

# The Work Projects Administration in the Pacific Northwest: A Guide to Archival Records in the Pacific Northwest

Compiled by Valoise Armstrong

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Work Projects Administration (WPA) projects varied widely in scope and were often carried out in cooperation with state and community resources. WPA workers constructed public buildings, roads, parks, and bridges. Skilled artists, writers, and others participated in the Federal Arts Project, the Federal Music Project, the Federal Theater Project, the Federal Writers' Project and the Historical Records Survey. Such a wide array of projects in the New Deal era has created a broad range of researcher interest in the twenty-first century.

These listings consist of archival records related to the administration and implementation of projects funded by the Work Projects Administration (WPA) or its predecessor agencies, the Civil Works Administration (CWA), Federal Relief Administration and the Works Progress Administration. The WPA provided oversight and administration for projects that were individually sponsored by Federal, state and local agencies. The listings in this guide identify project and administration records generated by the sponsoring agencies. Secondary sources and publications generated by projects are generally not included. Individual files or letters within larger series of subject files or correspondence are also not included.

The Federal records for the WPA are held, for the most part, by the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, in Records of Work Projects Administration (Record Group 69). Records for many sponsoring agencies remain within the region and scattered in repositories throughout Idaho, Oregon and Washington. This guide is an attempt to identify these repositories and to detail the records they hold. The records of NARA's Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle, WA) are listed first, because they contain records for all three states. These are followed by the repositories in Idaho, Oregon and Washington, beginning with state and local government and followed by academic institutions.

## Repositories

National Archives and Records Administration-Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle)

Idaho State Historical Society

University of Idaho Library, Special Collections and Archives

Oregon State Archives

Oregon Historical Society

City of Portland - Archives and Records Management

Oregon State University

University of Oregon

Washington State Archives

Washington State Historical Society

Seattle Municipal Archives

King County Archives

Washington State University

## National Archives and Records Administration - Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle)

6125 Sand Point Way NE

Seattle, WA 98115

(206) 336-5115

E-mail: [seattle.archives@nara.gov](mailto:seattle.archives@nara.gov)

<http://www.archives.gov/facilities/wa/seattle/holdings.html>

### Microfilm Publications

The following NARA microfilm publications serve as a guide to individual WPA projects. The master copies of this microfilm were transferred to NARA in Washington, D.C. Before they were filmed, the reference cards in each series were arranged by state, then by county and finally by date. Each card provides information for an individual project with the name of the sponsoring agency and a brief descriptive paragraph about the project, including the project costs. This microfilm is available for purchase.

#### T935 Index to Reference Cards for Work Projects Administration Project Files, 1935-1937

Roll 1	Nationwide projects
Rolls 11-12	Georgia-Illinois (includes Idaho)
Roll 56	Oklahoma-Pennsylvania (includes Oregon)
Rolls 71-72	Virginia-West Virginia (includes Washington)

#### T936 Index to Reference Cards for Work Projects Administration Project Files, 1938

Roll 1	Nationwide projects
Roll 3	Florida-Illinois (includes Idaho)
Roll 11	Ohio-Pennsylvania (includes Oregon)
Roll 14	Virginia-Wisconsin (includes Washington)

#### T937 Index to Reference Cards for Work Projects Administration Project Files, 1939-1942

Roll 1	Nationwide projects
Roll 4	Delaware-Iowa (includes Idaho)
Rolls 13-14	Ohio-Pennsylvania (includes Oregon)
Roll 18	Virginia-Wisconsin (includes Washington)

### M1870 Selected Bureau of the Census Records Relating to Work Projects Administration Census Indexing Projects, 1935-1942

Reproduced on one roll of film are selected records from five series relating to census indexing projects undertaken by the WPA. These records are from the Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29, and include correspondence, memorandums, monthly reports, annual reports, and related records.

### Textual records

**Series title:** Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Record Group (RG) 75  
Chemawa Indian School  
Records of CWA/WPA Programs, 1933-1934, 1937

**Volume:** .43 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

The Superintendent of the Chemawa Indian School directed the CWA emergency employment projects for the Grand Ronde and Siletz reservations and the Salem Indian School. Records consist of reports, temporary employment forms, and time cards.

**Series title:** Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, RG 75  
Grand Ronde-Siletz Indian Agency  
Reports, Correspondence and CWA Education Records, 1929-1934

**Volume:** .43 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

Included in this series are CWA correspondence, reports, and project files concerning work done at the Siletz Indian School.

**Series title:** Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, RG 75  
Northern Idaho Indian Agency  
Civil Works Administration Payroll Ledger, 1934

**Volume:** .43 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

This ledger includes information relating to CWA economic survey and roads projects. Entries include date, payroll number, purpose, amount of payroll and total amount for project.

**Series title:** Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, RG 75  
Taholah Indian Agency  
Civil Works Administration Project Files, 1933-1934

**Volume:** .43 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

CWA projects on reservations administered by the Taholah Indian Agency included street improvements, fencing, home and building repair, cemetery improvements, construction of a community hall and a survey of the needs of Indian families. In addition to the project files these records include related correspondence and payroll information.

**Series title:** Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, RG 75  
Taholah Indian Agency  
Works Progress Administration Project Files, 1935-1940

**Volume:** .43 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

Superintendents of the Taholah Indian Agency placed unemployed Indians on WPA road work and flood control relief projects sponsored by County Commissioners. In addition to project files this series includes related correspondence and payroll information.

**Series title:** Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, RG 75  
Tulalip Indian Agency  
Civil Works Administration Economic and Social Surveys, 1933-1934

**Volume:** 1.29 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

The CWA survey cards record vital statistics, education, employment, land assets, income, reimbursements, housing conditions and crop analysis for Tulalip, Lummi, Muckleshoot, Port Madison, Swinomish, Clallam, Puyallup, and Nooksack Indian families under the jurisdiction of the agency. Instructions, weekly reports, and a survey analysis are also included.

**Series title:** Records of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, RG 77  
Seattle District Office  
Survey Report Files, 1910-1970

**Volume:** Approximately 4 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

Among this 131 cubic feet of project report files from the Corps of Engineers Seattle District Planning Branch are reports for various WPA projects, especially those relating to flood control. These files contain reports, photographs, and drawings. Geographic areas involved include the Cedar, Chehalis, Puyallup, Quillayute, Snohomish and Stillaguamish Rivers.

**Series title:** Records of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, RG 77  
Seattle District Office  
Project Photographs, 1910-1970

**Volume:** 1,516 images

**Description of series:**

These photograph albums document Corps of Engineers WPA flood control projects in Washington state. Rivers involved in the projects include the Elwha River, Okanogan River, Yakima, Nooksack, Stillaguamish, Skykomish, Samish, Skagit, Upper Skagit, Pilchuk, Snohomish, Sauk, Humptulips, Satsop, Wynoochee, Chehalis, Snoqualmie and Skokomish Rivers. There are also photographs of Yelm Creek, Anderson Creek, and the Washington communities of Odessa and Edwall.

**Series Title:** Records of the U.S. Forest Service, RG 95  
Region 1 (Missoula, MT)  
White Pine Blister Rust Photographs - Prints, ca. 1909-1965

**Volume:** 3715 images in this series, some are of WPA projects

**Description of series:**

Arranged by number assigned by the Blister Rust Control in the Region 1 office. These photographs document the efforts of the Timber Management personnel to eradicate White Pine Blister Rust in the Forests of Region 1 (consisting of Idaho and Montana). Each photograph is numbered and labeled with the date, photographer, location, and general subject category. These subjects include Work Projects Administration crews and project activities.

**Series Title:** Records of the U.S. Forest Service, RG 95  
Region 1 (Missoula, MT)  
Records of Emergency Programs, 1933-1941

**Volume:** 11.6 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

The Region 1 office of the Forest Service sponsored a variety of projects in Idaho and Montana under the WPA and its predecessor agencies. This series consists of correspondence, administrative orders, bulletins, circulars, handbooks, project lists, reports and other records relating to the administration of those projects

**Series Title:** Records of the U.S. Forest Service, RG 95  
Region 6 (Portland, OR)  
Regional Forester Historical Records, 1908-1959

**Volume:** 1.29 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

Among the responsibilities of the Region 6 Regional Forester's office was the administration of projects in Oregon and Washington under the Civil Works Administration, Work Projects Administration and Works Progress Administration. This series contains the procedural handbooks, circulars, regulations and other administrative records used by the office to administer the programs.

## **Idaho State Historical Society**

450 N. Fourth St.  
Boise, ID 83702  
(208) 334-3356

[http://idahohistory.net/library\\_archives.html](http://idahohistory.net/library_archives.html)

**Series title:** MS 584 - Workbooks, 1938.

**Volume:** 1 cubic foot

**Description of series:**

Workbooks prepared by the WPA Education Program of the Idaho Department of Education and the Civilian Conservation Corps for adult education programs.

**Series title:** MS 70 - Idaho Federal Writers' Project collection, 1935-1939.

**Volume:** 2 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

Correspondence, narratives, diaries, territorial documents, election returns, biographies, speeches, and published items relating to Idaho and Northwest history, 1836-1928.

**Series title:** AR 243 - Project information re: Oneida County Courthouse.

**Volume:** 1 cubic foot

**Description of series:**

Specification sheets, plans, correspondence.

## **University of Idaho Library, Special Collections and Archives**

P.O. Box 442351  
Moscow, ID 83844-2351  
(208) 885-7951

<http://www.lib.uidaho.edu/special-collections/>

**Series title:** Shoshone County Flood Control Project, 1935-1940

**Volume:** 1 linear foot

**Description of series:**

The papers of the Shoshone County Flood Control Project are contained in one small file box and are not very extensive. By far the largest percentage of material is the correspondence of Harry Marsh, District #5 administrator of the Idaho Emergency Relief Administration, concerning the application for federal appropriations to finance a flood control project. Other materials include maps showing locations of flood control devices, newspapers from December 1933 and January 1934 with accounts of the flooding in Wallace and Kellogg, and newspaper clippings concerning the flood control project.

**Series title:** Vardis Fisher Papers

**Volume:** 1 cubic foot

**Description of series:**

The material in this record group includes correspondence from Vardis Fisher to University of Idaho Professor Francis Laney concerning the Idaho Writer's Project, between Vardis Fisher and University of Idaho Humanities Librarian George Kellogg, and letters from Harry Schwartz to Kellogg's successor, Milo Nelson, concerning Schwartz's article on Fisher. There are also articles by and about Vardis Fisher.

## Oregon State Archives

800 Summer St. NE

Salem, OR 97310

Phone: 503-373-0701

E-mail: [reference.archives@state.or.us](mailto:reference.archives@state.or.us)

<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/>

**Series title:** Military Department - Works Projects Administration (WPA) Records, 1935-1942

**Volume:** .25 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

Series documents Work Projects Administration projects undertaken with the Military Department in Oregon. Series includes newsletters, correspondence, daily work reports, drawings, project proposals, and executive orders. Information includes date, subject of correspondence, correspondents, materials required, and project cost. Proposals included projects undertaken at Camp Clatsop and Camp Withycombe that included the construction of buildings, clearing land, additions to water supply systems, and the operation of camp and cook houses for project workers.

**Series title:** Oregon Planning Board - Works Projects Administration Records, 1930-1939

**Volume:** .7 cubic foot

**Description of series:**

Series documents the work of the Works Projects Administration (WPA) in its association with the Oregon State Planning Board, mainly consisting of the provision of workers to conduct research and maintain clerical records. Records include correspondence, reports, bulletins, lists, proposals, legislation, and tables. Topics include a wide range of Oregon State Planning Board activities since the WPA provided much of the staff necessary for completion of the research projects. Subjects about employment and migration, the Columbia River Gorge, the Bonneville Dam, housing, and land classification are included primarily from funding and manpower perspectives. Most of the Records refer to the period from 1935 to 1938, however, some research information dates to 1930.

**Series title:** Department of Forestry - Salem Headquarters Construction Records, 1938-1941

**Volume:** .1 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

Series documents Works Progress Administration (WPA) project to construct the Forestry Department Headquarters in Salem. Records include correspondence, project proposals, tour outline, and an inventory of woods used in the building construction. Subjects include the WPA and building construction. This building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

## Oregon Historical Society

1200 SW Park Avenue

Portland, OR 97205-2483

503-222-1741

E-mail: [orhist@ohs.org](mailto:orhist@ohs.org)

<http://www.ohs.org/homepage.html>

**Series title:** MSS 1327, 1327-1, 1327-2

Works Progress Administration Records, 1935-1940

**Volume:** 3 cubic feet, 6 reels of microfilm

**Description of series:**

These records contain a portion of the work done by the WPA in the state of Oregon pertaining to Oregon history. The bulk of box 1 contains the Federal Writers Project papers, comprised of books, pamphlets, directories, diaries, guides, and newsletters on various topics of Oregon history. Box 2 contains various

bibliographical and historical writings concerned with individuals and educational facilities from around the state. Box 3 is largely composed of newspaper indexing reports of the Oregon Newspapers. Also included in box 3 are MSS 1327-1 and 1327-2. 1327-1 us radio scripts from "Oregon Oddities" and 1327-2 contains Time reports from Multnomah County.

On the microfilm there are five reels of geographic name-place flashcards, created by WPA workers to verify the names of various places around the state for map makers. The sixth reel contains Paul Bunyon folklore dealing with Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

This collection of records will be of use to those interested specifically in the WPA and the work it did in Oregon. Also of interest would be the histories of the various educational facilities such as Willamette University, Linfield College, St. Mary's Academy, and Monmouth Christian College (now called Western Oregon State College). The pioneer diaries, though not a particularly large part of the collection, would also be of help to the student of pioneer history.

### **City of Portland - Archives and Records Management**

9360 N. Columbia Blvd.

Portland, OR 97213

(503) 823-4631

E-mail: [sparc@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:sparc@ci.portland.or.us)

<http://www.ci.portland.or.us/auditor/recorder/archives.html>

Researchers interested in WPA projects in Portland should contact the archives directly.

### **Oregon State University**

94 Kerr Administration Building

Corvallis OR 97331-2103

(541) 737-2165

E-mail: [Archives@orst.edu](mailto:Archives@orst.edu)

<http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/archives/>

Oregon State University (OSU) received WPA funding for a number of art and construction projects, many of which are documented in collections of textual records and photographs at the OSU Archives. The following is a list of collections that contain documentation of WPA projects on the OSU campus as well as elsewhere in the region.

#### **Institutional Records**

**Series title:** President's Office Record Group (RG 13)

**Description of series:**

Records on microfilm relating to the funding and construction of wrought-iron gates on lower campus.

**Series title:** Library Record Group (RG 9)

**Description of series:**

Microfilmed correspondence pertaining to WPA project funding for temporary, part-time assistance for clerical, light custodial and book preservation work in the Library.

**Series title:** Landscape Architecture Record Group (RG 89)

**Description of series:**

Microfilmed budgetary records, correspondence, and project outlines regarding various WPA- funded landscape and construction projects on campus.

### Photograph Collections

**Series title:** Harriet's Collection (Organized and named for the first Archivist at OSU)

**Volume:** 0.03 cubic foot

**Description of series:**

Contains images of various WPA projects undertaken at OSU including the construction of the campus gates (#1477), wood marquetry murals in Bexell Hall (#1511), the erection of Plageman Hall (#79), and building exterior artwork, such as the wood plaques originally installed in Kedder Hall (#604).

**Series title:** Buildings Photograph Collection ( P16)

**Volume:** 0.01 cubic foot

**Description of series:**

Contains seventeen images of the construction of Gilbert Hall, which was financed by the WPA.

**Series title:** Extension Bulletin Illustrations (P 20)

**Volume:** 0.01 cubic foot

**Description of series:**

Nine images of regional WPA projects; including the collection of scrap metal in local rural communities, Beaver Creek re-channeling, and the completion of Rock Creek Dam.

**Series title:** Industrial Engineering and Industrial Arts Department (P 189)

**Volume:** 0.01 cubic foot

**Description of series:**

One image of a WPA project of an iron railing installed alongside the Memorial Union Building.

### Manuscript Collections

**Series title:** Marian Field Collection

**Volume:** 2.75 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

This collection contains 193 pen and ink drawings of twigs of Oregon woody plants in the spring and summer by Art Department Instructor Marian Field. They were drawn as part of a WPA project between 1936 and 1941 for Frank Sipe, a botanist at the University of Oregon, who had hoped to publish a book using the drawings.

### Memorabilia Collection

**Volume:** 0.05 cubic foot

**Description of series:**

Records pertaining to various metal and wood craft projects at OSU funded by the WPA Federal Arts Project.

The three files describing these projects contain correspondence between artists and university administrators, as well as receipts for materials and other costs. Of particular interest is documentation between artist Aimee Gorham and the university about her wood marquetry murals in Bexell Hall. Another file on murals also contains information on WPA projects.

**University of Oregon, Division of Special Collections and University Archives**

Knight Library, 2nd floor North

15th & Kincaid Street

University of Oregon

Eugene, OR 97403

(541) 346-3068

E-mail: [spcarref@uoregon.edu](mailto:spcarref@uoregon.edu)

<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/speccoll/index.html>

**Series title:** W.P.A. Historical Records Survey (H.R.S.) Records

**Volume:** 45.75 linear feet

**Description of series:**

Collection consists of detailed documentation of Oregon history and records and provides insight into H.R.S. administrative and editorial processes. It is arranged by series, and is composed primarily of historical essays, standardized forms, transcriptions of documents, interviews, research notes, and W.P.A. instructions and correspondence. Some photographs, floor plans, and pamphlets are also included.

The Oregon H.R.S. was the most comprehensive documentary project of Oregon history and related records of its time. The territorial and pioneer periods of the mid-to late nineteenth century receive the greatest attention, with an emphasis on the growth of state government and infrastructure, business and agriculture, transportation, education, biography, and relations between social groups. Native Americans figure prominently in this collection. It is likely that some Oregon Federal Writers Project (another W.P.A. program) records were combined with the H.R.S. records in the collection. The Radio scripts series provides the clearest example of this likelihood.

Series within this group of records include:

- County Records Inventory Survey
- Individual Manuscripts Survey
- Historic Buildings Survey
- Maps and Photographs Survey
- State Boards of Commission
- Out of State Files
- County Commissioners' Journals
- Education Survey
- Church History Survey
- American Imprints Survey
- Manuscripts Survey
- Radio Scripts
- Letters of Famous Oregon Pioneers
- WPA Historical Records Survey
- Administrative Documents
- Oregon State Survey
- Miscellaneous Documents
- Oregon Imprints
- Photographs

**Washington State Archives**

520 Union Avenue SE

P.O. Box 40220

Olympia, Washington 98504-0220

(360) 902-4151

<http://www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/>

**Series title:** AR3-A-20  
State Archives, WPA Record Survey Collection, 1939-1941

**Volume:** 2 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

Published inventories of county records as surveyed by the WPA Historical Records Project between 1939 and 1941. Includes inventories of Adams, Asotin, Benton, Cowlitz, Garfield, King, Lewis, Lincoln, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, and Yakima counties. Also includes inventories of church records, public vital records and imprints.

**Series title:** AR45-1-6  
Conservation Department, Inventory of Public Land, 1941

**Volume:** 0.5 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

Summaries of acreage owned by the state and Federal Governments in Washington, arranged by county. A W.P.A. project that was never completed.

**Series title:** AR55  
Washington Emergency Relief Administration

**Description of series** (see the following descriptions for specific series for this agency):

Records of the state's program to alleviate the effects of the Great Depression. Includes compensation records, appropriation ledgers, and correspondence and subject files. The Washington Emergency Relief Administration was established by the McDonald Act of 1933 to provide public relief during the Depression. It was the first centralized system of public welfare relief in the state. It was governed by the Emergency Relief Commission, members of which were appointed by the Governor. The Commission in turn appointed the first and only director of the Washington Emergency Relief Administration, Mr. Charles F. Ernst. The Relief Administration operated through a system of district directors and county boards. It administered a number of federally instituted and financed programs including the Civilian Conservation Corps, the National Re-employment Service, Surplus Commodity Distribution, Migrant Services, and Projects of the Civil Works Administration. It operated a Rural Rehabilitation Division as well as commodity production and work centers. While the Commission and the Director were responsible to the State Legislature and the Governor, most of the funds were derived from federal sources to which federal policies, regulations, and procedures applied. The Washington Emergency Relief Administration expired on May 7, 1935, being replaced by the Department of Public Welfare. Rural rehabilitation and public works programs, previously handled by Washington Emergency Relief Administration, were taken over by the Federal Resettlement Administration and the Work Projects Administration in 1935.

**Series title:** AR55-1-1  
Washington Emergency Relief Administration, Director's Files, 1931-1940

**Volume:** 77.5 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

Correspondence, telegrams, reports, publications, bulletins, memoranda, plans, and statistics concerning unemployment, self-help, housing, welfare, relief activities, transients, surplus commodities, subsistence homesteads, Civilian Conservation Corps camps, irrigation projects, state and federal programs, legislation, and many other topics concerning the alleviation of human suffering during the Depression.

Arranged chronologically.

**Finding aids:** File Level Inventory

**Series title:** AR55-1-2  
Washington Emergency Relief Administration, Appropriation Ledgers, 1932-1937

**Volume:** 2 cubic feet (includes 3 vols.)

**Description of series:**

A record of appropriations to finance Washington Emergency Relief Administration programs.

**Series title:** AR55-1-4  
Washington Emergency Relief Administration, Warrants Record, 1933-1937

**Volume:** 3 volumes, 18 microfilm reels

**Description of series:**

Warrants issued to finance Washington Emergency Relief Administration projects and to provide for individual relief. Also includes three volumes of warrant registers. Arranged chronologically.

**Series title:** AR55-1-6  
Washington Emergency Relief Administration, Petroglyph Study, 1935-1936

**Volume:** 0.5 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

Correspondence, drawings and background studies of petroglyphs in central Washington.

**Finding aids:** Transmittals

**Series title:** AR55-1-7  
Washington Emergency Relief Administration, Index to Injury Claims, 1934-1935

**Volume:** 0.3 cubic feet (1 volume)

**Description of series:**

An alphabetical index to claims submitted by workers injured on public works projects. Shows name, date, and nature of injury.

**Series title:** AR55-1-8  
Washington Emergency Relief Administration, Division 2 Works Project Summaries, 1934-1935

**Volume:** 0.5 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

Summaries of works projects done in Division 2, Washington Emergency Relief Administration (WPA) in King, Kitsap, Clallam and Jefferson counties. Includes a one to two page description of each project, with photos, and a narrative summary concerning the impact and results of such projects.

**Finding aids:** Transmittals

**Series title:** AR98-4-2  
Public Assistance Department, Social Security Grants-In-Aid Files, 1935-1938

**Volume:** 10 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

Applications for funds to build and repair schools, courthouses, recreational facilities, airports and other public projects. Includes correspondence, specifications, plans, fiscal records and related documents. Arranged by project number. Indexed by project name.

## Washington State Historical Society

Washington State Historical Society Research Center  
315 No. Stadium Way, Tacoma, WA 98403  
(253) 798-5914

E-mail: [researchcenter@wshs.wa.gov](mailto:researchcenter@wshs.wa.gov)  
<http://www.wshs.org/>

Collection access hours: by appointment on Tues., Wed., and Thurs. afternoons.

**Series title:** WPA Washington State Federal Writers' Project Manuscript Collection

**Volume:** 18 cubic feet

**Description of series:**

Resource data collected for: "Washington: A Guide to the Evergreen State", published in 1941. The information (primarily typescripts, dating from 1936-1938) is arranged by geographic location (county) and topic. Various topics include: education, industry and resources, religion, transportation, communications, population, and points of interest (tourist attractions).

**Series title:** WPA Washington State Photograph Collection

**Volume:** 850 images (photographic prints)

**Description of series:**

Photographs, dating from 1936-1941, arranged by geographic location (county) and topic.

Various subjects include: construction and improvement of schools, airports, parks, roads, sewers and other public work projects.

**Series title:** WPA King County Emergency Relief Administration Photograph Collection

**Volume:** 99 images (photographic prints)

**Description of series:**

Photographs, dating from 1933-1934, depicting public work projects in Seattle and King County. Various subjects include: construction and improvement of parks and schools.

## Seattle Municipal Archives

600 Fourth Avenue, Room 104  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 233-7807 or (206) 684-8353

E-mail: [archives@seattle.gov](mailto:archives@seattle.gov)  
<http://www.seattle.gov/cityarchives>

**Series title:** Ordinance Codification Project, 1935-1936

Record Series 1801-16

**Volume:** .2 cubic foot

**Description of series:**

Correspondence, memoranda, notes, and financial records relating to the WPA Project (#201) to codify Seattle City ordinances.

**Series title:** Sanitary Survey Land Use Project, 1938

Record Series 2613-03

**Volume:** .4 cubic foot

**Description of series:**

Original tracings of land use and zoning district maps and mile square charts including types of occupancies, occupancy and street acreage, and zone distributions of acreage. Also includes Kroll Map sections of zoning districts. The Sanitary Survey was a Works Progress Administration project (#5638) to collect data on the "health, welfare and comfort of citizens" to assist in planning for "the proper, orderly and economic development of this region." This series represents only the land use data of the survey.

**Series title:** Engineering Unrecorded Subject Files  
Record Series 2602-02

**Volume:** Specific folders relating to WPA.

**Description of series:**

Records relating to Green Lake and a reports on WPA Projects 667, 4110, 5638 which includes the Sanitary Survey Sewer Card Correction Water Pollution, Underground Waters Research, Topography Green Lake Algae Control.

**Series title:** Don Sherwood Parks History Collection  
Record Series 5801-01

**Volume:** Specific folders relating to WPA.

**Description of series:**

Records relating to WPA projects on slide control and drainage at Hamilton Park and training people as recreation workers.

**Series title:** Photograph Collection

**Volume:** 149 images

**Description of series:**

WPA-related photographs, mostly taken by the Engineering Department.

## King County Archives

King County Archives and Records  
1215 E. Fir St.  
Seattle WA 98122  
(206) 296-1538

Email: [archives@metrokc.gov](mailto:archives@metrokc.gov)

<http://www.metrokc.gov/recelec/archives/archives.htm>

## Records of King County Commissioners

**Series title:** 011-118. Proceedings, 1853-1969

**Volume:** 30 cu.ft.

**Description of series:**

The Proceedings contain minutes, resolutions, and records of other actions of the County Commissioners. Complete transcriptions of contracts, leases and franchises are also present. The Proceedings consist of 74 bound volumes with microfilm copies (March 5, 1853 to September 23, 1963) and a sequence of only microfilm volumes (September 26, 1963 to April 28, 1969). Handwritten indexes (Series 011-339, Index to Commissioner Proceedings) are present for the years 1934-1943. The indexes are subdivided into broad administrative areas. Index entries for one administrative subdivision (Miscellaneous Records) include many references in the Proceedings to WPA projects; access via database keyword searching is available for these index entries. In most cases, additional related records cited by the indexing no longer exist.

**Series title:** 011-124. Resolutions, 1911-1969

**Volume:** 50 cu. ft.

**Description of series:**

Legislation of the King County Commissioners. Many WPA and CWA projects required a "home rule" message, i.e., a formal request for WPA involvement in what had been a local government activity. This message was usually by resolution of the county commissioners. Resolutions for WPA and CWA projects are interspersed through the files for 1935 to 1943. Access via database keyword searching.

## Financial Records

**Series Title:** 040-279. Audit reports, 1933-1940.

**Volume:** 0.33 cu.ft.

**Description of series:**

The King County Auditor maintained this reference file of summary reports of primarily fiscal audits of King County officials and agencies, conducted by the Municipal Corporations Division of the Washington State auditor's office. Some administrative and procedural commentary and recommendations may be included. Institutions audited include the county- and WPA-operated Kirkland food processing plant. Box and folder list.

**Accession title:** 92-501: Department of Public Works, Engineering Division.

**Volume:** 2 vols.

**Description of accession:**

This accession contains two cost accounting ledgers maintained by the county Road Engineer for county road projects ( 1934-1940) and state secondary highway projects (1935-1936) in King County. The ledgers are arranged by project type or budget number, and account for federal WPA/PWA funds received and spent.

## Engineering Records

**Series title:** 103-32. Subject correspondence files, 1912-1973.

**Volume:** 14 cu. ft.

**Description of series:**

Correspondence, reports, memoranda and miscellaneous records dealing with the administration of the County Road Engineer's office, relations with other County offices, and the development of policy.

Includes approximately 0.33 cu. ft. of correspondence with the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (1938); other relevant material may be filed topically. Box and folder list.

**Series title:** 102-39. Civil Works Administration Project 622 files, 1933-1934.

**Volume:** 3 cu. ft.

**Description of series:**

CWA Project 622, an early public employment project jointly administered by the County Engineer and the City Engineer of Seattle, employed engineers, surveyors and draftsmen in a topographic survey of King County for sewer and drainage improvements. Records include field notes, computations, correspondence, resumes of project staff, budgets and progress reports. Box and folder list.

**Series title:** 103-38. Secondary road project files, 1935-1938.

**Volume:** 3 cu. ft.

**Description of series:**

Specifications, plans, maps, correspondence and other contract documents relating to County road maintenance and construction projects. Includes applications for Federal government grants. Most of these Depression-era projects were funded by the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (PWA) or the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Box and folder list.

**Series title:** 103-273. Non-road project contract files, 1938-1961.

**Volume:** 0.67 cu. ft.

**Description of series:**

Specifications, plans, bills of materials, estimates, correspondence and other contract documents for county public works projects other than roads and bridges. Projects include the WPA-funded construction of a warehouse and office for the Civil Aeronautics Authority at Boeing Field. (For construction photographs, see Series 104-400, Project photographs [Brittain collection], 1895-1985). Box and folder list.

**Series title:** 104-400. Project photographs [Brittain collection], 1895-1985

**Volume:** 4 cu. ft.

**Description of series:**

Photograph files contain negatives, prints, glass lantern and color slides. Bob Brittain, photographer for the King County Department of Public Works (c. 1960-1995) collected, maintained, and utilized early images for his work with the county. Topics include: WPA street projects (e.g., building sidewalks, oiling gravel roads); river projects (channeling, flood control); and WPA-funded construction of eight fieldhouses (community centers) in county parks in Des Moines, White Center, Si View (North Bend), Richmond Highlands, Enumclaw, Preston, Bellevue Highlands, and Burien. Access via database keyword searching.

**Series title:** 103-474. Bridge files: photographs, 1904-1988.

**Volume:** 8.92 cu.ft.

**Description of series:**

This series consists of photographs separated from Series 103-36, Road Engineer Bridge Files 1901-1994. Files from 1932-1936 include images of large spans, such as that at Saltwater State Park south of Des Moines, Wash., which were built with WPA funds. Box and folder list; additional access via database keyword searching.

### King County Aerial Survey

The King County Aerial Survey (1935-1941) was funded by the WPA to produce accurate maps for the county assessor's office. The County Road Engineer provided supervision for the privately- contracted project. The King County Archives holds 31.8 cubic feet of records for the survey: abstracts of corrected tape measurements, abstracts of direction, abstracts of levels, astronomical azimuth determinations, control levels - first and second order, description cards, extension of lines - levels and angles, field books, inverse position computations between triangulation stations, miscellaneous files, list of directions, tape standardization records, ties to monuments, traverse computations, and triangulation computations. Aerial photographs from the survey are retained by the King County Department of Transportation, Road Services Division, 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 0106, Seattle, Washington 98104-3855. (206) 296-6548.

### King County Parks

**Series title:** 160-467. Photograph files, 1948-1998.

**Volume:** 8.33 cu. ft.

**Description of series:**

The King County Parks System photograph collection visually documents park and recreation facilities and programs during this period. Color and black and white images of fieldhouses constructed with WPA funds in county parks are present in the files. For pre-1948 images of the fieldhouses, see Series 104- 400, Project photographs [Brittain Collection], 1895-1985. Box and folder list.

## Washington State University - Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections

P.O. Box 645610

Pullman, WA 99164-5610

(509) 335-6691

<http://www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/holland/masc/masc.htm>

**Series title:** Cage 249

Lulu Donnell Crandall Papers, 1895-1929

**Volume:** 3.5 linear feet

**Description of series:**

The papers of Lulu D. Crandall of The Dalles, Oregon, were collected by the Historical Records Project of the Works Progress Administration about 1935 and transferred to Washington State University a few years later. Lulu Crandall's papers consist of the correspondence, notes, drafts, transcripts and collected materials which she used in her various local history projects. A large portion of these materials are newspapers clippings, on which she often relied for information. Additionally there are many stories authored by Mrs. Crandall. Photographs of sites and structures and copies of documents also appear among Mrs. Crandall's papers. Although scant, there is some correspondence with persons who were prominent in the Northwest in the 19th century, such as Louis Scholl, Joseph M. Cataldo and Charlotte Haller McKee, and historians of Mrs. Crandall's generation such as T.C. Elliott, Frank Gill, Edmond Meany and William Lyman.

**Series title:** Cage 351

Federal Writers Project of Washington (State) Records, 1933-1941

**Volume:** 1.5 linear feet

**Description of series:**

Records of the Federal Writers Project of Washington were acquired by the Washington State University Libraries prior to 1970. The Federal Writers Project, Washington (State), compiled a quantity of material under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration and used this material to create a volume entitled "Washington, A Guide to the Evergreen State" (Portland : Binbards & Mort, 1941), a part of the American Guide Series. The material was collected and written between 1933 and 1941.

The records of the Federal Writers Project of Washington is limited to drafts of researched essays on Clallam, Snohomish, Pierce, Skagit, Lewis, and Whitman counties. The material from Snohomish County (about 400 items) includes a general history of the area, a description of the towns and cities of the county, place names and their origins, tours of the area, geography (including a discussion of natural resources), agriculture, forests, fisheries, and women's history. The material about Pierce County (approximately 120 items) centers on the city of Tacoma and includes a general history and description of the city and its points of interest, city tours, a description of the government, biographies of prominent individuals, the labor history of the city, and a discussion of industry and commerce. There are two folders (about 15 pages of manuscript material) on Clallam County: the Port Angeles Salmon Club and the Olympic National Forest. The material on Lewis County (approximately 350 items) includes a general history and description of the area, a description of the towns and cities, a discussion of the school system, biographies of pioneers and prominent persons, reminiscences of early residents, discussion of natural resources and industry, history of individual buildings of importance, and the role of women in Lewis County. The material from Skagit County (about 75 items) includes a general history and description of the area, description of agricultural resources, a discussion of women in Skagit County, word origin and place names, a description of towns and cities, topography and geography, folklore and folkways, points of interest, and the archaeology of the area. The material on Whitman County (approximately 50 items) consists of histories, descriptions of the towns in Whitman County and records relating to Washington State University.

Folders 28-30 constitute a later addition to the collection. These additional records of the Federal Writers Project include a series of articles on the Quileute Indians by Albert B. Reagan which were published by the Port Angeles Evening News in 1933. There are also two brief histories of Port Angeles. This material should be considered part of the history of Clallam County. The material on Thurston County includes the personal recollections of George Himes of the Oregon Historical Society.

**Series title:** PC 2 Historical Photograph Subject File  
Series 25: Works Progress Administration

**Volume:** 74 images

**Description of series:**

Images relating to the Federal Writers Project and other WPA projects.

**Series title:** Archives 112  
Dean of Men Records, 1933-1935

**Volume:** .5 linear feet

**Description of series:**

Funds through the U.S. Federal Emergency Relief Administration were made available for student employment at W.S.U from 1934 to 1936. During part of this time period there were also funds available through the Civil Works Administration but these were primarily for public works projects. The F.E.R.A. funds at W.S.U. were administered by a Central Faculty Committee made up of the Dean of Men, the Dean of Women, the Superintendent of the Central Correspondence Office and one faculty member. The Committee operated through the office of the Dean of Men.

The requirements for the use of the funds were that they be used to employ not more than 10% of the total full time student population, of which 25% had to be students not previously enrolled. Although the F.E.R.A. funds enabled many students to attend W.S.U. who could not otherwise afford to, the program was terminated in 1936 when this relief activity was transferred to the Works Progress Administration.

The F.E.R.A. records at W.S.U. cover the years 1933-1935 and consist primarily of correspondence. Arranged chronologically, the correspondence is between the Dean of Men, President Holland, deans, professors, parents and students and concerns the projects and students which are to be funded. An annual report for the year 1934-1935 describes the distribution and use of the funds. Also in the records are undated payrolls and time sheets as well as C.W.A. work assignment cards.

**Series title:** Cage 1569  
Donald G. Abel Papers

**Volume:** 44 items

**Description of series:**

Correspondence, letters of congratulation, advice and requests for employment as Abel attained the position of State Administrator, Works Progress Administration, May 23-August 1, 1936.

**Series title:** Cage 1572  
Federal Writers' Project  
American Guide Publicity, June 18-September 21, 1936

**Volume:** 1 volume

**Description of series:**

A scrapbook of clippings on the early history of Spokane County as uncovered by the Federal Writers' Project.

**Series title:** Cage 1756  
Historical Records Survey

**Volume:** 203 leaves

**Description of series:**

Interview obtained from Washington pioneers relative to the history of grazing in the state of Washington.  
Typescript, 1941

**Series title:** Cage 4151  
City Progress Contest, State of Washington, City of Spokane, Typescript, 1938  
**Volume:** 34 pages  
**Description of series:**  
A brief covering the work undertaken in the City of Spokane in cooperation with various agencies of the Federal Works Program.

**Series title:** Cage 4196  
Yakima-Benton Irrigation District Records, 1934  
**Volume:** 1 volume  
**Description of series:**  
Application and supporting documents and photographs to the Public Works Administration for construction of the Roza Canal.

**Series title:** Cage 4239  
School District Voucher Lists, 1909-1912  
**Volume:** 200 leaves  
**Description of series:**  
Typescript that was apparently transcribed by the Works Progress Administration in approximately 1937.

**Series title:** Cage 4267  
Instructions and Suggestions for Guidance of the Newspaper Indexing Staff, Including Coders, editors, typists, and Filing Personnel of Indexing and Filing Department. Project #8102, Spokane, Wash.  
**Volume:** 53 leaves  
**Description of series:**  
Manual to be used by WPA newspaper project indexing and editing staff. Typescript, May 10, 1937. By Mary Ellis, Supervisor.

**Series title:** Cage 4268  
Annual Report, Project #8102  
**Volume:** 33 leaves  
**Description of series:**  
Annual report of the WPA project Index and Clipping Bureau, typescript, June 30, 1937.