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REPORT ON
THE LOUISIANA STATEWIDE RECORDS PROJECT
AND
HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY
OP 65-1-64-197

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
LIBRARIES

FOREWORD

by

Dr. Edwin A. Davis,
Head, Department of Archives.

University, Louisiana
The Department of Archives
Louisiana State University
May 1, 1940

REPORT ON
THE LOUISIANA STATEWIDE RECORDS PROJECT
AND
HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY
OF 1941-1942-1943

FOREWORD

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Dr. Edwin A. Davis,
Head, Department of Archives.

Louisiana State University
The Department of Archives
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
May 1, 1943

The official sponsor and the sixty co-sponsors
of the Louisiana Historical Records Survey Project in-
vite you to visit exhibits of project publications in
any one of the courthouses of the state, Hill Memorial
Library, Department of Archives and the State Capitol in
Baton Rouge; Tilton Memorial Library, Middle American Re-
search Institute, Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans
Courthouse Building, Jackson Barracks, and Room 300 Old
Criminal Courts Building, in New Orleans.

The Louisiana Historical Records
Survey Project headquarters is located in
Room 300 Old Criminal Courts Building,
Tulane and Saratoga Streets, New Orleans,
Louisiana. O P 65-1-64-197. The Project
is operated under the Research and Records
section of the Division of Professional
and Service Projects, Work Projects Admin-
istration. Official Sponsor, Department
of Archives, Hill Memorial Library,
Louisiana State University.

FOREWORD

This report was prepared by John C. L. Andreassen, State and Regional Supervisor of the Historical Records Survey. It is believed that the information it contains will be of interest to social scientists and public officials concerned with the location and preservation of materials relating to the government and history of Louisiana and the Lower South. It is also believed that the general public will be interested in this report as an indication of the manner in which WPA "white collar" work pays the state and its communities. For these reasons the report has been mimeographed for wider distribution than was originally intended.

The Historical Records Survey had its inception in the early days of the Works Progress Administration as the product of hope for better records conditions on the part of numbers of historians, archivists and public administrators, and a recognition of the devastating social conditions which are an outcome of "white collar" unemployment. Initiated by Mr. Harry Hopkins in early 1936 and placed in operation with procedures developed under Dr. Luther H. Evans' direction, the Historical Records Survey was nurtured for some months under the protecting wing of the already established Federal Writers' Project. The work continued as a federally sponsored project until September 1, 1939, when a series of locally sponsored statewide projects were set up to continue the work begun by the Historical Records Survey on the state and local records of the nation.

The Department of Archives of Louisiana State University, , operating under the terms of Act 258 of 1936, has from the beginning of

the work in Louisiana taken an active part in the support of the Historical Records Survey objectives and program. Since September 1, 1939, the Department of Archives has been the official sponsor of the project in Louisiana. Prior to that date, the Department sponsored the publication of numerous volumes prepared by the Survey. There are now sixty co-sponsors of the Louisiana project.

Briefly, the major objective of the Historical Records Survey is to place under primary controls the records of civilization in these United States. Major emphasis has been placed upon public records. By a primary control is meant such a compilation as a list or inventory of newspaper files by titles of the newspapers. A secondary control would be a name and subject index to a file of newspapers. A second guiding principle governing the scope of the survey projects has been that the work undertaken yields a published result. The list of publications in this report gives evidence that this principle is being followed in Louisiana. A third, but seldom expressed principle governing the Survey Program, has been acceptance of the "progressive bibliography" idea. This is best illustrated in the publications of the Early American Imprints phase of the Survey Program. For example, the Check List of Chicago Ante-Fire Imprints was published before the Imprints Survey in the State of Illinois had begun from titles already located elsewhere in the nation's libraries. Publication in mimeographed, or other near-print form, has kept duplication costs at a low level; the aid of specialists throughout the nation has been enlisted

in making the second edition far more comprehensive than the first. In fact, the publication of succeeding and revised editions has become a procedure for the collection of data for what will eventually constitute near-definitive lists.

Since November 1, 1939, the Louisiana project has also been responsible for the continuation and completion of those projects engaged in records renovation and in the preparation of indexes to deed, mortgage, marriage and other records located in the courthouses of the state. The value of this work in making accessible those records, which at some time or other affect the lives of every one of us, is amply attested by the public officials most directly concerned. The Historical Records Survey has been a pioneer in developing research procedures and techniques which involve the use of the available clerical man-power of the state and nation to prepare "new tools for research." These techniques warrant careful study by students in many fields.

From a project employing 40 workers in Louisiana, we have watched this project grow to an assigned total of over 525 workers. This has been due to administrative and co-sponsor recognition of a work yielding permanent public benefits and of work competently done. The value of well-ordered, accessible records to the citizens of the state is a matter open to very little question. The contribution of this program to scholarship in the United States in providing "new tools for research" is now well recognized. The maintenance and improvement of the clerical skill of the several thousands of white-collar workers who have

been used in this public records improvement program will continue to yield a return to the state and nation, whether or not a relief program is continued.

E. A. Davis, Head,
Department of Archives
Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University

May 10, 1940
University, Louisiana

REPORT

It gives me pleasure to report to you on the activities of the consolidated statewide records project in Louisiana. The project is now operating with workers in fifty-eight of the State's sixty-four parishes. Employment, though varying considerably from month to month, now totals 526. The project organization is one in which all field workers are under one of six district supervisors. These six district supervisors are given technical aid by a staff of editorial or technical consultants located in the state office of the project in New Orleans. For example, there is a trained librarian in the state office in technical charge of the Imprints inventory, and a technical supervisor in charge of each of the other phases of the project.

I believe the training and experience of the project supervisory staff will compare favorably with the faculty of any college with an enrollment of 500 to 600 students. The turnover in personnel due to workers receiving private employment, and due to the "eighteen months" clause has not seriously affected project operations since a training program is constantly underway. A knowledge of the technical nature of Survey activities on the part of WPA administrative officials has resulted in the employment on this project of workers with high qualifications. In fact, in the past three years we have never operated with better worker talent than is now the case. Every effort is made to assign the worker to a task for which he is fitted by training, experience, or interest. Day by day records are maintained on each worker's production and the quality of his work; wherever the records indicate it advisable, the worker is given an opportunity to do a more difficult job, or to learn a more technical task. The result of this policy has been that whereas 18 months ago only two supervisors had come up from the certified ranks, today four out of every five supervisors on this project have worked their way up from the certified rolls to positions of considerable responsibility.

The nature of the published product of this project has brought favorable attention from many persons and institutions throughout the nation.

The quality of the public records inventories has been such that the National Director, and the Librarian of Congress have recently authorized publication of inventories without referral to Washington for review. The publication program got under full steam last fall and the production schedule of one volume per week has been maintained for the last several months.

A surprisingly favorable support of the project in terms of Co-sponsor contribution for the continuation of project activity has been noted since January 1st of the present year.

For the sake of convenience, I have divided the report which follows into ten parts, nine of which outline the status of the various project activities presently underway.

May 1, 1940
New Orleans

John C. L. Andreassen
State and Regional Supervisor
Historical Record Survey Projects

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A. PROJECT SPONSORS

The Louisiana Statewide Records Project and Historical Records Survey is sponsored by the Department of Archives, Louisiana State University. The various units of the project throughout the state are co-sponsored by local governmental agencies. A number of contributing sponsors are also listed below.

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Co-Sponsor</u>
Avoyelles	Police Jury
Catahoula	Police Jury
Concordia	Police Jury
Grant	School Board
Grant	Police Jury
LaSalle	Police Jury
Natchitoches	Police Jury
Rapides	Police Jury
Sabine	Police Jury
Vernon	Police Jury

BATON ROUGE DISTRICT

Ascension	Police Jury
East Feliciana	Police Jury
Iberville	Police Jury
Livingston	Police Jury
Pointe Coupee	Police Jury
St. Helena	Police Jury
St. Tammany	Police Jury
Tangipahoa	Police Jury
Washington	Police Jury
West Baton Rouge	Police Jury
West Feliciana	Police Jury

LAKE CHARLES DISTRICT

Acadia	Police Jury
Allen	Police Jury
Beauregard	Police Jury
Calcasieu	Police Jury
Calcasieu	City of Lake Charles
Evangeline	Police Jury
Iberia	Police Jury
Jefferson Davis	Police Jury
St. Martin	Police Jury
Vermilion	Police Jury

MONROE AREA

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Co-Sponsor</u>
East Carroll	Police Jury
Jackson	Police Jury
Lincoln	Police Jury
Madison	Police Jury
Morehouse	Police Jury
Morehouse	Assessor
Ouachita	Police Jury
Richland	Police Jury
Tensas	Police Jury
Union	Police Jury
West Carroll	Police Jury

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

Assumption	Police Jury
Jefferson	Police Jury
	Middle American
	Research Institute
Lafourche	City of Thibodaux
Orleans	Howard Memorial Library
	Louisiana Historical
"	Association
"	Public Belt Railroad
"	Civil District Court
"	City of New Orleans
"	Louisiana State Museum
St. Bernard	Police Jury
St. Charles	Police Jury
St. James	Police Jury
St. John the Baptist	Police Jury
Terrebonne	Police Jury

SHREVEPORT AREA

Bossier	Police Jury
Red River	Police Jury

B. PARISH ARCHIVES INVENTORY

The Historical Records Survey uses local workers to inventory records of the various public offices on standard government inventory forms. An inventory, once listed on the forms, is rechecked for accuracy. The original inventory has been made in the following parishes:

Acadia	Jefferson Davis	Terrebonne
Allen	Lafayette	Union
Ascension	Lafourche	Vermilion
Assumption	LaSalle	Vernon
Avoyelles	Lincoln	Washington
Beauregard	Livingston	Webster

Bienville	Madison	West Baton Rouge
Bossier	Morehouse	West Carroll
Caddo	Natchitoches	West Feliciana
Calcasieu	Orleans	Winn
Caldwell	Cuachita	
Catahoula	Plaquemines	
Claiborne	Pointe Coupee	
DeSoto	Rapides	
East Baton Rouge	Red River	
East Carroll	Richland	
East Feliciana	Sabine	
Evangeline	St. Bernard	
Franklin	St. Charles	
Grant	St. Helena	
Iberia	St. James	
Iberville	St. John the Baptist	
Jackson	St. Landry	
Jefferson	St. Martin	
	St. Mary	
	St. Tammany	
	Tangipahoa	
	Tensas	

Parish archives inventories remain to be made in:

Concordia
Cameron

This is to be explained by a lack of available certified workers to do this task in these two parishes.

As the original inventories have been completed and the forms rechecked, inventory entries have been prepared. These in turn have been checked against the materials inventoried. For some time, publication of inventories was delayed in order to determine just what the state law was with regard to the structural organization and evolution of each parish office and the history of the powers, duties and records requirements of each office. This work involved careful perusal of each of the states' constitutions, each page of the session laws, the codes, revised statutes, published attorney general's opinions, selected judicial decisions, and the ordinances of the local governing bodies such as the police juries. These legal source materials have been placed under indexed working controls so that inventory entries are now automatically checked against the legal requirements, and the essays tracing the evolution of each parish office are being produced with machine-like regularity.

Parish archives inventories published to date include the following:

- 1) Historical records survey. Inventory of the parish archives of Louisiana. No. 2. Allen parish. University, Louisiana, Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, June, 1938. mimeo. (iv, 91p.)

- 2) Historical records survey. Inventory of the parish archives of Louisiana. No. 10. Calcasieu parish. University, Louisiana, Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, March, 1938. mim. (iv, 113 p.)
- 3) Historical records survey. Inventory of the parish archives of Louisiana. No. 22. Grant parish. University, Louisiana, Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, April, 1940. mim. (iv, 89 p.)
- 4) Historical records survey. "A brief history of Jefferson Parish." Jefferson Parish yearly review, 1939. p. 127-183.
- 5) Historical records survey. Inventory of the parish archives of Louisiana. No. 26. Jefferson parish. A brief history. University, Louisiana, Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, April 1940. mim. (25 p.)
- 6) Historical records survey. Inventory of the parish archives of Louisiana. No. 26. Jefferson Parish. University, Louisiana, Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, January, 1940. mim. (iv, 437 p.)
- 7) Historical records survey. Inventory of the parish archives of Louisiana. No. 28. Lafayette Parish. University, Louisiana, Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, March, 1938. mim. (iv, 118 p.)
- 8) Historical records survey. Inventory of the parish archives of Louisiana. No. 35. Natchitoches Parish. University, Louisiana, Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, September, 1938. mim. (v, 180 p.)
- 9) Historical records survey. Inventory of the parish archives of Louisiana. No. 36. Orleans parish. Preliminary inventory of notarial records. University, Louisiana, Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, June, 1939. mim. (v, 172 p.)
- 10) Historical records survey. Inventory of the parish archives of Louisiana. No. 38. Plaquemines parish. University, Louisiana, Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, August, 1939. mim. (iii, 228 p.)
- 11) Historical records survey. Inventory of the parish archives of Louisiana. No. 44. St. Bernard parish. University, Louisiana, Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, December, 1938. mim. (iii, 166 p.)
- 12) Historical records survey. Inventory of the parish archives of Louisiana. No. 45. St. Charles parish. University, Louisiana, Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, November, 1937, mim. (ii, 117 p.)

- 13) Historical records survey. Inventory of the parish archives of Louisiana. No. 59. Washington parish. University, Louisiana, Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, March, 1940. multi: (vi, 334 p.)

Inventories are being rechecked in the following parishes:

Avoyelles	St. Helena
Claiborne	St. Martin
East Baton Rouge	St. Mary
Livingston	Union
Vernon	

Parish archives inventories in various stages of editing and publication at the present time are:

Beauregard
Bossier
East Feliciana
Lafourche
Morehouse
Sabine
Terrebonne
Webster
Winn

Two publications incidental to the parish archives inventories have been released. The titles are self-explanatory. Special attention is called to the indexes to these volumes which constitute the first comprehensive working tools for the person interested in the state law as it relates to the boundaries of counties, parishes, judicial and congressional districts in Louisiana. These publications are:

- 1) Historical records survey. Judicial and congressional district boundary law in Louisiana. New Orleans. The Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, October, 1939. multi. (ii, 90p.)
- 2) Historical records survey. County-Parish boundaries in Louisiana. New Orleans, The Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, October, 1939. mim. (vi, 139 p.)

Several points should be mentioned:

- 1) These publications have been sent to each Clerk of Court in each of the sixty-four parishes in the state. On the publication of the inventories for each of the parishes in the state, these 64 volumes will constitute in each clerk's office a catalog (similar to the librarian's catalog) of the archives in each parish courthouse. In other words, it will be possible for anyone to go to his courthouse to determine whether it will be worth while to check certain records in a

neighboring parish. The value of these inventories in planning improved records systems, and to the student of history and local government, is obvious.

2) The various parishes have been providing necessary duplication costs for these volumes which are also distributed to some 125 depositories throughout the nation. The two depositories in Louisiana which receive the nationwide set of HRS publications are the Department of Archives, Louisiana State University and the Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University of Louisiana, in New Orleans.

3) One of the few criticisms the inventory volumes have encountered is in the matter of bulk. This has, we believe, been solved in publication of entry drafts such as the Grant Parish Inventory.

4) Publication of Parish archives inventories is being speeded up very materially. Precedence in all matters is being given to this particular task, and two or more inventories per month may be expected.

C. STATE ARCHIVES

The initial inventory in the following offices, boards, commissions and institutions has been completed:

Secretary of State
Louisiana State University
Board of Control of Louisiana Leper Home (now federal)
Public Service Commission
Highway Commission
Pardon Board
Supervisor of Public Accounts
Land Inventory Commission of Louisiana
Board of Appraisers
Printing Board
Board of Equalization
Adjutant General
Department of Public Welfare
Livestock Sanitary Board
Legislature
State Board for the Blind
State Planning Commission
Board of Liquidation of State Debt
State Superintendent of Education
Railroad Commission of Louisiana
State Treasurer
State Department of Agriculture and Immigration
Board of Audit and Exchange
Executive Department
Board of Electrical Examiners and Supervisors
State Board of Health
Register of Land Office
Board of Pension Commissioners
Board of Tax Appeals
Keeper of State House and Grounds
Board of Parole
Louisiana Tax Commission
Debt Moratorium Commission
Banking Department
Department of Commerce and Industry
Courts of Appeal
Attorney General
Board of Trustees of Teachers' Retirement System
Service Commissioner for United Spanish War
Veterans of Louisiana
Department of State Police
State Mineral Board
Library Commission
Southern University, Scotlandville
Louisiana State School for the Deaf
Louisiana State Employment Service

Licensing Board for General Contractors
Board of Barber Examiners
Louisiana State School for the Blind
State Department of Labor
State Hospital Board
Colony and Training School for Feeble Minded
State Industrial School for Girls
Hospital Board of Administrators Central
Louisiana, Pineville
Nurses Board of Examiners
State Board of Optometrists
Board of Directors of Shreveport Charity Hospital
Board of Commissioners for the Port of
New Orleans
State Notarial Archives
New Court House Commission
Board of Commissioners Orleans Levee Board
District
Louisiana Tax Commission
State Board of Medical Examiners
Hospital Board of Administrators of Charity
Hospital, New Orleans
State Board of Health
Board of Control of Cosmetic Therapy
State Board of Charities and Corrections
Board of State Engineers
State Fire Marshal
Louisiana State Law Library
Louisiana Insurance Commission
State Board of Dentistry
Board of Engineering Examiners
State Board of Examiners of Journeymen
and Plumbers
State Board of Osteopaths
State Chauffeur License Bureau
Safety Commission
Tuberculosis Commission
Supreme Court

The inventory of the office listed below is being checked:

Secretary of State

Draft inventories have been prepared for the following:

Supreme Court
Courts of Appeal

The necessary legal research for the publication of state archives inventories has been under way, with that for the parish archives, and is now being brought to a close. The publication program in state archives inventories is scheduled to begin in July. Contemplated reorganization of the state government resulting in the consolidation of certain agencies will have the effect of reducing the total number of volumes published.

D. MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES INVENTORY

The Historical Records Survey has carried on an inventory of municipal archives in conjunction with the survey of parish archives. During 1939 a thorough recheck of the preliminary field inventory has been made in New Orleans.

The initial inventory has been made in the following municipalities:

Converse	Crowley
Noble	DeRidder
Olla	Oakdale
Pleasant Hill	Lafayette
Colfax	Lake Charles
Jena	Bonita
Leesville	Collingston
Many	Mer Rouge
Marksville	Oak Ridge
Tullos	Bastrop
Winnfield	Farmerville
Zwolle	Jonesboro
Natchitoches	Oak Grove
Alexandria	Monroe
Morganza	Castor
Clinton	Arcadia
Covington	Coushatta
Denham Springs	Gibbsland
Franklinton	Homer
Handeville	Mansfield
New Roads	Morringsport
Plaquemine	Vivian
Port Allen	Minden
St. Francisville	Shreveport
Bogalusa	Lutcher
Hammond	Thibodaux
Baton Rouge	Westwego
Elizabeth Oberlin	Gretna
Ville Platte	Houma

The following inventories have been rechecked:

Jena
Clinton
Ville Platte
Crowley
Lafayette
Homer
New Orleans

New Orleans municipal agencies initial inventory completed:

City Archives	School Board
Bicycle Division New Orleans	Recorder of Mortgages
Police Dept.	Recorders Court
Clerk Civil District Court	Civil Sheriff
Commission Council	Auditorium Commission
Clerk First City Court	Board of Examiners of Operating Engineers
Clerk Second City Court	Fire Commission
Clerk Third City Court	Board of Prison and Asylums
Clerk Fourth City Court	Milne Asylum for Destitute Girls
Register of Conveyances	Milne Municipal Boys Home
Constable First City Court	Parkway Commission
Chauffer's License Bureau	Public Belt Railroad Commission
Dept. of Property	Sewerage and Water Board
Department of Finance	Upper Pontalba Building Commission
Fire Department	Zoning Board of Appeals
House of Detention	
Impounded Cars, New Orleans	
Police Department	
Juvenile Court	
Board of Health	
New Orleans Police Department	

New Orleans inventories being rechecked include:

Commerce Court
Clerk - First City Court
Clerk - Second City Court
Clerk - Third City Court
Clerk - Fourth City Court
Conveyance Office
Juvenile Court
Sheriff Civil District Court
Auditorium Commission
Board of Operating Engineers
Fire Commission
Board of Prison and Asylums
Firemen's Pension Fund
Milne Asylum for Destitute Girls
Milne Municipal Boys Home
Parkway Commission

Public Belt Railroad
Sewerage and Water Board
Upper Pontalba Building Commission

Draft inventories have been prepared covering the records of the following:

Commerce Court
First City Court
Second City Court
Third City Court
Fourth City Court
Juvenile Court
Civil Sheriff

E. CHURCH ARCHIVES INVENTORY

The original survey has been made in the following parishes:

Acadia	Orleans
Allen	Ouachita
Ascension	Plaquemines
Avoyelles	Pointe Coupee
Beauregard	Rapides
Bienville	Red River
Caddo	Richland
Calcasieu	Sabine
Caldwell	St. Bernard
Catahoula	St. Charles
DeSoto	St. Helena
East Feliciana	St. James
East Baton Rouge	St. John the Baptist
Grant	St. Mary
Iberia	St. Tammany
Iberville	Tangipahoa
Jefferson	Tensas
Lafayette	Terrebonne
LaSalle	Union
Livingston	Washington
Morehouse	Webster
Natchitoches	West Feliciana

Winn

The records of 1780 Louisiana churches have been inventoried. The inventory of the Jewish denominational records has been prepared for publication and will be issued within the next few months. Other denominational inventories will be published in rapid order. Another publication in this field, nearing completion, is a Directory of Churches in Louisiana by denominations.

F. AMERICAN IMPRINTS INVENTORY

The American Imprints Inventory under the nationwide technical supervision of Douglas C. McMurtrie is locating materials printed in the United States before 1877. Workers in Louisiana under the direction of trained librarians have listed from card catalogs, shelf, and accession lists, and from the title pages of pamphlets, broad-sides and books, a total of 173,553 titles and their location. Practically every public library in the state of Louisiana and several hundred private collections have been searched to date. A total of 135,739 titles have been typed on slips corresponding to the Library of Congress catalog card. These slips are sent in to a central office where after filing by state and year, bibliographical check lists are prepared giving the location of every item found, and printed in a given state. This work in Louisiana is being brought to a speedy conclusion. Under the sponsorship of the Hill Memorial Library of the Louisiana State University, the Louisiana Project issued the volume listed below:

- 1) Historical records survey. American imprints inventory. Location symbols for libraries in the United States. University, Louisiana, Hill Memorial Library, Louisiana State University, 1939. min. (v, 258 p.)

G. NEWSPAPER INVENTORY

With a view to supplementing Gregory's Union List of Newspapers, Survey workers have listed newspaper holdings in libraries, courthouses and publishers' offices, in thirty-two cities and thirty parishes in Louisiana; the holdings of fifty-three depositories have been listed; 759 newspaper files have been inventoried. A checklist of newspaper holdings in Louisiana with location references is presently being prepared by a trained bibliographer.

H. MANUSCRIPTS INVENTORY

The Inventory of manuscripts in Louisiana is designed to place three different controls over handwritten and typed materials non-archival in character. The first publication has been designed to describe manuscript depositories; the second is much more detailed in that it describes individual collections; the third type of control is the guide or calendar which describes each individual manuscript in a selected collection.

A draft of A Guide to Manuscript Depositories in Louisiana, describing thirty-five Louisiana manuscript depositories has been completed and will be published within the next two months. The

Guide to Manuscript Collections in the Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, has been approved for publication and will be released very shortly. A great deal of work has been done in the preparation of calendars and other guides to manuscript materials of this nature in Louisiana. The list of publications is as follows:

1. Historical records survey. An inventory of the manuscript collections of the Department of Middle American Research. Tulane university. No. 1 Calendar I. Fayssous collection of William Walker papers. New Orleans, Department of Middle American Research, Tulane university, May, 1937. mim. (ii, 28 p.)
2. Historical records survey. An inventory of the collections of the Middle American research institute. No. 2 Calendar of the Yucatecan letters. New Orleans, Middle American research institute, Tulane university, December, 1939. mim. (240 p.)
3. Historical records survey, "Mississippi river ice at New Orleans." Louisiana historical quarterly, vol. XXI, April, 1938, p. 349-53.
4. Historical records survey. An inventory of the collections of the Middle American research institute, Tulane university. No. 3. Maps in the Frederick L. Hoffman collection. New Orleans, Middle American research institute, Tulane university, December, 1939. mim. (146 p.)
5. Historical records survey. Calendars of manuscript collections in Louisiana. Series 1. The Department of archives. No. 1. Taber collection. University, Louisiana, The Department of archives, Louisiana state university, May, 1938. pr. (12 p.)
6. Historical records survey. Transcripts of manuscript collections in Louisiana. No. 1. The Favrot papers, 1695-1769. New Orleans, Historical records survey, May, 1940. mim. (140 p.)

Work on manuscripts in Louisiana has centered in four major depositories. The work at the Middle American Research Institute, Tulane University, is indicated from the publications listed above. You are, of course, acquainted with the work done by the project in assisting your staff in the compilation of the Guide to Manuscript Collections in the Department of Archives. We have recently brought to publication stage the Calendar of the Post-War Letters in the Jefferson Davis Collection, deposited with the Louisiana Historical Association at the Confederate Memorial Hall, New Orleans. With the cooperation of Mr. H. Richmond Favrot and Mr. James J. Fortier, the preparation of further volumes based upon the Favrot Collection now deposited at the Louisiana State Museum (Cabildo), is being continued.

I. RECORDS RENOVATION AND INDEXING

The condition of records found in some courthouses made necessary a certain amount of sorting, arranging and filing before intelligible inventories could be prepared. So for a period of almost three years the Historical Records Survey has been engaged in putting those records not in current use, in order.

Local W P A projects were established in approximately 40 parishes in the state, designed to accomplish specific renovation tasks and to prepare indexes and to reindex those records most used by the general public. Problems growing out of the last Emergency Relief appropriation act brought about the consolidation of the Historical Records Survey Project with those local projects engaged in records renovation, transcription and indexing activities. This consolidation was effected on March 2, 1940. Operating local record projects in the following parishes were brought under the technical supervision of the Statewide Records Project:

Assumption	LaSalle	Ascension	Tangipahoa
Allon	Natchitoches	East Feliciana	Washington
Avoyelles	Ouachita	Iberia	West Baton Rouge
Bossier	Red River	Iberville	West Feliciana
Calcasieu	St. James	Jefferson	
East Carroll	Terrebonne	St. Tammany	
Jackson	Union	St. Helena	
Lafayette	Morehouse	St. Martin	

In these parishes project workers are doing such things as general record renovation including mending, sorting, and cleaning local records; preparing general grantor-grantee indexes to conveyance and mortgage records, indexing district court case papers and minutes by plaintiff and defendant, indexing notarial acts, oil leases, marriage records, succession records, entry books, ownership plat books and maps. The project is authorized to transcribe by microfilm the colonial and territorial records found in the parish courthouses throughout the state except in East Baton Rouge and Orleans Parishes.

J. RECORDS TRANSCRIPTION

In order to provide materials for localizing the essays in the various Parish Archives Inventories, the legal research program of the project was extended some months ago to include the transcription of the minutes of the parish governing body, the Police Jury. This transcription work has been based upon procedures which have yielded accurate transcriptions; a number of parishes have indicated a desire to have these materials placed in the hands of all public officials in the parish and in the public schools for study and general reference use. As a result, we have begun the publication of a few select series of police jury minutes, under police jury and school board co-sponsorship. These volumes carry lists of the parish officials, full subject indexes and a chronological list of ordinances passed by the Police Jury. These lists of ordinances provide the tool by which codification of local ordinances may be effected.

The subject indexes have been highly commended. A list of volumes published to date follows:

1. Historical records survey. Transcription of parish records of Louisiana. No. 26. Jefferson parish (Gretna). Series I. Police Jury minutes. Vol. 1, 1834-1843. New Orleans. The police jury, Jefferson parish, June, 1939. mim. (xxxvii, 346p.)
2. Historical records survey. Transcriptions of parish records of Louisiana. No. 26. Jefferson Parish (Gretna). Series I. Police jury minutes. Vol. III, 1858-1870. New Orleans, Police Jury, Jefferson parish, November, 1939. mim. (liv. 601 p.)
3. Historical records survey. Transcriptions of parish records of Louisiana. No. 26. Jefferson parish (Gretna). Series I. Vol. III A, 1871-1884 New Orleans, Police jury, Jefferson parish, January, 1940. mim. (lix, 418 p.)
4. Historical records survey. Transcriptions of parish records of Louisiana. No. 26. Jefferson parish (Gretna). Series I. Vol. IV 1870-1879. New Orleans, Police jury, Jefferson parish, March, 1940. mim. (lxix, 480 p.)
5. Historical records survey. Transcriptions of parish records of Louisiana. No. 26. Jefferson parish (Gretna). Series I. Vol. V. 1879-1888. New Orleans Police jury, Jefferson parish, April, 1940. mim. (lxvi, 472 p.)
6. Historical records survey. Transcriptions of parish records of Louisiana. No. 26. Iberville parish (Plaquemine). Series I. Vol. I. 1850-1862. University, Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, April, 1940. mim. (xlciiii, 289 p.)

The status of transcription work in the various parishes in the state follows:

PARISH	Pages Transcribed	Vols. Completed	Complete & Incomplete Transcribed Vols. on file
ACADIA	1931	4	6
ALLEN	449	0	7
ASCENSION	1672	3	6
ASSUMPTION	1079	2	6
AVOUELLES	5671	15	15
BEAUREGARD	2751	10	12
BIENVILLE	2281	6	6
BOSSIER	3429	8	10
CADDO	3963	13	15
CALCASIEU	1831	4	10
CALDWELL	1140	5	7
CATAHOULA	772	2	5
CLAIBORNE	1603	1	4

PARISH	Pages Tran- scribed	Vols. Com- pleted	Complete & Incomplete Transcribed Vols. on file
CONCORDIA	1238	1	4
DESOTO	1734	2	4
E. BATON ROUGE	2653	6	10
E. FELICIANA	2997	6	8
EVANGELINE	119	2	4
FRANKLIN	1786	2	4
GRANT	1866	2	5
IBERVILLE	1943	4	6
JACKSON	682	1	1
JEFFERSON	5876	13	14
LAFAYETTE	4403	12	15
LAFOURCHE	2772	5	7
LASALLE	1696	4	4
LINCOLN	1602	5	5
LIVINGSTON	2840	5	6
MADISON	782	1	2
MOREHOUSE	1487	2	4
NATCHITOCHE	1413	2	4
OUACHITA	581	1	2
POINTE COUPEE	2084	4	5
RAPIDES	3146	7	8
RED RIVER	787	2	3
RICHLAND	1949	4	7
SABINE	1068	2	3
ST. BERNARD	1746	3	5
ST. CHARLES	3277	8	9
ST. HELENA	130	0	1
ST. JAMES	968	2	2
ST. JOHN BAPTIST	1284	5	6
ST. LANDRY	865	2	4
ST. MARTIN	834	2	4
ST. TAMMANY	2175	5	6
TANGIPAHOA	14	0	1
TENSIS	547	1	2
TERREBONNE	2549	5	7
UNION	2051	4	9
VERMILLION	2940	4	6
VERNON	2269	2	4
WASHINGTON	984	1	2
WEBSTER	2281	6	7
W. BATON ROUGE	1286	2	3
W. CARROLL	517	0	1
W. FELICIANA	2396	4	6
WINN	2424	4	4

