



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Minnesota State Archives

## U.S. SURVEYOR GENERAL OF MINNESOTA An Inventory of Its Miscellaneous Records

### OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** United States. Office of Surveyor General of Minnesota.
- Series Title:** Miscellaneous records,
- Dates:** 1857-1907.
- Abstract:** Annual and miscellaneous reports, inventories, manuals, various office work records, petitions for surveys, and timber agent accounts and correspondence.
- Quantity:** 1.9 cu. ft. (1 box and 2 partial boxes).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for locations.

### RELATED MATERIALS

Annual reports prior to 1896 are filed in Letters Sent (cataloged separately). For additional petitions for surveys and related correspondence, see Letters Received and Contracts for Surveys (each cataloged separately). Accounts of expenditures for 1862-1877 are located in the volume entitled "Quarterly Accounts" in the Accounting Records series (cataloged separately).

### 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:**

- Islands—Minnesota—Surveying.
- Land titles—Registration and transfer—Minnesota—Saint Paul.
- Office equipment and supplies—Inventories.
- Public lands—Minnesota—Surveying.
- Surveying—Minnesota.
- Timber—Minnesota.
- Timber trespass—Minnesota.
- Townships—Minnesota—Maps.

#### **Organizations:**

United States. General Land Office.

**Types of Documents:**

Almanacs.  
Manuals.  
Petitions.

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Preferred Citation:**

*[Indicate the cited volume and page or item and folder title here].* U.S. Surveyor General of Minnesota. Miscellaneous Records. 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>	
111.E.9.7B	---	Annual Reports and Statements, 1896-1906. 2 folders. Annual reports to the commissioner of the General Land Office on field and office work of the surveyor general's office at St. Paul. Also includes projected expenditures for the next fiscal year. Reports for earlier years are filed in Letters Sent. Office Inventories, 1857-1900. 1 folder. Inventories of the records, furnishings, and supplies of the St. Paul surveyor general's office. The inventories were usually taken when a new surveyor general assumed office and occasionally at other intervals. Reports to General Land Office Inspector, 1897-1901. 1 folder. Answers to inspector's interrogatories concerning the management of the surveyor general's office. Instructions to Surveyors General, 1871, 1881. 2 volumes. Published instructions from the commissioner of the General Land Office detailing procedures and practices to be used in making surveys of public land.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>
111.E.9.7B	--- <i>Solar Ephemeris</i> , 1888-1904. 14 volumes in folder. Almanacs listing the daily apparent declination of the sun and the corrections to be made when surveying with a solar compass. Original Land Entries for Parts of St. Paul. 1 volume. A list, of uncertain origin, giving the original land entries for parts of St. Paul in ranges 22-24, townships 28-29. The list gives the legal description of each parcel, name of entryman, and date of entry. See also U.S. General Land Office: Original Entry Tract Books for these townships. Chief Draughtsman's Record, 1869-1895. 1 volume. A record of plats drawn, citing the name of the surveyor and date of his contract, tract surveyed, date the surveyor's notes were returned to the office, dates the GLO and Land Office registers were completed, and to what account the work was charged. Transcribing Department Record, 1875-1895. 1 volume. Record of work done by the transcribing department listing employee, project, and date completed. Office Work Record, 1874-1907. 1 volume. A list, by range and township, of the plats and transcriptions of field notes that were completed by the surveyor general's office. Daily Work Logs, 1901-1907. 7 volumes. Labeled "Field Notes." Daily logs of draughtsmen, transcribers, and clerks. Lists of Employees in Surveyor General's Office, 1957, 1861, 1903. 1 folder. Miscellaneous Records, undated and 1891-1901. 1 folder. Lists of plats and transcriptions done, 1891-1892. Lists of surveys authorized, 1891-1893. List of U.S. land offices in Minnesota. Notices of transfer of land offices (printed).

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
111.E.9.10F	1	<p>Petitions for Surveys, undated and 1858-1907. 1 cubic foot (1 box). Petitions and letters received by the surveyor general's office requesting that particular townships or islands be surveyed; arranged chronologically.</p> <p>The petitions for survey of townships list the township and range number, names of at least three settlers in the township (GLO policy required that there be at least three bona fide settlers before a petition would be considered), and a statement by the settlers as to the type and value of any improvements they had made and the length of time they had resided in the township. Some petitions include other descriptive information about the township and the extent of settlement. Most are signed by the petitioners and witnesses.</p> <p>The petitions for surveys of islands include descriptions of the island's location and approximate size, and usually contain affidavits listing the owners of adjacent shore property and stating the occupancy history of the island.</p> <p>The petitions are in the form of personal letters, standardized forms, and letters from lawyers and land agents. Many petitions from earlier years are included in the bound volumes of Letters Received (cataloged separately).</p>

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
111.E.9.9B	---	<p>Timber Agent Accounts and Correspondence, 1861-1877. 2 folders and 1 volume.</p> <p>Records of the surveyor general acting as timber agent, charged with protecting the federal government's interest in timber on public and reserved lands.</p> <p>Correspondence (1861-1877, 2 folders) with the General Land Office, U.S. marshals, logging companies, private parties, and log scalers relates to alleged illegal cutting of government timber (timber trespass), issuing of logging permits, payment for logs cut on government land, and the appointment of scalers. Accounts included with the correspondence contain itemized records of expenditures by the timber agent and his deputies, vouchers, and receipts for sale of stumpage.</p> <p>A stumpage sale record (1874-1877, 1 volume) cites the township in which timber was cut, the footage cut, log mark, by whom cut, and to whom sold.</p>