

**Harris County Archives
Houston, Texas**

Finding Aid

BOND CERTIFICATION RECORDS

MC017

(1894 – 1949)

Size: 11 cubic feet	early 1990s; recovered in 2005 by the
Restrictions on Access: None	Harris County Archives from Harris
Restrictions on Use: None	County Historical Commission offices.
Acquisition: Sent to Harris County	Accession Number: 2005.012
Judge Jon Lindsey from the Texas State	Processed by: Kissanet Taffere, 2006
Libraries and Archives Commission	

Citation: [Identification of Item], Bond Certification Records, Harris County Archives, Houston, Texas.

Agency History:

The office of the Texas Attorney General was created in 1836 as a way to provide the state with a legal officer responsible for protecting the interests of the state. Because the office of the attorney general requires interaction with political and non-political entities, the office itself evolves with the times and with the concerns of the incumbent attorney general. The office deals primarily with writing opinions for non-litigated cases at the request of certain state and local officials, supporting state agencies, certifying the legality of bond issues, enforcing state tax, anti-trust, and environmental laws, and representing the state of Texas in state and federal courts. The fact that the decisions of the attorney general are rarely reversed, due partly to the constitutional authority given to the office and the evolving nature of state politics, demonstrates the amount of influence the Attorney General's Office can yield. The attorney general's impact on state law and government is significant and reflects the ever-evolving convergence of law, politics, government, tradition, and change.

Bibliography:

“ATTORNEY GENERAL.” The Handbook of Texas Online.
<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/AA/mba3.html> [Accessed March 6, 2006].

Collection Summary:

Bond Certification Records (1894-1949) from the Texas Attorney General's Office document the certification of bonds for Harris County, the City of Houston, Harris County Municipalities, and Independent School Districts. The certification records contain detailed information on election notices and results, legal ordinances calling for bond elections, the amount of money approved for the bond, the issuer and seller of the bond, the date(s) of repayment with interest rates, other supporting information, and the signed approval of the attorney general for each approved bond. The record series is divided into Harris County, Houston, Municipalities, and Independent School Districts with subseries according to the type of project the bond is funding. Included in the general subseries are bonds which contain no more than 2 records or are too general or specific to fit into one subseries. The general category in Houston, for example, includes bonds approved for "general improvements."

Archivist's Note:

All abandoned records become the property of Harris County Records Management. Although these records were received by the County Judge's office and deposited with the Harris County Historical Commission, they had in reality been "abandoned" and therefore were transmitted to the Harris County Archives by the Records Manager.

Series: Harris County
Range of Dates: 1901-1949

Scope and Contents Note:

The Harris County building subseries includes bond certifications for the 1926 Harris County Jail, the construction of Jeff Davis Hospital (1936), and a Harris County Courthouse and Jail (1945). Other records, such as those found in the road/bridge subseries, also contain sample ballots, election returns, election notices (1924, 04/22) and commissioner's court seal and stamp (1907, 11/14 and 1916, 11/15). The Harris County Common School District subseries include Districts 1, 4, 7-11, 13-21, 23-25, 27-34, 36, 40, 43-46. The Rural Schools subseries includes schools 1 and 3-5. Of particular interest is the 1912 bond which created the Houston Ship Channel. Additionally, Houston Ship Channel (1946), Waterworks (1949, 07/26), and Schools (1928, 12/19 and 1911 District No. 25) bonds contain hand-drawn and colored maps which reveal information not only about the physical boundaries of the districts, but sometimes record the names of effected property owners with the number of acres owned.

Inventory

Title (Folder)	Date	Location
Harris County: Buildings (01-05)	1926 – 1945	0374-X-00
Harris County: Drainage (06-15)	1909 – 1923	0374-X-00
Harris County: Flood Control (16-20)	1942 – 1948	0374-X-00
Harris County: Ship Channel (21-33)	1912 – 1948	0374-X-00
Harris County: Roads/Bridges (01-39)	1901 – 1948	0375-X-00
Harris County: Schools: Common (01-73)	1909 – 1936	0376-X-00
Harris County: Schools: Rural (01-06)	1931 – 1936	0377-X-00
Harris County: Waterworks (07-25)	1936 – 1949	0377-X-00

Series: Houston
Range of Dates: 1894-1949

Scope and Contents Note:

In the City of Houston subseries, the general category includes flood control bonds, bonds for a Farmer's Market (1926, 1928), bayous (1928), bonds which include several areas of improvement within one bond (1895, 1897-1899, 1903) or do not specify what

type of permanent improvements will be made. Most records, such as bond certification records for city buildings (1927, 07/15) and bridges (1911, 1921- 1922) contain clippings from the Houston *Post* or *Chronicle* which document voting notices or city ordinances passed with voting precincts, presiding judges, publisher’s affidavit and voting locations. A school district bond certification record from 1894 contains a handwritten letter by Houston Mayor John Browne.

Inventory

Title (Folder)	Date	Location
Houston: Airport (26-31)	1937 - 1946	0377-X-00
Houston: Bridges (01-16)	1896 – 1946	0378-X-00
Houston: City Buildings (17-27)	1913 – 1948	0378-X-00
Houston: Fire Police (28-34)	1922 – 1946	0378-X-00
Houston: Hospitals (35-44)	1922 -1949	0378-X-00
Houston: Incinerators (45-48)	1925 – 1947	0378-X-00
Houston: Library (49-53)	1922 – 1949	0378-X-00
Houston: Parks (54-72)	1912 – 1949	0378-X-00
Houston: Paving (01-61)	1901 – 1947	0379-X-00
Houston: Refunding (62-67)	1897 – 1932	0379-X-00
Houston: Roads/Streets (01-29)	1916 – 1948	0380-X-00
Houston: Sanitary Sewers (30-73)	1899 – 1949	0380-X-00
Houston: Schools (01-18)	1894 – 1949	0381-X-00
Houston: Storm/Drainage Sewers (19-51)	1912-1948	0381-X-00
Houston: Street/Traffic Signs (1-10)	1926 – 1948	0382-X-00
Houston: Waterworks (11-22)	1906 – 1944	0382-X-00
Houston: Wharfs (23-27)	1915 – 1928	0382-X-00
Houston: General (28-59)	1895 – 1948	0382-X-00

Series: Municipalities
Range of Dates: 1904-1949

Scope and Contents Note:

The municipalities bond certification records contain clippings from newspapers with election notices (South Houston 1927), maps of cities (West University 1927, 1946), registered mail receipts (La Porte 1946), and original bond coupons (Bellaire 1936). The general subseries contains the following municipalities: Baytown, Humble, Independence Heights, and Liberty.

Inventory

Title (Folder)	Date	Location
Municipalities: Bellaire (60-66)	1936 – 1948	0382-X-00
Municipalities: Galena Park (67-77)	1936 – 1946	0382-X-00
Municipalities: Goose Creek (78-85)	1924 – 1947	0382-X-00
Municipalities: Harrisburg (1-16)	1919 – 1927	0383-X-00
Municipalities: Houston Heights (17-21)	1904 – 1917	0383-X-00
Municipalities: Jacinto City (22-26)	1948 – 1949	0383-X-00
Municipalities: La Porte (27-33)	1926 – 1949	0383-X-00
Municipalities: Magnolia Park (34-45)	1915 – 1925	0383-X-00
Municipalities: Park Place (46-51)	1923 – 1925	0383-X-00
Municipalities: Pasadena (52-84)	1929 – 1949	0383-X-00
Municipalities: Pelly (1-8)	1927 – 1946	0384-X-00
Municipalities: South Houston (9-14)	1927 – 1935	0384-X-00
Municipalities: Southside Place (15-19)	1935 – 1947	0384-X-00
Municipalities: West University (20-36)	1926 – 1948	0384-X-00
Municipalities: General (37-43)	1920 – 1948	0384-X-00

Series: Independent School Districts
Range of Dates: 1904-1949

Scope and Contents Note:

In addition to newspaper clippings, the independent school district bond certification records contain hand drawn maps, some of which contain the names of property owners, for the Brunner (1904), Harrisburg (1920, 1927), Pasadena (1936, 1944), and Deer Park (1948) Independent School Districts.

Inventory

Title (Folder)	Date	Location
Independent School Districts: Brunner (44-47)	1904 – 1914	0384-X-00
Independent School Districts: Crosby (48-53)	1922 – 1947	0384-X-00
Independent School Districts: Deer Park (54-56)	1948 – 1948	0384-X-00
Independent School Districts: Galena Park (57-62)	1937 – 1948	0384-X-00
Independent School Districts: Goose Creek (63-67)	1922 – 1945	0384-X-00
Independent School Districts: Harrisburg (1-5)	1920 - 1927	0385-X-00
Independent School Districts: Houston Heights (6-8)	1903 – 1912	0385-X-00
Independent School Districts: La Porte (9-14)	1915 – 1947	0385-X-00
Independent School Districts: Pasadena (15-27)	1910 – 1949	0385-X-00
Independent School Districts: Spring (28-30)	1908 – 1946	0385-X-00
Independent School Districts: General (31-51)	1925 – 1949	0385-X-00