

Records of the U.S. House of Representatives
RG.233.34.House
34th Congress

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Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	House Records of the 34th Congress
Date [inclusive]	1855-1857
Extent	56.0 Linear feet
Language	English

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Conditions Governing Access note

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules:

(b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

Collection Inventory

Records of Legislative Proceedings 1855-1857

Minute Book and Journals 1855-1857 1.0 Linear feet (4 volumes)

Scope and Contents note

The minute book and journals series includes a minute book, 1st, 2d, and 3d sessions (34A–A1); and a legislative journal, 1st and 2d sessions (34A–A2) and 3d session (34A–A3).

Arrangement note

The volumes are arranged chronologically.

Bills and Resolutions Originating in the House 1855-1857 7.0 Linear feet

Scope and Contents note

The bills and resolutions originating in the House include original House bills and bills upon which further action was taken (34A–B1); original House joint resolutions and joint resolutions upon which further action was taken (34A–B2); House simple resolutions, motions, and orders (34A–B3); 5 volumes of engrossed House bills and resolutions (34A–B4); and House bills based upon reports from the Court of Claims (34A–B5).

Arrangement note

The bills and resolutions originating in the House are arranged numerically within each group, except 34A–B3, which is arranged chronologically.

Committees

Committees 1855-1857 18.0 Linear feet

Committee on Accounts 1855-1857 1.0 Linear feet (4 volumes)

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Accounts was created on December 27, 1803, and was made a standing committee in 1805. Its jurisdiction covered all subjects "touching the expenditure of the contingent fund of the House, [and] the auditing and settling of all accounts which may be charged therein to the House." In addition, the committee was responsible for the accountability of officers of the House, the procurement of rooms for the use of House committees and for the Speaker, and for recommending and authorizing the employment of such persons as stenographers, reporters of debates, janitors, and clerks and staff assistants for committees, members and senators. The Committee on Accounts existed from 1803-1946, and later was incorporated into the Committee on House Administration.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Accounts include a claim of John L. Wirt, who was wounded while on duty as a policeman at the Capitol (34A-D1.1).

Committee on Agriculture 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Agriculture was created on May 3, 1820, to provide a forum for the interests of the large agricultural population of the country. The committee's jurisdiction includes adulteration of seeds, insect pests, and protection of birds and animals in forest reserves; agriculture generally; agricultural and industrial chemistry; agricultural colleges and experiment stations; agricultural

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economics and research; agricultural education extension services; agricultural production and marketing and stabilization of prices of agricultural products, and commodities (not including distribution outside of the United States); animal industry and diseases of animals; commodity exchanges; crop insurance and soil conservation; dairy industry; entomology and plant quarantine; extension of farm credit and farm security; inspection of livestock, poultry, meat products, and seafood and seafood products; and forestry in general and forest reserves other than those created from the public domain. The committee has oversight over the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Committee on Agriculture consist of a report on the establishment of a Department of Agriculture (34A–D2.1); and a docket volume, 32d Congress, 1st session, to 34th Congress, 3d session (32A–D1.1).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Agriculture include documentation of Lt. M. F. Maury's system of meteorological observation for the benefit of agriculture (34A–G1.1) and various subjects (34A–G1.2).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Claims 1855-1857

Committees

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Claims is one of the oldest standing committees in the House of Representatives. It was established on November 13, 1794, having been preceded by Select Committees on Claims. The committee was to consider all petitions and matters or things touching on claims and demands on the United States and report appropriations of money for payment of claims it had authorized. Originally the Committee on Claims had jurisdiction over Revolutionary War and land claims as well as pensions. In the years that followed, other committees were created to handle special types of claims such as war claims, pensions, and private land claims. Under the 1880 revised House Rules, subjects relating to "private and domestic claims and demands other than war claims against the United States" were to be referred to the Claims Committee. At the end of the 79th Congress the committee was abolished under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, and jurisdiction over the subjects that had formerly been referred to it was transferred either to the Judiciary Committee or the executive departments.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Claims include claims (34A-D3.1), arranged alphabetically. There are also a volume of minutes, 34th Congress, 1st session, to 39th Congress, 1st session (34A-D3.2); a docket volume (34A-D3.3); and a letter book, 25th Congress, 2d session, to 35th Congress, 1st session (25A-D3.6).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Claims include claims (34A-G2.1).

Arrangement note

Committees

The claims are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Commerce 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Commerce was established in 1819 as a result of the split of the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures (1795-1819). The jurisdiction of the Committee on Commerce was regulation of both interstate and foreign commerce; customs collection districts, ports of entry, and ports of delivery; compensation of customhouse officials; regulations and appropriations regarding navigable waters and works affecting them, such as bridges, locks, dams, tunnels, pipes, and cribs; obstructions to navigation, such as sunken vessels; lighthouses and other aids to navigation; interoceanic canals; ocean cables; lifesaving stations; public health and the prevention of infectious diseases; purity of food and drugs; regulations regarding the exportation of livestock and foodstuffs; transportation of livestock; and the regulation of railroads. Besides the Lifesaving Service, the committee exercised jurisdiction over matters relating to such Federal agencies as the Revenue-Cutter Service; the Marine Hospital Service; and the Interstate Commerce Commission. In 1892, the Committee on Commerce became part of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Commerce document claims (34A-D4.1); breakwaters (34A-D4.2); controversy over the printing of Department of State commercial relations information (34A-D4.3); customhouses and other public buildings (34A-D4.4); foreign regulation of commerce (34A-D4.5); improvement in the method of attaching ship propellers (34A-D4.6); marine hospitals (34A-D4.7); quarantine warehouses at Staten Island, N. Y. (34A-D4.8); river, harbor, and canal surveys and improvements (34A-D4.9); safety of passengers aboard steam vessels (34A-D4.10); and various subjects (34A-D4.11). There is also a docket volume (34A-D4.12).

Committees

Arrangement note

The committee reports and papers are arranged chronologically within each group, except 34A–D4.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Commerce document an apprenticeship in the merchant ship service (34A–G3.1); beacons, buoys, lighthouses, and light-vessels (34A–G3.2); claims (34A–G3.3), arranged alphabetically by petitioner; courthouses, custom–houses, and post offices (34A–G3.4); fishing bounties (34A–G3.5); harbors (34A–G3.6); marine hospitals (34A–G3.7); marine signal codes and signal stations (34A–G3.8); rivers and channels (34A–G3.9); steamboat law of 1852 (34A–G3.10); steamship safety devices (34A–G3.11); warehouses and wharves at U.S. quarantine stations (34A–G3.12); and various subjects (34A–G3.13).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on the District of Columbia 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on the District of Columbia was established on January 27, 1808. The committee's duty was to consider all petitions and memorials relating to the affairs of the District of Columbia referred to them by the House. Jurisdiction consisted of various municipal concerns of the District of Columbia including those involving streets, schools and teachers, railroads, police and fire departments, claims against the District Government, insurance, taxes, health and safety, liquor sales, incorporation of organizations and societies, and other matters that were the normal concerns

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of city and State governments. Since its creation the committee has shared jurisdiction on District concerns with other committees, and in particular with the Committees on Education and Labor, Interior, Banking and Currency, Judiciary, and Public Works. The committee was known as the Committee on the District of Columbia from 1801-1995. The committee was split and absorbed by subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations and by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on the District of Columbia include claims (34A-D5.1); judicial expenses of the District of Columbia (34A-D5.2); relocation of the Potomac bridge (34A-D5.3); and the Washington Aqueduct (34A-D5.4).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, except 34A-D5.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia document bridges (34A-G4.1); fire prevention (34A-G4.2); the Mutual Gas Light Co. (34A-G4.3); schools (34A-G4.4); slavery in the District (34A-G4.5); streets and avenues (34A-G4.6) suffrage and election laws (34A-G4.7); and various subjects (34A-G4.8).

Arrangement note

Committees

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Elections 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Elections was established as the first standing committee of the U.S. House of Representatives to perform this function on April 13, 1789. The jurisdiction of the committee was to examine and report on the certificates of election and other election credentials, as well as election returns and proceedings for elections of House Members, and to contest elections of Members where these credentials and election proceedings were not deemed valid. The committee was known as the Committee on Elections from 1789 until 1895, when it was split into three separate election committees.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Allen, James Cameron, 1822-1912
- Fuller, Thomas James Duncan, 1808-1876
- Gallegos, José Manuel, 1815-1875
- Hall, Augustus, 1814-1861
- Ingersoll, C. J. (Charles Jared), 1782-1862
- Marshall, Samuel Scott, 1821-1890
- Otero, Miguel Antonio, 1829-1882
- Reeder, Andrew H. (Andrew Horatio), 1807-1864

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Elections include a claim of C. J. Ingersoll of Pennsylvania in connection with his contested election of the 26th Congress (34A–D6.1); and the contested election cases of W. B. Archer v. James C. Allen, Illinois (34A–D6.2); Hiram P. Bennett v. Bird B. Chapman, Nevada Territory (34A–D6.3); R. L. B. Clark v. Augustus Hall, Iowa (34A–D6.4); James A. Milliken v. T. J. D. Fuller, Maine (34A–D6.5); Miguel A. Otero v. Jose M. Gallegos, New Mexico Territory (34A–D6.6); Andrew H. Reeder v. John W. Whitefield, Kansas Territory (34A–D6.7); and L. J. S. Turney v. Samuel S. Marshall, Illinois (34A–D6.8). There is also a volume of minutes, 34th Congress, 1st session, to 39th Congress, 2d session (34A–D6.9).

Arrangement note

The committee reports and papers are arranged by subject, except a volume of minutes, which is arranged chronologically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Elections document various subjects (34A–G5.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Foreign Affairs 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Foreign Affairs gained status as a standing committee of the House of Representatives in 1822, however, its antecedents date as far back as 1775 when the Continental

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Congress established a committee to correspond with friends abroad. The jurisdiction of the committee includes relations of the United States with foreign nations generally; acquisition of land and buildings for embassies and legations in foreign countries; establishment of boundary lines between the United States and foreign nations; export controls, including nonproliferation of nuclear technology and nuclear hardware; foreign loans; international commodity agreements (other than those involving sugar), including all agreements for cooperation in the export of nuclear technology and nuclear hardware; international conferences and congresses; international education; intervention abroad and declarations of war; diplomatic service; measures to foster commercial intercourse with foreign nations and to safeguard American business interests abroad; international economic policy; neutrality; protection of American citizens abroad and expatriation; the American National Red Cross; trading with the enemy; and United Nations organizations. The committee has oversight over the U.S. Department of State.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Foreign Affairs include claims (34A–D7.1), arranged alphabetically; and a printed copy of Regulations for the Consular Courts of the United States in China (34A–D7.2). There is also a docket volume, 34th Congress, 1st session, to 35th Congress, 2d session (34A–D7.3).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs include claims (34A–G6.1); French spoliation claims (34A–G6.2); settlement of disputes between nations (34A–G6.3); and various subjects (34A–G6.4).

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Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, while the records in 34A–G6.1 and 34A–G6.2 are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Indian Affairs 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Indian Affairs was established on December 17, 1821, with jurisdiction over subjects pertaining to Native Americans. Select committees to consider matters of Native Americans existed for several years before the creation of the standing committee. Among the matters referred to the committee were subjects relating to the care, education, and management of Native Americans and of their lands; the adjudication and payment of Indian depredation claims; bonds and stocks that had been part of Indian trust funds; adjudication of claims of Indians against the United States; the use and management of Native American funds; and the business and government of the Native American tribes. From 1885 until 1920, the committee exercised jurisdiction over appropriations relating to Native Americans. The Committee on Indian Affairs was abolished under the provisions of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Its jurisdiction and responsibilities were transferred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Indian Affairs document claims (34A–D8.1); an appropriation to fulfill stipulations of Sioux treaty negotiated by General Harney (34A–D8.2); Indian Agency of the Upper Missouri (34A–D8.3); pension laws for Cherokee Indians (34A–D8.4); promotion of the civilization of the Indians (34A–D8.5); and tribal reservations (34A–D8.6).

Arrangement note

Committees

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 34A–D8.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs include claims (34A–G7.1); and land patents and titles (34A–G7.2).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, except 34A-G7.1, which is arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Invalid Pensions 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Invalid Pensions was created on January 10, 1831, with jurisdiction over matters relating to pensions for disabled veterans. Originally, the jurisdiction of the committee included pensions from the War of 1812. The committee had become so overburdened with pensions from the Civil War, that on March 26, 1867, jurisdiction for pensions from the War of 1812 was transferred to the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions. Subsequently, jurisdiction of the Committee on Invalid Pensions included only matters relating to pensions of the Civil War, with the committee reporting general and special bills authorizing payments of pensions and bills for relief of soldiers of that war.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Committees

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Invalid Pensions include claims (34A–D9.1), arranged alphabetically. There is also a docket volume (34A–D9.2),

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions document various subjects (34A–G8.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on the Judiciary 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The standing Committee on the Judiciary was established on June 3, 1813, to take into consideration matters touching judicial proceedings. In 1880 the rule defining its jurisdiction was revised to read "judicial proceedings, civil and criminal law," and this remained the formal definition of the jurisdiction of the committee until the reorganization of Congress in 1946. The committee's jurisdiction includes judiciary and judicial proceedings, civil and criminal; administrative practice and procedure; apportionment of Representatives; bankruptcy, mutiny, espionage, and counterfeiting; civil liberties; constitutional amendments; criminal law enforcement; Federal courts and judges, and local courts in the Territories and possessions; immigration policy and nonborder enforcement; interstate compacts generally; claims against the United States; meetings of Congress; attendance of Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner; and their acceptance of incompatible offices; National penitentiaries; patents, the Patent and Trademark Office, copyrights, and trademarks; Presidential succession; protection of trade and commerce against unlawful

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restraints and monopolies; revision and codification of the Statutes of the United States; state and territorial boundary lines; and subversive activities affecting the internal security of the United States. The committee has oversight over the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on the Judiciary include claims (34A–D10.1); accounts between the United States and the State of Mississippi (34A–D10.2); court and post office accommodations in Maryland (34A–D10.3); laws regulating the compensation of Members of Congress (34A–D10.4); and various subjects (34A–D10.5). There is also a docket volume (34A–D10.6).

Arrangement note

The committee reports and papers are arranged chronologically within each group, except 34A–D10.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary document courthouses, court terms, judicial districts, and court employees (34A–G9.1); expulsion of the Hon. P. S. Brooks and the Hon. Anson Burlingame from the House of Representatives (34A–C19.2); judicial decisions of Judge John K. Kane of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (34A–G9.3); judgments, civil and military (34A–G9.4); official chaplains (34A–G9.5); the Presidency and direct election (34A–G9.6); private claims (34A–G9 .7); slavery (34A–G9.8); and various subjects (34A–G9.9).

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Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, except 34A-G9.7, which is arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Mileage 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The jurisdiction of the Committee on Mileage is described in Rule XI: "The ascertaining of the travel of Members of the House shall be made by the Committee on Mileage and reported to the Sergeant at Arms." The committee was an outgrowth of the Committee on Accounts which originally was charged with the audit of Members' mileage. In 1927 the Committee on Mileage was discontinued and these duties were returned to the Accounts Committee. In addition to determining the travel expenses of Members, the committee reported on bills, resolutions, and petitions and memorials related to this subject. The records of the committee include petitions from groups of citizens praying that the per diem and travel expenses of Members be reduced, and resolutions to devise better methods of calculating mileage.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Mileage document various subjects (34A-D11.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Committees

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Mileage include documentation on the mileage of Members of Congress (34A–G10.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Military Affairs 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

A succession of House select committees considered legislation on military affairs from 1811 until 1822, when the House established a standing Committee on Military Affairs. The jurisdiction of the committee included appropriation bills covering the military establishment, the public defense, and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. The committee reported the military appropriation bills until 1920, when that power was transferred to the Appropriations Committee. Jurisdiction of the committee also included the establishment and care of national cemeteries and battlefields; acquisition and conveyance of lands for military reservations and improvements upon such grounds; disposition of war trophies and distribution of obsolete weapons and armament; conduct of joint operations of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps; and promotion of military aviation and Army aeronautics. The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 abolished the Committee on Military Affairs and transferred its jurisdiction to the newly-created Armed Services Committee.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Military Affairs include claims (34A–D12.1); expenditures for Indian wars in 1855 and 1856, in the Territories of Oregon and

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Washington (34A–D12.2); military road and bridge construction (34A–D12.3); and various subjects (34A–D12.4). There is also a volume of minutes, 34th Congress, 1st session, to 36th Congress, 2d session (34A–D12.5); and a docket volume (34A–D12.6).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 34A–D12.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs document claims (34A–G11.1); an ordnance (34A–G11.2); and various subjects (34A–G11.3).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Naval Affairs 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

In 1822, the standing Committee on Naval Affairs was created. The jurisdiction of the committee included consideration of all matters which concerned the naval establishment, the increase or reduction of commissioned officers and enlisted men, and their pay and allowances and the increase of ships or vessels of all classes of the Navy. Other subjects under the committee's expanded jurisdiction pertained to naval and marine aeronautics; the construction of aircraft carriers for the Navy; the acquisition of sites for naval facilities; the establishment, construction, improvement, and maintenance of such facilities; the authorization of special decorations, orders, medals, and other

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insignia for naval personnel; the acceptance of offices and emoluments from foreign governments; claims of personnel and civilian employees of the Navy; and legislation relating to the Coast Guard, the Marine Corps, the Marine Band, the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve, the Naval Observatory, and the Coast and Geodetic Survey. The committee was abolished under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and its jurisdiction transferred to the Armed Services Committee.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Naval Affairs document claims (34A–D13.1); stationing of an armed steamer on the northwest coast (34A–D13.2); report of naval officers on the merits of the electric arc light (34A–D13.3); and navy yards, depots, and drydocks (34A–D13.4).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 34A–D13.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs include claims (34A–G12.1); a reinstatement into the Navy (34A–G12.2); and various subjects (34A–G12.3).

Arrangement note

Committees

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, except 34A-G12.1, which is arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Patents 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The standing Committee on Patents was established in 1837. Jurisdiction of the committee included patent, copyright, and trademark laws and revision of such laws; the jurisdiction of courts in patent cases; the counterfeiting of trademarks; and the Patent Office and its affairs. Private legislation, usually initiated in response to petition, was an important part of the work of the committee, especially between 1840 and 1890. Relief was sought by inventors for whom protection was not provided in the existing patent law (such as aliens and government employees) and by patentees who requested extensions on patents because they had not profited sufficiently during the period provided by the original patent. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the Judiciary Committee absorbed the jurisdiction of the Committee on Patents.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Patents include a claim of Cyrus Buckland for improvement in the manufacture of firearms at Government armories (34A-D14.1); the Hayward patent for india rubber (34A-D14.2); the Emmons and Woodworth patents for wood-planing machines (34A-D14.3); the Adams patent for printing press improvements (34A-D14.4); and various subjects (34A-D14.5).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committees

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Patents contain the Adams patent for a printing press (34A–G13.1); the Hayward patent for the manufacture of india rubber (34A–G13.2); the McCormick patent for reaping and mowing machines (34A–G13.3); the Sickels patent for regulating the valves of steam engines (34A–G13.4); the Woodworth patent for a planing machine (34A–G13.5); and various subjects (34A–G13.6).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

A Select Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads was established in 1806 and made a standing committee in 1808. The jurisdiction of the committee extended to all proposed legislation relating to the carrying of the mails, both foreign and domestic. It included the determination of the location, construction, and maintenance of post offices and post roads; the acquisition, lease, or transfer of realty or facilities for postal purposes; and certain aspects of the employment and management of postal employees, such as the pay and leave of letter carriers, and the settlement of claims brought by employees or contractors. Also included was the regulation of the Postal Service, including postal rates, the franking privilege, and the printing of stamped envelopes. At various times, the Railway Mail Service, ocean mail service, pneumatic tube service, postal savings banks, postal telegraphy, the Air Mail Service, and Rural Free Delivery were included in its jurisdiction. As part of its responsibility, the committee investigated the management of postal facilities, contracts for carrying the mail, and other subjects such as the forgery of postal money orders. In 1885 the jurisdiction of the committee was expanded to include appropriation authority and prepared Post

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Office appropriations bills from that time until 1920 when the authority was revoked under a rule change. The committee functioned until 1946 when its jurisdiction was included in that of the new Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Post Office and Post Roads document claims (34A–D15.1); an atmospheric telegraph (34A–D15.2); mail steamers (34A–D15.3); mail routes (34A–D15.4); and various subjects (34A–D15.5). There is also a docket volume (34A–D15.6).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 34A–D15.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Post Office and Post Roads document claims (34A–G14.1); mail steamers (34A–G14.2); postal reforms and postal rates (34A–G14.3); post offices, customhouses, and courthouses (34A–G14.4); post roads (34A–G14.5); and various subjects (34A–G14.6).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, except 34A-G14.1, which is arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committees

Committee on Printing 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Printing was established in 1846 and its jurisdiction included all proposed legislation or orders involving printing. In practice this included the general supervision of the printing, management, and policies of the Government Printing Office (GPO). Jurisdiction also occasionally included the pay of its employees; the letting of contracts; procurement of suitable paper; control of the arrangement, style, bulk, and indexing of the "Congressional Record"; and supervision of the printing of the "Congressional Directory." The committee reported bills and resolutions regarding the printing, binding, and distribution of public documents, including the annual reports of executive agencies, bureaus, and commissions; messages of the President; special scientific studies and reports; public health reports and statements; historical documentary publications such as the "Territorial Papers of the United States"; and hearings of congressional committees. The Committee on Printing acted as a standing committee of the House until 1947 when it was incorporated into the House Administration Committee.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Printing document various subjects (34A-D16.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Committee on Private Land Claims 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

Committees

The Committee on Private Land Claims was established on April 29, 1816. The committee reported general as well as special legislation relating to the settlement of individual claims to public lands. It has reported bills to establish a land court to provide for the judicial investigation and settlement of private land claims in certain states and territories. The committee was abolished in 1911 along with several other committees that had suffered from diminished legislative activity. Jurisdiction was later transferred to the Judiciary Committee.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Private Land Claims document various subjects (34A–D17.1) and are arranged alphabetically. There is also a docket volume (34A–D17.2).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Private Land Claims document various subjects (34A–G15.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

Committees

The standing Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds was established in 1837, replacing the Select Committee on Public Buildings which was created in 1819. The committee's jurisdiction included the construction throughout the country of public buildings, documenting customs houses, post offices, and federal court houses; the erection of monuments and memorials; the purchase of property for public use; improvements to public property; and compensation for workers erecting public buildings. During the early years of the committee, much of the legislation reported had to do with constructing and improving public buildings in Washington, D.C., and commissioning artists to create art work for those buildings. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds became part of the Committee on Public Works.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds include claims (34A–G16.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Public Lands 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Public Lands was established in 1805 and given jurisdiction over matters relating to the lands of the United States. Jurisdiction of the committee included the sale and settlement of public lands, land claims, minerals and waters on public lands, irrigation, forest reserves and game living in them, national parks, conservation, land grants, foreign ownership of land, and administration of the lands of the public domain. The establishment of a land court and to provide for the judicial investigation and settlement of private land claims in certain states and territories was also part of the committee's jurisdiction. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946,

Committees

the committees on Indian Affairs; Territories, Mines and Mining; Irrigation and Reclamation; and Insular Affairs were abolished and their jurisdictions were combined with those of the Committee on Public Lands. On February 2, 1951, the name of the committee was changed to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to more accurately reflect the full scope of its jurisdiction.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Public Lands document claims (34A–D18.1); railroads (34A–D18.2); schools and school lands (34A–D18.3); and various subjects (34A–D18.4). There are also a volume of minutes, 34th Congress, 1st session, to 38th Congress, 2d session (34A–D18.5); and a docket volume (34A–D18.6).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 34A–D18.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Public Lands document claims (34A–G17.1); land laws in respect to bounty, graduation, and redemption (34A–G17.2); land offices and districts (34A–G17.3); railroads and rivers (34A–G17.4); schools and school lands (34A–G17.5); swamplands (34A–G17.6); and various subjects (34A–G17.7).

Arrangement note

Committees

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, except 34A-G17.1, which is arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Revolutionary Claims 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims was created in 1825 to handle part of the jurisdiction of the Pensions and Revolutionary War Claims Committee (1813-1825) which had been abolished. The committee had jurisdiction over all such petitions and matters on claims or demands originating in the Revolutionary War or arising therefrom, as shall be presented, or shall or may come in question and be referred to them by the House; and to report their opinion thereupon, together with such propositions for relief as to them shall seem expedient. The jurisdiction of the committee remained unchanged until the committee was abolished in 1873 and the jurisdiction assigned to the Committee on War Claims.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Revolutionary Claims include claims (34A-D19.1), and a docket volume (34A-D19.2).

Arrangement note

The claims are arranged alphabetically, and the docket volume is arranged chronologically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Claims contain various subjects (34A–G18.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Revolutionary Pensions 1855-1857**Biographical/Historical note**

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions was created in 1831 to administer the part of the jurisdiction of the defunct Committee on Military Pensions (1825-1831) that included all matters respecting pensions for services in the Revolutionary War, other than invalid pensions. In 1867, in order to reduce the workload of the Invalid Pensions Committee, the committee's jurisdiction was expanded to include the pension matters of soldiers who fought in the War of 1812. The committee was abolished in 1880 and jurisdiction was referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857**Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions contain claims (34A–D20.1); a report on amendment of the pension laws (34A–D20.2); and a docket volume (34A–D20.3).

Arrangement note

The claims are arranged alphabetically, and the docket volume is arranged chronologically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Committees

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions document various subjects (34A–G19.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Roads and Canals 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Roads and Canals originated as a Select Committee on Roads and Canals in 1815. In 1831, the House established it as a standing committee. Jurisdiction of the committee included legislation on the survey, construction, and improvement of canals within the United States, as well as a canal across the Isthmus of Panama. The committee's jurisdiction also included improvements in river navigation, construction of bridges over rivers, maintenance of breakwaters and harbors associated with water routes, and the subscription of the United States to capital stock in canal companies. The committee reported proposals for the construction of roads, such as the Cumberland Road and a Columbus and Sandusky Turnpike, and methods of financing them, primarily through land-grants. The committee also reported legislation to aid the construction of railroads including the granting of charters to railroad companies. In 1869 the House approved a motion to change the name of the committee to the Committee on Railways and Canals.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Roads and Canals contains a docket volume for the 1st session (34A– D21.1).

Arrangement note

Committees

The docket volume is arranged chronologically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Roads and Canals document the construction of a Pacific railroad (34A–G20.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on the Territories 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on the Territories was established in 1825 to examine the legislative, civil, and criminal proceedings of the territories, and to devise and report to the House opinions necessary to secure the rights and privileges of residents and non-residents. The committee also reported legislation concerning the structure, status, and power of the territorial governments; statehood; powers of municipalities; boundary disputes; and on matters relating to public lands and homesteading, railroads, public works, public buildings, highways, taxation, bond issues, education, Indians, prohibition, and wildlife. The jurisdiction of the committee was later absorbed by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on the Territories document claims (34A–D22.1); organization of a Territory of Arizona (34A–D22.2); Kansas Territory (34A–D22.3); survey of the boundary between Texas and the Territory of New Mexico (34A–D22.4); and modification of the boundary between California and the Territory of Utah (34A–D22.5).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 34A–D22.1, which is arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Territories document the Kansas Territory (34A–G21.1), and slavery in the Territories (34A–G21.2).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Ways and Means 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Ways and Means is the oldest standing committee in Congress. In 1795 another Select Committee on Ways and Means was formed, and was regularly reappointed in each session until it was defined as a standing committee in 1802. The jurisdiction of the committee includes customs revenue, collection districts, and ports of entry and delivery; reciprocal trade agreements; revenue measures generally; revenue measures relating to insular possessions; bonded debt of the United States, subject to the last sentence of clause 4(f); deposit of public monies; transportation of

Committees

dutiable goods; tax exempt foundations and charitable trusts; and national social security (except health care and facilities programs that are supported from general revenues as opposed to payroll deductions and except work incentive programs).

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Ways and Means include a report on a proposed reduction of the tariff (34A–D23.1); various subjects (34A–D23.2); and papers from or about the executive departments: Interior (34A–D23.3), Navy (34A–D23.4), State (34A–D23.5), and Treasury (34A–D23.6). There is also a volume of minutes for the 1st session (34A– D23.7).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Ways and Means document claims (34A–G22.1), a tariff on sugar and molasses (34A–G22.2); a tariff on tobaccos (34A–G22.3); a tariff on wool and woolen goods (34A–G22.4); and various subjects (34A–G22.5).

Arrangement note

The claims are arranged alphabetically by petitioner, and the other records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Committees

Select Committees 1855-1857

Select Committee on the Alleged Assault Upon the Hon. Amos P. Granger (34A–D24.1) 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The Select Committee on the Alleged Assault Upon the Hon. Amos P. Granger was created to look into a fracas between two Members of Congress, Amos Granger of New York and Fayette McMullin of Virginia, that took place on a bus in the District of Columbia on August 18, 1856.

Scope and Contents note

The records of the Select Committee on the Alleged Assault Upon the Hon. Amos P. Granger include the committee journal and transcripts of hearings, at which each of the parties involved in the scuffle were allowed to interrogate witnesses (34A-D24.1).

Select Committee to Investigate Certain Alleged Corrupt Combinations of Members of Congress (34A–D24.2) 1855-1857

Select Committee on Kansas Affairs (34A–D24.3) 1855-1857

Select Committee on the Pacific Railroad (34A–D24.4) 1855-1857

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The committee reports and papers of the Select Committee on the Pacific Railroad are located in (34A-D24.4).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents which were Referred to Committees 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Select Committee on the Pacific Railroad document the construction of a Pacific railroad (34A-G20.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group unless otherwise indicated.

Committee of the Whole House 1855-1857

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee of the Whole consists of the entire membership of the House and stems from a practice in the House of Commons, when the Speaker of the House of Commons was regarded as an agent of the King. The procedure allows the Speaker to remove himself/herself from the chairmanship in order for the body to elect its own chairman and debate matters without the normal restrictions of a House of Commons session.

Committee reports and papers 1855-1857

Scope and Contents note

Bills and Resolutions Originating in the Senate and Considered in the House

The committee reports and papers of the Committee of the Whole House include a volume of minutes, 33d Congress, 1st session, to 37th Congress, 1st session (33A–D22.1).

Bills and Resolutions Originating in the Senate and Considered in the House 1855-1857 0.58 Linear feet**Scope and Contents note**

The bills and resolutions originating in the Senate and considered in the House include Senate bills (34A–C1) and Senate joint resolutions (34A–C2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group.

President's Messages 1855-1857 9.0 Linear feet (44 volumes)**Scope and Contents note**

The President's messages include annual messages with pertinent documents, 1855 and 1856; messages suggesting legislation or submitting specific information or documents; and messages transmitting reports and communications from executive departments (34A–E1).

Arrangement note

The messages are arranged chronologically.

Reports and Communications Submitted to the House 1855-1857 7.0 Linear feet (38 volumes)**Scope and Contents note**

Reports and communications from the Secretary of State (34A–F1), the Secretary of the Treasury (34A–F2); the Treasurer of the United States (34A–F3); the Secretary of War (34A–F4); the Secretary of the

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Do...

Navy (34A–F5); the Postmaster General (34A–F6); the Secretary of the Interior (34A–F7); the Court of Claims (34A–F8); and others (34A–F9).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 34A–F8, which is arranged numerically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Tabled 1855-1857 0.58 Linear feet**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were tabled are grouped as follows: opposition to the use of the Army to coerce the people of Kansas Territory (34A–H1.1); claims (34A–H1.2); dissolution of the Union (34A–H1.3); impeachment of President Franklin Pierce (34A–H1.4); and various subjects (34A–H1.5).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group, except 34A–H1.2, which is arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Election Records 1855-1857 0.33 Linear feet**Scope and Contents note**

The election records include credentials of Representatives and Delegates (34A–J1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by State or Territory.

Originals of Printed House Miscellaneous Documents

Originals of Printed House Miscellaneous Documents 1855-1857 1.0 Linear feet (6 volumes)**Scope and Contents note**

The originals of printed House miscellaneous documents cover the 1st session (34A-K1), 2d session (34A-K2), and 3d session (34A-K3) of the 34th Congress.

Arrangement note

The documents are arranged numerically within each group.

Other Records 1855-1857 0.42 Linear feet**Scope and Contents note**

Other records include two volumes of roll calls (34A-L1), arranged chronologically; and various papers (34A-L2), arranged by subject.

Records of Impeachment Proceedings 1855-1857**Impeachment of John C. Watrous 1855-1857 0.25 Linear feet****Scope and Contents note**

The papers pertain to the impeachment proceedings against John C. Watrous, Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Texas include (34B-A1), (35B-B1), and (36B-A1).

Records of the Office of the Clerk 1855-1857

Records of Committee Reports

Records of Committee Reports 1855-1857**Scope and Contents note**

Transcribed reports of the Committee on Claims, 33d Congress, 1st session, to 35th Congress, 1st session (33C–B1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Record Books 1855-1857 2.0 Linear feet (13 volumes)**Scope and Contents note**

The record books include a bill book of House and Senate bills and resolutions (34C–A1); bill book of House bills based upon reports from the Court of Claims, 34th Congress, 1st session, to 37th Congress, 1st session (34C–A2); petition book (34C–A3); register of House and Senate documents, reports, and bills received, 34th Congress, 1st session, to 35th Congress, 1st session (34C–A4); register of miscellaneous documents (34C–A5); register of committee reports (34C–A6); register of House bills and resolutions engrossed and enrolled, 34th Congress, 1st session, to 35th Congress, 2d session (34C–A7); record of orders of the day (34C–A8); account books recording expenditures of the Clerk's Office, 34th Congress, 1st session, to 35th Congress, 1st session (34C–A9); register of executive documents, 34th Congress, 1st session, to 35th Congress, 2d session (34C–A10); and a register of reports from the Court of Claims, 34th Congress, 1st session, to 37th Congress, 2d session (34C–A11). For membership of standing and select committees and a register of resolutions, see 32d Congress, 1st session, to 38th Congress, 2d session (32C–A9); a record of contingent accounts of the Clerk's Office, 33d Congress, 2d session, to 34th Congress, 1st session (33C–A9); and a record of referrals to and reports from the Court of Claims, 33d Congress, 2d session, to 35th Congress, 1st session (33C–A10).

Other Records 1855-1857 0.42 Linear feet

Index

Scope and Contents note

Other records include memoranda relating to the withdrawal of records (34C–B1), arranged alphabetically by subject; and various papers (34C–B2), arranged by subject. Also included is a letter book of the Clerk's with outgoing correspondence, 33d Congress, 1st session, to 38th Congress, 1st session (33C–C1), arranged chronologically.

Index 1855-1857 0.08 Linear feet (1 volume)**Scope and Contents note**

Index to private claims (34C–C1).