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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



Inventory of the State
Archives of North Carolina

Series IX
Miscellaneous Agencies

No. 10
North Carolina
Rural Electrification Authority

North Carolina Historical
Records Survey Project
Division of Professional
and
Service Projects
Work Projects Administration
Raleigh, N. C.
January 1940

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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

INVENTORY OF THE STATE ARCHIVES
OF NORTH CAROLINA

Prepared by

The North Carolina Historical Records Survey Project
Division of Professional and Service Projects
Work Projects Administration

Sponsored by

The North Carolina Historical Commission
M. C. S. Noble, Chairman
C. C. Crittenden, Secretary

SERIES IX

MISCELLANEOUS AGENCIES

No. 10

NORTH CAROLINA RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AUTHORITY

Raleigh, North Carolina
The North Carolina Historical Records Survey Project
January 1940

WPA Historical Records Survey Program

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F O R E W O R D

The Inventory of the State Archives of North Carolina is one of a number of bibliographies of historical materials prepared throughout the United States by workers on the Historical Records Survey Program of the Work Projects Administration. Each State department, institution, or other agency will be represented by a separate section of the inventory; the sections for functionally related agencies will be grouped in series. The publication herewith presented, an inventory of the archives of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority is number 10 in Series IX, Miscellaneous Agencies.

The Historical Records Survey Program was undertaken in the winter of 1935-36 for the purpose of providing useful employment to needy unemployed historians, lawyers, teachers, and research and clerical workers. In carrying out this objective, the project was organized to compile inventories of historical materials, particularly the unpublished government documents and records which are basic in the administration of local government, and which provide invaluable data for students of political, economic, and social history. The archival guide herewith presented is intended to meet the requirements of day-to-day administration by the officials of the State, and also the needs of lawyers, business men and other citizens who require facts from the public records for the proper conduct of their affairs. The volume is so designed that it can be used by the historian in his research in unprinted sources in the same way he uses the library card catalog for printed sources.

The inventories produced by the Historical Records Survey Program attempt to do more than merely give a list of records--they attempt to sketch in the historical background and to describe precisely and in detail the organization and functions of the agencies whose records they list. The inventories for the entire country will, when completed, constitute an encyclopedia of State and local government as well as a bibliography of State and local archives.

The successful conclusion of the work of the Historical Records Survey Program, even in a single agency, would not be possible without the support of public officials, historical and legal specialists, and many other groups in the community. Their co-operation is gratefully acknowledged.

The Survey Program was organized and has been directed by Luther H. Evans, and operates as a nation-wide series of locally sponsored projects in the Division of Professional and Service Projects, of which Mrs. Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner, is in charge.

F. C. HARRINGTON

Commissioner

PREFACE

The Historical Records Survey was created in the winter of 1935-36 as a nation-wide Works Progress Administration project for the "discovery, preservation and listing of basic materials for research in the history of the United States."¹ Under the direction of Dr. Luther H. Evans, the Survey undertook an extensive program for the inventory of state and local archives, early American imprints, church archives, and collections of manuscripts. Pursuant to the provisions of the Emergency Relief Act passed June 30, 1939, the existence of the Survey as a single nation-wide project sponsored by WPA itself was terminated August 31, 1939; and the work of the Survey was continued in the individual States by locally sponsored projects operating within the national WPA Historical Records Survey Program which continued under the direction of Dr. Evans.

The North Carolina Project of the national Historical Records Survey was established February 1, 1936, with Dr. C. C. Crittenden, Secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission, as director. Until November 1936 the Survey operated as an autonomous unit of the Federal Writers' Project, directed in North Carolina by Edwin Bjorkman. Dr. Crittenden resigned as State Director June 30, 1937, and was succeeded by Dan Lacy, who had previously served as Assistant State Director. The work of the North Carolina unit of the Historical Records Survey has been continued by the North Carolina Historical Records Survey Project established September 1, 1939, and sponsored by the North Carolina Historical Commission.

The present inventory of the records of the Rural Electrification Authority is the second published section of the Inventory of the State Archives of North Carolina being prepared by the North Carolina Historical Records Survey Project. The inventory was prepared under the supervision of Mr. Branson Marley, Assistant Project Supervisor in charge of public archives. Field work was done by Mr. T. Nelson Worley and Mr. Walter B. Joyner. The inventory was read for the sponsor by Dr. C. C. Crittenden, Secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission, was edited by Miss Mabel S. Brodie of the Library of Congress National Technical Project of the Historical Records Survey Program, and the Librarian of Congress recommended that the inventory be approved for publication. The Survey is indebted to Mr. Dudley W. Bagley, Chairman of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority, and members of his staff for their generous co-operation in the work.

DAN LACY, STATE SUPERVISOR
N. C. HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY

January 8, 1940

1. Works Progress Administration, Operating Procedure No. W-2, Revised July 2, 1937.

NORTH CAROLINA RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AUTHORITY

1. Structural Organization and Evolution

Among the functions of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, which was created by the Federal Emergency Relief Act of 1933, was that of surveying living conditions in rural areas and offering suggestions for their improvement. In 1934 a series of projects was sponsored by various state Emergency Relief Administrations to survey the possibilities of increasing facilities for the use of electricity in rural homes. Such a survey was conducted in North Carolina under the direction of Professor D. S. Weaver of North Carolina State College.

Under the authority of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 the President of the United States by executive order first created the Rural Electrification Administration to facilitate the introduction of electric service in rural areas not at that time served. On May 20, 1936, Congress passed the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, which established a superseding agency of the same name and the same general functions as that created by the President. It was further provided that the President vest in the new agency the administration of loans and contracts entered into by the former agency and transfer to the new agency records and personnel of the former agency. Such a transfer was effected by executive order of September 26, 1936. The Congressional act of 1936 provided for an administrator appointed by the President with the advice of the Senate and authorized him to make loans to persons, corporations, States, Territories, and subdivisions and agencies thereof, municipalities, people, utility districts, and co-operative, non-profit, or limited dividend corporations for the purpose of financing the construction and operation of rural electrification systems. States which had made provision for agencies to take advantage of the rural electrification program were to be given preference in the loans.

In the meantime the North Carolina General Assembly of 1935 enacted a law creating the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority, to consist of six members appointed by the Governor.¹ The members of the Authority were appointed for terms as follows: two for two years, two for four years, and two for six years, and their successors for terms of four years.² The Authority is authorized to choose from its membership a chairman and a secretary, who shall be a competent engineer, and to fix salaries of each.³ The other members of the Authority, however, were allowed only reimbursement for expenses incurred in the actual performance of their duties.⁴ In 1939 the Authority was authorized to pay its members, except the chairman and secretary, seven dollars per diem in addition to expenses incurred,⁵ for not more than twelve meetings in any

1. Public Laws of North Carolina, 1935, c. 288, s. 1, hereafter cited as Public Laws.
2. Ibid., s. 1.

3. Ibid., s. 4.
4. Ibid., s. 5.
5. Ibid., 1939, c. 97.

one year.

In 1935 the legislature also enacted an Electric Membership Corporation Act, which provided for the formation of non-profit membership corporations for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the fullest possible use of electricity by the inhabitants of the State at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and prudent management of the business of such corporations. The act sets forth the rights, powers, and duties of electric membership corporations, authorizes and regulates the issuance of bonds, and provides for the payment of such bonds. Persons desiring to form electric membership corporations must file petitions with the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority, which may pass on the application as provided by the creating act.⁶

After the application of an electric membership corporation has been approved by the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority, it is sent to the Federal Rural Electrification Administration, which is, as is explained above, the agency which makes loans for the extension of rural electric facilities.

2. Powers and Duties

The North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority was created for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the fullest possible use of electric energy in the rural areas of the State. The Authority neither builds nor finances the power lines but provides for the co-ordination of assisting facilities. In general, it makes investigations, assists communities in organizing electric membership corporations, negotiates with power companies, the Federal Government, and municipalities for the better distribution of power lines. Specifically, it is empowered as follows:

1. To investigate applications from communities without electric power.
2. To employ personnel to conduct surveys, to assist communities that now have available facilities, to organize and finance the extension of rural lines, and to negotiate with power companies for the supply of energy to rural communities not being served.
3. To negotiate with power companies or other agencies contiguous to areas desiring service for the purpose of arranging for the extension of service by such companies or other agencies to those areas.
4. To make estimates of the cost of extensions which power companies are unwilling to finance and to report such findings to communities desiring service or to any corporations organized under the Electric Membership Corporation Act.

6. Public Laws, 1935, c. 291.

5. To estimate service charges which communities will have to allocate in addition to the rates for energy for the necessary power in order to make extensions self-liquidating.

6. To have authority to call upon the Utilities Commission of North Carolina to fix such rates and service charges as will be necessary to accomplish the purpose of the Rural Electrification Authority and to have the right to petition the Utilities Commission to require the extension of lines by the power companies when, in its opinion, it is proper and feasible.

7. To have the power of eminent domain for the purpose of condemning the rights-of-way for the erection of transmission and distribution lines, either in its own name or on behalf of electric membership corporations to be formed.

8. To have such right and authority as may be necessary to secure for the local community or electric membership corporation assistance from any agency of the United States Government.

9. To investigate all applications for electric membership corporations.

10. To act as agent for any electric membership corporation in securing loans or grants from any agency of the United States Government.

11. To prescribe rules and devise application blanks for electric membership corporations making application for grants or loans from an agency of the United States Government.

12. To do all other things which may be necessary to aid the rural communities of North Carolina to secure electric energy.⁷

It will be noted, however, that the Authority is not granted power to fix rates or to order line extensions. The Authority only has the right to petition the Utilities Commission, in which the power to fix rates and to order extensions is expressly vested by the act.⁸

3. Housing, Care, and Accessibility of Records

The records of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority, both those records kept by the Emergency Relief Administration project and the records accumulated by the Authority since its creation in 1935, are kept in its offices, rooms 510-511, of the Revenue Building, South Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina. The building, erected in 1926, is constructed of brick, steel, and concrete with a granite facing. The offices have concrete floors overlaid with hardwood and steel window

7. Public Laws, 1935, c. 288, s. 2.

8. Ibid., s. 3.

casements. They are well-lighted, well-ventilated, and clean.

Conditions of storage and facilities for the use of records are good. There is ample space for expansion of record files. The records are divided approximately as follows: seventy percent in room 510 and thirty percent in the chairman's office, room 511.

ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS, AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

alph.	.....	alphabetical (ly)
approx.	.....	approximate (ly)
arr.	.....	arrange, arrangement
c.	.....	chapter (s)
chron.	.....	chronological (ly)
f. d.	.....	file drawer (s)
hdw.	.....	handwritten
ibid.	.....	the same reference
no., nos.	.....	number (s)
num.	.....	numerically
p., pp.	.....	page (s)
pr. fm.	.....	printed forms
rm.	.....	room
s (s)	.....	section (s)
--	.....	current or to date
x	.....	by (in dimensions)

Exact titles on volumes or containers are written in all capitals without brackets.

Descriptive titles, written in all capitals and enclosed in brackets, have been assigned to records having no exact titles on volumes or containers.

Explanatory titles, written with initial capitals and enclosed in brackets, have been added to exact titles which are misleading or are not sufficiently descriptive of record content.

If units of a record have distinguishing numbers, letters, or other labeling, such labeling is indicated in parentheses as following the statement of quantity in the title line.

Third-paragraph cross references are used to indicate relationship between records in other entries, or to refer to records of similar nature contained in other entries.

Dimensions of volumes or record containers are given in inches.

Number of papers contained, as shown in title lines, is approximate total number covered by the entry.

Unless otherwise indicated the condition of a record is assumed to be good or excellent.

Minutes

1. [MINUTES], June 15, 1935--. 1 vol.
Minutes of meetings, showing date, attendance roster, business discussed, and applications for formation of electric membership corporations reviewed. Entries arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Typed. 250 pp. 12 x 9 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Rm. 510.

Correspondence

2. [GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE], July 1, 1935--. 5,600 papers in 2 f. d. (labeled by contained letters of alphabet).
General correspondence with state, county, and city officials, prospective consumers, power companies, and electrical building contractors relative to power lines, subscriptions, building of lines and substations, surveys, statistics, and other official business. Arr. alph. by name of correspondent; thereunder chron. No index. Typed and hdw. 10 x 12 x 14. Rm. 510.

North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration Survey

3. LETTERS AND INFORMATION SURVEY, 1934-35. 3,600 papers in 2 f. d.
Field inspector's reports to director of Rural Electrification Committee of North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration, including reports of weekly activities and questionnaires filled in by electrical engineers seeking work on county lines; correspondence between field inspectors and director of Rural Electrification committee; and weekly expense accounts and copies of North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration vouchers. Arr. in folder alph. by name of county or name of inspector. No index. Typed, hdw., and mimeographed. 10 x 12 x 18. Rm. 511.

4. PROPOSED LINES DATA, 1934-35. 14,400 papers in 4 f. d. (labeled by contained letters of alphabet).
Information on proposed lines compiled by field inspectors, including report on estimate of load, demand, revenue to be expected, and resume of the location for each line, electrical data showing name of prospects, electrical appliances to be installed, and farm data when available; statistics on line right-of-way showing acres cleared, uncleared, estimated cost of materials, name of station to supply power, and number of poles needed; statistical report on distribution of current over existing lines, giving for each line detail of construction voltage, distance in miles, and line number; and maps indicating present and proposed lines and location of substations. Arr. alph. by name of county; thereunder num. by line no. No index. Typed, hdw., and mimeographed. 10 x 12 x 24. Rm. 511.

For compiled reports, see entry 5.

5. NORTH CAROLINA RURAL ELECTRIFICATION SURVEY [Statistics], 1935.
1 vol.
Statistics compiled from field inspectors' reports on rural electrification giving data on existing transmission lines, proposed line extensions,

and existing substations, and containing map of each county indicating present and proposed lines with remarks by field inspector. Arr. alph. by name of county. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. and map drawings. 98 pp. 14 x 15 x 3/4. Rm. 511.

For data from which statistics are prepared, see entry 4.

Records of lines and Corporations

6. CO-OPERATIVES, LETTERS, AND DATA, July 1, 1935--. 200 papers in 1 f. d.

Miscellaneous file containing:

- i. Bulletins, n. d., containing statistics and general information mailed to members of county co-operatives.
- ii. Correspondence with state, county, and city officials, prospective consumers, and power companies regarding county electric corporations, maps, and statistics.
- iii. Lists, 1937-39, of county electric membership corporations showing name and address of corporation, estimated cost of project, name of builder, name of project supervisor, and date.
- iv. Membership survey tabulation report showing name of electric membership corporation, name of county, date of report, name and address of each prospective consumer, fees paid, distance from road, guaranteed monthly revenue, and signature of secretary.

Arr. in folders by subject; correspondence arr. thereunder alph. by surname of author. No index. Typed and hdw. 10 x 12 x 10. Rm. 510.

7. APPLICATIONS FOR LINES, July 1, 1935--. 400 papers in 2 f. d. (labeled by contained letters of alphabet).

Applications, in form of correspondence with power companies and individuals, for lines proposed and under construction, showing address and location of prospective consumers and information pertaining to line extensions and approximate cost of service. Arr. alph. by name of county. No index. Typed and hdw. 10 x 12 x 10. Rm. 510.

For maps, see entry 8.

8. CO-OPERATIVES MAP, n. d. 120 papers in 1 f. d.

Maps, showing location of proposed and present power outlets, details of power lines, and location of substations. Also contains pamphlets and bulletins on electrical statistics in North Carolina and other states used for purposes of comparison. Maps arr. alph. by name of county; pamphlets and bulletins arr. by subject. No index. Typed, pr., and mimeographed and hand-drawn. 10 x 12 x 12. Rm. 510.

For applications, see entry 7.

Financial Records

9. [REPORTS TO BUDGER BUREAU], July 31, 1935--. 1 post binder. Monthly reports to the Budget Bureau as follows: Monthly Report on the Budget, Form B.B. 701, showing purpose and amount of expenditure;

Monthly Report on Appropriation and Allotment, Form B.B. 7021, showing total appropriation, how allotted, total transaction, unexpended, outstanding obligations, and unencumbered allotment; Voucher Register, Form B.B. 801, showing voucher number, payee, purpose and amount; Pay Roll, Form B.B. 8011, showing voucher number, payee, position, and amount; Voucher Register A/c Classification, Form B.B. 802, showing summaries of vouchers to date; Receipts Register, Form B.B. 804, showing date, receipt number, from whom, purpose, amount, and total; and Receipts Register A/c Classification, Form B.B. 805, showing summaries of totals to date. Also contains: departmental budget for biennium, Form B.B. 307; notification of allotments for quarter, Form B.B. 302, transmittal of the estimates, Form B.B. 1001; estimates of the amounts required for the biennium, Form B.B. 1002; statement supporting Form B.B. 1002, Form B.B. 1004; and inter-office communication, Form B.B. 606-706. Arr. chron. by year; thereunder chron. by quarter; and thereunder chron. by month. No index. Typed on pr. fm. 175 pp. 10 x 12 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Rm. 510.

10. [VOUCHER WARRANTS, STATEMENTS, BILLS, RECEIPTS], July 11, 1935--.
2 vols.

Carbon copies of statements, bills, receipts, and vouchers for payment of salaries and other expenses of the Authority. Arr. chron. by year; thereunder chron. by month. Typed and hdw. on pr. fm. and pr. heads. 465 pp. 10 x 12 x 3. Rm. 510.

Miscellaneous

11. CLIPPINGS, 1935--. 3,300 papers in 1 f. d.
Press clippings relative to activities of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority. Arr. alph. by name of county or by topic. No index. Pr. 10 x 12 x 22. Rm. 511.

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Raleigh, 1937.

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