

**5600PL-GSM-gau (USMARC); GSG (OCLC/SOLINET)**  
**City of Savannah, Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia**

**Record Series #:** 5600PL  
**Name:** City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Police Department  
**Dates:** 1808-1980  
**Extent/Size:** 67 volumes and 2 roll of microfilm (16.5 cubic feet)

***Organizational History:***

The Savannah City Watch was established in 1793, consisting of a night patrol of appointed citizens headed by the Mayor and Aldermen. In addition, the Chatham County militia was often called upon to assist appointed constables in maintaining order (Gamble, p. 58). In 1796, a City ordinance established a guard and watch, to be headed by a captain elected by City Council (Gamble, p. 59). However, the militia continued to patrol at night and the constables by day, until, in 1809, an ordinance funded a night watch of two officers and 24 watchmen (Gamble, pp. 65-67). The department was reorganized and expanded in 1854, and again in 1858, abolishing the old guard system and providing for the election of a Chief of Police to manage the force (Gamble, p. 239-241). In 1865, Mayor Edward C. Anderson and General Robert H. Anderson, Chief of Police and known as the father of the modern police department in Savannah, established rules and regulations and, once again, reorganized the department (Savannah Morning News, October 13, 1937; October 31, 1965). According to an ordinance of 1839, the Mayor continued to supervise the department (Code of Savannah 1918, p. 101), and in 1879, an ordinance provided for a committee on police to manage the department (Gamble, p. 409). In 1895, most of the City departments were placed under the supervision of commissions by the state legislature, and the first Board of Police Commissioners was nominated by the Mayor and approved by the aldermen in January of 1896. However, in December of 1898, a bill abolished that commission (Gamble, pp. 445-447).

The duties of the Police Department have included enforcement of ordinances, maintenance of records of violations, making arrests, and reporting and aiding the removal of obstructions to pedestrian or vehicular traffic. The Chief was to attend Police Court, and the Clerk of the department was to keep the dockets of the court (Code of Savannah 1918, pp. 137-143). In 1989, the Savannah Police Department, under the direction of the Chief of Police, consisted of four divisions: Operations and Patrol; Criminal Investigations; Auxiliary and Technical Services; and Management. The Department's responsibilities remained basically the same, the maintenance of law and order and traffic control (Urban, Serving Savannah, p. 16).

In 2003, the Savannah Police Department merged with the Chatham County Police Department to form a consolidated police force for the City of Savannah and the unincorporated areas of Chatham County, supported by both the City of Savannah and Chatham County. The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department (SCMPD) strives to ensure public safety by reducing adult, juvenile and repeat offender crimes and by building partnerships within the community to promote safe and secure neighborhoods through five divisions: Patrol; Criminal Investigations; Information Management; Support Services; and Special Operations. In addition, the SCMPD Bureau is part of the multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement agency, the Counter Narcotics Team (CNT). SCMPD participates in a collaborative community corrections program, the Savannah Impact Program (SIP), designed to increase successful re-entry of parolees and probationers into the community and deter repeat offenders. (2008 Service Program and Budget, pp. 137, 138, 162, 166).

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For more information regarding the history of the Savannah Police Department prior to the merger see:

LaGrange, David. Celebrating 200 Years of Service; The Savannah Police Department.  
Paducah, KY: Turner Publishing Company, 2000.

***Scope and Content:***

Record Series 5600PL City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Police Department (1808-1980), 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.

5600PL-010	Jail Registers and Jail Prisoner Books
5600PL-020	Criminal Registers
5600PL-030	Minute Book of the Board of Police Commissioners
5600PL-040	Jail Record Books and Jail Receipt Books
5600PL-050	[there is no record series for this number]
5600PL-060	Personnel Record Books
5600PL-070	Ordinances, Rules, and Regulations for the Government of the City Police of Savannah
5600PL-080	Auto Accident Descriptions
5600PL-090	Auto Books
5600PL-100	ID Logs
5600PL-110	Incident Reports
5600PL-120	[there is no record series for this number]
5600PL-130	Jail Records, Miscellaneous [Jail Food and Prisoner Property]
5600PL-140	Police Court Receipts
5600PL-150	Police Records, Miscellaneous
5600PL-160	Record Books
5600PL-170	Subpoena Books
5600PL-180	Warrant Books

***Restrictions:***

Employee Social Security numbers, home addresses, home telephone numbers, and employee medical information restricted (O.C.G.A. 50-18-72(a)2; 11.1; 13).

***Related Series:***

5600RC City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Recorder's Court.

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**City of Savannah, Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia**

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

**Name:** Jail Registers and Jail Prisoner Books

**Dates:** 1808-1815, 1855-1879, 1959-1968

**Extent/Size:** 10 volumes (3.0 cubic feet)

**Sub-series description:**

Sub-series 5600PL-010 Jail Registers and Jail Prisoner Books (1808-1815, 1855-1879, 1959-1968) includes ten volumes documenting jail activities. The Jail Registers include: the name of the prisoner (divided by race); the name of the owner of any incarcerated slaves prior to 1865; committed by whom; reason committed; remarks; fines; costs; discharged by whom; date of discharge; number of days in jail; amount received for blankets; jail fees due; jail fees paid; and jail fees lost. For the jail as a whole, they record the number of white and black prisoners, and amounts of supplies used to feed and house them. The Jail Prisoner Books record prisoners serving sentence in the barracks and those prisoners who escaped from the barracks, including name of prisoner and race (see inventory for ledger headings).

**Related Series:**

For additional prisoner and jail records, see:

5600PL-040 Jail Record Books and Jail Receipt Books

5600PL-130 Jail Records, Miscellaneous [Jail Food and Prisoner Property]

5600PL-140 Police Court Receipts

**Arrangement:**

Chronological.

**Inventory:**

5600PL-010 Volume 1 Jail Register, 1808-1815

5600PL-010 Volume 2 Jail Register, 1855-1858

5600PL-010 Volume 3 Jail Register, 1855-1863

5600PL-010 Volume 4 Jail Register, 1862-1869

5600PL-010 Volume 5 Jail Register, 1869-1873

5600PL-010 Volume 6 Jail Register, 1873-1879

5600PL-010A Volume 1 Prisoners Serving Sentence in Barracks, 1959-1961 (December 21, 1959-November 30, 1961) [listing name, race, fine, time served]

5600PL-010A Volume 2 Prisoners Serving Sentence in Barracks, 1961-1965 (November 30, 1961-February 16, 1965) [listing name, race, fine, time served]

5600PL-010A Volume 2A Prisoners Serving Sentence in Barracks and Escaped Prisoners from Barracks, 1962

1<sup>st</sup> Section: Escaped Prisoners from Barracks (arranged chronologically) [listing name, offense, sentenced, date escaped/rearrested, and remarks]

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2<sup>nd</sup> Section: Prisoners Serving Sentence in Barracks  
(arranged chronologically under tabbed sections for first  
letter of last name) [listing name, offense, sentenced, fine  
paid, date discharged, and remarks]

5600PL-010A Volume 3      Escaped Prisoners from Barracks, 1965-1968 (February 16, 1965-  
April 25, 1968) [listing name, offense, sentence, race, date, and a  
number]

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**Sub-series #: 5600PL-020**

**Name: Criminal Registers**

**Dates: 1871-1874, 1877**

**Extent/Size: 3 volumes (1.0 cubic feet)**

**Sub-series description:**

Sub-series 5600PL-020 Criminal Registers (1871-1874, 1877) includes three volumes of records documenting arrests. The registers include: names of the arresting officer, witnesses, the accused, and the offense; and the disposition of the case.

**Arrangement:**

Chronological.

**Inventory:**

5600PL-020 Volume 1	1871-1872
5600PL-020 Volume 2	1873-1874
5600PL-020 Volume 3	1877 January-February

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**Sub-series #: 5600PL-030**

**Name: Minute Book of the Board of Police Commissioners**

**Dates: 1895-1898**

**Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.5 cubic feet)**

***Sub-series description:***

Sub-series 5600PL-030 Minute Book of the Board of Police Commissioners (1895-1898) includes one volume of minutes from Board of Police Commissioners meetings. The record includes: date of meeting; who attended; and a description of the business discussed.

***Arrangement:***

Chronological.

***Inventory:***

5600PL-030 Volume 1            Minute Book, 1895-1898

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**City of Savannah, Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia**

**Sub-series #: 5600PL-040**

**Name:** Jail Record Books and Jail Receipt Books

**Dates:** 1903-1908, 1926-1937, 1943-1965

**Extent/Size:** 22 volumes (3.95 cubic feet)

**Sub-series description:**

Sub-series 5600PL-040 Jail Record Books and Jail Receipt Books (1903-1908, 1926-1937, 1943-1965) includes twenty-two volumes of records documenting jail sentences and prisoners. The record books from 1903-1908 include: date; name of prisoner; sentence; and remarks. The volumes from 1926-1965 include: City or County jail; name of prisoner; race; and sentence.

**Related Series:**

For additional prisoner and jail records, see:

5600PL-010 Jail Registers and Jail Prisoner Books

5600PL-130 Jail Records, Miscellaneous [Jail Food and Prisoner Property]

5600PL-140 Police Court Receipts

**Arrangement:**

Chronological.

**Inventory:**

5600PL-040 Volume 1	Jail Record Book, 1903-1906
5600PL-040 Volume 2	Jail Record Book, 1906-1908
5600PL-040A Volume 1	Jail Receipts, 1926-1929 (July 19, 1926-December 31, 1929)
5600PL-040A Volume 2	Jail Receipts, 1927-1928 (May 26, 1927-March 5, 1928)
5600PL-040A Volume 3	Jail Receipts, 1928-1929 (April 7, 1928-February 18, 1929)
5600PL-040A Volume 4	Jail Receipts, 1929-1930 (January 19, 1929-September 27, 1930)
5600PL-040A Volume 5	Jail Receipts, 1930-1932 (September 29, 1930-April 11, 1932)
5600PL-040A Volume 6	Jail Receipts, 1932-1933 (April 12, 1932-August 7, 1933)
5600PL-040A Volume 7	Jail Receipts, 1933-1934 (August 8, 1933-October 31, 1934)
5600PL-040A Volume 8	Jail Receipts, 1934-1936 (November 1, 1934-February 29, 1936)
5600PL-040A Volume 9	Jail Receipts, 1936-1937 (March 2, 1936-August 14, 1937)
5600PL-040A Volume 10	Jail Receipts, 1943-1944 (June 7, 1943-March 26, 1944)
5600PL-040A Volume 11	Jail Receipts, 1944-1946 (October 27, 1944-August 30, 1946)
5600PL-040A Volume 12	Jail Receipts, 1946-1949 (September 2, 1946-March 4, 1949)
5600PL-040A Volume 13	Jail Receipts, 1949-1951 (March 5, 1949-September 1, 1951)
5600PL-040A Volume 14	Jail Receipts, 1951-1953 (September 3, 1951-November 16, 1953)
5600PL-040A Volume 15	Jail Receipts, 1953-1955 (November 17, 1953-December 31, 1955)
5600PL-040A Volume 16	Jail Receipts, 1956-1958 (January 2, 1956-March 13, 1958)
5600PL-040A Volume 17	Jail Receipts, 1958-1959 (March 15, 1958-November 5, 1959)
5600PL-040A Volume 18	Jail Receipts, 1959-1961 (November 6, 1959-July 3, 1961)
5600PL-040A Volume 19	Jail Receipts, 1961-1963 (July 4, 1961-May 21, 1963)

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5600PL-040A Volume 20      Jail Receipts, 1963-1965 (May 22, 1963-December 31, 1965)

**5600PL-GSM-gau (USMARC); GSG (OCLC/SOLINET)**  
**City of Savannah, Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia**

**Sub-series #: 5600PL-060**

**Name:** Personnel Record Books (Indexed)

**Dates:** 1890-1947, 1975-1980

**Extent/Size:** 2 volumes and 2 rolls of microfilm (1.0 cubic feet)

**Sub-series description:**

Sub-series 5600PL-060 Personnel Record Books (1890-1947, 1975-1980) includes two volumes and two rolls of microfilm of personnel records for members of the Savannah Police Department. The volume dated 1913-1940 includes entries on each officer with: name; date appointed; age at appointment; place of birth; date of birth; occupation; marital status; number of children; name of the examining doctor; height; weight; eye and hair color; complexion; name of bondsman; address; telephone number; and remarks on his service record, including promotions, demotions, reprimands, etc. The volume dated 1975-1980 includes entries on officers with: name; appointed or employed date; position; date of birth; sex; race; and in some cases payroll number, badge number, social security number; and service notes. The roll of microfilm contains four volumes, and includes the same information as Volume 1 with an index. The third volume on the roll has a list of officers killed in the line of duty, a list of chiefs of police, and a payroll register included before the index.

**Restrictions:**

Employee Social Security numbers, home addresses, home telephone numbers, and employee medical information restricted (O.C.G.A. 50-18-72(a)2; 11.1; 13).

**Arrangement:**

Volume 1: Alphabetical by the first letter of the surname.

Volume 2: Internal index by surname.

Roll 1: Chronological.

**Inventory:**

5600PL-060 Volume 1 Personnel Book, 1913-1940

5600PL-060 Volume 2 Personnel Record Book (includes name, appointed, 1975-1980 (updated through 1980)

5600PL-060 Roll 1 Personnel Records (includes officers killed in the line of duty; list of Chiefs of Police; payroll register), 1890-1915, 1897-1925, 1925-1947, 1975-1978 (Indexed)

5600PL-060 Roll 1 Master Personnel Records (includes officers killed in the line of duty; list of Chiefs of Police; payroll register), 1890-1915, 1897-1925, 1925-1947, 1975-1978 (Indexed)  
(In security cartridge)

**5600PL-GSM-gau (USMARC); GSG (OCLC/SOLINET)**  
**City of Savannah, Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia**

**Sub-series #: 5600PL-070**

**Name: Ordinances, Rules, and Regulations for the Government of the City Police of Savannah**

**Dates: 1871**

**Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.1 cubic feet)**

**Sub-series description:**

Sub-series 5600PL-070 Ordinances, Rules, and Regulations for the Government of the City Police of Savannah (1871) is a booklet prepared by Mayor Edward C. Anderson and the Chief of Police, General Robert H. Anderson. The booklet defines the rules and regulations under which the Savannah Police Department was to operate.

**Inventory:**

5600PL-070 Volume 1	Ordinances, Rules, and Regulations for the Government of the City Police of Savannah, 1871
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**5600PL-GSM-gau (USMARC); GSG (OCLC/SOLINET)  
City of Savannah, Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia**

**Sub-series #: 5600PL-080**

**Name: Auto Accident Descriptions**

**Dates: 1951-1953**

**Extent/Size: 3 volumes (1 cubic feet)**

**Sub-series description:**

Sub-series 5600PL-080 Auto Accident Descriptions (1951-1959) includes seventeen log books with short descriptions of automobile accidents to which police officers responded. Entries include: names of officers; names, ages and license numbers of those involved in the accident; street address of accident; make and description of automobiles; nature of the accident; and disposition of case.

**Note:**

In May 2023, records in this series more recent than 1954 were disposed of in accordance with the State of Georgia Local Government Records Retention Schedules and the Municipal Archives collecting policy.

**Arrangement:**

Chronological.

**Inventory:**

5600PL-080 Volume 1	Auto Accident Descriptions, 1951-1952 (September 15, 1951-January 31, 1952)
5600PL-080 Volume 2	Auto Accident Descriptions, 1952 (February 1, 1952-June 19, 1952)
5600PL-080 Volume 3	Auto Accident Descriptions, 1952-1953 (October 30, 1952-February 25, 1953)

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**Sub-series #: 5600PL-090**

**Name: Auto Books**

**Dates:** 1954-1958, 1973-1987

**Extent/Size:** [volumes disposed of]

**Note:**

In May 2023, records in this series more recent than 1954 were disposed of in accordance with the State of Georgia Local Government Records Retention Schedules and the Municipal Archives collecting policy.

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**City of Savannah, Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia**

**Sub-series #: 5600PL-100**

**Name: ID Logs**

**Dates: 1956-1963**

**Extent/Size: 2 volumes (0.5 cubic feet)**

**Sub-series description:**

Sub-series 5600PL-100 ID Logs (1956-1963) includes two log books describing incidents of burglary and theft reported to the police. Entries include: address; nature of incident; and if fingerprints were taken.

**Arrangement:**

Chronological.

**Inventory:**

5600PL-100 Volume 1	ID Log, 1956-1960 (June 25, 1956-January 9, 1960)
5600PL-100 Volume 2	Identification Bureau, Duty Log, 1960-1963 (January 4, 1960-January 14, 1963)

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**City of Savannah, Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia**

**Sub-series #: 5600PL-110**

**Name: Incident Reports**

**Dates: 1953-1959**

**Extent/Size: 5 volumes (1.1 cubic feet)**

***Sub-series description:***

Sub-series 5600PL-110 Incident Reports (1953-1959) includes five log books describing incidents found and reported by the police. Entries include: officer's name; address of incident; nature of incident; and resolution at the scene.

***Arrangement:***

Chronological.

***Inventory:***

5600PL-110 Volume 1	Incident Reports, 1953-1955 (November 5, 1953-January 22, 1955)
5600PL-110 Volume 2	Incident Reports, 1955-1956 (January 22, 1955-February 8, 1956)
5600PL-110 Volume 3	Incident Reports, 1956 (February 8, 1956-December 18, 1956)
5600PL-110 Volume 4	Incident Reports, 1958 (June 4, 1958-December 6, 1958)
5600PL-110 Volume 5	Incident Reports, 1959 (February 8, 1959-March 19, 1959)

**5600PL-GSM-gau (USMARC); GSG (OCLC/SOLINET)**  
**City of Savannah, Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia**

**Sub-series #: 5600PL-130**

**Name: Jail Records, Miscellaneous [Jail Food and Prisoner Property]**

**Dates:** 1953-1954, 1956-1957

**Extent/Size:** 2 volumes (0.5 cubic feet)

**Sub-series description:**

Sub-series 5600PL-130 Jail Records, Miscellaneous (1953-1957) includes two ledgers regarding jail activities. The volume for 1953-1954 records food bought in bulk for the jail, including prices and amounts. The volume covering 1956-1957 records prisoner property, including: date; police officer; prisoner's name, race and age; received by; effects; and remarks.

**Related Series:**

For additional prisoner and jail records, see:

- 5600PL-010 Jail Registers and Jail Prisoner Books
- 5600PL-040 Jail Record Books and Jail Receipt Books
- 5600PL-140 Police Court Receipts

**Arrangement:**

Chronological.

**Inventory:**

- 5600PL-130 Volume 1 Jail Records – Jail Food, 1953-1954
- 5600PL-130 Volume 2 Jail Records – Prisoner Property, 1956-1957 (October 25, 1956-  
March 18, 1957)

**5600PL-GSM-gau (USMARC); GSG (OCLC/SOLINET)**  
**City of Savannah, Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia**

**Sub-series #: 5600PL-140**

**Name: Police Court Receipts**

**Dates: 1930-1935**

**Extent/Size: 2 volumes (0.5 cubic feet)**

**Sub-series description:**

Sub-series 5600PL-140 Police Court Receipts (1930-1935) includes two ledgers labeled "Jail Receipt Book." Each page is headed "Prisoners convicted in Police Court received from the Clerk of Police Court of the City of Savannah," and includes: prisoner name; race; and date.

**Related Series:**

For additional prisoner and jail records, see:

5600PL-010 Jail Registers and Jail Prisoner Books

5600PL-040 Jail Record Books and Jail Receipt Books

5600PL-130 Jail Records, Miscellaneous [Jail Food and Prisoner Property]

**Arrangement:**

Chronological.

**Inventory:**

5600PL-140 Volume 1 Jail Receipt Book, 1930-1933 (January 2, 1930-October 6, 1933)

5600PL-140 Volume 2 Jail Receipt Book, 1933-1935 (October 9, 1933-October 12, 1935)

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**City of Savannah, Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia**

**Sub-series #: 5600PL-150**

**Name: Police Records, Miscellaneous**

**Dates: 1953-1972**

**Extent/Size: 7 volumes (1.5 cubic feet)**

**Sub-series description:**

Sub-series 5600PL-150 Police Records, Miscellaneous (1953-1972) includes seven bound logs documenting various activities of the Police Department, including incident reports, pistol permits, fines, uniform traffic citations, motor vehicle reports, and department bulletins. See inventory for information on the different types of records.

**Arrangement:**

Chronological.

**Inventory:**

5600PL-150 Volume 1	Incident Reports, List of Female Names, 1953-1954 (August 8, 1953-October 27, 1954)  Colored File Nos. 1-3666, 1959-1967 (September 9, 1959-December 26, 1967) [entries include list of female names and dates]
5600PL-150 Volume 2	Pistol Permit Index, 1954-1964 [alphabetical listing of names, with race and date]
5600PL-150 Volume 3	Fine Book, 1960-1966 (June 24, 1960-August 9, 1966) [entries include date, amount, fine, name and officers]
5600PL-150 Volume 4	Uniform Traffic Citations, 1962-1972 (April 5, 1962-July 22, 1972) [entries include date, officer's name, and citation book numbers]
5600PL-150 Volume 5	Motor Vehicle Report, 1963-1972 (January 1963-December 1972) [entries include monthly costs of meals served at Travis Jail and Station House]
5600PL-150 Volume 6	Log of Bulletins, 1966-1969 (September 8, 1966-January 12, 1969) [regarding correspondence with other agencies or departments; entries include date, time and nature of bulletin or notice received or sent]
5600PL-150 Volume 7	Docket, 1968-1969 (July 13, 1968-December 30, 1969) [entries include date, dates of service, officer, name, court date, address, and disposition of case; volume is missing cover]

**5600PL-GSM-gau (USMARC); GSG (OCLC/SOLINET)**  
**City of Savannah, Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia**

**Sub-series #: 5600PL-160**

**Name: Record Books**

**Dates:** 1956-1957, 1961-1970

**Extent/Size:** 5 volumes (1.1 cubic feet)

**Sub-series description:**

Sub-series 5600PL-160 Record Books (1956-1957, 1961-1970) includes five unlabeled volumes covering overlapping dates. The various volumes include: a list of streets; entries of police officer's names with badge, gun number and police effects; a list of female names and dates; and a list of officers for court.

**Arrangement:**

Chronological.

**Inventory:**

5600PL-160 Volume 1	Record Book – Streets, 1956-1957 (December 1, 1956-September 11, 1957)
5600PL-160 Volume 2	Record Book – Police names and effects, 1961-1963 (January 27, 1961-August 30, 1963)
5600PL-160 Volume 3	Record Book – Names, 1962-1966 (May 17, 1962-April 22, 1966)
5600PL-160 Volume 4	Record Book – Names of females, 1965-1968 (September 7, 1965-May 16, 1968)
5600PL-160 Volume 5	Record Book – Names and loose papers, 1966-1970

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**City of Savannah, Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia**

**Sub-series #: 5600PL-170**

**Name: Subpoena Books**

**Dates: 1965-1973**

**Extent/Size: [volumes disposed of]**

**Note:**

In May 2023, records in this series more recent than 1954 were disposed of in accordance with the State of Georgia Local Government Records Retention Schedules and the Municipal Archives collecting policy.

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**Sub-series #: 5600PL-180**

**Name: Warrant Books (Indexed)**

**Dates:** 1931-1944, 1959-1964

**Extent/Size:** 2 volumes (0.75 cubic feet)

**Sub-series description:**

Sub-series 5600PL-180 Warrant Books (1931-1944, 1959-1964) includes two volumes recording warrants issued. The volume dating 1931-1944 includes an alphabetical index, and the attached warrants record: defendants; offense; court; and date received. The 1959-1964 volumes lists: bond reports; names; and crime.

**Arrangement:**

Chronological.

**Inventory:**

5600PL-180 Volume 1	Warrant Book, 1931-1944 (Indexed)
5600PL-180 Volume 2	Warrant Book, 1959-1964