

City of Charleston Engineering Records, 1867-1979

Descriptive Summary

Title and Dates:

City of Charleston Engineering Records, 1867-1979

Creators:

L.J. Barbot, Civil Engineer of the City of Charleston, 1865-1893

James H. Dingle, Surveyor of the City of Charleston, 1894-1904

Engineer of the City of Charleston, 1904-1938

Bernard M. Thomson, Engineer of the City of Charleston, 1938-1952

Joseph Needle, Engineer of the City of Charleston, 1953-1957

H.B. Good, Engineer of the City of Charleston, 1958-1965

James G. Snowden, Engineer of the City of Charleston, 1966-1974

Carlton J. Poulnot, Jr., Engineer of the City of Charleston, 1975-1976

Harold B. Nielson, Jr., Engineer of the City of Charleston, 1977-1980

Quantity:

18 cubic ft.

Forms of Material:

Correspondence, advertisements, contracts, pamphlets, studies, reports, plats, photographs, resolutions, ordinances, invoices, permits, maps, building plans, cassette recording

Processed by:

Rebecca L. Schultz, 2017 (updated 2021)

Location:

27-C-001 to 27-C-018, AR-A-016, AR-OS-028

Series List

Series I: Administrative

Series II: Boards and Commissions

Series III: Correspondence

Subseries I: Departmental Correspondence

Subseries II: General Correspondence

Series IV: Subject Files

Subseries I: Annexations

Subseries II: Charleston Municipal Airport

Subseries III: General Subject Files

Subseries IV: City Parks and Playgrounds
Subseries V: Sanitation
Subseries VI: Sewerage and Drainage
Subseries VII: Streets and Sidewalks
Subseries VIII: Works Progress Administration Projects
Subseries IX: Zoning

Abstract

The Records of the City of Charleston Engineering Division date from 1867 to 1979 and consist of the files of eight of the city's engineers, L.J. Barbot, James H. Dingle, Bernard M. Thomson, Joseph Needle, H.B. Good, James G. Snowden, Carlton J. Poulnot, Jr., and Harold B. Nielson, Jr. These records document the efforts of employees of the Engineering Division to provide essential public services to a growing populace.

Background

On February 26, 1867, the City Council of Charleston officially adopted an ordinance for the establishment and regulation of the office of the City Civil Engineer, a position which had already been filled by L.J. Barbot the previous year. Prior to the establishment of the position of City Civil Engineer, the duties assigned to the engineering office were performed by the Surveyors of the Upper and Lower Wards, positions which were thereafter abolished. Upon the retirement of L.J. Barbot the title of City Civil Engineer was briefly changed to City Surveyor, a position filled by James H. Dingle in 1894. When the office of Superintendent of Sewers was abolished and its duties subsumed by Dingle in 1904, the position was once again renamed City Engineer.

While the duties of the City Engineer fluctuated somewhat over time, the Engineering Division generally held responsibility for the arrangement and oversight of projects addressing the City's needs regarding public roadways, sanitation, sewerage, and drainage. The City Engineer supervised the construction of city property including public buildings, parks, and playgrounds. The creation and approval of maps, plans, plats, encroachments, and easements likewise fell under the care of the City Engineer.

Scope and Content Note

The collection is divided into four series: administrative, boards and commissions, correspondence, and subject files. The correspondence series is further subdivided into departmental correspondence and general correspondence. The subject files are subdivided into material related to annexations, the Charleston Municipal Airport, general subject files, City

parks and playgrounds, sanitation, sewerage and drainage, streets and sidewalks, Works Progress Administration projects, and zoning. In an effort to retain the files' original organization there may be some overlap between series and subseries. Researchers are encouraged to review all files.

The collection consists of correspondence, contracts, pamphlets, photographs, meeting agendas and minutes, studies and reports, advertisements, building plans and permits, invoices, ordinances, resolutions, maps, and plats. An audiocassette recording can also be found in the departmental correspondence file for Mayor Gaillard entitled "Pamma Roast: A Night with the Mayor," recorded on June 27, 1975. Photographs located throughout the collection primarily date to the late 1960s and 1970s. Of special note are photographs of the Charleston Municipal Airport, property and neighborhood photographs, and photographs of King Street storefronts, which are located in the zoning subject files. The records contain many contracts for work performed by outside contractors hired by the City.

Related Material:

Researchers interested in this collection may also wish to consult the Engineering Scrolls Collection, 1900-1950 and the City Surveyor Records, 1817-1916. Please consult the Records Manager or Records Specialists to view the collections or request information on other materials in the City's Records Center holdings relevant to the City of Charleston Engineering Records.

Folder List:

Box Folder

Administrative

1	1	AAA Security Services, Inc., 1976-1977
	2	Administrative Files, 1913-1925
	3	Advertising, 1958-1978
	4	Annual Reports, Public Buildings Division, 1952-1954
	5	Annual Reports, Public Service, 1929-1930
	6	Annual Reports, Public Service, 1932-1935
	7	Annual Reports, Public Service, 1936-1937
	8	Annual Reports, Public Service, 1941-1943
	9	Annual Reports, Public Service, 1944-1948
	10	Annual Reports, Public Service, 1949-1951
	11	Annual Reports, Public Service, 1952-1954
	12	Annual Reports, Public Service, 1957-1958
	13	Annual Reports, Public Service, 1960-1962
	14	Annual Reports, Street Department, 1955-1956

	15	Breakdown by Organizational Structure, 1977
Box	Folder	
1	16	Budget, 1929
	17	Budget, 1937
	18	Budget, 1940
	19	Budget, 1962
	20	Budget, 1972
	21	Budget, 1975-1976
	22	Budget – Proposed, 1977
	22a	Budget Reports – Sanitary Fill Program, 1970-1974
OS	1	City Engineer Account Book, 1912-1919
	23	Credit Union, 1975
	24	Davis Wastewater Control
	25	Equipment, 1959-1968
	26	Equipment, 1972-1977
	27	Equipment – Crane, 1972-1975
	28	Equipment – Motor Trucks, 1920-1926
	29	Financial Statement, 1935
	30	Garage – Hiring Requests, 1977
	31	Inventory, 1975-1977
	32	Inventory Control Manual, 1967
	33	Inventory – Vehicles, 1976
	34	Mac-Pace Patrol and Watchman Service, 1976-1976
	35	Monthly Reports – Building Inspector, 1951
	36	Monthly Reports – Building Inspector, 1952
	37	Policies – Personnel, 1976
	38	Price Changes, 1975-1977
	39	Public Service Announcements, 1977-1978
	40	Purchase Orders, 1976
	41	Purchase Orders, 1977
	42	Purchasing, 1976-1977
	43	Revenue Sharing, 1975
	44	Safety, 1974
	45	Telepage of Charleston, 1974-1977
	46	Vehicle Status Reports, 1978
	47	Vehicle Status Reports, 1979
	48	Wright, James Associates, 1976-1977
OS	2	Weekly Rolls, 1920-1924
		<i>Boards and Commissions</i>
	49	Ashley Shore Development Committee, 1929
	50	Bikeway Action Committee, 1975
	51	Budget Review Committee, 1976
2	1	Colonial Commons and Ashley River Commission, 1929

	2	Committee on Electric Wires and Lighting the City, 1972-1977
Box	Folder	
2	3	City Council, 1976
	4	City Council, 1977
	5	Government Relations Committee, 1977
	6	Board of Parks, 1918
	7	Board of Parks, 1972
	8	Planning and Zoning Commission, 1929
	9	Planning and Zoning Commission, 1968
	10	Planning and Zoning Commission, 1971-1972
	11	Planning and Zoning Commission, 1975
	12	Planning and Zoning Commission, 1976-1977
	13	Public Docks Commission, 1913-1915
	14	Public Safety and Traffic Committee, 1972
	15	Board of Public Service, 1924-1925
	16	Board of Public Service, 1926-1929
	17	Real Estate Committee, 1976-1977
	18	Committee on Streets, 1915-1920
	19	Committee on Streets, 1921-1925
	20	Committee on Streets, 1926
	21	Committee on Streets, 1936-1939
	22	Committee on Streets, 1948
	23	Committee on Streets, 1950
	24	Committee on Streets, 1953-1956
	25	Committee on Streets, 1959
	26	Committee on Streets, 1964-1965
	27	Committee on Streets, 1966
	28	Committee on Streets, 1967
	29	Committee on Streets, 1968
	30	Committee on Streets, 1972-1974
	31	Committee on Streets, 1975-1976
	32	Ways and Means Committee, 1913
	33	Ways and Means Committee, 1924-1929
	34	Ways and Means Committee, 1926-1929
	35	Ways and Means Committee, 1934
	36	Ways and Means Committee, 1949
	37	Ways and Means Committee, 1954
	38	Ways and Means Committee, 1972-1974
	39	Ways and Means Committee, 1975-1977
	40	Yacht Basin Commission, 1974-1975
	41	Zoning Commission, 1934-1936
	42	Zoning Commission, 1937-1938
3	1	Zoning Commission, 1940-1941
	2	Zoning Commission, 1942-1945
	3	Zoning Commission, 1948-1950

	4	Zoning Commission, 1951-1954
Box	Folder	
3	5	Zoning Commission, 1975
	6	Zoning – Board of Adjustment, 1939
	7	Zoning – Board of Adjustment, 1944-1945
	8	Zoning – Board of Adjustment, 1956-1958
	9	Zoning – Board of Adjustment, 1969-1972
	10	Zoning – Board of Adjustment, 1973-1974
	11	Zoning – Board of Adjustment, 1975-1977
	12	Zoning – Board of Architectural Review, 1940
	13	Zoning – Board of Architectural Review, 1945
	13a	Zoning – Board of Architectural Review, 1957
	14	Zoning – Board of Architectural Review, 1969-1974 (bulk: 1972-1974)
	15	Zoning – Board of Architectural Review, 1975-1977

Correspondence

Departmental Correspondence

	16	Building Inspections, 1911-1925
	17	Building Inspections, 1943
	18	Building Inspections, 1944
	19	Building Inspections, 1945
	20	Building Inspections, 1946
	21	Building Inspections, 1965-1968
	22	Building Inspections, 1972-1975
	23	Building Inspections, 1976
	24	Building Inspections, 1977
	25	Citizen Participation, 1977
	26	Clerk of Council, 1926-1928
	27	Clerk of Council, 1929
	28	Clerk of Council, 1934-1936
	29	Clerk of Council, 1939
	30	Clerk of Council, 1940-1941
	31	Clerk of Council, 1942-1943
4	1	Clerk of Council, 1945
	2	Clerk of Council, 1948-1951
	3	Clerk of Council, 1957-1962
	4	Clerk of Council, 1968-1975
	5	Clerk of Council, 1976-1977
	6	Controller, 1923-1926
	7	Controller, 1929
	8	Controller, 1945
	9	Controller, 1959
	10	Controller, 1968-1975
	11	Controller, 1976-1977

	12	Corporation Counsel, 1913-1917
Box	Folder	
4	13	Corporation Counsel, 1922-1924
	14	Corporation Counsel, 1925-1926
	15	Corporation Counsel, 1927-1928
	16	Corporation Counsel, 1929
	17	Corporation Counsel, 1936
	18	Corporation Counsel, 1940-1941
	19	Corporation Counsel, 1949-1951
	20	Corporation Counsel, 1955-1962
	21	Corporation Counsel, 1972-1975
	22	Corporation Counsel, 1976
	23	Corporation Counsel, 1977
	24	Department Heads, 1977
	25	Departmental Work Orders, 1977
	26	Division Heads and Staff, 1977
	27	Electrical Department, 1973-1977
	28	Engineering Office Staff, 1975-11977
	29	Fire Department, 1916-1925
	30	Fire Department, 1929
	31	Fire Department, 1939
	32	Fire Department, 1968
	33	Fire Department, 1972-1977
	34	City Garage, 1976
	35	City Health Department, 1913-1916
	36	City Health Department, 1926-1929
	37	Leisure Services, 1976-1977
	38	Mayor Stoney, January- March 1925
	39	Mayor Stoney, April-December 1925
	40	Mayor Stoney, 1926
5	1	Mayor Stoney, January-May 1927
	2	Mayor Stoney, June-December 1927
	3	Mayor Stoney, 1928
	4	Mayor Stoney, January-February 1929
	5	Mayor Stoney, March-April 1929
	6	Mayor Stoney, May-June 1929
	7	Mayor Stoney, July-December 1929
	8	Mayor Maybank, 1934-1936
	9	Mayor Lockwood, 1940-1944
	10	Mayor Wehman, 1944-1945
	11	Mayor Morrison, 1948-1951
	12	Mayor Morrison, 1952-1957
	13	Mayor Gaillard, 1962-1968
	14	Mayor Gaillard, 1972-1975
	15	Mayor Schirmer, 1975

	16	Mayor Riley, 1975-1976
Box	Folder	
5	17	Mayor Riley, 1977
	18	Mayors Assistant, Steven Steinart, 1976
	19	Mayors Assistant, James Mullen, 1976-1977
	20	Miscellaneous, 1976
	21	Ombudsman, 1972-1977
	22	Department of Parks and Playgrounds, 1926
	23	Parks Department, 1975
	24	Personnel Department, 1972
	25	Personnel Department, 1976-1977
	26	Planning and Zoning, 1973
	27	Planning, Relocation, and Redevelopment, 1975-1976
	28	Planning and Urban Development, 1977
	29	Police Department, 1939
	30	Police Department, 1942
	31	Police Department, 1944-1945
	32	Police Department, 1955-1958
	33	Police Department, 1965-1968
	34	Police Department, 1972-1977
6	1	Public Safety and Housing, 1972
	2	Public Service Department, 1926
	3	Public Service Department, 1937
	4	Public Service Department, 1948
	5	Public Service Department, 1953
	6	Purchasing, 1959-1972
	7	Recreation Department, 1975-1976
	8	Sanitation Division, 1972-1975
	9	Sanitation Division, 1976
	10	Sanitation Division, 1977
	11	Streets Department, 1918-1925
	12	Street Cleaning and Waste Collection, 1965-1967
	13	Streets and Sidewalks Division, 1977
	14	Traffic and Transportation, 1972-1977
	15	City Treasurer, 1922-1926

General Correspondence

	16	Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, 1937
	17	Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Regional Planning Council, 1973-1976
	18	Burford, Hall and Smith, 1923-1925
	19	Charleston Consolidated Railway and Lighting Company, 1917-1921
	20	Charleston Consolidated Railway and Lighting Company, 1926

	21	Charleston County, 1972-1976
Box	Folder	
6	22	Charleston County Bicentennial Committee, 1975
	23	Charleston County Engineer, 1968
	24	Charleston County Engineer, 1972-1977
	25	Charleston County Health Department, 1940
	26	Charleston County Health Department, Garbage Collection, 1941-1942
	27	Charleston County Health Department, 1945
	28	Charleston County Health Department, 1951-1952
	29	Charleston County Health Department, 1959
	30	Charleston County Health Department, 1973
	31	Charleston County School District, 1977
	32	Charleston Housing Authority, 1940
	33	Charleston Housing Authority, 1967-1972 (bulk 1967-1968)
	34	Charleston Pride, 1975-1977
	35	Chattanooga Sewer Pipeworks, 1923
	36	College of Charleston, 1976
	37	Commissioners of Public Works, 1926-1928
	38	Commissioners of Public Works, 1955
	39	Commissioners of Public Works, 1972-1975
	40	Commissioners of Public Works, 1976-1977
	41	Dow and Smith Chemical Engineers, 1914-1921
	42	DuPre Construction Company, 1975
OS	3	Engineering Department Letterbook, 1913-1914
	43	Federal Agencies, Miscellaneous, 1940-1942
	44	Green, James C. Company Insurance Adjusters, 1976
	45	Harleston Village Association, 1975
	46	Historic Charleston Foundation, 1975
	47	Historic Preservation National Trust, 1975
	48	Medical University of South Carolina, 1975-1977
	49	Miscellaneous, 1914-1923
	50	Miscellaneous, 1926-1929
	51	Miscellaneous, 1934-1935
	52	Miscellaneous, 1936-1937
	53	Miscellaneous, 1938-1940
	54	Miscellaneous, 1941-1942
	55	Miscellaneous, 1943-1945
	56	Miscellaneous, 1948-1949
	57	Miscellaneous, 1950-1951
7	1	Miscellaneous, 1954-1955
	2	Miscellaneous, 1956-1957
	3	Miscellaneous, 1958-1960
	4	Miscellaneous, 1961
	5	Miscellaneous, 1962
	6	Miscellaneous, 1963-1965

	7	Miscellaneous, 1968-1972
Box	Folder	
7	8	North Charleston Sewer District, 1975
	9	Railroads, 1926
	10	Louis D. Rubin, 1935
	11	Sanborn Map Company, 1966-1973
	12	Seaboard Air Line Railway Company, 1919-1921
	13	Seaboard Air Line Railway Company, 1929
	14	Seaboard Air Line Railway Company, 1935
	15	Seaboard Air Line Railway Company, 1944
	16	Seaboard Coastline Railway Company, 1972-1977
	17	Service Media Corporation, 1975
	18	John C. Sheridan, III
	19	Shone Company, 1895-1904
	19a	Simons Mayrant Company, 1926
	19b	Simons Mayrant Company, 1929
	20	Frederick A. Smith, Engineer, 1971-1975
	21	South Carolina Beverage Control Commission, 1975
	22	South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1977
	23	South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 1974-1975
	24	South Carolina Department of Labor, 1975
	25	South Carolina Electric and Gas Company, 1955-1956
	26	South Carolina Electric and Gas Company, 1972-1974
	27	South Carolina Electric and Gas Company, 1975-1977
	28	South Carolina Power Company, 1944
	29	South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers, 1974
	30	South Carolina State Board of Health, 1972
	31	South Carolina State Highway Department, 1948
	32	South Carolina State Highway Department, 1949
	33	South Carolina State Highway Department, 1950-1952
	34	South Carolina State Highway Department, 1955
	35	South Carolina State Highway Department, 1956
	36	South Carolina State Highway Department, 1957-1960
	37	South Carolina State Highway Department, 1968
	38	South Carolina State Highway Department, 1972-1974
	39	South Carolina State Highway Department, 1975-1977
	40	South Carolina State Highway System, 1976
	41	South Carolina State Ports Authority, 1957-1960
	42	South Carolina State Ports Authority, Port Emergency Operating Plan, 1962
8	1	South Carolina Water Resources Commission, 1975-1976
	2	Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, 1938
	3	Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, 1955
	4	Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, 1964
	5	Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, 1972-1977
	5a	Southern Railway Company, 1929

	6	Southern Railway Company, 1941
Box	Folder	
8	7	Southern Railway Company, 1956
	8	Southern Railway System, 1974
	9	US Army Corps of Engineers, 1970-1973
	10	US Army Corps of Engineers, 1975
	11	US Army Corps of Engineers, 1976
	12	US Army Corps of Engineers, 1977
	13	US Army Corps of Engineers, Johnson Street Extension and Culvert, 1970-1973
	14	US Army Corps of Engineers, Line & Hagood Culvert, 1971-1973
	15	US Army Corps of Engineers, Public Notices Outside City Permits, 1971-1972
	16	US Department of Commerce, 1926
	17	US Department of Labor, 1975
	18	War Production Board, 1943-1944
	19	West Construction Board, 1915-1918
		<i>Subject Files</i>
		<i>Annexations</i>
	20	Annexations, 1964
	21	Annexations, 1969-1970
	22	Annexations, 1972-1973
	23	Annexations, 1975-1977
		<i>Charleston Municipal Airport</i>
	24	Charleston Municipal Airport, 1933-1936
	25	Charleston Municipal Airport, 1936
	26	Charleston Municipal Airport, 1938-1941
	27	Charleston Municipal Airport, 1944-1945
	28	Charleston Municipal Airport, 1973-1975
	29	Charleston Municipal Airport, 1976-1977
	30	Airport Access Road, 1973-1974
	31	Administrative Building, 1947-1948
	32	Apron Drainage, 1974
	33	Boiler Explosion
	34	Dollar Rent-A-Car Lease, 1975-1976
	35	Fuel Truck, 1974
	36	Paving, 1967-1974
	37	Photographs, 1969
	38	Plat, 1974
	39	Ramp Repair, 1975-1976
	40	Sanitary Fill, 1970-1971
9	1	Sanitary Sewer, 1973
	2	Sewer Line, 1975
	3	Sewer Line Easements, 1975

	4	Sewer Line Extension, 1974
Box	Folder	
9	5	Sewer Line Extension, 1975
	6	Sewer Oxidation Pond, 1960-1966
	7	Taxiway, 1974
	8	Transfer to County, 1975
	9	Windows and Doors, 1975

General Subject Files

	10	“A” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	11	Accidents, 1975-1978
	12	Air Pollution Data, 1969-1972
	13	Allgood Road – Wappoo Heights Encroachment, 1971-1972
	14	104 Ashley Avenue, 1973-1975
	15	Ashley Shopping Plaza, 1968-1969
	16	Auditorium Construction, 1966-1969
	17	Auditorium, Demolition of Site, 1966-1967
	18	Auditorium, Maintenance and Repairs, 1974
	19	Auditorium, Maintenance and Repairs, 1975-1977
	20	“B” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	21	Battery Seawall Construction, 1909-1911
	22	Battery Seawall and Filling, 1917-1918
	23	Battery Seawall and Filling, 1919-1920
	24	Battery Seawall and Filling: West-end Improvement Reports, 1918-1919
	25	Battery Seawall Repairs: Colin McK. Grant Agreement, 1893
	26	Battery Seawall Repairs: Robert McCarrel Agreement, 1893
	27	Battery Seawall – Western Waterfront, 1929-1937
	28	Bennett Rice Mill, 1958
	29	24 Blake Street, 1972
	30	Building Code, Charleston County, n.d.
	31	Building Code Fees, 1976
	32	Building Code, General, 1974-1976
	33	Building Code Reform, 1974
	34	Building Code: Report on Interpretation of the National Building Code, 1967-1968
	35	Building Code – Southern Standard, 1974-1976
	36	Building Permits – Information, 1975
	37	Building Specifications, General, 1911-1922
	38	Building Specifications, Pamphlets, 1915-1921
	39	Byrnes, James F. Sea Plane Base, 1938-1940
	40	“C” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	41	Carriage Lane Office Building, 1974
	42	1647 Carterett Avenue, 1975
	43	Champney Alley, 1975

	44	Charleston Area Transportation Study (CHATS), 1975
Box	Folder	
9	45	Charleston Convention Center and Hotel, n.d.
	46	Charleston Orphan House Chimney, 1934
10	1	Chitwood – Structure Relocation, 1974
	2	The Citadel, 1957
	3	The Citadel and Burke School, 1969
	4	City Hall and Dock Street Theatre Painting, 1971
	5	City Hall, 1974-1976
	6	City Property Sales, 1937-1938
	7	City Property Sales, 1975
	7a	City Property Sales – Ashview Enterprises, 1973
	8	Civilian Defense, 1941-1943
	9	Colonial Lake, 1977
	10	45 Coming Street Demolition, 1944-1945
	11	Community Development Program, 1975
	12	Complaints, 1975-1977
	13	Complaints, Building Inspections, 1976
	14	Condemned Buildings, 1943
	15	James F. Condon and Sons Arcade, 1948
	16	Contracts and Bonds, 1890-1911
	17	Cooper River Bridge, 1929
	18	“D” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	19	Dock Street Theatre, 1972-1977
	20	Dock Street Theatre Roof Repairs, 1973
	21	Dockside Condominiums, 1974-1975
	22	Downtown Revitalization, 1976-1977
	23	“E” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	24	Enston Home, Plats for Land Owned on Meeting Street, 1959, n.d.
	25	“F” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	26	Fire Bell Tower Repairs, Cannon Street, 1974
	27	Fire Station Heating, Coming Street, 1953
	28	Fire Station No. 10, Folly Road, n.d.
	29	Fire Tower Fencing, East Bay Street, 1969
	30	First Baptist Church Gym, 1972-1973
	31	First Deliverance Baptist Church Plat, 1972
	32	Flagstones – Specifications, 1892
	33	Fleet Landing Site, 1977
	34	Flood Information, 1975-1976
	35	Francis Marion Hotel Renovation, 1976
	36	The Franke Home, 1972
	37	“G” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	38	City Garage Metal Building, Line Street, 1948
	39	City Garage Renovation, Line Street, 1970
	40	General City Information, 1934-1951

	41	General City Information, Newspaper Clippings, 1969-1975
Box	Folder	
10	42	General City Information and Statistics, 1962-1975
	43	Gibbes Art Gallery, Roof and Repairs, 1956-1957
	44	Gibbes Art Gallery, 1975-1977
	45	Golf Course, Municipal, 1976
	46	Golf Course, Municipal, Cart Road, 1974-1975
	47	Golf Course, Municipal, Equipment Shed, 1973
	48	“H” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	49	23 Hayne Street Demolition, 1972
	50	Heathwood Subdivision Extension, 1974
	51	Housing Code Inspections, 1976
	52	“I” Miscellaneous, 1973-1977
	53	Inauguration, 1975
	54	Insurance, 1977
	55	“J” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	56	James Simons School, 1924
	57	“K” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	58	363 King Street, 1976
	59	King Street Extension, 1976
	60	“L” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	61	Lighting the City, 1923-1924
	62	Limehouse, Lessie J., 1972-1973
	63	“M” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	64	Marina, 1967-1973
	65	Marina Dredging, 1972-1974
11	1	Marina Shed, 1975
	2	Marina and Rice Mill Improvements, 1974
	3	Marina Study – Army Corps of Engineers, 1972-1973
	4	Marina Slab for Bulkhead or Wall, 1970
	5	Marine Resources, 1974
	6	Marion Square Bandstand and Comfort Stations, 1944
	7	City Market, 1973-1976
	8	Market Square and Lodge Alley, 1976
	9	Master Plan, 1972
	10	“Mc” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	11	McCrary’s Tavern, 153 East Bay Street, 1972
	12	Medical College, 1950-1952
	13	Medical College Dormitory Sewer System, 1953-1954
	14	Medical University, 1973
	15	Medical University, 1976
	16	Medical University EDA Grant Application, 1976
	16a	119 Meeting Street Renovation – Frederick M. Ehni Field Reports, 1975-1976
	16b	119 Meeting Street Renovation – Frederick M. Ehni Change Orders, 1975-1976
	16c	119 Meeting Street Renovation – R.L. Bryan Co., Furnishings Contract, 1976

	16d	119 Meeting Street Renovation – General Correspondence, 1975-1976
Box	Folder	
11	17	Memminger School – Brick Wall Relocation, 1951
	18	Miscellaneous, 1970-1976
	19	Miscellaneous, Duties of the City Engineer, 1867
	20	Museum – Rutledge Avenue, 1972-1978
	21	Museum – Meeting Street, 1976
	22	“N” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	23	National Academy of Code Administration, 1974-1975
	24	National City Planning Conference, 1922
	25	Naval Minecraft Base Dredging, 1952-1953
	26	North Charleston, 1977
	27	“N” Miscellaneous, 1973-1977
	28	OpSail, 1976
	29	“P” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	30	City Planning, 1957
	31	Police Station, 1972
	32	Post War Improvements, 1944-1945
	33	Project Status Reports, 1976-1977
	34	“R” Miscellaneous, 1972-1976
	35	Railroad, 1954
	36	Relocation Agency, 1973
	37	Rice Mill Building, 1975-1976
	38	96 Romney Street Photographs, 1975
	39	Retired Navy Officers in Charleston, 1933
	40	Roper Hospital, 1970-1971
	41	Roper Hospital, Morawetz Building Addition, 1959
	42	“S” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	43	Safety, 1975
	44	Saint Andrews School – Baseball Field, 1971
	44a	Saint Andrews School Playground House, 1970
	45	Saint Francis Xavier Hospital, 1969-1971
	46	Saint Johns Reformed Church – Building Relocation, 1941
	47	Saint Matthew Baptist Church, 1970-1973
	48	241-243 Saint Philip Street, 1974
	49	Scottish Rite Temple, 1976
	50	Shaw Center, 1974
	51	Shell Service Station, 1938-1939
	52	Snelling Home Service, 1969-1970
	53	South Carolina State Ports Authority – Maritime Building, 1974-1976
	54	South Carolina State Ports Authority Building and Propane Tank, 1971-1972
	55	Southern Building Code Congress, 1974
	56	Spoletto Festival, 1977
12	1	Subdivisions – Final Letters of Approval, 1974-1977
	2	Surveying, 1872-1917

	3	“T” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
Box	Folder	
12	4	Tabulated Bids, 1912-1922
	5	Taxes, 1924
	6	Tennis Court – Rivers High School, 1975
	7	Terra Cotta Pipes, Contracts and Bonds, 1910-1912
	8	“U” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	9	US Air Force Community Service Program, 1974-1975
	10	US Army Corps of Engineers – Marina Motor Pool, 1971
	11	US Census Bureau, 1965-1976
	12	US Coast Guard, 1971-1976
	13	US Plywood Corporation – L.P. Gas Tank and Lines, 1972
	14	US Wood Preserving Company – Proposed Lawsuit on Bond, 1916
	15	“V” Miscellaneous, 1972-1973
	16	Vardell’s Creek Bridge,
	17	Variety Store – City Marina, 1975-1976
	18	“W” Miscellaneous, 1972-1977
	19	Wartime Priorities, 1942-1943
	20	“X-Y-Z” Miscellaneous, 1974-1975
	21	Yacht Basin Dredging, 1948-1949
	22	Yacht Basin Gates, 1970
	23	Yacht Basin Paving, 1954

City Parks and Playgrounds

	24	Brittlebank Park, 1973-1976
	25	Cannon Street Playground, 1954
	26	Charleston Tennis Center – Farmfield Avenue, 1975
	27	Charleston Tennis Center – Farmfield Avenue, 1976
	28	Hampstead Square Park, 1972
	29	Hampton Park Bike Path, 1972-1973
	30	Lenevar Playground and Martin Park – Basketball Courts, 1973
	31	Lenevar Playground Picnic House, 1973
	32	Lenevar Playground Plats, 1971-1972
	33	Lenevar Playground Tennis Courts, 1972-1973
	34	Magnolia Subdivision Playground, 1973
	35	Marion Square Bandstand Renovation, 1973
	36	Marion Square Occupancy Agreement, 1975
	37	Martin Park Pool, 1976
	38	Moultrie Playground and Forest Park Tennis Court Resurfacing, 1975
	39	Moultrie Playground Restrooms, 1953
	40	Park Renovations – Hampton Park and Marion Square, 1975-1976
	41	Parks – Steel Stands, 1949
	42	Playground Office Building – East Bay Street, 1971
	43	Playground Paving, Various Parks, 1970-1971

	44	Pools – Chlorine House, 1969-1970
Box	Folder	
12	45	Stono Park Playground House, 1969-1970
	46	Washington Park, 1973
	47	White Point Gardens, 1972-1973
	48	Wragg Square Park, 1973-1973

Sanitation

	49	Garbage Collection, 1913-1921
	50	Garbage Collection, 1939
	51	Garbage Collection, 1945
	52	Garbage Collection, 1955
	53	Garbage Collection – Containerized Pickup, 1977
	54	Garbage Collection – Housing Projects, 1977
	55	Garbage Collection – Jacobs Alley, 1977
	56	Garbage Collection – Lawton Bluff Shopping Center, 1976
13	1	Garbage Collection – Broad Street Piggly Wiggly, 1977
	2	Garbage Ordinance Amendments, 1940
	3	Garbage Ordinance Amendments, 1958
	4	Pest Control – Mosquitos, 1955
	5	Pest Control – Roaches, 1953-1956
	6	Pest Control – Rodents, 1972-1973
	7	Sanitary Landfill, 1954-1957
	8	Sanitary Landfill, 1972-1973
	9	Sanitary Landfill – Ashley River, 1970-1972
	10	Sanitary Landfill – Concord Street, 1970-1971
	11	Sanitary Landfill Conference, 1971-1972
	12	Sanitary Landfill – Holston Land Company and Sea Coast Rail Road, 1971-1973
	13	Sanitary Landfill Newspaper Clippings, 1971-1973
	14	Sanitary Landfill Plans, 1970
	15	Sanitary Landfill – Private Contractor Agreements, 1973
	16	Sanitary Landfill – Private Property, 1957
	17	Sanitary Landfill Regulations, 1970-1972
	18	Sanitary Landfill – Spruill Avenue, 1971-1973
	19	Sanitary Landfill – Spruill Avenue Plats and Plans, 1971-1973
	20	Sanitary Landfill – Underground Wiring, 1972
	21	Sanitation – Lot Cleaning, 1972-1977
	22	Solid Waste Disposal and Newspaper Recycling, 1970-1976
	23	Street Sweeping, 1919-1920
	24	Street Sweeping, 1921

Sewerage and Drainage

	25	Airport Frontage Road, 1975
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	26	Asbury Place – Parkwood Estates Drainage, 1974-1975
Box	Folder	
13	27	Asbury Place – Voorhees Canal, 1972
	28	Ashley Hall Road Drainage Problems, 1973
	29	Ashley River Baptist Church Drainage, 1972
	30	Ashley Plaza – Dowden Street, 1974
	31	Ashley Square – Gadsden Creek, 1973-1974
	32	Aviation Avenue – Airport Sewer Line, 1973-1974
	33	Aviation Avenue – Knights Inn Drainage, 1972
	34	Barre Street Extension and Sewer, 1951-1952
	35	Browning Drive Ditch, 1963-1969
	36	1402 Burning Tree Road Drainage, 1974
	37	Byrnes Down Drainage – Wappoo Creek, 1974-1975
	38	Calhoun Street Flap Valve, 1977
	39	Charleston Constructors – Drain and Sewer Construction, 1951
	40	Charlestowne Estates Drainage, 1974
	41	Charlestowne Landing – Charlestowne Estates Drainage, 1967-1974
	42	The Citadel – Landfill, Sewer, and Water Lines, 1958
	43	18 Country Club Drive Drainage, 1975-1976
	44	28 Country Club Drive Drainage, 1975-1976
	45	Courtenay Drive Drains, 1973-1985 (bulk 1973-1976)
	46	Dereefs Court Drainage, 1972-1975
14	1	Ditches – County Maintained, 1975
	2	Ditches – County Maintained, 1976
	3	Ditches – County Maintained, 1977
	4	Dowden Street Drainage – Charlestowne Estates, 1974
	5	Drain Connections, 1972-1976
	6	Drainage Analysis, 1977
	7	Drainage Easements, 1972-1975
	8	Drainage – East Bay Extension and Vardell’s Creek, 1948-1949
	9	Drainage – Miscellaneous, 1971-1972
	10	Drainage and Paving – Ehrhardt, Doughty, Courtenay, 1973-1976
	11	Ehrhardt Street Drainage, 1970-1972
	12	Field Place Drainage, 1975
	13	First Street – Drain and Fill, 1950-1951
	14	Fishburne Street Drainage, 1952
	15	Fishburne Street – Hagood Avenue Drain Pipe, 1973
	16	Folly Road Drainage, 1974
	17	Frontage Road Drainage, 1975
	18	Gadsden Village, 1961
	19	Harrison – Couch Easement – Voorhees Canal, 1972
	20	Heathwood Drive Drainage, 1974
	21	Heathwood Subdivision – Edenwood Court Drainage, 1974
	22	Huger Street Drain Pipe, n.d.
	23	King Street Relocation – Culvert under SCLRR Spur, 1976

	24	Lenevar – Charlestowne Estates III Drainage, 1971-1974
Box	Folder	
14	25	Lenevar – West Ashley Southern Methodist Church Drainage, 1965-1971
	26	Line Street – Hagood Avenue Culvert and Paving, 1972-1974
	27	Line Street – Hagood Avenue Drainage, 1967-1972
	28	Marina Sewage, 1975
	29	Markfield and Highway 17 – Drainage Ditch Relocation, 1972
	30	Marvin Street Drainage, 1975
	31	Mid-Atlantic Wharf Drainage, 1972
	32	North Charleston Sewer District Easements, 1975-1976
	33	North Nassau Street Drainage, 1944
	34	18 Norview Circle, 1966-1976
	35	Norview Drive, 1969-1975
	36	Police Station Storm Drain – Siting for C.W. Blanchard, 1966-1972
	37	1320 Pooshee Drive Drain Pipe, n.d.
	38	President – Doughty – Barre Drain Line Relocation, 1971
	39	Pumping Station – Southwest Section of City, 1913-1917
	40	Pumps and Motors, 1913-1917
	41	Pumps and Motors, 1918-1926
	42	Romney Street – Goldberg and SCRR Right of Way and Ditch, 1973-1974
	43	Rotherwood Drive Drainage, 1975
	44	Saint Andrews Canal – Highway 17 Drainage, 1976
	45	Sergeant Jasper Apartments Sewage, 1949-1951
	46	Sewage – General, 1914-1924
15	1	Sewage Pumping Stations, 1925-1928
	2	Sewage Pumping Stations, 1937
	3	Sewage Pump – Church and Water Streets, 1955
	4	Sewage Pumps, 1940-1941
	5	Sewer and Drain Construction, 1950
	6	Sewer and Drain Construction, 1954
	7	Sewer and Drain Specifications, 1944
	8	Sewer and Drain Specifications, 1952
	9	Sewer and Drain Specifications, 1956
	10	Sewers and Drains, 1935-1938
	11	Sewers and Drains, 1940-1944
	12	Sewers and Drains, 1945-1946
	13	Sewers and Drains, 1950
	14	Sewers and Drains, 1955
	15	Skinner Avenue, 1975
	16	Society Street Drainage, 1973
	17	South Carolina National Bank – Highway 17 Drainage, 1973
	18	Southgate Drive Drainage, 1972
	19	Stono Park Subdivision – Pinckney Park Drive Drainage, 1972-1976
	20	Storm Damage, 1940
	21	Sunday Hill Subdivision, 1972

	22	Tenth Avenue Drain Construction, 1945
Box	Folder	
15	23	Tidal and Storm Drains, 1890-1915
	24	Vendue Range Drain Line, 1971-1972
	25	Vendue Range – East End Drainage, 1971-1972
	26	Woodmere Drainage Solution, 1972-1974

Streets and Sidewalks

	27	Adams Construction – Sidewalk Repairs, 1973-1974
	28	Allison Court Subdivision, 1975
	29	Ashley Avenue Oak, n.d.
	30	Ashton Street Sidewalks, 1970
	31	Ashphalt Paving, Lenvard, Saint Philip and Wentworth Streets, 1974-1975
	32	Banks Construction Company – Paving Broad, Wentworth, Columbus, 1950-1951
	33	Banks Construction Company – Street Resurfacing, 1974
	34	Bayside Manor, 1969-1971
	35	Bayside Manor Access Road, 1970-1971
	36	Beaufain – Market Street Sidewalk, Curb, and Paving, 1970-1971
	37	Blake – Drake Street Survey, 1971
	38	Broad Street – Halsey Boulevard Right-of-Way, 1976
	39	Broad Street Widening, n.d.
	40	Byrnes Down – Alycia Alley, 1973-1976
	41	Calhoun Street Sidewalks, 1974
	42	Carondolet Street, 1964-1974
	43	Castle Pinckney Drive – Old Plantation Road, 1976
	44	Cedar Street, House Renumbering, 1972-1973
	45	Chalmers Street – Cobblestone Laying, 1967-1969
	46	Chalmers Street Repairs, 1967-1969
	47	Champney Street, 1971-1975
	48	Charleston County Engineers – Paving, 1962
	49	Charleston County Garage – Queen Street, 1975
	50	Charleston County Office Sidewalks, 1970
	51	Charlotte Street Paving – Concord to the Cooper River, 1974
	52	Charlotte Street Paving – East End, 1974
	53	The Citadel – Widening and Extending Streets, 1922
	54	City Parking Garage – Saint Philip and George Streets, 1975
	55	City Parking Lot – Archdale and Market Streets, 1957
	56	City Parking Lot – Saint Philip Street, 1957
	57	College of Charleston – Streets and Easements, 1972
	58	Coming Street Extension, 1951-1952
	59	Concord Street, 1974-1976
	60	“Concord Street Replacement Analysis,” 1974
16	1	Country Club Estates II Traffic Pattern, 1976-1977
	2	Courtenay Drive Sidewalks, 1974-1976

	3	Crosswalks, 1969-1972
Box	Folder	
16	4	Cumberland Street Driveway, 1975
	5	Cumberland Street Renumbering, 1977
	6	Curb Construction, 1950
	7	Curb and Sidewalk Construction, 1943-1944
	8	Curb and Sidewalk Construction, 1948
	9	Dereefs Court, 1971-1975
	10	Driveways, 1972-1973
	11	Driveways, 1975
	12	Driveways, 1976-1977
	13	E.D.A. Reports, 1977
	14	East Bay Street Extension, 1938
	15	East Bay Street Extension, 1948-1952
	16	East Bay Street Paving, 1948
	17	East Elliott Street, 1976
	18	Edenwood Court, 1975
	19	1 Formosa Drive – 108 Folly Road
	20	Gibbes Street
	21	Gillon Street, 1972
	22	Granite Curbing and Concrete Sidewalk Specifications, 1937-1942
	23	Grove Street House Renumbering, 1972
	24	Grove Street Paving – East End, 1971-1974
	25	Hagood Avenue, 1975
	26	Hasell Street Widening, 1975
	27	Homel Court, 1970
	28	Hunter and Walden Company, 1972-1974
	29	Inner-belt Freeway, 1976
	30	Interstate 26 – Meeting Street Exit, 1969
	31	James Island Expressway – South Carolina Highway Department, 1976
	32	Johnson Street – Concord Street Survey, 1973
	33	Juniper Street, 1972
	34	Keats Street and Oak Forest Drive, n.d.
	35	King Street Sidewalk Paving, 1949-1951
	36	King Street Sidewalks, 1973
	37	Lee Street Paving, 1975
	38	Lenevar Drive Cul-de-Sac, 1974-1975
	39	Line Street Extension, 1974
	40	Line Street Parking Garage – Encroachment, 1974
	41	Lockwood Drive Extension, 1972-1973
	42	Lockwood and Fishburne Street Survey, 1975
	43	Lockwood Drive – Line Street Survey, 1972
	44	Market Street Median and Parking Improvements, 1974-1975
	45	Market and Beaufain Street Parking Lot, 1953-1959
	46	Montague Court – Porters Court, 1972

	47	Morris and Saint Philip Street Parking Lot, 1976
Box	Folder	
16	48	Motley Lane, 1972
	49	Murray Boulevard Area, 1917-1925
	50	Ninth Avenue Right-of-Way – Citadel Campus, 1945-1950
	51	Orange Grove Road Sidewalks, 1974
17	1	Paving – General, 1913-1917
	2	Paving – General, 1952
	3	Paving Northeast Section of City, 1952
	4	Paving Northwest Section of City, 1940-1942
	5	Paving Northwest Section of City, 1944-1945
	6	Piedmont Avenue Extension, 1949-1951
	7	Poinsett Street Paving, 1971
	8	Protection of Improved Streets, 1925
	9	Rebellion Road, n.d.
	10	Reid Street Extension, 1969
	11	Repair Requests, 1971-1973
	12	Resurfacing City Streets, 1968-1972
	13	Resurfacing City Streets, 1973-1976
	14	Resurfacing Streets – South Carolina Highway Department, 1973-1974
	15	Ridlehuber and Sistare, Contractors, 1945-1946
	16	Rivercrest and Shoreview Subdivision, 1938-1949
	17	Romney Street – SCLRR Easement, 1973
	18	Romney Street Widening, 1974
	19	Saint Philip Street Municipal Parking Garage, 1974
	20	Sidewalk Paving Contract, 1975-1977
	21	Sidewalk Repairs, 1972-1976
	22	Sidewalk Specifications and Contracts, 1973-1976
	23	Sidewalks, 1943-1945
	24	South Windermere Shopping Center – Proposed Street, 1974
	25	Southern Building Code, 1974
	26	Southgate Construction Company – Romney Street and Athens Court, 1972-1973
	27	34 Stocker Drive, 1976-1977
	28	Street Design, 1973
	29	Street Railway Track Removal, 1936-1949
	30	Street Signs, 1954-1955
	31	Street Signs, 1962
	32	Street Signs and Sign Boards – Amended Zoning Ordinance, 1962
	33	Streets – General, 1908-1917
	34	Streets – General, 1927-1928
	35	Streets – General, 1934-1935
	36	Streets – General, 1938-1941
	37	Streets – General, 1942-1944
	38	Streets – General, 1945
	39	Streets – General, 1949

	40	Streets – General, 1951
Box	Folder	
18	1	Streets – General, 1953-1955
	2	Streets – General, 1960-1961
	3	Streets – General, 1962
	4	Streets – General, 1963
	5	Streets – General, 1964-1965
	6	Streets – General, 1966-1967
	7	Streets – General, 1968
	8	Streets – General, 1972-1976
	9	Tenth Avenue – Hampton Park Crossing, 1950
	10	Timmerman Drive Sidewalk, 1974
	11	Traffic Plans – Smith, Dibble, and Company, 1948
	12	Wappoo Heights – Allgood Road Encroachment, 1972
	13	Wentworth – Beaufain – Saint Philip Parking Lot, 1972-1974

Works Progress Administration Projects

14	Alms House Repairs, 1938
15	Charleston County Relief Committee – Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933
16	Civil Works Administration – E.P. Grice, Jr., Administrator, 1933-1934
17	Emergency Relief Administration, 1935
18	Housing Division – Meeting Street Manor – Cooper River Court, 1935-1936
19	Line Street Storage Shed, 1938
20	Works Progress Administration Correspondence, 1934-1938
21	Works Progress Administration Correspondence, 1939-1942
22	Works Progress Administration Projects, 1934-1937

Zoning

23	Ashley Plaza Shopping Center – Zoning Covenant, 1969-1975
24	Berkeley Court – 63 Rutledge Avenue – Zoning Violation, 1941-1942
25	9 Bull Street – Zoning Violation, 1948-1949
26	11 Church Street – Zoning Violation, 1947-1958
27	45 East Battery – Zoning Violation, 1943-1951
28	12 Fulton Street – Zoning Violation, 1957
29	King Street Sign Ordinance Violations, 1972
30	5 Legare Street – Zoning Violation, 1949
31	Limehouse Service Station – Zoning Violations, 1935-1936
32	Mobile Homes – Zoning, 1976
33	Courtenay Apartments – Zoning, 1960-1961
34	Paula Drive – Zoning Violations, 1974-1975
35	Parkshore Rezoning, 1974
36	Rezoning – Miscellaneous Properties, 1972-1976
37	Rivers Point – Zoning, 1976

	38	2 Saint Augustine Drive – Zoning Violation, 1965-1972
Box	Folder	
18	39	Signs – Zoning Ordinance, 1957-1960
	40	Skinner Road Property, 1974
	41	51 Society Street – Zoning, 1972
	42	61 South Battery – Zoning Violation, 1945
	43	South Windermere – Folly Road Zoning, 1976
	44	24 Sycamore Street – Zoning Violation, 1973-1974
	45	Trott, Nicholas House – Zoning, 1943-1944
	46	142 Wentworth Street – Zoning Violation, 1975
	47	Zoning – General, 1953
	48	Zoning Ordinance, 1966-1967