

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid 321.01

State Building Commission

Abstract: Records of the State Building Commission and its Bi-Partisan Advisory Board including minutes, construction and administrative records, correspondence, and reports, 1934-1942 (bulk dates, 1935-1941).

Extent: 2.2 cubic ft., (5.5 Hollinger boxes, 2 map cabinet folders).

Record Description: Paper, bound volumes, photographs, blueprints.

Alternative Formats: None.

Location: Missouri State Archives.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: Some records may contain blueprints of government buildings which are closed to the public. Blueprints are closed due to [RSMO 610.021 \(19\)](#). In such cases, staff will provide copies of records in an alternative format.

Publication Restrictions: Copyright is in the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [Date]; [Box and Folder] OR [Volume and Page]; [Series]; State Building Commission RG 321; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Agency transfer. Accession number: 88-175, 2022-0189 and earlier unrecorded accession.

Processing Information: Processing completed by Amy C. Nickless on 9/12/2023.

Historical and Biographical Notes

In the early 1930s, Missouri's state-supported institutions were in poor physical condition. Buildings offered little protection from disasters, were poorly heated and ventilated, and contained extremely limited facilities to handle the needs of the blind, poor, mentally ill, criminally maladjusted, and persons residing in both Eleemosynary (charity) and Penal Institutions.

This state of affairs became a major concern to Governor Guy B. Park. He requested the 57th General Assembly establish an amendment to the state constitution which would allocate funds to alleviate many of these problems. The funding for this project was derived from a grant provided by the Public Works Administration (PWA) of the federal government in the amount of \$3,378,000.00 to cover labor and materials required for the construction of public buildings. Additionally, the General Assembly agreed to contribute \$10 million of the \$15 million originally proposed by the Governor in the form of bonds which had to be approved by voters. Senate Joint and Concurrent Resolution No. 1 of 1933 was a referendum for an amendment to Article IV of the Constitution for authority to issue the bonds. This request and resolution would become Article IV, Section 44d after its May 15, 1934 ratification. Senate Bill No. 1, approved on January 9, 1934, provided for a board of commissioners to be created called the State Building Commission. Membership of the commission included the Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, and State Superintendent of Schools. The Governor was ex-officio chairman of the commission, and the commission elected one of its members as vice-chairman.

Since the commission members had numerous other duties to perform as elected state officials, the actual administration of the Building Commission was handled by the Bi-Partisan Advisory Board.

In 1945 the Missouri Department of Revenue was created as part of the 1945 Constitution. Under the newly created regulatory laws of the department, the State Building Commission was abolished and the Division of Public Buildings was created in its place. The custody and control of all records and property under the jurisdiction of the State Building Commission were transferred to the Division of Public Buildings. The Governor, Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor, and their successors in office constituted the Board of Public Buildings, which the Governor chaired and the Lieutenant Governor served as secretary. The Board of Public Buildings was rehomed to the Office of Administration as part of the 1973 reorganization of the state government and remains a function of this state agency.

The State Building Commission oversaw at least 41 projects, including new construction, building additions, and major repairs and renovations. These included three buildings at the Algoa Farms, a dormitory at the Carrollton Home for Children, a new unit at the Women's Penitentiary, 4 cottages and a heating plant at the Marshall State School and Hospital, and a recreation building at the Training School for Boys in Boonville. Other locations had even more extensive projects. The Chillicothe Home for Girls saw the addition of a receiving clinic, hospital, commissary building, and a cottage. At State Hospital Number 1 in Fulton seven buildings were added to its campus, including the Hospital for the Criminally Insane and the Hyde Building. State Hospital Number 4 in Farmington saw the most construction with nine new buildings, including a power plant, and additions to the Hall and Drum Building. Mt. Vernon saw the construction of a new power plant and additions to the Lloyd Building among its six projects. The State Penitentiary saw the addition of the Administration Building, a ward building, kitchen, and cafeteria.

Timeline

| Year | Event |
|------|--|
| 1933 | Governor Guy B. Park requested the 57th General Assembly establish an amendment to the state constitution which would allocate funds to alleviate poor physical conditions of the state's eleemosynary and penal institutions. This request became Senate Joint and Concurrent Resolution No. 1 which called for a . |
| 1934 | Senate Bill No. 1 provided for a Board of Commissioners to be created called the State Building Commission. This was approved by the General Assembly on January 9. |
| 1934 | Senate Joint and Concurrent Resolution No. 1 was ratified by the citizens of Missouri in the May 15 election. It became Article IV, Section 44d of the State Constitution. |
| 1935 | The State Building Commission held its first meeting on June 11. |
| 1945 | The 1945 Missouri Constitution abolished the State Building Commission. The same Constitution created the Department of Revenue, which contained the newly created Division of Public Buildings that included the former Commission's duties. |
| 1946 | The newly formed Division of Public Buildings began operations by July 1. |
| 1973 | The Division of Public Buildings became the Board of Public Buildings and was transferred to the Office of Administration as part of the reorganization of state government. |

Additional Descriptive Information

Bibliography

Laws of Missouri Passed at the Session of the Fifty-seventh General Assembly (Extra Session). Jefferson City, MO: Midland Printing Company, 1934.

Missouri Session Laws, 1824-Present. *Missouri State Archives*. Accessed September 11, 2023. <https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/molaws>.

Official Manual of the State of Missouri. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Secretary of State. Volumes 1909-1910 through 1999-2000.
<https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/bluebook/search>.

Related Material

RG003.38 [Guy Brasfield Park, 1933-1937](#)

Board of Public Buildings. Office of Administration. Accessed 9/5/2023.

<https://oa.mo.gov/commissioners-office/boards-and-commissions/board-public-buildings>.

- Modern organization that encompasses State Building Commission duties. Meeting minutes from 2012-present posted on website.

Series

The records are organized into the following series:

Administrative Files, 1934-1941
Construction Records, 1935-1941
Correspondence, 1935-1941
Minutes, 1934-1942
Reports, 1934-1936

Administrative Files, 1934-1941

Extent: .2 cubic ft. (1/2 Hollinger box) and 1 item in a map cabinet folder

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

The Administrative Files series includes contract extensions, bonds issues, PWA grants, and grant-related paperwork. Also included are two printed charts released June 27, 1936, entitled Record of the State Building Program: one chart covers Eleemosynary Institutions, the other Penal Institutions. These charts list all of the projects undertaken by the State Building Commission, and for each project: the estimated cost, the architect or engineer, development of plans, advertising and awarding, and construction.

M.C. stands for Map Cabinet. Substitute drawer for box.

Container List

| Box | Folder | Contents | Date |
|-----|--------|--|-------------|
| 3 | 7 | 1934 Grant Agreement Format | 1934 |
| 3 | 8 | Commendatory Resolution | April, 1941 |
| 3 | 9 | Extensions for Completing of Contracts | 1936-1937 |
| 3 | 10 | Extensions for Completing of Contracts | 1938-1939 |
| 3 | 11 | Funds of the State of Missouri Reports, Some Annotated | 1935-1941 |
| 3 | 12 | List of Employees and Their Roles | 1934-1936 |
| 3 | 13 | Locations of the State Building Commission Records | 1935 |
| 3 | 14 | Performance Contract Bonds | 1936-1939 |
| 1 | 1 | Record of the State Building Program Charts | 1935 |
| 8 | 1 | State Building Commission Projection Chart, 1935-1940 | 1935-1940 |
| 3 | 18 | Loose Item Separation Sheets | No Date |

Construction Records, 1935-1941

Extent: .4 cubic ft. (1 Hollinger box), 2 oversized volumes, and 2 map cabinet folders

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

The Construction Records series includes proposals, bids, construction plans, blueprints, and financial records of the State Building Commission. Financial records retained include several distribution lists, deductions from grant base sheets, and expenditures of the Commission. These tend to be summaries of monies spent and invested.

The “Project Ledger Bi-Partisan Advisory Board to the State Building Commission First Deficiency Act Program 1531-2-D” and “Project Register Bi-Partisan Advisory Board State Building Commission” break down the finances of each project. It is possible to see the total spent on the project, who the contractors and subcontractors were and amounts given to them, and when payments were made.

Also included are records related to the waterworks serving the State Capitol Complex found within the State Building Commission records.

Blueprints of government buildings are closed to the public due to [RSMO 610.021 \(19\)](#). In such cases, staff will provide copies of records in an alternative format.

M.C. stands for Map Cabinet. Substitute drawer for box.

Container List

| Box | Folder | Contents | Date |
|-----|--------|--|------------------|
| 3 | 15 | Certificate of Completion of Building Under State Building Program | 1938 |
| 3 | 16 | Works Progress Administration Report | May 6, 1937 |
| 3 | 17 | Contracts | 1935 |
| 4 | 1 | Contracts | 1936 |
| 4 | 2 | Contracts | 1937 |
| 4 | 3 | Contracts | 1939 |
| 4 | 4 | Cottage for Boys, State Home for Children in Carrollton Contract Extension | October 30, 1935 |
| 4 | 5 | Eleemosynary Institution Construction Account | 1938 |

| Box | Folder | Contents | Date |
|-----|--------|---|-------------------|
| 4 | 6 | Extension for Employee Dormitories at St. Joseph and Nevada, Addition to Lloyd Building, and Laundry Building at Mt. Vernon | 1935-1936 |
| 4 | 7 | Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works Division of Account | 1939 |
| 4 | 8 | Financial Records | 1935-1936 |
| 4 | 9 | Financial Records | 1938 |
| 4 | 10 | Financial Records | 1940-1941 |
| 1 | 1 | Financial Records Oversized | 1940-1941 |
| 4 | 11 | Financial Records | 1941 |
| 4 | 12 | Grant Registration from the Bi-Partisan Advisory Board | 1937-1940 |
| 1 | 1 | Grant Registration from the Bi-Partisan Advisory Board Oversized | 1937-1940 |
| 4 | 13 | Industrial Home for Girls at Chillicothe Receiving Clinic Building and Four Dormitories at Algoa Farms Contract Extension | 1935 |
| 4 | 14 | Laundry Equipment and Hospital Building State Penitentiary Proposal | February 17, 1939 |
| 4 | 15 | Partial Documentation Pertaining to Works Progress Administration Conferences and Expediting Power Plants | No Date |
| 1 | 2 | Prison Power Plant Blueprints (Restricted) | August 17, 1939 |
| 4 | 16 | Proposal for Fabricating and Furnishing Bronze Tablets (State Building Commission Plaques on State Building Commission Buildings) | April 29, 1939 |
| 1 | 2 | Proposal for Fabricating and Furnishing Bronze Tablets (State Building Commission Plaques on State Building Commission Buildings) Oversized | April 29, 1939 |
| 4 | 17 | Requests for Plans and Specifications | 1938-1940 |
| 4 | 18 | Specification for Water Works System for the State of Missouri (Restricted) | January, 1940 |
| 4 | 19 | State Capitol Waterworks Final Release Paperwork | August, 1940 |

| Box | Folder | Contents | Date |
|------------|---------------|--|-------------------|
| 4 | 20 | Summary of Change Docket 5131 (MO) as of June 1937 | June, 1937 |
| 4 | 21 | Water Works System for the State of Missouri | February 17, 1939 |
| 1 | 2 | Water Works System for the State of Missouri Oversized (Restricted) | February 17, 1939 |
| | | Project Ledger Bi-Partisan Advisory Board to the State Building Commission First Deficiency Act Program 1531-2-D | 1937-1940 |
| | | Project Register Bi-Partisan Advisory Board State Building Commission | 1935-1940 |
| 4 | 22 | Oversized Items | No Date |

Correspondence, 1935-1941

Extent: .2 cubic ft. (1/2 Hollinger box)

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

The Correspondence series includes correspondence from the Commission, Bi-Partisan Advisory Board, and contractors. The 1938 correspondence is full of assorted payment disputes. There was also a dispute regarding the integrity of the boiler at State Hospital #3 in Nevada Missouri constructed by the Murray Iron Works and all related material, invoice included, was retained.

Container List

| Box | Folder | Contents | Date |
|-----|--------|--------------------------|------------|
| 5 | 1 | 1937 | 1937 |
| 5 | 2 | 1940-1941 | 1940-1941 |
| 5 | 3 | 1941 | 1941 |
| 5 | 4 | Correspondence on Bids | 1935 |
| 5 | 5 | Financial Correspondence | 1935-1936 |
| 5 | 6 | General Correspondence | 1935, 1941 |

Minutes, 1934-1942

Extent: 1 cubic ft. (2.5 Hollinger boxes) and 4 oversized volumes

Arrangement: Alphabetical by organization, then chronological

Scope and Content

The Minutes series contains two types of minutes, the State Building Commission and the Bi-Partisan Advisory Board.

The State Building Commission Minutes contain a summary of contents on the cover page for the meeting. Minutes often include signed resolutions regarding awarding of contracts, acceptance of bids, and other related topics. Included in the minutes are the Performance Contract Bonds and the Labor Bonds for all contractors and firms involved in the building projects. Minutes are missing from July, 1941 through April, 1942 and August, 1942 through the dissolution of the Commission.

The Bi-Partisan Advisory Board Minutes, which are labeled the Bi-Partisan Advisory Board Reports to the State Building Commission, provide in-depth summaries regarding many construction and upgrade projects carried out under the auspices of the State Building Commission. These were reported to the State Building Commission by the Bi-Partisan Advisory Board at selected meetings of the State Building Commission between 1936 and 1939.

There are also two sets of minutes covering joint meetings of the State Building Commission and the Bi-Partisan Advisory Board that occurred in May, 1937.

Both the State Building Commission and the Bi-Partisan Advisory Board have loose and bound minutes. The bound minutes contain additional meetings not included in the loose minutes. There are also slight variations between the two sets of minutes. The signed sets of minutes also vary between being included in the bound and loose minutes.

Container List

| Box | Folder | Contents | Date |
|-----|--------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Bi-Partisan Advisory Board | July 2-December 20, 1935 |
| 1 | 2 | Bi-Partisan Advisory Board | January 15-June 29, 1936 |
| 1 | 3 | Bi-Partisan Advisory Board Index | July 2, 1935-June 29, 1936 |
| 1 | 4 | Bi-Partisan Advisory Board | July 14-December 5, 1936 |
| 1 | 5 | Bi-Partisan Advisory Board | 1937 |

| Box | Folder | Contents | Date |
|------------|---------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 6 | Bi-Partisan Advisory Board | February-June, 1938 |
| 1 | 7 | Bi-Partisan Advisory Board | July-December, 1938 |
| 1 | 8 | Bi-Partisan Advisory Board | April, 1939 |
| 1 | 9 | Joint State Building Commission and Bi-Partisan Advisory Board | May 6-13, 1937 |
| 1 | 10 | State Building Commission | June-December, 1934 |
| 1 | 11 | State Building Commission | January-June, 1935 |
| 2 | 1 | State Building Commission | July-December, 1935 |
| 2 | 2 | State Building Commission | January-June, 1936 |
| 2 | 3 | State Building Commission | July-December, 1936 |
| 2 | 4 | State Building Commission | January-June, 1937 |
| 2 | 5 | State Building Commission | July-December, 1937 |
| 2 | 6 | State Building Commission | January-June, 1938 |
| 2 | 7 | State Building Commission | July-December, 1938 |
| 3 | 1 | State Building Commission | January-June, 1939 |
| 3 | 2 | State Building Commission | July-December, 1939 |
| 3 | 3 | State Building Commission | January-June, 1940 |
| 3 | 4 | State Building Commission | July-December, 1940 |
| 3 | 5 | State Building Commission | January-June, 1941 |
| 3 | 6 | State Building Commission | May-June, 1942 |
| | | State Building Commission Minutes Volume 1 | June, 1934-June, 1937 |
| | | State Building Commission Minutes Volume 2 | July, 1937-May, 1941 |
| | | Bi-Partisan Advisory Committee Volume 1 | June, 1934-September, 1937 |
| | | Bi-Partisan Advisory Committee Volume 2 | September, 1937-April, 1939 |

Reports, 1934-1936

Extent: .4 cubic ft. (1 Hollinger box)

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

The Reports series contains three reports issued by the State Building Commission. The 1935 report contains photos of all projects and reports about each project.

Container List

| Box | Folder | Contents | Date |
|-----|--------|--|-------------------|
| 5 | 7 | Report No. 1 (2 copies) | December 31, 1934 |
| 5 | 8 | Report No. 2 (2 copies) | December 31, 1936 |
| 6 | 1-5 | Reports of the Missouri State Building commission and Bi-Partisan Advisory Board (includes photos) | January 9, 1935 |
| 6 | | Reports of the Missouri State Building commission and Bi-Partisan Advisory Board (bound volume; includes photos) | January 9, 1935 |