

# Columbia City Records, 1893-1913

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	City of Columbia (King County, Wash.)
<b>Title</b>	Columbia City Records
<b>Dates</b>	1893-1913 (inclusive) 1893 1913
<b>Quantity</b>	4.8 cubic ft., (7 boxes and 6 volumes)
<b>Collection Number</b>	9112
<b>Summary</b>	The City of Columbia records include city council minutes, ordinances, City Clerk's files, demands and warrants, a register of warrants, and local improvement district files for the small municipality that was annexed to the City of Seattle in 1907.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">Seattle Municipal Archives</a> Seattle Municipal Archives Office of the City Clerk City of Seattle PO Box 94728 98124-4728 Seattle, WA Telephone: 206-233-7807 Fax: 206-386-9025 <a href="mailto:archives@seattle.gov">archives@seattle.gov</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Records are open to the public.
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Sponsor</b>	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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## Historical Note

The 1890 establishment of the Seattle, Renton, and Southern Railway and aggressive promotion of real estate brought settlers to the mill town of Columbia. The town's thriving lumber industry helped supply Seattle with timber for reconstruction after the Great Fire of 1889, and many goods were also shipped to Columbia from Seattle via the railroad.

Columbia was incorporated in 1892 with a five-member Town Council which quickly established a Board of Health to employ a "reputable physician" charged with examining cases of contagious disease. A volunteer fire department was created in 1902 including a hose company and, soon thereafter, a chemical company. In 1903, Columbia reached a contractual agreement with the City of Seattle for the purchase of water. Also in that year, the Snoqualmie Falls Power Company received a franchise to install and operate an electrical power plant for the town.

Columbia achieved city of the third class status in 1905 when its population reached 1500, the required total established by State law. The Mayor called a special election in September of 1905 and the public voted in favor of the "advancement of the Town of Columbia to a city of the third class."

Annexation to the City of Seattle came in 1907 following a petition by citizens to the City Council to hold a special election on the matter. Although opposition to annexation had initially been strong, due to citizens' desire for local control, the March 5 vote was overwhelming, 109-3 in favor of annexation to Seattle. Consolidation occurred on May 3, 1907.

The Columbia City neighborhood, with much of its historical core intact, was designated a Seattle Landmark District in 1978.

## Other Descriptive Information

### City of Columbia Mayors:

C. P. Hutchesen, 1893-1894

V. R. Peirson, 1895-1896

C. F. Reeves, 1897-1899

H. H. A. Hastings, 1900

J. Campbell, 1900

V. R. Peirson, 1900-1904

W. W. Phalen, 1905

A. G. Corbett, 1906

W. W. Phalen, 1907

## Content Description

The City of Columbia records date from 1893 to 1913 and include proceedings of Columbia City Council meetings, ordinances passed by the City Council, administrative records of Columbia filed with the City Clerk, a register of demands against the City of Columbia, a register of warrants issued by the City, and local improvement district files. The City Clerk records include correspondence, reports of City officials, contracts, citizen petitions, permits, and other filings; the Local Improvement District files include majority petitions, assessment rolls, collection receipts, contracts, bonds, cost estimates, and reports. The bulk of the records covers the years 1905-1907.

## Use of the Collection

### Preferred Citation

[Item and date], City of Columbia Records, Record Series 9112-[xx], [Record Series Title]. Box [number], Folder [number]. Seattle Municipal Archives.

## Administrative Information

## Arrangement

The City of Columbia Records are arranged in six series:

Series I: Council Minutes (9112-01)

Series II: Ordinances (9112-02)

Series III: City Clerk's Files (9112-03)

Series IV: Demands and Warrants (9112-04)

Series V: Register of Warrants (9112-05)

Series VI: Local Improvement District Files (9112-06)

Within each series, records are arranged chronologically or alphabetically by subject.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

### Series I (9112-01) : Council Minutes, 1893-1907

2 volumes

Proceedings of City of Columbia Council Meetings.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Volume		
1	Minutes	1892-1904
2	Minutes	1904-1907

### Series II (9112-02): City of Columbia Ordinances, 1893-1907

3 volumes

Ordinances passed by the City Council and arranged in two series. Ordinances 1-185 cover the period 1893-1906. A second series, numbered 1-61, was begun when Columbia achieved city of the third class status in 1906.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Volume		
1	Ordinances 1-155	1893-1904

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2	Ordinances 156-185 and 1-61	1904-1907

### Series III (9112-03): City Clerk's Files, 1893-1913

2.4 cubic ft.

Administrative records of the City of Columbia filed with the City Clerk. The records cover the period from incorporation in 1893 to annexation in 1907; a few records relate to completion of local improvements in 1913. Materials include Council resolutions, committee reports, City Attorney opinions, contracts, correspondence, franchises, city officials' reports, local improvement district bonds, mayor's messages, oaths of office, petitions, ordinances, bonds, and bills and receipt.

Records are arranged alphabetically by subject and record type.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
1/1	Affidavits of Publication	1903-1906
1/2	Affidavits of Publication	1906-1907
1/3	Affidavits of Publication, Land Improvement Districts	1907-1913
1/4	Applications to City Council	1903-1906
1/5	Bills and Receipts, A-B	1904
1/6	Bills and Receipts, C-E	1901-1904
1/7	Bills and Receipts, F-G	1903-1904
1/8	Bills and Receipts, H	1900-1904
1/9	Bills and Receipts, H-L	1902-1906
1/10	Bills and Receipts, M-O	1894-1907
1/11	Bills and Receipts, P-R	1903-1904
1/12	Bills and Receipts, S	1899-1904
1/13	Bills and Receipts, S	1904-1905
1/14	Bills and Receipts, W-Z	1903-1905

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1/15	Call for Warrants	1904
2/1	City Attorney's Opinions	1905-1906
2/2	City Attorney's Receipts	1893-1901
2/3	City Council, Committee Reports	1906-1907
2/4	City Council, Resolutions, 1-12	1906
2/5	City Council, Resolutions, 13-17, 19, 22-32	1906
2/6	City Council, Resolutions, 33-44	1906-1907
2/7	City Marshall's Reports	1900-1907
2/8	Claims	1904
2/9	Contracts -- Water, Sidewalks, Streets	1903-1905
2/10	Contract Bonds	1903-1906
2/11	Contracts and Bonds, Water System	1902-1904
2/12	Correspondence, Mayor and City Council	1900-1906
2/13	County (King) Auditor's Reports, Tax Collection	1902-1906
3/1	Fire Department	1906-1907
3/2	Franchises -- Electric, Telephone, Gas	1905
3/3	Franchise -- Street Railways	1903-1907
3/4	Interest Coupons, Water Bonds and Land Improvement Districts	1903-1907
3/5	Lawsuit, Tenny vs. City of Columbia	1907
3/6	Local Improvement Districts, Bonds 1-12	1904
3/7	Local Improvement Districts, Bonds 13-33	1904

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
3/8	Local Improvement Districts, Bonds 1-6	1906
3/9	Local Improvement Districts, Correspondence	1907-1908
3/10	Mayor to City Council, Special Session	1906
3/11	Mayor's Messages	1906-1907
4/1	Oaths of Office	1903-1907
4/2	Official Bonds	1895-1898
4/3	Official Bonds	1899-1907
4/4	Ordinances, Second Series, 1-11	1906
4/5	Ordinances, Second Series, 12-21	1906
4/6	Ordinances, Second Series, 22-31	1906
4/7	Ordinances, Second Series, 32-41	1906
4/8	Ordinances, Second Series, 42-48	1907
5/1	Ordinances, Second Series, 49-60	1907
5/2	Payroll	1901-1902
5/3	Permits -- Streets, Sewers, Dynamiting	1905-1906
5/4	Petitions, City Status and Annexation	1905-1907
5/5	Petitions, Elections	1905
5/6	Petitions, Lighting and Street Improvements	1905-1907
5/7	Petitions, Pool Hall Hours	1890-1907
5/8	Petitions, Protesting Railroad Franchise	1907
5/9	Petitions, Street Vacations	1906

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5/10	Petitions, Telephone Poles	1903-1907
5/11	Petitions, Telephone Poles and Vacations	1904-1907
5/12	Plats and Drawings	1904
6/1	Property Owners, Land Titles	1906
6/2	Protests of Assessments, Land Improvement Districts	1913
6/3	Street Vacations	1906
6/4	Surety Bonds	1899
6/5	Treasurer's Receipts	1903-1905
6/6	Treasurer's Reports	1903-1906
6/7	Treasurer's Reports	1905-1907
6/8	Water System	1903-1906

### Series IV (9112-04): Demands and Warrants, 1893-1907

1 volume

Register of demands against the City of Columbia. Includes date of demand, name of claimant, amount, reason for demand, warrant number, and date issued.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Volume		
1	Demands and Warrants	1893-1907

### Series V (9112-05) : Register of Warrants, 1893-1907

1 volume

Register of warrants issued by the City of Columbia. Includes warrant number, amount, date, to whom paid, and reason for payment.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Volume		
1	Register of Warrants	1893-1907

## Series VI (9112-06): Local Improvement District Files, 1904-1907

.4 cubic ft.

Majority petitions, assessment rolls, collection receipts, contracts, bonds, cost estimates, and work completed reports relating to local street and sewer improvements.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
1	Local Improvement District Files	1904-1907

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Annexation (Municipal government)--Washington (State)--Seattle  
 City councils--Washington (State)--Seattle  
 Civic improvement--Washington (State)--Seattle

### Geographical Names :

Columbia (King County, Wash.)--Politics and government  
 Columbia City (Seattle, Wash.)--Politics and government  
 Seattle (Wash.)--Politics and government

### Form or Genre Terms :

Minutes  
 Ordinances

Finding aid prepared by Scott Cline  
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