

ARCHIVES RECORD

RG510

U. S. Surveyor General

Records: 1850-1904

Surveying District of Kansas and Nebraska territories, and of the District of Nebraska, including Iowa

Cubic Ft: 13

No. of Items: 10,000 and 26 rolls of microfilm

HISTORICAL NOTE

The surveying district of Kansas and Nebraska Territories was created by act of Congress in July, 1854, under the jurisdiction of the United States General Land Office. John Calhoun was appointed Surveyor General, and the first office was located at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The office was moved in 1855 to Wyandotte, Kansas; in 1856 to Leocompton, Kansas; in 1858 to nebraska City, Nebraska; and upon Kansas' entry into the Union, it was moved back to Leavenworth. In 1867 Kansas became a separate surveying district, and the district of Nebraska, including Iowa, was formed. At this time the office was located at Plattsmouth, Nebraska. By 1886, the surveys of the state were completed, with the exception of the military and Indian reservations and the northern border. In September of that year, the office was suspended and its functions transferred to the U. S. Land Office in Lincoln.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of 19 boxes of archival material, 29 bound volumes, and 26 rolls of microfilm arranged in 16 series: (1) Records on microfilm; (2) Letters from the Commissioner of the General Land Office to the Surveyor General, 1854-1886; (3) Letters from deputy surveyors to the Surveyor General, District of Nebraska and Kansas; (4) Letters from registers of the local land offices to the Surveyor General, 1856-1886; (5) Letters from the U.S. Treasury Department to the Surveyor General, 1879-1886; (6) General correspondence, 1855-1897; (7) Contracts and bonds; 1854-1904; (8) Commissions and oaths, 1854-1881; (9) Powers of Attorney, 1855-1863; (10) General Land Office circulars, 1856-1891; (11) Disbursing accounts, 1879-1885; (12) Quarterly receipts, 1868-1883; (13) Monthly bank statements, 1879-1886; (14) Applications for surveys, 1881-1882; (15) Letterbooks, 1855-1867; and (16) Miscellany.

This collection relates to the operation of the office of Surveyor General of Kansas and Nebraska, and to the surveys of Nebraska by government surveyors under the direction of the Surveyor General. The bulk of the collection consists of bound volumes of incoming and outgoing correspondence between the U. S. General Land Office, the Surveyor General, and the deputy surveyors. This correspondence relates to surveys, indian attacks on surveying parties, the Nelson Buck party, boundaries and additions to military and indian reservations, appropriations,

and information and instructions regarding surveys and the marking of boundaries. This correspondence was assembled by Robert Harvey of the office of Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings, 1902-1908, and is indexed by subject and chronologically.

Additional material within the collection includes contracts and bonds for the surveys of Nebraska, land circulars, and financial records. A major portion of the collection consists of microfilm containing correspondence from the General Land Office to the Surveyor General, 1850-1852, and 1865-1868; and microfilm of the original surveyor's field notebooks of the original exterior township surveys of the State. Portions of this microfilm are from the National Archives and Records Service, RG49, Records of the Bureau of Land Management. The Surveyor's field notebooks were filmed by the microfilm division of the State Archives from the originals on file in the office of the State Surveyor.

DESCRIPTION

| | | | |
|-------------|---|---|-----------|
| SERIES ONE | RECORDS ON MICROFILM (shelved in the newspaper room) | | |
| Roll 1 | Letters from the General Land Office to Surveyor General, Aug. 20, 1850-July 9, 1852. (NARS RG49) | | |
| Roll 2 | Letters from the General Land Office to Surveyor General, May 19, 1865-Feb. 5, 1868 | | |
| Roll 3-26 | Field notebooks of deputy surveyors, exterior township surveys of Nebraska, including some interior surveys of eastern Nebraska counties. Index at the beginning of roll 3, and additional copies are on file in the newspaper room (filmed from original records in the office of the State Surveyor, State Capitol) | | |
| film | SERIES TWO | LETTERS FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE TO THE SURVEYOR GENERAL, 1854-1886 | |
| | Box 1 | | |
| | Vol. 1 | | |
| | Part 1 | District of Kansas & Nebraska | 1854-1857 |
| | Part 2 | " " " " " | 1858-1859 |
| | Box 2 | | |
| | Vol. 2 | District of Nebraska and Iowa | 1860-1867 |
| | Vol. 3 | " " " " " " | 1868-1869 |

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|---------|-------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Box 3 | | | |
| Vol. 4 | District of Nebraska and Iowa | | 1870-1871 |
| Vol. 5 | " " " " " " " | | 1872-1873 |
| Box 4 | | | |
| Vol. 6 | District of Nebraska and Iowa | | 1874-1875 |
| Vol. 7 | Not in collection | | |
| Box 5 | | | |
| Vol. 8 | District of Nebraska and Iowa | | 1880-1882 |
| Vol. 9 | " " " " " " | | 1883-1884 |
| Vol. 10 | " " " " " " | | 1 |
| Box 6 | | | |
| Vol. 10 | District of Nebraska and Iowa | | 1884-1886 |

film SERIES THREE LETTERS FROM DEPUTY SURVEYORS TO SURVEYOR GENERAL, DISTRICT OF KANSAS AND NEBRASKA (alphabetical, by name)

Box 6
Vol. 1 Allison to Davenport

Box 7
Vol. 2 Davis to Osborne
Vol. 3 Park to Wiltse

film SERIES FOUR LETTERS FROM REGISTERS OF THE LOCAL U.S. LAND OFFICES TO THE SURVEYOR GENERAL, 1856-1886

Box 8
Folder 1 1856-1858
Folder 2 1859-1862
Folder 3 1863-1868
Folder 4 1869-1871
Folder 5 1872-1873
Folder 6 1874-1877
Folder 7 1878-1886

film SERIES FIVE LETTERS FROM U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT TO SURVEYOR GENERAL, 1879-1886

Box 9
Folder 1 1879-1882
Folder 2 1883-1886

film SERIES SIX GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1855-1897

Box 9
Folder 1 1855-1856
Folder 2 1857-1858
Folder 3 1859-1866; includes letters relating to the establishment of Ft. Kearny; 1849 Pawnee Treaty; Ft. McPherson.

Box 10

- Folder 4 1867-1869; includes military escorts, Ft. Kearny; indian danger, Ft. Laramie; issue & return of ordinance stores; Nelson Buck requesting arms.
- Folder 5 1870 Ft. McPherson, issue & return of ordinance stores.
- Folder 6 1871 Funds; issue & return of ordinance stores; military escorts.
- Folder 7 1872 Issue & return of ordinance stores, Ft. Laramie; sale of arms.
- Folder 8 1873 Issue & return of ordinance stores; Ft. Laramie; Ft. McPherson; sale of arms.

Box 11

- Folder 9 1874 Military escorts; sale of arms.
- Folder 10 1875 Sioux treaty of 1868; reports from counties on location of towns.
- Folder 11 1876-1877 Camp Sheridan; Camp Robinson.
- Folder 12 1878-1880 Charges of dishonesty filed by Edward Rosewater against John R. Clark, Surveyor General; Ft. McPherson; Sidney Barracks; military escorts; Camp Sheridan; Ft. McPherson; Ft. Robinson; Ft. Niobrara; Ft. Sidney.
- Folder 13 1881-1882 Half-Breed Tract; Ft. Niobrara; Omaha-Winnebago Reservation; Sioux Reservation.

Box 12

- Folder 14 1883
- Folder 15 1884-1885 Ft. Niobrara, Santee Sioux Reservation.
- Folder 16 1889, 1894, 1897, undated

film

SERIES SEVEN

CONTRACTS AND BONDS, 1854-1904

Box 12

- Folder 1 1854

SERIES SEVEN (cont.)

Box 12

| | |
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| Folder 2 | 1855 |
| Folder 3 | 1856 |

Box 13

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|-----------|------|
| Folder 4 | 1857 |
| Folder 5 | 1858 |
| Folder 6 | 1859 |
| Folder 7 | 1860 |
| Folder 8 | 1861 |
| Folder 9 | 1862 |
| Folder 10 | 1863 |
| Folder 11 | 1864 |
| Folder 12 | 1865 |
| Folder 13 | 1866 |

Box 14

| | |
|-----------|------|
| Folder 14 | 1867 |
| Folder 15 | 1868 |
| Folder 16 | 1869 |
| Folder 17 | 1870 |
| Folder 18 | 1871 |
| Folder 19 | 1872 |
| Folder 20 | 1873 |

Box 15

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Folder 21 | 1874 |
| Folder 22 | 1875 |
| Folder 23 | 1876 |
| Folder 24 | 1877 |
| Folder 25 | 1878 |
| Folder 26 | 1879 |
| Folder 27 | 1880 |
| Folder 28 | 1881 |
| Folder 29 | 1882 |
| Folder 30 | 1886 |
| Folder 31 | 1904 |
| Folder 32 | 1855-1874; cancelled contracts |

film

SERIES EIGHT

COMMISSIONS AND OATHS OF DEPUTY SURVEYORS,
1854-1881

Box 16

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| Folder 1 | 1854-1855 |
| Folder 2 | 1856-1859 |
| Folder 3 | 1860-1866; 1881 |

film

SERIES NINE

POWERS OF ATTORNEY, 1855-1863

Box 16

| | |
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| Folder 1 | 1855 |
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SERIES NINE (cont.)

Box 16
Folder 2 1856-1859, 1863

film SERIES TEN GENERAL LAND OFFICE CIRCULARS, 1856-1891

Box 16
Folder 1 1856-1891

film SERIES ELEVEN DISBURSING ACCOUNTS, 1879-1885
monthly statements regarding salary,
surveyor's and contingency expenses.

Box 17
Folder 1 1879-1881
Folder 2 1882
Folder 3 1883
Folder 4 1884
Folder 5 1885

film SERIES TWELVE QUARTERLY RECEIPTS, 1868-1883

Box 17
Folder 1 1868-1873

Box 18
Folder 2 1876-1880
Folder 3 1881-1883
Folder 4 1883-1886

film SERIES THIRTEEN MONTHLY BANK STATEMENTS, 1879-1885

Folder 1 1879-1881 Omaha
Folder 2 1882-1885 National Bank
Folder 3 1885-1886 U.S. National Bank of Omaha

film SERIES FOURTEEN SETTLER'S APPLICATIONS FOR SURVEYS, 1881-82

Folder 1
Folder 2
Folder 3
Folder 4

film SERIES FIFTEEN BOUND VOLUMES

Vol. 1 1855-1867; Letter book.
Vol. 2 1854-1866; Letter book and descriptions.
Vol. 3 1854-1887; Letter book & descriptions.
Vol. 4 1867-1872; Letter book.

Vol. 5 1872-1884; Letter book.
 Vol. 6 1884-1886; Letter book.
 Vol. 7 1855-1867; Record of survey
 Vol. 8 Record of plats
 Vol. 9 Record of indemnity school land
 Vol. 10 1873-1874; Field notes of Dorrington
 and Fairfield
 Vol. 11 1867-1874; Account book.
 Vol. 12 1875-1884; Account book.
 Vol. 13 1884-1886; Account book.
 Vol. 14 1854-1873; Ledger
 Vol. 15 1874-1886; Ledger
 Vol. 16 1854-1867; Appropriations
 1871-1874; Contracts

film

SERIES SIXTEEN

MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL

Box 19

Folder 1 General orders from headquarters, Dept.
 of the Platte.
 Folder 2 Proposal and agreement to survey boun-
 daries between Nebraska and Colorado-
 Wyoming.
 Folder 3 1870-1885; Leases
 Folder 4 1867-1884; Unaccompanied receipts, invoices
 and financial statements.
 Folder 5 Memorandums
 Folder 6 Plats
 Folder 7 Miscellany.
 not filmed Folder 8 & 8a Field notebooks, Survey of Lancaster County, N.T., 1857
 (missing 2005)
 JEP/pmc December 14, 1970

film
RG510 U.S. SURVEYOR GENERAL

- Roll 27 Series 2 - Letters from the Commissioner of the U.S. General
1000 shots Land Office to the Surveyor General
2000 pges. General Index - Index for Series 2 & 3
#19,254
- thru
- Series 2 - Letters from the Commissioner of the U.S. General
Land Office to the Surveyor General
Folder 14, December 5, 1870
- Roll 28 Series 2 - Letters from the Commissioner of the U.S. General
1013 shots Land Office to the Surveyor General
2026 pges. Folder 14 continued. December 21, 1870
#19,255
- thru
- Series 3 - Letters from Deputy Surveyors to Surveyor General,
District of Kansas and Nebraska
(alphabetical, by name)
Folder 1, July 3, 1859, "Roland Armstrong" Deputy
Surveyor.
- Roll 29 Series 3 - Letters from Deputy Surveyors to Surveyor General,
1022 shots District of Kansas and Nebraska
2044 pges. (alphabetical, by name)
#19,256 Folder 1 continued, June 9, 1866, "Armstrong & Wright,
Deputy Surveyors.
- thru
- Series 4 - Letters from Registers of the Local U.S. Land
Offices to the Surveyor General, 1856-1886
Folder 3, December 17, 1866
- Roll 30 Series 4 - Letters from Registers of the Local U.S. Land
927 shots Offices to the Surveyor General, 1856-1886
1854 pges. Folder 3 continued. January 21, 1867
#19,257
- thru
- Series 6 - General Correspondence, 1855-1897
Folder 7, July 21, 1872
- NOTE:
Frame #0087, February 27, 1874 was in wrong folder
and was filmed after the 1873 Year Card. It was
put in correct folder and will be filmed in correct
order in 1874.
- NOTE:
Frame #0886, Target shows Series 6, Folder 8,
should be Folder 7, corrected next frame.

film
RG510

U.S. SURVEYOR GENERAL

Roll 31 Series 6 - General Correspondence, 1855-1897
942 shots Folder 7 continued, July 23, 1872
1884 pges.
#19,258 thru

Series 7 - Contracts & Bonds, 1854-1904
Folder 5, November 24, 1858

Roll 32 Series 7 - Contracts & Bonds, 1854-1904
886 shots Folder 6, January 20, 1859

thru

Series 10 - General Land Office Circulars, 1856-1891
Folder 1, October 24, 1877

NOTE:

Series 8, Folder 2, a target was filmed showing this folder was missing. Frame #0594 a correction target was filmed. The folder was located and not missing.

Roll 33 Series 10 - General Land Office Circulars, 1856-1891
882 shots Folder 1 continued, June 10, 1879
1764 pges.
#19,261 thru

Series 15 - Bound Books, Letter Books
Volume 2, June 9, 1859, pg.49

Roll 34 Series 15 - Bound Books, Letter Books
825 shots Volume 2 cont., June 10, 1859, pg.50
825 shots
#19,262 thru

Series 15 - Bound Books, Letter Books
Volume 5, July 3, 1874, pg. 171

Roll 35 Series 15 - Bound Books, Letter Books
635 shots Volume 5 cont., July 3, 1874, pg.172
1270 pges.
#19,263 thru

Series 15 - Bound Books, Field Notes of Dorrington & Fairfield
Volume 10, March 18, 1881, pg.309

NOTE:

Series 15, V.5, pges. 343 & 346 missing original vol.
Series 15, V.8, pges. 30-31 blurred, Retake spliced at
End of Reel.

Series 15, V.9, Record of Indemnity School Land -
this vol. will not be filmed with this collection,
it belongs with another collection.

