



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Minnesota State Archives

## STATE LAND OFFICE: An Inventory of Its Records of Payments on State Land Contracts

### OVERVIEW

- Agency:** Minnesota. State Land Office.
- Series Title:** Record of payment on state land contracts,
- Dates:** 1862-1943.
- Abstract:** Records of annual payments made by purchasers of state trust fund lands.
- Quantity:** 80.0 cubic feet (96 volumes).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for volume locations.

### SCOPE AND CONTENTS

Records of annual payments made by purchasers of parcels of state trust fund lands, from the time the land was initially purchased until the final payment was made and a patent issued. There are payment records for school lands, internal improvement lands, swamp lands, state institution lands, reform school lands, university lands, public building lands, salt spring lands, and agricultural college lands.

These records provide the only direct linkage between certificate number (issued to the original purchaser) and patent (final title) number. The patent number in turn may be used to access the State Trust Fund Land Certificates (cataloged separately), which contain materials documenting the ownership history of the land parcels included under each patent number.

Information provided: legal description, citing range, township, section, and fractional section; number of acres (usually 40), price per acre, and total purchase price; name of purchaser; date of purchase; certificate number; and payment schedule (columns for principal and interest paid each year). After the final payment was made, the volumes record the name of the final patentee (who may or may not be the same as the initial purchaser), date of final payment, and patent number. Once a patent was issued, volumes for subsequent years note the purchaser and patent number (but no payment data) for parcels already patented, while continuing the payment schedule for lands not yet patented.

Each volume is generally organized by range and township number (one pair of facing pages per township), with a separate line for each parcel (usually a quarter-quarter section).

## ORGANIZATION

These records are organized into six sections:

- School and Related Lands.
- Miscellaneous Lands.
- Internal Improvement Lands.
- Swamp Lands
- State Institution Lands.
- Reform School Lands.

## INDEX TERMS

*These records are 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 titles--Registration and transfer--Minnesota.
- Public land sales--Minnesota--Saint Paul.
- Public land sales--Minnesota.
- Salt spring lands--Minnesota.
- School lands--Minnesota.
- Swamp lands--Minnesota.
- Trust fund lands--Minnesota.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### Preferred Citation:

Minnesota State Land Office. Record of payments on state land contracts. *[Indicate the cited subdivision, volume, and page here]*. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.  
*See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.*

### Accession Information:

Accession number(s): none; 983-65

### Processing Information:

Catalog ID No.: 1735189

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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

### **School and Related Lands, 1862-1943. 55.0 cubic feet (62 volumes and 3 partial volumes).**

Records of annual payments on parcels of school land (sections 16 and 36 in each township), as well as on other land selected in lieu of a deficiency in these sections, and on internal improvement and university lands transferred to the school lands during the 1880s and 1890s. They also include payment records for university, public building, and agricultural college lands for the years 1907-1943, which were numbered by the State Land Office as part of the school lands series. (See "Miscellaneous Lands," below, for pre-1907 payments on these lands.)

There are several volumes for each span of years for which a payment schedule was established. Each group of volumes is organized by meridian (4th or 5th) and range number, and thereunder by township number (one pair of facing pages per township), with a separate line for each quarter-quarter section of sections 16 and 36. Variant arrangements are noted on the volume list below. The number of acres for each entry is usually 40, although occasional entries are aggregated or subdivided. Although the county name is noted on each page, the information is not organized by county.

Parcels that were pre-empted, part of a military or Indian reserve or a state forest, in a lake or river, or otherwise unavailable are also noted.

#### **Location**

##### **1862-1881:**

- 106.F.19.4F                      4th Meridian, 1862-1871 and 1872-1881. Volume C.
- 106.G.5.6F                      Subdivision School Lands, 1862-1871 and 1872-1881. [Volume A].  
A payment record for quarter-sections (or portions thereof)  
of school lands that were subdivided into blocks and lots.

##### **1862-1871:**

- 106.F.19.4F                      5th Meridian, Ranges 4 - 26 (Township 115). Volume A.  
Includes some records of indemnity school lands.
- 106.F.19.4F                      5th Meridian, Ranges 26 (Township 115) - 38. Volume B.  
Includes some records of indemnity school lands.

**Location**

**1872-1881:**

- 106.F.19.5B 5th Meridian, Ranges 4 - 26 (Township 120). Volume A2.
- 106.F.19.5B 5th Meridian, Ranges 26 (Township 121) - 37. Volume B2.
- 106.F.19.5B 5th Meridian, Ranges 38 - 48. Volume C1 & 2 (one physical volume).  
Pages for Range 49 are blank. A note on page 317 (following R48 T124) states that pages 315 and 316 "were taken out for a sample to make new book."
- 106.F.19.6F 5th Meridian, Ranges 25 - 50. Volume D.  
For each range, continues the township numbers from volumes B2 and C1 & 2 (primarily townships 138-148). Entries are scattered throughout the volume, but cover especially ranges 41-50. A partial index at the front of the volume is titled "Index to Irregular Headings."
- 106.G.5.7B Indemnity School Lands, Volume 1 & 2 (one physical volume).  
A payment record for land in other sections, selected by the state for sale as school lands in lieu of a deficiency of lands in sections 16 or 36 in various townships. It does not identify the school land townships to which these lieu lands were applied. Arranged generally by range number, although many pages are out of sequence. There is an index by range and township number.

**1882-1891:**

- 106.F.19.6F 4th Meridian, Ranges 11-32. Volume A2.
- 106.F.19.6F 5th Meridian, Ranges 4-26. Volume A3.
- 106.F.19.7B 5th Meridian, Ranges 27-37. Volume B3.
- 106.F.19.7B 5th Meridian, Ranges 38-49. Volume C3.
- 106.F.19.7B 5th Meridian, Ranges 25-49, Townships 133-146. Volume D2.  
For each range, continues the township numbers from volumes B3 and C3; pages for ranges 25 and 26 are blank. Includes an index giving page number(s) for each township for which there are entries.

**Location**

- 106.G.5.6F 5th Meridian, Ranges 25-31, Townships 147-164. Volume E.  
Continues township numbers from Volume D2
- 106.G.5.6F Indemnity School Lands. Volume 3.  
Arranged generally by range number. Indexed by range and  
township number. The last six pages contain state institution  
lands.
- 106.G.5.6F Subdivision School Lands. Volume A2.  
Also includes reform school lands (pages 307-319).
- 1892-1907:**
- 106.C.7.2 4th Meridian, Ranges 1-19. Volume A3.
- 106.C.7.3 4th Meridian, Ranges 20-24. volume B.
- 106.C.7.4 4th Meridian, Ranges 25-32. Volume C.
- 106.C.6.3 5th Meridian, Ranges 4-26, Townships 101-132. Volume A4.
- 106.C.6.4 5th Meridian, Ranges 27-37, townships 101-132. Volume B4.
- 106.C.6.7 5th Meridian, Ranges 25-37, Townships 133-160. Volume D3.
- 106.C.6.8 5th Meridian, Ranges 38-49, Townships 101-132. Volume C4.
- 106.C.7.1 5th Meridian, Ranges 38-51, Townships 133-160. Volume E2.
- 106.C.7.5 Subdivision School Lands. Volume 3.  
Continued from Volume A2.
- 106.C.7.6 Indemnity School Lands. Volume 4.  
Arranged generally by range number. Indexed by range and  
township number.
- 106.C.12.3 Internal Improvement Lands [Transferred to School Lands].  
Volume B3.  
Payment record for land in other sections, transferred from  
lands originally allocated to the state to provide revenue for  
internal improvement purposes. Also notes the amount of  
delinquent interest. Entries are by range number, Page  
headings say brought from Book A; this volume appears to  
be missing.
- 106.C.12.3 University Land Transferred from Internal Improvement Lands.  
Volume A & B4 (one physical volume).  
Entries are by range number.

**Location**

**1908-1923:**

- 106.C.7.7 5th Meridian, Ranges 4-26, Townships 101-132. Volume A5 (also labeled volume 1).
- 106.C.7.8 5th Meridian, Ranges 27-37, Townships 101-132. Volume B5 (also labeled volume 2).
- 106.C.8.1 5th Meridian, Ranges 38-49, Townships 101-132. Volume C5 (also labeled volume 3).
- 106.C.8.2 5th Meridian, Ranges 25-37, Townships 133-160. Volume D4 (also labeled volume 4).
- 106.C.8.3 5th Meridian, Ranges 38-51, Townships 133-160. Volume E3 (also labeled volume 5).
- 106.C.8.4 4th Meridian, Ranges 1-20. Volume A4 (also labeled volume 6).
- 106.C.8.5 4th Meridian, Ranges 21-32. Volume B2 (also labeled volume 7).
- 106.C.8.6 Indemnity School Lands, 5th Meridian. Volume 1 (also labeled volume 8).  
Arranged generally by range number, although most of Range 25 follows Range 27 and additional entries for Ranges 26-29 are in the back of the volume. Continued from volume 4, 1892-1907.
- 106.C.8.7 Indemnity School Lands, 4th Meridian. Volume 1 (also labeled volume 9).  
By range number. Additional entries for Range 4W are in the back of the volume. Continued from volume 4, 1892-1907.
- 106.C.8.8 School Lands Transferred from Internal Improvement Lands.  
Volume B4 (also labeled volume 10).  
By range number; additional entries for Range 43 are in the back of the volume. Continued from volume B3.

**Location**

- 106.C.9.1 University Land, Public Building Land, University Land Transferred [from internal improvement lands], and Agricultural College Land, 1907-1923. Volume 11.  
Arranged by type of land, then generally by range number. University, public building, and agricultural college lands are continued from Volume A4 (below). Page headings for university lands transferred refer to volume MF-1; this is actually volume A & B4, 1892-1907.  
For earlier records for these types of land, see Miscellaneous Lands (below).
- 106.C.9.2 Subdivision School Lands. Volume 4 (also labeled volume 12).  
Partial volume; bound with volume A4 of internal improvement lands.
- 1924-1939:**
- 106.C.9.3 5th Meridian, Ranges 4-26, Townships 101-132. Volume A6 (also labeled volume 1).
- 106.C.9.4 5th Meridian, Ranges 27-37, Townships 101-132. Volume B6 (also labeled volume 2).
- 106.C.9.5 5th Meridian, Ranges 38-49, Townships 101-132. Volume C6 (also labeled volume 3).
- 106.C.9.6 5th Meridian, Ranges 25-37, Townships 133-160. Volume D5 (also labeled volume 4).
- 106.C.9.7 5th Meridian, Ranges 38-51, Townships 133-160. Volume E4 (also labeled volume 5).
- 106.C.9.8 4th Meridian, Ranges 1-20. Volume A5 (also labeled volume 6).
- 106.C.10.1 4th Meridian, Ranges 21-32. Volume B3 (also labeled volume 7).
- 106.C.10.2 Indemnity School Lands, 4th Meridian. Volume 2 (also labeled volume 8).
- 106.C.10.3 Indemnity School Lands, 5th Meridian. Volume 2 (also labeled volume 9).
- 106.C.10.4 School Lands Transferred from Internal Improvement Lands.  
Volume B5 (also labeled volume 10).

**Location**

- 106.C.10.5 University Land, Public Building Land, University Land Transferred, and Agricultural College Land. Volume 11. Spine date: 1924-1940.
- 106.C.10.6 Subdivision School Lands. Volume 5 (also labeled volume 12). Partial volume; bound with volume A5 of internal improvement lands.
- [1940-1943]:**  
Payment records in these volumes are scattered, and dates are handwritten instead of being pre-printed onto the pages. They appear to cover primarily 1940-1942.
- 106.C.10.7 5th Meridian, Ranges 4-26, Townships 101-[132?]. Volume A7.
- 106.C.10.8 5th Meridian, Ranges 27-37, Townships 101-132. Volume B7 (also labeled volume 2).
- 106.C.11.1 5th Meridian, Ranges 38-49, Townships 101-132. Volume C7 (also labeled volume 3).
- 106.C.11.2 5th Meridian, Ranges 25-37, Townships 133-160. Volume D6 (also labeled volume 4).
- 106.C.11.3 5th Meridian, Ranges 38-51, Townships 133-160. Volume E5 (also labeled volume 5).
- 106.C.11.4 4th Meridian, Ranges 1-20. Volume A6 (also labeled volume 6).
- 106.C.11.5 4th Meridian, Ranges 21-32. Volume B4 (also labeled volume 7).
- 106.C.11.6 Indemnity School Lands, 4th Meridian. Volume 3 (also labeled volume 8).
- 106.C.11.7 Indemnity School Lands, 5th Meridian. Volume 3 (also labeled volume 9).
- 106.C.11.8 School Lands Transferred from Internal Improvement Lands. Volume B6 (also labeled volume 10).
- 106.C.12.1 University Land, Public Building Land, University Land Transferred, and Agricultural College Land. Volume 11 (also labeled no. 6).
- 106.C.12.2 Subdivision School Lands. Volume 6 (also labeled volume 12). Partial volume; bound with volume A6 of internal improvement lands.



**Miscellaneous Lands, 1867-1906. 4 volumes.**

These volumes cover additional lands designated for educational and general public purposes. Successor volumes are listed with the main set of School and Related Lands, above.

**Location**

- 106.G.5.7B                   University, State Capital, Salt Spring, and Agricultural [College] and Mech[anic?] A[rts?] Lands, 1867-1876.  
                                  Actually contains only:  
                                  University lands, 1875-1876 (p. 50).  
                                  Salt spring lands, 1871-1872 (pp. 101-108).  
                                  Including copies of letters allocating lands to the Belle Plaine Salt Company.  
                                  Agricultural college lands, 1867-1876 (pp. 151-238, 244).
- 106.G.5.8F                   Agricultural College, University, Public Building, and Salt Spring Lands, 1877-1886. Volume A2.  
                                  Includes index by county for university lands. No public building lands are actually listed in this volume. Salt spring lands are listed, but no purchase data are recorded.
- 106.G.6.1B                   Agricultural College and University Lands, 1887-1896. Volume A3.
- 106.G.6.1B                   Agricultural College and University Lands, 1897-1906. [Volume A4].  
                                  Includes a few pages of public building lands (pp. 124-128).

**Internal Improvement Lands, 1872-1943. 5 volumes and 3 partial volumes.**

Records of annual payments made by purchasers of parcels of land, the proceeds from which were dedicated to various internal improvement purposes. A note in the front cover of Volume A gives the total acreage as of January 28, 1880, as 499,686.51 acres.

A large proportion of the internal improvement lands are noted as having been transferred to the permanent school fund or the permanent university fund during the 1880s and 1890s. The records of payment for these lands are included in School and Related Lands, above.

Entries are by range and township within six chronological units, each covering a span of years for which a payment schedule was established.

**Location**

- |             |                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 106.G.6.1B  | Volume A. 1872-1881, Ranges 24-38.<br>The first 20 pages are somewhat out of sequence. The inside front cover lists the total acreage for each county. |
| 106.G.6.1B  | Volume B. 1872-1881, Ranges 39-48.                                                                                                                     |
| 106.G.6.1B  | Volume A2. 1882-1891, Ranges 24-38.<br>The first 20 pages are somewhat out of sequence.                                                                |
| 106.F.19.2F | Volume B2. 1882-1891, Ranges 39-48.                                                                                                                    |
| 106.C.12.4  | Volume A3. 1892-1907, Ranges 24-48.<br>Continues volumes A2 and B2.                                                                                    |
| 106.C.9.2   | Volume A4. 19008-1923.<br>Partial volume; bound with volume 4 of School Lands: Subdivision School Lands (above).                                       |
| 106.C.10.6  | Volume A5. 1924-1939.<br>Partial volume; bound with volume 5 of School Lands: Subdivision School Lands (above).                                        |
| 106.C.12.2  | Volume A6. [1940-1943].<br>Partial volume; bound with volume 6 of School Lands: Subdivision School Lands (above).                                      |

**Swamp Lands, 1901-1943. 17.0 cubic feet (19 volumes).**

Records of annual payments made by purchasers of parcels of swamp and overflow lands along the Mississippi River and its tributaries, the proceeds from which were dedicated to various educational and internal improvement purposes. Each volume or group of volumes covers a span of years for which a payment schedule was established. Entries for lands deeded to railroads are often recorded in red or purple ink in the early volumes. State forest and other reserved lands, tax-forfeited lands, and lands that reverted to the state are also noted. If an affidavit of improvement was filed, this is noted, with the affidavit number.

Some of these swamp land entries were transferred from State Institution Lands, Volume B (see Laws 1907 c385).

**Location**

**1901-1912:**

106.C.12.5

Volume A. 4th and 5th Meridians.

Arranged roughly by range and township, although numerous pages of additional entries are out of sequence. Indexed by range and township number. Preprinted payment columns extend to 1916, but only those through 1912 are filled in.

**1913-1923:**

Some entries in these volumes were transferred from State Institution Lands, Volume B. These are not always specifically noted as such.

106.C.12.5

5th Meridian, Ranges 7, 25-29. Volume B (also labeled volume 13).

106.C.12.7

5th Meridian, Ranges 30-48. Volume B (also labeled volume 14).

106.C.12.6

4th Meridian, Ranges 18-22. Volume B.

106.C.12.8

4th Meridian, Ranges 23-32. Volume B.

**Location**

**1924-1934:**

- 106.C.13.1                    5th Meridian, Ranges 7-26. Volume A1 (also labeled volume 13).
- 106.C.13.3                    5th Meridian, Ranges 27-30. Volume B1 (also labeled volume 14).
- 106.C.13.5                    5th Meridian, Ranges 31-43. Volume C1 (also labeled volume 15).
- 106.C.13.7                    5th Meridian, Ranges 45-46. Volume D1 (also labeled volume 16).
- 106.C.13.4                    4th Meridian, Ranges 1-20. Volume A1 (also labeled volume 17).
- 106.C.13.6                    4th Meridian, Ranges 21-14. Volume B1 (alsolabeled volume 18).
- 106.C.13.2                    4th Meridian, Ranges 25-32. Volume D1 (also labeled volume 19).  
Mainly covers ranges 25-27. Apparently there was no  
volume C1 in this set.

**1935-1943:**

Payment columns extend to 1950, but only those through 1943 (occasionally 1944) are filled in. Many entries note a transfer to a new ledger sheet in 1943.

- 106.C.13.8                    5th Meridian, Ranges 7-26. Volume A2.
- 106.C.14.1                    5th Meridian, Ranges 27-30. Volume B2.
- 106.C.14.2                    5th Meridian, Ranges 31-44. Volume C2.
- 106.C.13.8                    4th Meridian, Ranges 10-20. Volume A2.
- 106.C.14.1                    4th Meridian, Ranges 21-24. Volume B2.
- 106.C.14.2                    4th Meridian, Ranges 25-32. Volume D2.
- 106.C.13.7                    4th Meridian, Ranges 1 to part of 10W; 5th Meridian, Ranges 45-49. Volume D2.

**State Institution Lands, 1882-1915. 2 volumes and 1 partial volume.**

Record of annual payments made by purchasers of parcels of land, the proceeds from the sale of which were dedicated to the support of state institutions. If an affidavit of improvement was filed, this is noted, with the affidavit number.

**Location**

- 106.G.5.6F                      1882-1891. partial volume.  
                                            See the last 8 pages of School Lands: Indemnity School Land, volume 3.
- 106.C.12.4                      Volume A, 1890-1899.
- 106.C.12.4                      Volume B, 1900-1915.  
                                            Facing pages 1-2 are missing. Lands transferred to swamp lands are noted.

**Reform School Lands, 1892-1913. 1 volume.**

A record of annual payments made by purchasers of land in blocks 1-13 of Ingersoll's Addition to St. Paul, the former site of the state reform school. Following legislation to construct a permanent reform school near Red Wing, in Goodhue County (Laws 1887 c200), the school's board of managers was directed to have its St. Paul site platted, appraised, and sold at auction by the commissioner of the State Land Office, with proceeds credited to the reform school fund (General Laws 1889, c258).

Information recorded: certificate number, sale date, lot and block number, amount of sale, purchaser's name, amount of principal due, and payment schedule (annual interest payments 1892-1906, with a few later notations). The schedule notes that part of blocks 3 and 4 were deeded to the city of St. Paul on June 1, 1909, under General Laws of 1909, chapter 203; this law authorized their sale to the city for a public high school building and canceled all outstanding sale certificates. The schedule also notes the sale of blocks 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10 to St. Paul on October 10, 1912, under General Laws of 1911, chapter 163; this law directed their sale to the city for educational purposes and gives a synopsis of the ownership history of Ingersoll's Addition.

The volume is accompanied by a sample certificate of sale and a printed abstract of title to the lands comprising Ingersoll's Addition.

**Location**

- 106.F.19.2F                      Reform School Lands, 1892-1913.