

York City Records: A Preliminary Guide to Select Historic Municipal Records

prepared March 4, 2023 by Jonathan R. Stayer

Record Name	Start Date	End Date	Boro, City or County?	Format	PSA Mfm Project No.	Date of Microfilming	LDS Mfm Nos.	Location of Original	Location of Microfilm	PSA Mfm Nos.	YCHC Mfm Nos.	Remarks
Town Book of Road Supervisors	1782 March 2	1812 May 1	Boro	1 vol	LR15	1985		YCHC	PSA	4904 (LR15.2)		original includes list of "Prisoners in Prison," November 2, 1835; YCHC file #117.016
Borough Council Journals/Minutes	1787 November 16	1887 April 14	Boro	5 vols	LR3	1979		City Hall	PSA, YCHC	4814-4815 (LR3b.1-LR3b.2)	215-216 (LR3b.1-LR3b.2)	actual dates are 1787-1812, 1848-1887; 1st volume contains minutes 1787-1812 & ordinances 1790-1798; Feb. 24, 1887 last recorded meeting of boro council before becoming a city; last volume includes one session of Common Council dated April 14, 1887
York Boro Poor Tax/Tax Book	1798 March 26	1799 May 1	County/Boro	1 vol		1953		YCA	YCHC		97	filed with tax assessment appeal books; digital copy at YCA
Borough of York Poor Book	1799	1804	County/Boro	1 vol	LR281	1985		YCA	PSA	6593		transcribed & published by SCPGS as <i>Record Book of Overseers of the Poor, Borough of York, Pennsylvania, 1799-1804</i> (Special Publication #27, 1984); xerox copy at YCHC (file #117.016)
Treasurer's Accounts	1812 June 1	1850 May 17	Boro	2 vols	LR281	1985		YCHC	PSA	6593		"Account of the Corporation of the Bureau of York"; YCHC file #117.016
Police Record books	1886 January 29	1899 June 30	City	2 vols				YCA				look like police blotters; filed with "Police Record Books"
Mayor's Office Police Record books	1887 April 4	1902 April 30	City	4 vols				YCA				letters B-D on spines of books 2-4; filed with "Police Record Books"
Common Council Journals (Minutes)	1887 April 4	1911 December 1	City	12 vols	LR3	1979		City Hall	PSA, YCHC	4815-4818 (LR3b.2-LR3b.5)	216-219 (LR3b.2-LR3b.5)	
Registration of Births	1888	1905	City	3 vols		1979	1287084	YCHC				Object ID - 40165; filed as "York City Health Registers"
Registration of Deaths	1888	1905	City	3 vols		1979	1287085	YCHC				Object ID - 40165; filed as "York City Health Registers"
Board of Health Ordinances	1889	1940	City	1 vol	LR99	1979		City Hall	PSA	5463		
Select Council Journals (Minutes)	1890 April 7	1913 November 28	City	8 vols	LR3	1979		City Hall	PSA, YCHC	4800-4802 (LR3a.1-LR3a.3)	220-222 (LR3a.1-LR3a.3)	Nov. 28, 1913 last meeting of Select Council
Board of Health Minutes	1892	1932	City	3 vols	LR99	1979		City Hall	PSA	5463		actual dates are 1892-1905, 1920-1932

Registration of Contagious Diseases	1892	1905	City	2 vols				YCHC				Object ID - 40165; filed as "York City Health Registers"
Mayor's Office Miscellaneous Record book	1902 April 7	1905 March 30	City	1 vol				YCA				"A" on spine; contains oaths & nominations of city officials; filed with "Police Record Books"
City Council Journals (Minutes)	1913 December 1	1972	City	29 vols	LR3	1979		City Hall	PSA, YCHC	4802-4813 (LR3a.3-LR3a.14)	222-224 (LR3a.3-LR3a.5)	

Notes About Additional Sources

1. Relatively complete sets of City Council minutes, ordinances and resolutions can be found in the Council's storage room in the basement of city hall under the jurisdiction of City Clerk Dianna Thompson (717-849-2246; dthompson@yorkcity.org).
2. Many historic records of the executive branch of city government (Mayor's office, etc.) dating primarily from the incorporation of York as a city in 1887 and later, such as police records, tax assessment books, lot and subdivision plans, ordinance books, early-twentieth-century mayor's correspondence, maps, real estate records, etc. are located in a large storage room in the basement of city hall under the jurisdiction of Mike Shanabrook, Director of Emergency Management (717-849-2441; mshanabrook@yorkcity.org). These records are generally grouped by type, but require additional arrangement. While no inventory of this material is available, Mr. Shanabrook has extensive and detailed knowledge of the materials and their location in the room.
3. The Library of the YCHC holds miscellaneous materials, c.1812-c.1973, received from the city over the years, which are found in files 00117.002, 00117.005, 00117.006, 00117.007, 00117.016, 00117.028, 00117.035. Of special note is a 1934 WPA "Survey of Municipal Archives" in file 00117.035 that lists the city's records as they were found at that time.

Abbreviations

- LDS - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/FamilySearch.org
- PSA - Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, PA
- SCPGS - South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, York, PA
- YCA - York County Archives, York, PA
- YCHC - York County History Center library, York, PA