

## Retention and Classification Report

**Agency:** Washington County (Utah). Probate Court (1738)

Obsolete agency  
, UT

**Records Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_

03168	*Civil and criminal record books
26638	*Civil and probate case files
23578	*Claims abstracts
26248	*Criminal case files
23734	*Estate accounts registers
23740	*Estate claims register
22875	*Land claims adjudication record books
26590	*Probate record books
23776	*Religious property trustee appointment book
03190	*United Order incorporation records

**AGENCY:** Washington County (Utah). Probate Court

**SERIES:** 3168

4

**TITLE:** Civil and criminal record books

**DATES:** 1856-1886.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Chronological

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Washington County Probate Court originally held jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases, as well as estate distribution.

Record Books A, B, and D contain primarily criminal cases and divorce and naturalization records, but also a few guardianships, estate settlements, and land claims adjudication. In the beginning, the probate clerk recorded details of civil and criminal cases, but in 1865 the clerk changed the format to that of court minutes. In 1873, the court ceased to handle civil and criminal cases with the exception of divorce, so from that date Record Book D is exclusively divorce records.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Paper: Retain in Office permanently or until microfilmed and then transfer to State Archives.

Microfilm master: For records beginning in 1856 through 1886.  
Retain in State Archives permanently.

Microfilm duplicate: For records beginning in 1856 through 1886.  
Retain in Office permanently.

**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical value(s).

These record books contain divorce records, declarations of intent to become a citizen, other civil and criminal cases of the probate court in Washington County, and also important documents relating to original property ownership in Saint George.

**AGENCY:** Washington County (Utah). Probate Court

**SERIES:** 3168

**TITLE:** Civil and criminal record books

(continued)

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Washington County (Utah). Probate Court

**SERIES:** 26638

3

**TITLE:** Civil and probate case files

**DATES:** 1864-1895.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Chronological by filing date.

**DESCRIPTION:**

This series includes case files for divorces handled by the Washington County Probate Court. Divorce case files include such documents as the complaints filed, the court's findings and divorce decrees.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Paper: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

Microfilm master: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

M-Disc: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical value(s).

This series has historical value as documentation of the business handled by the Washington County Probate Court.

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Washington County (Utah). Probate Court

**SERIES:** 23578

4

**TITLE:** Claims abstracts

**DATES:** 1871-1882.

**ARRANGEMENT:** By town site.

**DESCRIPTION:**

The probate court created an abstract or summary of land claims presented during special court sessions held to judge property ownership within Washington County's several communities. The abstracts provide the names of claimants and describe each claim. Most claims contain additional penciled-in information, such as where the deed is recorded, whether the claim was suspended or continued to another session, or the property location on an official map. Abstract Book 1 contains claims in the city of Saint George (1871-1876) and in the Pine Valley town site (1881). Abstract Book 2 contains claims in the Washington town site (1872-1873), the Harrisburg town site (1872-1874), the Santa Clara town site (1882), and the Pinto town site (1885).

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Paper: Retain in State Archives permanently after microfilming.

Microfilm master: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

Microfilm duplicate: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical value(s).

These books documents original land distribution in Washington County communities.

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Washington County (Utah). Probate Court

**SERIES:** 26248

3

**TITLE:** Criminal case files

**DATES:** 1865-1894.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Alphabetically by surname of defendant

**DESCRIPTION:**

These are case files for criminal cases heard by the probate court.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Paper: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

Microfilm master: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

Microfilm duplicate: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical value(s).

These records are historically valuable as the only known surviving criminal case files heard by the territorial probate court in Washington County.

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Washington County (Utah). Probate Court

**SERIES:** 23734

3

**TITLE:** Estate accounts registers

**DATES:** 1876-1895.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Chronological by date.

**DESCRIPTION:**

These accounting ledgers contain primarily records of fees collected in conjunction with various actions taken in regard to estates : petitioning for probate, posting notices, administering oaths, etc. Once paid, the entries are crossed out. In many instances the volume almost serves as a register of action, noting the date of action as well as the fee connected. There are also ledger entries pertaining to business licensing, housing criminals, office expenses, divorce case expenses, land certificate registration, etc.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Paper: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical value(s).

These registers document the actions of the territorial county probate court which became obsolete at statehood. Any information about the probate court and its functions is historically significant.

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Washington County (Utah). Probate Court

**SERIES:** 23740

3

**TITLE:** Estate claims register

**DATES:** 1882-1889.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Chronological by date of first claim.

**DESCRIPTION:**

For each estate noted, this volume records the date of each claim, name of claimant, interest rate, amount, approval date, and filing date.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Paper: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical value(s).

Estate claims registers help document the early land ownership in Utah Territory.

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public



**AGENCY:** Washington County (Utah). Probate Court

**SERIES:** 22875

4

**TITLE:** Land claims adjudication record books

**DATES:** 1873-1886.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Chronological by special session in most cases.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Washington County Probate Court's Land Claims Adjudication Books are records of the proceedings of special court sessions held to judge property ownership within Washington County's several cities and towns. The testimony of each claimant, as recorded in the record books, contains proof of his identity, a description of the boundaries for the property he claimed, and a history of his occupancy on the property, including time of arrival and the nature of improvements made. Each testimony is followed by the court's decision about the claim. Special sessions were held to distribute land in the St. George, Santa Clara, Washington and Harrisburg town sites.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Paper: Retain in Office permanently or until microfilmed.

Microfilm master: For records beginning in 1873 through 1886.  
Retain in State Archives permanently.

Microfilm duplicate: For records beginning in 1873 through 1886.  
Retain in Office permanently.

Microfilm duplicate: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical value(s).

These record books contain important documentation of original property ownership in several Washington County communities.

**AGENCY:** Washington County (Utah). Probate Court

**SERIES:** 22875

**TITLE:** Land claims adjudication record books

(continued)

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Washington County (Utah). Probate Court

**SERIES:** 26590

3

**TITLE:** Probate record books

**DATES:** 1877-1897.

**ARRANGEMENT:** chronological by date

**DESCRIPTION:**

During the territorial period the Washington County Probate Court used record books to record a variety of petitions, court orders, and decrees associated with the estates of individuals who died owing property in Washington County. Guardianship cases are also recorded in these books.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Paper: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical value(s).

Disposition based on the status of these records as some of the few known surviving records of the Washington County Probate Court.

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Washington County (Utah). Probate Court

**SERIES:** 23776

3

**TITLE:** Religious property trustee appointment book

**DATES:** 1895.

**ARRANGEMENT:** Chronological by date.

**DESCRIPTION:**

This handwritten volume, entitled "Probate Record A1. Orders of the Appointment of Trustees, to hold Title to Real Property of Religious Societies and Ecclesiastical Wards Washington Co. Utah." gives the appointment of trustees by the Probate Court. The trustees were to hold legal title to real property in trust for the LDS ward. There are entries for Pinto, Rockville, Springdale, Pine Valley, Grafton, and New Harmony, all done 13-31 December 1895 before Probate Judge Edwin G. Woolley.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Paper: Retain in Office for 105 years and then transfer to State Archives with authority to weed.

**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical value(s).

These records document the actions of the territorial county probate court which became obsolete at statehood. Any information about the probate court and its functions is historically significant.

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public

**AGENCY:** Washington County (Utah). Probate Court

**SERIES:** 3190

4

**TITLE:** United Order incorporation records

**DATES:** 1874-1878.

**ARRANGEMENT:** By united order, thereunder chronological.

**DESCRIPTION:**

In an effort to reinforce self-sufficiency among Church members, Brigham Young organized a number of united orders in the 1870s. The united order was a community system in which members contributed their possessions and labor and received in return according to their needs. The first of these united orders was organized in Saint George in 1874 and in accordance with territorial law (Laws of Utah, 1870, "Providing for Incorporating Associations, for Mining, Manufacturing, Commercial and other Industrial Pursuits," p. 136-137), articles of incorporation were acknowledged before the probate court judge in Washington County. This United Order Book includes articles of association and other records for the United Order of Saint George, as well as two subsequently organized orders, the United Order of Washington, and Saint George First Ward United Order.

**RETENTION AND DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION:**

These records are in Archives' permanent custody.

**FORMAT MANAGEMENT:**

Paper: Retain in Office for 100 years after being microfilmed and then transfer to State Archives.

Microfilm master: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

Microfilm duplicate: Retain in State Archives permanently with authority to weed.

**APPRAISAL:**

These records have historical, and/or legal value(s).

United order incorporation records document the organization and structure of early united orders organized by the LDS Church in Washington County.

**AGENCY:** Washington County (Utah). Probate Court

**SERIES:** 3190

**TITLE:** United Order incorporation records

(continued)

**PRIMARY DESIGNATION:**

Public