

Records of the U.S. House of Representatives
RG.233.4.House
4th Congress

**Finding aid prepared by the Office of Art and Archives,
Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC, 20408
202-357-5350
legislative.archives@nara.gov

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	House Records of the 4th Congress
Date [inclusive]	1795-1797
Extent	19.0 Cubic 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 1795-1797

Journals 1795-1797 0.41 Cubic feet (2 volumes)

Scope and Contents note

The journals series includes a legislative journal, 1st session (4A–A1) and 2d session (4A–A2).

Bills Originating in the House 1795-1797 0.06 Cubic feet

Scope and Contents note

The bills originating in the House include engrossed House bills (4A–B1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically.

Committees 1795-1797 0.08 Cubic feet

Committee on Claims 1795-1797

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.

Committees

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 1795-1797**Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Claims document various subjects (4A–C1.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically.

Petition and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committee 1795-1797 0.08 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

The petition and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Claims include a petition of Alexander Fowler for "Confirmation of land granted by the King in 1763" (4A–E1.1).

Committee on Elections 1795-1797**Biographical/Historical note**

Committees

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.

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Elections document the contested election case of *Burwell Bassett v. John Clapton, Virginia* (4A–C2.1); and the investigation of the credentials of David Baird of Pennsylvania (4A–C2.2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Bassett, Burwell, 1764-1841

Select Committees 1795-1797

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of select committees document various subjects (4A–C3.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Reports and Communications Submitted to the House

Reports and Communications Submitted to the House 1795-1797 0.02 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

The reports and communications submitted to the House include are from the Secretary of War (4A–D1), arranged chronologically; the Attorney General, April 7, 1796 (4A–D2); and the Secretary of the Treasury, including two volumes, one of which extends to the 4th Congress, 2d session (3A–E2).

Records of the Office of the Clerk 1795-1797**Index 1795-1797****Scope and Contents note**

The index is of transcribed reports of the Committee on Claims, 3d Congress, 2d session, to 19th Congress, 1st session (3C–C1). For the index to committee reports and to reports and communications from executive departments, see 1C–D1, 1st Congress, 1st session, to 14th Congress, 2d session.

Record Book 1795-1797 0.16 Cubic feet (1 volume)**Scope and Contents note**

The record book consists of a petition book, 4th Congress, 1st session, to 7th Congress, 1st session (4C–A1).

Records of Committee Reports 1795-1797 0.41 Cubic feet (2 volumes)**Scope and Contents note**

Records of Reports from Executive Departments

The records of committee reports include transcribed reports of the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures, 4th Congress, 1st session, to 8th Congress, 2d session (4C–B1); and select committees, 4th Congress, 2d session, to 6th Congress, 2d session (4C–B2). Also included are transcribed reports of select committees, 1st Congress, 1st session, to 4th Congress, 1st session (1C–B1); the Committee on Claims, 3d Congress, 2d session, to 5th Congress, 2d session (3C–A1); and the Committee on Ways and Means, select and standing, 3d Congress, 1st session, to 7th Congress, 2d session (3C–A2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Records of Reports from Executive Departments 1795-1797 0.33 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

The records from executive departments include transcribed reports and communications from the Secretary of State, 4th Congress, 2d session, to 5th Congress, 3d session (4C–C1); and the Secretary of the Treasury, 4th Congress, 1st session, to 5th Congress, 2d session (4C–C2). Also included are reports from the Secretary of State, 1st Congress, 1st session, to 4th Congress, 1st session (1C–C1); the Secretary of the Treasury, 2d Congress, 1st session, to 4th Congress, 1st session (2C–A1); the Treasurer of the United States, 3d Congress, 2d session, to 4th Congress, 2d session (3C–B1); and the Secretary of War, 3d Congress, 1st session, to 5th Congress, 3d session (3C–B2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.