter Book (1913) includes one volume created by the Department of Water Works recording water usage by Savannah businesses. The record includes: company name and address; year; month; number of cubic feet used; amount owned; and date paid.

Arrangement:

Alphabetical by company name.

Inventory:

5600WO-080 Volume 1 Meter Book, 1913

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Sub-series #: 5600WO-090

Name: Water Works Payment Journal

Dates: 1878-1881

Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.34 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600WO-090 Water Works Payment Journal (1878-1881) includes one volume created by the Department of Water Works recording payments made to the water works, primarily water rents. The payments are described as sundries. The journal contains: name and address of the water user; and amount paid. There are references to other volumes (not present in this collection) which record these payments.

Arrangement:

Chronological.

Inventory:

5600WO-090 Volume 1 Water Works Payment Journal, 1878-1881