

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid RG 320.01

Board of Permanent Seat of Government

Abstract: Records of the Board of the Permanent Seat of Government, the organization that sold lots in Jefferson City, including plat indexes, minutes, contracts, ledger books, and correspondence, 1821-1939 (bulk dates, 1823-1870).

Extent: 4 cubic ft. (3 Hollinger boxes, 2 volumes, 5 oversize boxes).

Record Description: Paper, bound volumes.

Alternative Formats: None.

Location: Missouri State Archives.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

Publication Restrictions: Copyright is in the public domain. Items reproduced for online or physical publication should carry the credit line: Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [Date]; [Box and Folder] OR [Volume and Page]; [Series]; Board of Permanent Seat of Government, Record Group 320; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Agency transfer and Donation. Accession Numbers 87/8/.007, 2011-0247, and 2019-0155.

Processing Information: Processing completed by Amy C. Nickless on 1/12/24.

Historical and Biographical Notes

The Board of the Permanent Seat of Government was created via Article XI of the original 1820 Missouri Constitution (p. 23, handwritten original). The original board consisted of five commissioners appointed by the General Assembly at its first session. One commissioner was to be chosen from each corner of the state, plus one from the center. The goal was to examine four sections of land that was not yet sold to the public

for the site of the new Missouri Capitol. The site was to be along the banks of the Missouri River within forty miles of the Osage River. The two sites under strongest consideration were the location of Jefferson City, and Côte Sans Deissein (on the river southwest of Tebbetts in Callaway County). Once the site was selected, the board was to plat a town on the land, select the location of the permanent seat of government and erect a structure no later than the first day of October, 1826. The board would also be in charge of selling lots to citizens moving to the new capital.

The Board would continue its original purpose during the early years of state government, but that mission would change in 1855. Chapter XXVII of the Revised Missouri Statutes restructured the board to have a Commissioner of the Permanent Seat of Government elected by vote of the General Assembly at its first meeting of the session (1855 RSMo, p. 340). The commissioner would be in charge of selling government-owned lots in Jefferson City and be the caretaker for state government buildings, including overseeing repairs, furnishing offices, and cleaning of structures.

The board was restructured again in 1877. Senate Bill 4, appointed the governor, secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer, and the attorney general to the board (*Laws 1877*, p. 322). The board would oversee state property. The Commissioner of the Permanent State of Government role become that of the property manager, but would now be appointed by the Board. In 1919, Senate Bill 469 updated the commissioner's duties to include the ability to employ laborers (*Laws 1919*, p. 217).

The Board of the Permanent Seat of Government was abolished in 1945 via Senate Bill 297 and its duties, along with those of the State Building Commission, were transferred to the Board of Public Buildings (*Laws 1945*, p. 1428).

Timeline

Year	Event
1820	The original Missouri Constitution established The Board of the Permanent Seat of Government (Article XI).
1821	The board become operational and begins its work.
1826	Constitutionally-selected deadline, October 1, for the erecting of the new state capitol.
1855	Chapter XXVII of the Revised Missouri Statues, approved on November 19, restructured the board to have a Commissioner of the Permanent Seat of Government elected by vote of the General Assembly at its first meeting of the session.
1877	The Board was restructured a second time by Senate Bill 4, approved on February 21, which placed five state executive office holders as board members and moved the Commissioner of the Board role to manager of properties, effective July 29.
1919	The Commissioner's duties were updated by Senate Bill 469, approved on May 29, to include the ability to employ laborers, effective October 5.

Year	Event
1945	The Board of the Permanent Seat of Government was abolished in 1945 via Senate Bill 297 and its duties were transferred to the Board of Public Buildings. This was approved on April 26 and effective on December 25.

Additional Descriptive Information

Bibliography

Missouri Session Laws, 1824-Present. *Missouri State Archives*. Accessed January 12, 2024. <https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/molaws>.

Revised Statutes of Missouri. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Secretary of State. 1825 through present. Accessed January 12, 2024. <https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16795coll126>.

Related Material

C0808 Missouri. Capitol, Jefferson City, Architectural Drawings, No Date. *The State Historical Society of Missouri*. Accessed January 5, 2024. <https://collections.shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/c0808>.

C2588 “Homes Erected in Jefferson City Before 1860,” Jean Anne Harrison, No Date. *The State Historical Society of Missouri*. Accessed January 5, 2024. <https://collections.shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/c2588>.

C3757 Missouri Capitol Photographs, 1913-1927. *The State Historical Society of Missouri*. Accessed January 5, 2024. <https://collections.shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/c3757>.

MS 268 [New Capitol Day Collection](#).

MS 314 [Tom Slater Capital City Collection](#).

P0091 Christopher and Linda Bond Photograph Collection. *The State Historical Society of Missouri*. Accessed January 5, 2024. <https://collections.shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/p0091>.

RG 321 [State Building Commission](#).

RG 322 Board of Public Buildings.

RG 389 Board of Commissioners for the Improvement of the State Capitol

RG 395.01 [State Capitol Commission Board, 1911-1924 \(First Board\)](#).

RG 395.01 [State Capitol Commission Board Photograph Collection, 1913-1917 \(First Board\)](#).

“Sanborn Maps of Missouri Collection.” *Special Collections and Rare Books, University of Missouri Libraries*. Accessed January 5, 2024.

<https://mospace.umsystem.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10355/79386/SanbornMapsofMissouriFindingAid.pdf>.

Series

The records are organized into the following series:

Bids, Contracts, and Specifications, 1891 and 1909

Certificates and Letters for Lots Sold in the City of Jefferson, 1823-1868

Coal Bids, Bonds, and Contracts, 1909-1916

Cole County Land Plat Indexes, 1823-1870

Correspondence, 1822-1890

Government Documents, 1821-1939

Ledger Books, 1921-1930

Minutes, 1877-1939

Miscellaneous, No Date

Bids, Contracts, and Specifications, 1891-1911

Extent: 0.1 cubic ft. (.25 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

The Bids, Contracts, and Specifications series contains items related to improvement and construction projects at the Capitol and the old and new Supreme Court buildings.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	1	Capitol Grounds, W. H. Kolkmeier & Co.	1891
1	2	Extracts from the Record Books of the American Surety Company of New York	1911
1	3	New Supreme Court Building, E. C. Gerhard Building Co.	1909
1	4	New Supreme Court Building, J. W. Wilson & Son	1909
1	5	New Supreme Court Building, Murch Bros. Construction Company	1909
1	6	New Supreme Court Building, Pelligreen Construction & Investment Company	1909
1	7	Old Supreme Court Building, Edward Schwartz	1909
1	8	Old Supreme Court Building, John N. Ross	1909
1	9	Old Supreme Court Building, Kupferle Bros. Manufacturing Co.	1891
1	10	Old Supreme Court Building, Miller and Opel	1909
1	11	Old Supreme Court Building, Thomas Kierns	1909
1	12	Stairway in the Dome of the State Capitol, A. Opel & Co.	1891

Certificates and Letters for Lots Sold in the City of Jefferson, 1823-1868

Extent: 0.4 cubic ft. (1 Hollinger box)

Arrangement: Alphabetical, original miscellaneous folder at beginning

Scope and Content

The Certificates and Letters for Lots Sold in the City of Jefferson series contains land sale certificates and letters regarding land sales in the state capitol from 1823 through the 1860s. The majority are from 1823 through 1855. Certificates are organized by purchaser's last name. Letters are organized by the sender's last name. Original order of certificates and letters interfiled was maintained.

The original state-held copies were lost in the 1837 Capitol fire. These records are the copies required to be filed in the Surveyor General's office in St. Louis. They were transferred to Jefferson City in 1874.

The Miscellaneous folder contains mixed alphabetized lists of lots sold, several accounting pages, and one plat map.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	13	Miscellaneous	1830-1864
1	14	A	1843-1868
1	15	B	1823-1858
1	16	C	1823-1857
1	17	D	1823-1858
1	18	E	1823-1856
1	19	F	1823-1867
1	20	G	1823-1872
1	21	H	1823-1859
1	22	J	1823-1867
1	23	K	1840-1857
1	24	L	1823-1844
1	25	M	1823-1868
1	26	N	1854-1868
1	27	O	1853-1866
1	28	P	1829-1858
1	1	R	1823-1857
2	2	S	1823-1857
2	3	T	1829-1858
2	4	U	1866-1867

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
2	5	W	1823-1857
2	6	X, Y, Z	1823-1857

Coal Bids, Bonds, and Contracts, 1909-1916

Extent: 0.2 cubic ft. (0.5 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

This series contains coal bids, bonds, and contracts for the years 1909 through 1916 for the state capitol's governmental buildings.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
2	7	John W. Riner	1909
2	8	DeCamp Coal Mining Co.	1910-1911
2	9	John W. Riner	1911
2	10	Theodore Angenendt, Bid of	1911
2	11	John W. Riner	1912
2	12	John W. Riner, Bid of	1913
2	13	Southern Coal, Coke and Mining Co.	1913
2	14	Theodore Angenendt, Bid of	1913
2	15	Bald Eagle Mining Co., Bid of	1914
2	16	Bickett Coal and Coke Co., Bid of	1914
2	17	Big Muddy Coal and Iron Co.	1914
2	18	Consolidated Coal Company of St. Louis, Bid of	1914
2	19	Inland Valley Coal Company, Bid of	1914
2	20	John W. Riner, Bid of	1914
2	21	Theodore Angenendt, Bid of	1914
2	22	West Virginia Coal Company, Bid of	1914
2	23	Western Coal & Mining Company, Bid of	1914
2	24	Bald Eagle Mining Co., Bid of	1915
2	25	Chicago, Wilmington & Franklin Coal Co., Bid of	1915
2	26	DeVoy Kuhn Coal and Coke Company, Bid of	1915
2	27	J. C. Johnson Jefferson City Transfer Co., Bid of	1915
2	28	John W. Riner	1915
2	29	Peabody Coal Co., Bid of	1915
2	30	Southern Coal, Coke and Mining Co., Bid of	1915
2	31	St. Louis & O'Fallon Coal Co., Bid of	1915
2	32	West Virginia Coal Company, Bid of	1915
2	33	Boehmer Coal Co., Bid of	1916

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
2	34	John W. Riner, Bid of	1916
2	35	West Virginia Coal Company	1916

Cole County Land Tract Books, 1822-1870

Extent: 2.62 cubic ft. (4 flat oversize boxes)

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

The Cole County Land Tract Books show land boundary and ownership records for Jefferson City and Cole County. The Jefferson City, Northern Cole County and Southern Cole County books show ownership history for each tract of land, including years of transfer. It is possible these were either recreations after the first or second Capitol fires or were donated by a land company. A list of the original Jefferson City lot sales appears in the index volume.

Container List

Box	Contents	Date
OB 1	Index: Jefferson City	1822-1870
OB 2	Northern Cole County	1823-1870
OB 3	Permanent Seat of Government (Jefferson City)	1823-1860
OB 4	Southern Cole County	1836-1870

Correspondence, 1822-1890

Extent: 3 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

The Correspondence series contains two letters regarding land in Jefferson City before the American Civil War and the 1890 correspondence of Representative Willard C. Hall.

The letter to Governor McNair was originally part of the Surveyor General's collection in their office in St. Louis. This was transferred to Jefferson City in 1874.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
2	36	Letter from James B. McHenry to Jackson, Dunscomb and Ewing of the Board. Henry is proposing to sell certain town lots he owns to the State of Missouri for \$3,500.	05/25/1857
2	37	Representative Willard C. Hall	1890
2	38	Surveyor General's Letter to Governor McNair telling him a part of the site of Jefferson City had already been granted to Baptiste De Lisle by a New Madrid Certificate	1822

Government Documents, 1821-1939

Extent: 2 folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

The handwritten “Report of Commission for the Location of the permanent seat of Government of the State of Missouri” in the collection was originally retained by the family of its author, Dr. John Baynard White. It was donated at the bequest of Dr. White’s grandson, John B. White in [year]_. It is likely there were other copies that may have been lost in one of the capitol fires in 1837 or 1911.

The 1919 “Report of Commissioner of Permanent Seat of Government” is cross-referenced from RG 550.1-50, *1st-50th General Assemblies, 1821-1919*. It is also available in *the Journal of the House of the State of Missouri, Volume 1, 1919* starting on page 42. This can be found online at <https://cdm16795.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/housej/id/77897/rec/2>.

The *Revised Report for the New State Museums and Office Building* is an updated version of the 1934 original report. Report includes colorized plates and diagrams.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
2	39	“Report of Commission for the Location of the permanent seat of Government of the State of Missouri” (Commissioner Dr. John Baynard White’s Handwritten Copy)	May 31, 1821
13053	13	“Report of Commissioner of Permanents Seat of Government” presented by Commissioner Lewis Ratliff to the 50 th General Assembly	1919
2	40	<i>Revised Report for the New State Museums and Office Building</i> by Alfred C. Burrill, Curator, Missouri State Museum, Popular Bulletin No. 1, Pt. 11 (2 copies)	1939

Ledger Books, 1921-1930

Extent: 0.67 cubic ft. (1 flat oversized box and 2 oversized volumes)

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

The Ledger Books series contains three ledger books containing a variety of details, including employee salaries, office inventories, and operations funds.

Container List

Box/Volume	Contents	Date
OB5 (formerly 21385)	Ledger Book containing a record of funds spent at the Governor's Office and Mansion, including on employees, general operations, and repairs related to House Bill 571, Section 1	1937-1941
17880	Ledger Book with Spine labeled "Ledger" containing employee payments (p. 1-135 & 170-217), fund appropriations (p. 140-167), loan funds and other account payments (p. 218-251), and other mixed records (p. 276-284)	1921-1930
17881	Ledger Book with Spine labeled "Minute Book, Commissioner Permanent Seat of Govt" but actually containing an inventory of furniture and major office supplies by room at the Missouri State Capitol and documentation of 1925-1926 House and Senate Fund (latter starting on page 394)	1924-1926

Minutes, 1877-1939

Extent: 0.2 cubic ft. (.5 Hollinger box)

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

The Minutes series include the minutes of the Board of the Permanent Seat of Government. Series is incomplete as there are no records of minutes before 1877 and none for the following ranges: May, 1901-December, 1924; January, 1933-May, 1937; and March, 1939-1945.

Container List

Box	Folder	Date
2	41	February 24, 1877-April 5, 1901
2	42	1925-1926
3	1	1927
3	2	1928
3	3	1929
3	4	1930
3	5	1931
3	6	1932
3	7	June 29-December 30, 1937
3	8	1938
3	9	January 5-February 17, 1939

Miscellaneous, No Date

Extent: 1 folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

The Miscellaneous series contains information about a safe once owned by the Board.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
3	10	Private Office Matters [safe combination and brochure]	No date