Lincoln (Neb.) Building and Safety records

Identifier: RG301, SG009
Creator: Lincoln (Neb.). Division of Building and Safety
Date: 1904-1985
Extent: 51 boxes, 1400 drawings, 6 reels of microfilm

Historical Note

The government of the City of Lincoln has regulated construction activities in the City almost from its founding. In the very early years, citizens of Lincoln who wished to engage in construction activities petitioned the Lincoln City Council requesting permission for construction. Petitions dating from 1868 are recorded in the City Council's minutes. The first building code regulations were prompted by the desire to control fires and the Fire Chief was usually the person responsible for ensuring buildings were safe. Regulations and administration continued to evolve until by 1904, building code enforcement was the responsibility of the City Engineer and a formal permit process had been implemented. Eventually, a Building Inspector was appointed and the codes used to regulate construction became more and more detailed. The Building Inspector was given broad authority to enter any building in the City and was also charged with preventing the use of any unsafe building. By 1933, a comprehensive building code based on national standards was enacted and project drawings and specifications were required to be submitted and approved prior to issuance of building permits.

With the assistance of the Lincoln Chapter of the Architects Institute of America, the Historical Society was able to preserve this collection for the City of Lincoln.

Scope and Content

Subgroup Nine, Building and Safety Division, consists of permits and drawings for construction in the City of Lincoln and the surrounding area for 1904- 1985. This subgroup is divided into three series:

>   1) Building permit application card index, 1904- 1974

>   2) Building permit applications, 1904 - 1985

>   3) Construction drawings, 1904 - 1985

The microfilm in this collection was produced by the agency in 1972 and is not always of the best quality. The Historical Society cannot guarantee the readability or completeness of the film.

Series One, building permit application card index, 1904-1974, consists of 6 rolls of microfilm. This film can be accessed in our Reference Room.

Description of Index: The microfilm is a copy of a card index which groups permit information by the name of the street where the construction activity was to take place. Numbered street names are further grouped by direction, i.e., North, South, Northwest, and Southwest. Alphabetic street names are in alphabetic order and those which have a direction are in alphabetic order by the street name without the direction. For example, West Manor is grouped with the streets beginning with the letter "M". The set of index cards for each street is positioned on the microfilm in reverse chronological order, i.e., the first card on the microfilm contains the most current permit issued for that street and succeeding cards go back in time to the first permit (oldest) issued for that street. Each entry on an index card contains the date of the permit, the permit number, the name of the permit holder, the house number of the permit and a very brief description of the permit, e.g., "reroof', "alt res", etc.

Suggested Search Instructions: You must know the name of the street to effectively use the card index. Locate the microfilm roll containing the street name in which you are interested. On the microfilm, locate the index cards for the street name. Starting with the first index card for the street name, examine each entry until you find the house number in which you are interested. You can then obtain the building permit number associated with the house number. Continue looking through all of the index cards for the street name as there may be multiple entries for the same house number. For example, to find any permits for 1000 South 15th Street, first locate the index cards for 'South 15th Street'. Then examine each entry on each index card to locate any entries for the house number' 1000'. If an entry is found, make note of the corresponding permit number. Search all of the South 15th Street index cards for additional entries for the '1 000' house number.

Series Two, building permit applications, 1904-1985, consists of over 140,000 paper residential and commercial building permit applications, organized by permit number. Records can also be accessed on microfilm in the reference room.

Series Three, construction drawings (blueprints), 1904-1985, consists of about 1400 paper drawings for selected construction projects. Drawings are for public buildings such as businesses, schools, government buildings and for religious and social organizations. There are no drawings of single-family residences. Drawings are indexed in a spreadsheet by permit number. The index may include the building name or address.

Subgroup 9, Series 1: Building Permit Application Card Index, 1904-1974

Access note: These records are on microfilm. The reels can be accessed in the reference room.

Roll 1   Numerical Streets, South 1st Street thru North 31st St (Note: Retakes of South 31st and North 31 are at the end of Roll 6)

Roll 2   Numerical Streets, South 32nd Street thru South 120th St. (Note: At the end of the roll are index cards for permits issued for construction within the 3 Mile perimeter of the City including several acreage developments, and other miscellaneous tracts of land. The final index cards on the roll are for the Lincoln Air Park development.)

Roll 3   Alphabetic Streets, A St thru Everett St

Roll 4   Alphabetic Streets, F St thru N St

Roll 5   Alphabetic Streets, Nance Ave thru Strauss Court

Roll 6   Alphabetic Streets, Summit Blvd thru (West) Zeamer St

Subgroup 9, Series 2: Building Permit Applications, 1904-1985

Access Note: Below is an inventory of the physical records in this series. The records were also microfilmed. Following the inventory of the physical records is an inventory of the microfilm reels with descriptions of which records are on each reel. Both the microfilm reels and the original records are in History Nebraska's collections. Please use the microfilm to access records before requesting access to the originals. Microfilm can be accessed in the reference room.

Record Inventory

Box 1   Permit Numbers 000001 thru 004599
Box 2   Permit Numbers 004600 thru 009599
Box 3   Permit Numbers 009600 thru 014499
Box 4   Permit Numbers 014500 thru 019299
Box 5   Permit Numbers 019300 thru 022299
Box 6   Permit Numbers 022300 thru 025099
Box 7   Permit Numbers 025100 thru 027799
Box 8   Permit Numbers 027800 thru 030799
Box 9   Permit Numbers 030800 thru 033899
Box 10   Permit Numbers 033900 thru 036999
Box 11   Permit Numbers 037000 thru 039999
Box 12   Permit Numbers 040000 thru 043699
Box 13   Permit Numbers 043700 thru 046799
Box 14   Permit Numbers 046800 thru 049699

Box 15   Permit Numbers 049700 thru 052699
Box 16   Permit Numbers 052700 thru 055799
Box 17   Permit Numbers 055800 thru 058899
Box 18   Permit Numbers 058900 thru 061999
Box 19   Permit Numbers 062000 thru 064999
Box 20   Permit Numbers 065000 thru 067999
Box 21   Permit Numbers 068000 thru 069999
Box 22   Permit Numbers 070000 thru 072999 Note: These permits are MISSING
Box 23   Permit Numbers 073000 thru 075099
Box 24   Permit Numbers 076000 thru 078799
Box 25   Permit Numbers 078800 thru 081599
Box 26   Permit Numbers 081600 thru 084299
Box 27   Permit Numbers 084300 thru 086999
Box 28   Permit Numbers 087000 thru 089699
Box 29   Permit Numbers 089700 thru 092299
Box 30   Permit Numbers 092300 thru 094799
Box 31   Permit Numbers 094800 thru 096999
Box 32   Permit Numbers 097000 thru 098999
Box 33   Permit Numbers 099000 thru 100999
Box 34   Permit Numbers 101000 thru 103099
Box 35   Permit Numbers 103100 thru 105199
Box 36   Permit Numbers 105200 thru 106999
Box 37   Permit Numbers 107000 thru 108999
Box 38   Permit Numbers 109000 thru 110999
Box 39   Permit Numbers 111000 thru 113199
Box 40   Permit Numbers 113200 thru 115399
Box 41   Permit Numbers 115400 thru 117899
Box 42   Permit Numbers 117900 thru 120300
Box 43   Permit Numbers 120301 thru 122600
Box 44   Permit Numbers 122601 thru 125000
Box 45   Permit Numbers 125001 thru 126800
Box 46   Permit Numbers 126801 thru 128900
Box 47   Permit Numbers 128901 thru 131100
Box 48   Permit Numbers 131101 thru 135300 Note: These permits are MISSING
Box 49   Permit Numbers 135301 thru 137400
Box 50   Permit Numbers 137401 thru 139500
Box 51   Permit Numbers 139501 thru 141600

Microfilm Inventory

Roll 1A   Building Permits # 000001 (6/24/1904) Thru Building Permits # 002816
(11/2/1908)
NOTE: #1, 2, 2755-2816 unreadable.

Roll 1B   Building Permits # 002812 (12/11/1908) Thru Building Permits # 005780
(11/5/1914)

NOTE: #3104-3180, 3192-3196 unreadable.

Roll 1C   Building Permits # 005781 (11/5/1908) Thru Building Permits # 008773 (10/4/1920)

Roll 1D   Building Permits # 008774 (10/4/1920) Thru Building Permits # 011730 (9/26/1923)

Roll 2A   Building Permits # 011731 (9/28/1923) Thru Building Permits # 014675 (10/22/1925)
NOTE: #11731-11746 are unreadable.

Roll 2B   Building Permits # 014676 (10/26/1925) Thru Building Permits # 017670 (6/7/1928)
NOTE: #14676--14689, 14703-14709, 15027-15042 are unreadable.

Roll 2C   Building Permits # 017671 (6/8/1928) Thru Building Permits # 020590 (4/12/1932)

Roll 2D   Building Permits # 020591 (4/12/1932) Thru Building Permits # 020898 (1/3/1933)
NOTE: #20591, 20598-20606 unreadable. Contains the following out of sequence permit numbers: 021582, 021655,023373,025234,028705,036112, 038951,039196,039197,040124,040744-040746,041197,041284,041339, 041385-041386,041535,041885,041941,042147,042342,045669,045884, 086307,087595,090183,090435,090581,092271,093696,103591-103593-, 105046. Contains the following voided permit numbers: 020925, 020953, 021122,021239,021344,021561,024306,024829,025822,026436,028823, 032619,032913,032975,033281,034437,035214,037131,037781,038248, 038533,093281,093628,095347,097121,102019,102574,106207-106211, 106278.

Roll 3   Building Permits # 020898 (1/3/1933) Thru Building Permits # 024002 (11/21/1935)
NOTE: Permit numbers are not in sequence; #020898-#021500, #022501-#022999, #021501-#022499, #023000-#024002. The permits are in the correct chronological sequence.

Roll 4   Building Permits # 024403 (11122/1935) Thru Building Permits # 026999 (10/14/1937)

Roll 5   Building Permits # 027000 (1 0/14/1937) Thru Building Permits # 030115 (5/21/1939)

Roll 6   Building Permits # 030116 (5/31/1939) Thru Building Permits # 033258
                (9/13/1940)

Roll 7   Building Permits # 033259 (9113/1940) Thru Building Permits # 036361
                (5/22/1942)

Roll 8   Building Permits # 036362 Thru Building Permits # 039463

Roll 9   Building Permits # 039464 Thru Building Permits # 040742

Roll 10A   Building Permits #042470 Thru Building Permits # 044162
                NOTE: #42470-42480 unreadable.

Roll 10B   Building Permits # 044163 Thru Building Permits # 045650
                NOTE: #44163-44173 unreadable.

Roll 11   Building Permits # 045651 Thru Building Permits # 048769

Roll 12   Building Permits #048770 Thru Building Permits # 051868
                NOTE: Permit numbers are not in sequence; #048770-#048999, #050000-
                #050999,#049000-#049999,#051000-#051868.

Roll 13   Building Permits # 051869 Thru Building Permits # 054963

Roll 14   Building Permits # 054964 Thru Building Permits # 058070

Roll 15   Building Permits # 058071 Thru Building Permits # 061122

Roll 16   Building Permits # 061123 Thru Building Permits # 064192
                NOTE: #062652-062656 out of sequence between #062606 and #062607.

Roll 17   Building Permits # 064193 Thru Building Permits # 067298

Roll 18   Building Permits #067299 Thru Building Permits # 070322

Roll 19   Building Permits # 070323 Thru Building Permits # 073194
                NOTE: #070323-071663 missing or unreadable.

Roll 20   Building Permits # 073195 Thru Building Permits # 076200

Roll 21   Building Permits # 076201 (4/15/1960) Thru Building Permits # 079241
                (7/15/1961)

Roll 22   Building Permits # 079242 (7/18/1961) Thru Building Permits # 082271
                (9/25/1962)

Roll 23   Building Permits # 082272 (9/25/1962) Thru Building Permits # 085316
           (11/19/1963)

Roll 24   Building Permits # 085317 (11120/1963) Thru Building Permits # 088342
           (9/28/1964)

Roll 25   Building Permits # 088343 (9/28/1964) Thru Building Permits # 091381
           (10/1/1965)

Roll 26   Building Permits # 091382 (10/1/1965) Thru Building Permits # 095209
           (10/2/1967)

Roll 30   Building Permits # 095211 (10/3/1967) Thru Building Permits # 097295
           (12/17/1968)

Roll 31   Building Permits # 097296 (12/17/1968) Thru Building Permits # 099327
           (3/27/1970)

Roll 32   Building Permits # 099328 (3/30/1970) Thru Building Permits # 101440
           (4/12/1971)
           NOTE: #099328-099346 unreadable.

Roll 33   Building Permits # 101441 (4/12/1971) Thru Building Permits # 102100
           (6/28/1971)

Roll 43   Building Permits # 102101 (6/29/1971) Thru Building Permits # 103725
           (2/28/1972)
           NOTE: #102101-102102 all or mostly unreadable.

Roll 44   Building Permits # 103 726 (2/25/1972) Thru Building Permits # 105341
           (7/21/1972)
           NOTE: #103726-103737, #104343-104346 all or mostly unreadable.

Roll 45   Building Permits # 105342 (8/15/1972) Thru Building Permits # 106400
           (11/27/1972)

Roll 48   Building Permits # 106401 (11/28/1972) Thru Building Permits # 107926
           (6/25/1973)

Roll 50   Building Permits # 107901 (6/24/1973) Thru Building Permits # 109399
           (3/1/1974)

Roll 51   Building Permits # 109391 (2/28/1974) Thru Building Permits # 110400
           (6/12/1974)

Roll 53   Miscellaneous Building Permits
            #000001 thru 000002 (6/22/1904 thru 6/24/1904)
            #002755 thru 002816 (11/4/1908 thru 12/14/1908)
            #003104 thru 003180 (5/20/1909 thru 6/21/1909)
            #011731 thru 011746 (9/26/1923 thru 9/28/1923)
            #014676 thru 014709 (10/22/1925 thru 10/26/1925)
            #042470 thru 042480 (5/1/1946 thru 5/2/1946)
            #044163 thru 044173 (1/21/1947 thru 1/22/1947)
            #070321 thru 071664 (2/27/1957 thru 9/26/1957)
            NOTE: #000001 unreadable.

Roll 56   Building Permits # 099328 (3/26/1970) Thru Building Permits # 100960 (11/20/1970)

Roll 57   Miscellaneous Building Permits
            #100961 thru 101440 (11/20/1970 thru 4/12/1971)
            #003192 thru 003196 (6/25/1909 thru 6/30/1909)
            #015027 thru 015042 (2/17/1926 thru 2/23/1926)
            #020591 thru 020625 (4/12/1932 thru 5/3/1932)
            #095210 thru 095258 (10/2/1967 thru 10/10/1967)
            #097237 thru 097447 (11/22/1968 thru 2/24/1969)
            #103726 thru 103738 (2/28/1972 thru 2/28/1972)

Roll 65   Building Permits # 110401 (6/12/1974) Thru Building Permits # 111270 (10/3/1974)
        NOTE: Roll contains other data. Permits are at the end of the roll.

Roll 66   Building Permits # 111271 (10/3/1974) Thru Building Permits # 112800 (4/15/1975)

Roll 67   Building Permits # 112801 (6/24/1975) Thru Building Permits # 114400 (1/15/1976)

Roll 68   Building Permits # 114401 (1127/1976) Thru Building Permits # 114600 (3/1/1976)

Roll 77   Building Permits # 114601 (3/111976) Thru Building Permits # 117015 (10/18/1976)

Roll 78   Building Permits # 117016 (10/18/1976) Thru Building Permits # 119369 (7/8/1977)
        NOTE: #119369 unreadable.

Roll 91   Building Permits # 119369 (717/1977) Thru Building Permits # 121100 (1/25/1978)

Roll 92   Building Permits # 121101 (1/25/1978) Thru Building Permits # 123145
                 (8/28/1978)

Roll 104   Building Permits # 123146 (8/25/1978) Thru Building Permits # 123900
                 (11/14/1978)
                 NOTE: Roll contains other data. Permits are at the end of the roll.

Roll 105   Building Permits # 123901 (11/14/1978) Thru Building Permits # 125723
                 (7/20/1979)

Roll 106   Building Permits # 125724 (7/20/1979) Thru Building Permits # 125900
                 (8/7/1979)
                 NOTE: Roll contains other data. Permits are at the beginning of the roll.

Roll 107   Building Permits # 125901 (8/7/1979) Thru Building Permits # 127367 (2/6/1980)
                 NOTE: #126366-126368, #126513-126514, #126639, #126753 missing.

Roll 121   Building Permits # 126369 (9/17/1979) Thru Building Permits # 129260
                 (9/16/1980)

Roll 122   Building Permits # 129261 (8/21/1980) Thru Building Permits # 130300
                 (1/6/1981)
                 NOTE: Roll contains other data. Permits are at the beginning of the roll.

Roll 126   Building Permits # 130301 (2/9/1981) Thru Building Permits # 132400
                 (11/24/1981)
                 NOTE: Roll contains other data Permits are at the beginning of the roll.

Roll 135   Out of Sequence Building Permits
                         #134701 thru 135400 (2/16/1983 thru 5/18/1983)
                         #137001 thru 137100 (11/18/1983 thru 12/13/1983)
                         #135301 thru 136300 (4/22/1983 thru 8/23/1983)
                         NOTE: #135397-135406 unreadable.

Roll 136   Out of Sequence Building Permits
                         #136301 thru 136700 (8/30/1983 thru 10/5/1983)
                         #136901 thru 137000 (11/7/1983 thru 11/18/1983)
                         #132401 thru 134453 (12/7/1981 thru 12/6/1982)
                         NOTE: #136570-136662 unreadable.

Subgroup 9, Series 3: Construction Drawings, 1904-1985

Access Note: These records have been inventoried in a separate spreadsheet. They are
identified by permit number. Use the records from series 1 and series 2 (building permit index

and applications) to determine the permit number of the building you are looking for, then consult the spreadsheet to see if we have a construction drawing or blueprint for that building.

Construction drawing spreadsheet found here:
https://history.nebraska.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/RG301_SG9_S3_Lincoln_Building_Permit_Construction_Drawings_Inventory_20231011.xlsx