

Records of the U.S. House of Representatives
RG.233.8.House
8th Congress

**Finding aid prepared by the Office of Art and Archives,
Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	House Records of the 8th Congress
Date [inclusive]	1803-1805
Extent	5.25 Cubic feet
Language	English

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Conditions Governing Access note

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules:

(b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

Records of Legislative Proceedings

Collection Inventory

Records of Legislative Proceedings 1803-1805**Journals 1803-1805 0.41 Cubic feet****Scope and Contents note**

The journals series includes a legislative journal, 1st session (8A–A1) and 2d session (8A–A2).

Bills Originating in the House 1803-1805 0.06 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

The bills originating in the House include a bill, H. R. 5, to regulate the clearance of armed merchant vessels (8A–B1); and engrossed House bills (8A–B2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Committees 1803-1805

Committee on Claims 1803-1805

Biographical/Historical note

Committees

The Committee on Claims is one of the oldest standing committees in the House of Representatives. It was established on November 13, 1794, having been preceded by Select Committees on Claims. The committee was to consider all petitions and matters or things touching on claims and demands on the United States and report appropriations of money for payment of claims it had authorized. Originally the Committee on Claims had jurisdiction over Revolutionary War and land claims as well as pensions. In the years that followed, other committees were created to handle special types of claims such as war claims, pensions, and private land claims. Under the 1880 revised House Rules, subjects relating to "private and domestic claims and demands other than war claims against the United States" were to be referred to the Claims Committee. At the end of the 79th Congress the committee was abolished under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, and jurisdiction over the subjects that had formerly been referred to it was transferred either to the Judiciary Committee or the executive departments.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1803-1805

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Claims document various subjects (8A–F1.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Commerce and Manufactures 1803-1805

Biographical/Historical note

The standing Committee on Commerce and Manufactures was created in 1795 to "take into consideration all such petitions and matters of things touching the commerce and manufactures of the United States, as shall be presented, or shall or may come into question, and be referred to them by the House, and to report their opinion thereupon, together with such propositions for relief

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therein, as to them shall be expedient." In 1819 the committee was divided to form the Committee on Commerce and the Committee on Manufactures.

Committee Reports and Papers 1803-1805

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures document various subjects (8A–C2.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1803-1805

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures document duties and drawbacks (8A–F2.1); ports of entry (8A–F2.2); and various subjects (8A–F2.3).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Elections 1803-1805

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Elections was established as the first standing committee of the U.S. House of Representatives to perform this function on April 13, 1789. The jurisdiction of the committee was to

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examine and report on the certificates of election and other election credentials, as well as election returns and proceedings for elections of House Members, and to contest elections of Members where these credentials and election proceedings were not deemed valid. The committee was known as the Committee on Elections from 1789 until 1895, when it was split into three separate election committees.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Cabell, Samuel Jordan, 1756-1818
- Purviance, Samuel Dinsmore, 1774-1806
- Randolph, Thomas M. (Thomas Mann), 1768-1828

Committee Reports and Papers 1803-1805

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Elections include the contested election cases of Samuel J. Cabell v. Thomas Mann Randolph, Virginia (8A–C1.1); and Duncan McFarland v. S. D. Purviance, North Carolina (8A–C1.2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1803-1805

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Elections document various subjects (8A–F3.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Ways and Means 1803-1805

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Ways and Means is the oldest standing committee in Congress. In 1795 another Select Committee on Ways and Means was formed, and was regularly reappointed in each session until it was defined as a standing committee in 1802. The jurisdiction of the committee includes customs revenue, collection districts, and ports of entry and delivery; reciprocal trade agreements; revenue measures generally; revenue measures relating to insular possessions; bonded debt of the United States, subject to the last sentence of clause 4(f); deposit of public monies; transportation of dutiable goods; tax exempt foundations and charitable trusts; and national social security (except health care and facilities programs that are supported from general revenues as opposed to payroll deductions and except work incentive programs).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1803-1805

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Ways and Means document duties and drawbacks (8A–F4.1); and various subjects (8A–F4.2).

Arrangement note

Committees

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Select Committees 1803-1805

Scope and Contents note

The records of the select committees document various subjects (8A–C3.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Committee Reports and Papers 1803-1805

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the select committees document various subjects (8A–C3.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1803-1805

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the select committees include the amendment of the Charter of Alexandria, District of Columbia (8A–F5.1); amendment of acts establishing a post office and post roads within the United States (8A–F5.2); naturalization laws (8A–F5.3); sale of public land, of the United States (8A–F5.4); and various subjects (8A–F5.5).

President's Messages

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on the Whole House 1803-1805

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee of the Whole consists of the entire membership of the House and stems from a practice in the House of Commons, when the Speaker of the House of Commons was regarded as an agent of the King. The procedure allows the Speaker to remove himself/herself from the chairmanship in order for the body to elect its own chairman and debate matters without the normal restrictions of a House of Commons session.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1803-1805

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Whole House document various subjects (8A–F6.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

President's Messages 1803-1805 0.16 Cubic feet (1 volume)

Scope and Contents note

Reports and Communications Submitted to the House

The president's messages include annual messages, with pertinent documents, 1803 and 1804; messages suggesting legislation or submitting specific information or documents; and messages transmitting reports and communications from executive departments (8A–D1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Reports and Communications Submitted to the House 1803-1805 0.33 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

The reports and communications submitted to the House are from the Secretary of the Treasury, including one volume (8A–E1), the Secretary of War (8A–E2), and the Secretary of the Navy (8A–E3); and a report from the Postmaster General, March 1, 1804 (8A–E4). Also included are reports and communications from the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 12th, and 13th Congresses (5A–E1); the Secretary of State, 6th Congress, 2d session, to 10th Congress, 1st session, and 12th Congress, 1st session, to 15th Congress, 1st session (6A–E1); and the Secretaries of War and the Navy, 6th Congress, 1st session, to 9th Congress, 1st session (6A–E3).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials and Related Documents Which Were Tabled 1803-1805 0.08 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials and related documents which were tabled document various subjects (8A–G1.1).

Arrangement note

Other Records

The records are arranged chronologically.

Other Records 1803-1805 0.04 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

Other records include receipts for records withdrawn (8A–B1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Records of the Office of the Clerk 1803-1805**Index 1803-1805****Scope and Contents note**

The index includes transcribed reports of the Committee on Claims, 3d Congress, 2d session, to 19th Congress, 1st session (3C–C1). For the index to committee reports and to reports and communications from executive departments, see 1C-D1, 1st Congress, 1st session, to 14th Congress, 2d session.

Record Book 1803-1805**Scope and Contents note**

The record book consists of a petition book, 7th Congress, 2d session, to 10th Congress, 1st session (7C–A1).

Records of Reports from Executive Departments 1803-1805

Records of Committee Reports

Scope and Contents note

The records include transcribed reports and communications from the Secretary of State, 5th Congress, 3d session to 11th Congress, 3d session (5C–B1); the Secretary of the Navy, 5th Congress, 3d session, to 12th Congress, 1st session (5C–B3); the Secretary of the Treasury (6C–A1); and the Secretary of War, 6th Congress, 1st session, to 13th Congress, 2d session (6C–A2).

Records of Committee Reports 1803-1805 0.75 Cubic feet (3 volumes)**Scope and Contents note**

The records of committee reports include transcribed reports of the the Committee on Ways and Means, 8th Congress, 1st session to 18th Congress, 2d session (8C–A2); the Committee on Claims; and select committees, 8th Congress, 2d session, to 11th Congress, 3d session (8C–A3). Also included are reports from the the Committee on Claims, 5th Congress, 3d session, to 8th Congress, 1st session (5C–A1); the select committees, 7th Congress, 1st session, to 8th Congress, 1st session (7C–B1); and the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures, 4th Congress, 1st session, to 8th Congress, 2d session (4C–B1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Other Records 1803-1805 0.04 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

Other records include receipts for records withdrawn (8A–B1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by subject.