



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Minnesota State Archives

## U.S. GENERAL LAND OFFICE. An Inventory of Its State Trust Fund Land Selection and Approved Lists

### OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** United States. General Land Office.
- Series Title:** State trust fund land selection and approved lists,
- Dates:** 1867-1916.
- Abstract:** An incomplete set of selection and approved lists for various categories of Minnesota state trust fund lands.
- Quantity:** 1.0 cu. ft. (2 boxes).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

### SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

An incomplete set of selection and approved lists for various categories of Minnesota state trust fund lands. There are selection lists for indemnity school land, and approved lists for indemnity school land, salt spring land, agricultural college land, university land, internal improvement land, and state forestry land. There is also an inventory of state school land.

Under a number of congressional enactments, the federal government granted the state specified amounts of land for designated public purposes. To obtain these lands, the state filed selection lists in the local land offices, giving the legal description of each tract selected. The selection lists, which established the priority of the state's claim to the tracts selected, were then forwarded to the GLO for approval by the commissioner of the GLO and the Secretary of the Interior. The approved lists are derived from the selection lists and itemize those tracts that were approved for patenting to the state.

### ARRANGEMENT OF THE RECORDS

Arranged by type of list, thereunder by land district.

## RELATED MATERIALS

The State Land Office records include a more complete set of approved lists.

## INDEX TERMS

*This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.*

### Topics:

Land grants—Minnesota.  
Public lands—Minnesota.  
Salt spring lands—Minnesota.  
School lands—Minnesota.  
Trust fund lands—Minnesota.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### Preferred Citation:

*[Indicate the cited type of list, land office, list number, and page here].* U.S. General Land Office. State Trust Fund Land Selection and Approved Lists. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.

*See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.*

### Accession Information:

Accession number(s): none?

### Processing Information:

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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

*Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.*

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
114.J.1.8F-1	1	<p>Indemnity School Land Selection Lists, 1867-1911. 1 box.</p> <p>Under the Minnesota Statehood Act, sections 16 and 36 (totaling 1280 acres) of every township were dedicated to the state school fund. If any such section was deficient (had less than a full section of land area) by reason of being located in a fractional township, being covered by lake, river, or swamp, being reserved for some other public purpose, or being preempted by prior settlement, the state was entitled to select indemnity lands from the public domain to make up the deficiency.</p> <p>The indemnity selection lists are arranged by land district and chronologically assigned list number. They include the following information: list number; land district through which the selections were made; legal description of the deficient section(s), citing range, town, section, and fractional section; acreage of section(s) 16 and/or 36 in place; acreage by which the section is deficient; legal description of the lands selected to supply the deficiency; acreage of the indemnity selection; cause of the deficiency in the original school lands; and date the selections were filed with the register of the U.S. land office.</p> <p>This file is <u>not</u> a complete set of Minnesota indemnity school land selection lists.</p> <p>Duluth Land Office, 1883-1911, List nos. 1-125. Winnebago Land Office, 1867, List no. 2. Cass Lake Land Office, 1905-1908, List nos. 1-7. St. Cloud Land Office, 1896, List no. 16.</p>

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
114.J.1.8F-2	2	<p>Indemnity School Lands Approved Lists. 18 lists.</p> <p>The approved lists certify that the tracts selected by the state as indemnity school lands were not subject to any prior claim or reservation. They are arranged by land district and date of approval and give the following information: list number; land district through which the selections were made; legal description of the deficient sections; acreage of section(s) 16 and/or 36 in place; acreage by which the section(s) is/are deficient; legal description and acreage of the lands selected to supply the deficiency; cause of the deficiency in the original school lands; and date(s) the selections were approved by the commissioner of the U.S. General Land Office and the Secretary of the Interior.</p>

This is not a complete set of Minnesota indemnity school lands approved lists.

Duluth Land Office, 1896-1916, Lists nos. 2-12.

Crookston Land Office, 1896-1903, Lists nos. 1-7.

**Location**      **Box**

114.J.1.8F-2

2

Salt Spring Lands Approved Lists. 4 lists.

By an act of Congress approved February 26, 1857, Minnesota was entitled to select from the federal domain certain tracts of land containing salt springs. This grant was modified by an act of March 3, 1879, which allowed Minnesota to relinquish its claim to some of the salt spring lands and to select an equivalent amount of land as indemnity. The approved lists certify that the salt spring and/or indemnity lands were not subject to any prior claim or reservation.

The lists for each land district are arranged by range, town, section, and fractional section. They all appear to cover indemnity lands, recording date of selection, legal description and area of the parcels selected, remarks that identify the salt spring and acreage for which the listed parcels are being selected in indemnity, and dated statements of approval by the commissioner of the General Land Office and the Secretary of the Interior. This is not a complete set of salt spring approved lists.

Redwood Falls Land Office, 1885.

Benson Land Office, 1885.

Fergus Falls Land Office, 1885.

Duluth Land Office, 1898.

**Location**      **Box**

114.J.1.8F-2

2

Agricultural College Lands Approved Lists: Winnebago Land Office, 1905. 2 lists.

By an act of Congress approved July 2, 1862, Minnesota was entitled to select land from the public domain to support agricultural colleges. The approved lists certify that the tracts selected were not subject to any prior claim or reservation. Each list gives list number; date of selections; legal descriptions of the parcels selected; total acre value of each parcel and actual acreage (some land designated "double minimum" was accounted as twice its actual acreage against the original grant); and dates the selections were approved by the commissioner of the General Land Office and the Secretary of the Interior.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
114.J.1.8F-2	2	<p>University Lands Approved Lists, 1873-1896. 4 lists.</p> <p>Under acts of Congress of February 26, 1857, and July 8, 1870, Minnesota was entitled to select lands from the public domain for the purpose of supporting a state university. The approved lists certify that the tracts selected in each land district were not subject to any prior claim or reservation. This is <u>not</u> a complete set of university lands approved lists.</p> <p>Duluth Land Office, 1894-1896. Lists 5 and 6. Oak Lake Land Office, 1873. List 1. Crookston Land Office, 1896. List 7.</p>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
114.J.1.8F-2	2	<p>Internal Improvement Lands Approved Lists, 1867-1874. 4 lists.</p> <p>By an act of Congress approved September 14, 1841, Minnesota was entitled to select 500,000 acres of land from the public domain for the purpose of financing “such internal improvements as the legislature might direct.” The approved lists certify that the tracts selected were not subject to any prior claim or reservation. This is <u>not</u> a complete set of internal improvement lands approved lists.</p> <p>St. Peter Land Office, 1867. Winnebago Land Office, 1867. Litchfield Land Office, 1873. Oak Lake Land Office, 1874.</p>
<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
114.J.1.8F-2	2	<p>State Forestry Lands Approved List: Duluth Land Office, 1905. 1 list,</p> <p>A Congressional act of April 28, 1904 entitled Minnesota to select 20,000 acres of land from the federal domain for the purpose of establishing a state experimental forest. This approved list certifies that the tracts selected were not subject to any prior claim or reservation. It records legal description and acreage of each tract selected; total acreage selected; and dates the selections were approved by the commissioner of the General Land Office and the Secretary of the Interior.</p>

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
114.J.1.8F-2	2	<p>Inventory of State School Lands, ca. 1880. 1 packet. Benson, Fergus Falls, New Ulm, Redwood Falls, St. Cloud, Taylors Falls, Detroit, and Crookston land offices.</p> <p>These lists of state school lands (sections 16 and 36 of each township) constitute an inventory of the school lands in place and of the deficient acreage for which the state was entitled to indemnity. The lists are arranged by U.S. land district, range, town, and section, and include the following information for each section: area of land in place; area deficient and for which the state is entitled to indemnity; cause of the deficiency; amount of deficiency previously indemnified; and the remaining deficiency.</p> <p>Crookston Land Office, 1895-1902, List nos. 1-22. Redwood Falls Land Office, 1874, List no. 1.</p>