

A Guide to the Records Relating to the Construction of the Virginia State Library of the State Librarian, 1907-1940 (Bulk 1935-1941)

Records Relating to the Construction of the Virginia State Library of the State Librarian, 1907-1941 (Bulk 1935-1941)

1907-1941 (Bulk 1935-1941)

A Collection in the Library of Virginia 50406

Library of Virginia

2012

Author: Erin Faison

History

Processed by: Erin Faison

Title Statement

A Guide to the Records Relating to the Construction of the Virginia State Library of the State Librarian, 1907-1940 (Bulk 1935-1941)

Subtitle: Virginia State Library, State Librarian, Office of the,

Collection: 50406

Author: Erin Faison

Publication Statement

Date: © 2012 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

Publisher: Library of Virginia

[Conditions of Use](#)

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from created in EAD by Erin Faison, 18 May 2012

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Accession Number

50406

Language

English

Creator

Office of the State Librarian

Extent

4.2 cu. ft. (13 boxes)

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

No acquisition information available, this collection was retroactively accessioned 4 May 2012.

Preferred Citation

Records Relating to the Construction of the Virginia State Library of the State Librarian, 1907-1941, Accession 50406, State Government Records Collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Historical Information

For many years, The Library of Virginia had no definitive home. Valuable early records were kept at Jamestown as early as 1676 and were then moved to the College of William and Mary for a brief period at the century's end. By 1780, extant records were moved to the Capitol in Richmond.

Coincidentally, in 1779, the Virginia General Assembly was presented among its legislation, "A Bill for Establishing a Public Library" drawn up by Thomas Jefferson. The bill provided for 2000 pounds yearly to be expended to maintain a State Library in Richmond. The facility was to be a reference library only without books being lent for home use. Perhaps ahead of its time, the bill failed to pass.

The Virginia State Library was created by an act passed by the General Assembly on January 23, 1823, to establish a public library with funds derived from the sale of William W. Hening's *THE STATUTES AT LARGE*. From 1823 to 1828, the Library was under the control of the governor and council. In 1828, the General Assembly created a joint committee on the library (located in a room in the southeastern corner of the Capitol) to oversee its administration. Use of the State Library was restricted to members of the state government in a policy that continued until at least 1856. The Secretary of the Commonwealth served ex officio as state librarian from 1832 to 1903.

The growth of the State Library was somewhat erratic. Book holdings increased from 1,313 in 1828 to 17,480 in 1856. Lack of funds and politics frequently intermingled to slow library development. General W.H. Richardson, State Librarian in 1852, became embroiled in an effort to remove him "to make way for some politician of democratic principles." At the close of Reconstruction, Dr. George William Bagby, then State Librarian, was terminated and his position abolished at the hands of Readjusters.

Eventually, on May 15, 1903, the General Assembly passed an act that created a library board to administer the library, authorized the deposit of public records in the library, provided for the publication of historical records by the library, and established a library fund for the purchase of books and private papers. The Library Board, which was responsible for naming the State Librarian, was itself appointed by the Board of Education. The General Assembly passed an act on March 29, 1944, transferring the power to appoint the Library Board to the governor.

While many public records somehow survived the Commonwealth's early years, many losses occurred due to fires, the ravages of war and negligence. When the library was moved, for example, in 1895 to a building separate from the Capitol, "chutes were constructed from the upper story of the Capitol to facilitate the delivery of books to the wagons of the junk dealer who had bought them." The move was poorly planned and the library's contents suffered great loss at the hands of those very authorities assigned to protect them.

The new facility quickly was found to be inadequate and efforts were made both in 1910 and 1920 to construct a proper building for the State Library and its collections. Ground was broken for a new facility on December 7, 1938. At last, on December 23, 1940, the newly completed Virginia State Library was opened to the public.

The Virginia State Library adopted the name, the Virginia State Library and Archives, in early 1987 to more adequately reflect its mission and purpose today. On July 1, 1994 the name was changed to The Library of Virginia, evocative of the Library of Congress. In 1997 the library moved to, its fourth and current location, the 800 block of East Broad Street.

The title of State Librarian has been held by: John Pendleton Kennedy (1903-1906), Henry Read McIlwaine (1907-1934), Wilmer L. Hall (1935-1947), Randolph W. Church (1948-1970), Donald R. Haynes (1971-1984), Ella Gaines Yates (1985-1990), Dr. John C. Tyson (1991-1994), Nolan T. Yelich (1995-2007), the current State

Librarian, Sandra Gioia Treadway, took office July 1, 2007.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of correspondence and subject files relating to the construction of the second Virginia State Library building, located at 1111 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23219. The bulk of the collection is correspondence relating to contracts between vendors engaged in the building process and Wilmer L. Hall, State Librarian and Secretary of the State Library Building Commission. The remainder of the collection is comprised of documents relating to the acquisition of the building site, the Federal Work Progress Administration, requirements for the new library, and blueprints illustrating various city, street, building and architectural plans.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series:

- Series I. Correspondence and Subject Files

Contents List

Series I. Correspondence and Subject Files, 1907-1941 (Bulk 1935-1941).

Boxes 1-13 (box)

Extent

Extent: 4.2 cu. ft. (13 boxes).

Arrangement

This series is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title.

A - General, 1936-1939.

Box 1

Folder 1

Architects, 1937-1939.

Box 1

Folder 2

Architects - Baskervill and Sons, 1936-1940.

Box 1

Folder 3

Architects - Carneal, Johnston & Wright, 1937-1941.

Box 1

Folder 4

Architects - Consultants, 1938.

Box 1

Folder 5

Architects - Githens & Keally, 1937-1941.

Box 1

Folder 6

Architects and Engineers, 1936-1939.

Box 1

Folder 7

Architects and Engineers - G.A. Peple, Jr., 1936-1941.

Box 2

Folder 1

Archives Division, 1915-1917; 1921; 1936.

Box 2

Folder 2

Archives Division Annex, 1927.

Box 2

Folder 3

Archives Division Annex - Addition, 1934-1936.

Box 2

Folder 4

Archives Division Annex - Air-conditioning: Carrier Blueprints, 1933-1936.

Box 2

Folder 5

Archives Division Annex - Construction, 1916-1928.

Box 2

Folder 6

Art Commission, 1937-1939.

Box 2

Folder 7

Attorney General, 1936-1939.

Box 2

Folder 8

B - General, 1936-1939.

Box 2

Folder 9

Building Site - Ford Lot, 1927-1938.

Box 2

Folder 10

Building Site - Ford Lot: Deeds, 1920-1938.

Box 2

Folder 11

Building Site - Ford Lot: Ordinances, resolutions, etc., 1921-1938.

Box 2

Folder 12

Building Site - Ford Lot: Transfer, 1922-1926.

Box 2

Folder 13

C - General, 1935-1941.

Box 2

Folder 14

Clerk of the Works and New Employees, 1939.

Box 2

Folder 15

Contracts - Aluminum Furniture, 1940-1941.

Box 2

Folder 16

Contracts - Architects and Engineers, 1938-1939.

Box 2

Folder 17

Contracts - Boilers and Stokers, 1939-1940.

Box 3

Folder 1

Contracts - Bronze Letters, 1940.

Box 3

Folder 2

Contracts - Carpets, 1940.

Box 3

Folder 3

Contracts - Central Power Plant, Piping and Auxiliaries, 1940-1941.

Box 3

Folder 4

Contracts - Chairs and Special Furniture, 1940.

Box 3

Folder 5

Contracts - Draperies, 1940.

Box 3

Folder 6

Contracts - Electrical Fitures, 1939-1940.

Box 3

Folder 7

Contracts - Electrical Installation, 1939-1940.

Box 3

Folder 8

Contracts - Excavations, 1938-1940.

Box 4

Folder 1

Contracts - Furniture and Equipment, 1940.

Box 4

Folder 2

Contracts - Furniture: Commercial, 1940.

Box 4

Folder 3

Contracts - Furniture: Miscellaneous, 1940.

Box 4

Folder 4

Contracts - Fire Extinguishers, 1940.

Box 4

Folder 5

Contracts - Fumigating Equipment, 1940-1941.

Box 4

Folder 6

Contracts - General, 1939-1942.

Box 4

Folder 7

Contracts - General: 1939 Prior Oct, 1939.

Box 4

Folder 8

Contracts - General: 1939 Oct-Dec, 1939.

Box 5

Folder 1

Contracts - General: Jan-Sept, 1940.

Box 5

Folder 2

Contracts - General: 1940 Oct - 1942 Apr, 1940-1942.

Box 5

Folder 3

Contracts - Generator, 1939.

Box 5

Folder 4

Contracts - Heating, Ventilation and Air-conditioning, 1939-1941.

Box 5

Folder 5

Contracts - Inscriptions, 1939-1940.

Box 6

Folder 1

Contracts - Insurance Certificates, 1939-1940.

Box 6

Folder 2

Contracts - Keying, 1938-1940.

Box 6

Folder 3

Contracts - Office Equipment, 1940.

Box 6

Folder 4

Contracts - Photographic Equipment, 1940.

Box 6

Folder 5

Contracts - Power Plant Addition, 1939-1940.

Box 6

Folder 6

Contracts - Screening, 1939.

Box 6

Folder 7

Contracts - Sewers, 1938-1940.

Box 6

Folder 8

Contracts - Stacks, 1939.

Box 7

Folder 1

Contracts - Steel Equipment, 1940.

Box 7

Folder 2

Contracts - Technical Equipment, 1940.

Box 7

Folder 3

Contracts - Tunnel Pipes, 1939-1940.

Box 7

Folder 4

Contracts - Tunnel System, 1939-1940.

Box 7

Folder 5

Contracts - Venetian Blinds, 1939-1940.

Box 7

Folder 6

Cornerstone, 1939-1941.

Box 7

Folder 7

Costs, 1936-1939.

Box 7

Folder 8

D - General, 1936-1939.

Box 8

Folder 1

Dedication and Invitations, 1941.

Box 8

Folder 2

Design - Exterior, 1940.

Box 8

Folder 3

E - General, 1937-1938.

Box 8

Folder 4

Equipment and Furniture, 1935-1940.

Box 8

Folder 5

Equipment and Furniture - Staff Suggestions, 1938.

Box 8

Folder 6

Expenditures, 1936 July-1938 June.

Box 8

Folder 7

Expenditures, 1938 July-1939 June.

Box 8

Folder 8

Expenditures, 1939 July-1940 Jan.

Box 8

Folder 9

Expenditures, 1940 Feb-June.

Box 9

Folder 1

Expenditures, 1940 July-Dec.

Box 9

Folder 2

Expenditures, 1941 Jan-1942.

Box 9

Folder 3

Expenditures - Consulting Architects, 1938-1941.

Box 9

Folder 4

Expenditures - Payments: Associated Architects, 1939-1941.

Box 9

Folder 5

Expenditures - Purchase Orders, 1938-1941.

Box 9

Folder 6

F - General, 1935-1938.

Box 10

Folder 1

Fireproofing, 1929.

Box 10

Folder 2

Friends, 1935.

Box 10

Folder 3

G - General, 1936-1938.

Box 10

Folder 4

H - General, 1935-1939.

Box 10

Folder 5

Inspections, 1938.

Box 10

Folder 6

Insurance, 1938-1941.

Box 10

Folder 7

J - General, 1936-1938.

Box 10

Folder 8

K - General, 1938.

Box 10

Folder 9

L - General, 1936-1938.

Box 10

Folder 10

Labor Controversies, 1939.

Box 10

Folder 11

Lecture Room, 1939.

Box 10

Folder 12

Legislation, 1932-1938.

Box 10

Folder 13

M - General, 1935-1939.

Box 10

Folder 14

Memorial Library Scheme, 1914-1921.

Box 10

Folder 15

Memorial Library Scheme - General, 1920-1924.

Box 10

Folder 16

Memorial Library Scheme - Meetings, 1921.

Box 10

Folder 17

Moving, 1932-1940.

Box 10

Folder 18

N - General, 1936-1937.

Box 10

Folder 19

Notes on 1892 library and exterior choices for 1939 library, 1914-1939.

Box 10

Folder 20

Notice Acceptance, 1938.

Box 10

Folder 21

P - General, 1935-1938.

Box 10

Folder 22

Photograph Room, 1938-1939.

Box 10

Folder 23

Pictures, Paintings and Murals - Floorplans, 1939-1940.

Box 11

Folder 1

Potential Building Sites, 1931-1936.

Box 11

Folder 2

Public Works Administration - Applications and Grants (1 of 2), 1938-1940.

Box 11

Folder 3

Public Works Administration - Applications and Grants (2 of 2), 1938-1940.

Box 11

Folder 4

Public Works Administration - Ford Lot, 1939.

Box 11

Folder 5

Publication, 1939.

Box 11

Folder 6

Publication Write-ups, 1940-1941.

Box 11

Folder 7

Proposed Requirements - Drafts, 1930-1938.

Box 11

Folder 8

R - General, 1936-1938.

Box 11

Folder 9

Requirements, 1936-1938.

Box 11

Folder 10

S - General, 1935-1940.

Box 12

Folder 1

State Library Building - 1892, 1933-1938.

Box 12

Folder 2

State Library Building - 1892: Space, 1919-1934.

Box 12

Folder 3

State Library Building - 1892: Strength, 1907-1932.

Box 12

Folder 4

T - General, 1936-1938.

Box 12

Folder 5

Telephone, 1940.

Box 12

Folder 6

U - General, 1936-1938.

Box 12

Folder 7

V - General, 1936-1938.

Box 12

Folder 8

W - General, 1935-1938.

Box 12

Folder 9

Oversize Materials - Blueprints, 1920-1940; undated.

Box 13