

Cumberland County Archives Operations Manual

Cumberland County, Pennsylvania



Approved by the Cumberland County Records
Improvement Committee as of June 28, 2011
(Revised October 2023.)

To All County Record Keepers:

Each county office, department, or agency is an important part of the county and its history. It is essential that the archival records of county offices, departments, and agencies be preserved. The archival program is people dependent. Your understanding, cooperation, and support in preserving the historical and legal records of Cumberland County is critical. Without your help, much of the historical record will be lost, inadvertently destroyed, or ultimately will disintegrate. We hope you will view preservation of the archival records not just as a legal requirement, but as an important cultural responsibility in which you can actively participate and support.

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Mission

To provide economical, efficient, and effective management for the centralization, accountability, access, and preservation of Cumberland County's inactive permanent records in accordance with standard archival principles.

Goals

- To organize, arrange, describe, inventory, and preserve inactive permanent records
- To serve County offices, departments, and agencies in maintaining efficient and effective control over their inactive permanent records economically
- To make the records available to County personnel, county residents, and the public at large
- To provide facilities for the permanent retention, preservation, servicing, and research use of the records
- To serve in a public relations capacity by fostering greater knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the origin and continuing history of Cumberland County government and its people

Archives Contact Information

Location: 310 Allen Road Annex, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Telephone: 717- 240-7886

E-mail: archives@cumberlandcountypa.gov

Web Site: Cumberlandcountypa.gov > Government > Archives

Mail: Cumberland County Archives – IMTO
1 Courthouse Square
Carlisle, PA 17013

Hours: M-F 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Hours Public: Appointment recommended

Staff : Archivist: Barbara Bartos (2005 to present)
Assistant Archivist: Valerie Sebestyen (2021 to present)

Public Records

“The term ‘public records’ shall include any paper, correspondence, completed form, bound record book, photograph, film, sound recording, map drawing, blueprint, machine-readable material, or any other document, regardless of physical form or characteristics, and including such copies thereof, that have been made or received by any office or department of Cumberland County in connection with the transaction of public business.” (Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission)

Inactive Permanent Records - Definition and Ownership

Inactive permanent records are those records that are no longer needed for the day-to-day operation of an office, department, or agency and are to be retained permanently as defined by The Pennsylvania State County Records Manual (or other authorization entities) and/or are of historic merit.

County offices, departments, or agencies that transfer records to the Archives maintain permanent legal authority over their records, while the Archives staff maintains responsibility for managing and protecting them. All records in the Archives will be made available to authorized County personnel.

Procedures for Transferring Inactive Permanent Records at the Archives

1. Registration and appointment of Records Manager and an alternate
2. Contact with the Archives for planned transfer of records
3. Completion of a Temporary Records Transfer Form by the Archives
4. Packing of records by the office or department
5. Submitting Maintenance SRO for physical transfer
6. Coordination of Maintenance and Archives for transfer date (never in rain or snow)
7. Physical transportation of records to the Archives
8. Justification of the Temporary Records Transfer Form
9. Completion and filing to a Permanent Records Transfer Form

Registration of Contact Person

The Cumberland County Archives requires that each office, department, or agency desiring to transfer inactive permanent records to the Archives be registered with the Archives with the name of the Office Official and an alternate person in their office, department, or agency. These are the only individuals that arrange for record transfers and can authorize access to the records of that office, department, or agency. If the Records Manager or the alternate is no longer able to fill the position, it is the responsibility of that office, department, or agency to appoint a new person and inform the Archives.

Records Transfer Request

A request for records to be transferred to the Archives for storage is initiated by the Records Manager of an office, department, or agency by contacting the Archives. E-mail: archives@cumberlandcountypa.gov. or bsbartos@cumberlandcountypa.gov. Phone: 717-240-7886.

The Archives, in coordination with the Records Manager making the request, will fill out a Temporary Transfer Form.

No transfer will be accepted without this initial contact and approval of the Archives.

PACKING RECORDS

The originating office, department, or agency is responsible for the labor associated with packing records for transfer. The Records Manager for the office, department, or agency should oversee the packing to ensure proper preparation and transfer of the records. The Archives is available for advice upon request.

Papers

For unbound paper records the Archives will ONLY accept records stored in standard archival boxes. A standard archival box is 10" x 12" x 15" and holds one cubic foot (1c') of either legal or letter sized records. Boxes can be obtained from the Archives upon request. For paper records of an unusual size that will not properly fit in a standard 1c' archival box, consult with the Archives for an alternative. **All boxes must be appropriately labeled.** (See Labeling Boxes below.)

The following guidelines should be followed when packing boxes to hold permanent papers:

1. Purge all unnecessary material or duplicate copies.
2. List any missing records from the series and place the list in the front of the box.
3. Remove plastic or ring binders and hanging file folders. Remove paper and binder clips and rubber bands. Consult with the Archives about removing staples and other hardware.
4. Keep only records from a single record series together in one box. If the last box is not full, the Archives can provide a spacer board to keep files from slumping.
5. Keep the records in the same sequence (filing system) as found.
6. Leave room for missing records.
7. Pack records upright in the boxes. (See Appendix 2 for packing diagram.)
8. Records should be packed tightly enough to prevent slumping, but not so tightly as to hinder withdrawal. Remember to leave space for interfiling or additions.
9. If possible, a box list of the contents should be placed in the front of the box.

For series that require unfolding, cleaning, arranging, etc., contact the Archives for assistance.

Labeling 1c' Boxes

Labeling information is to be placed to one 12" end of the one cubic archival records box using a non-acidic marker obtainable from the Archives. Please print legibly. Do not use paper labels taped to the box as they eventually come off or become ripped.

No box will be accepted without proper box labeling.

Instructions for labeling a 1c' box

1. Starting on the far-left hand side of the box's short end, just under the box handle opening, enter the name of the Office, Department, or Agency.
2. Permanent: On the right-hand side of the box end, parallel to the Office, department, or agency name, enter "Permanent". (Only non-active permanent records are to be transferred to the Archives.)
3. Restricted: If the records are restricted, the word "Restricted" should be entered directly under Permanent.
4. Record Series Title: Enter the title of the records series indented several spaces below the Office name and in a larger font size.
5. Date Span: enter the date span on the same line as the Record Series title but to the far right. Inclusive dates of the records inside this box with a start and end date using the year and month. If records are missing, use "..." between the dates.
Example: 1892 Feb ... 1899 June.
6. Descriptors if needed: Enter indented under the Record Series title.
Example: "#1-167"
7. Scanned: Enter "Scanned" on the lower left corner if the records have been scanned.
8. Microfilmed: Enter "Microfilmed" in the lower left corner if the records have been microfilmed. (Both "scanned" and "microfilmed" can be entered on the same line.)

Contact the Archives for any questions about labeling placement and content.

Box Labeling Format 1c' box short end

Box Lid		
<hr/>		
Office/Dept./Agency	(12" short end of box under open handle)	PERMANENT RESTRICTIONS
Record Series Title:		Inclusive Date
[Descriptors: which may follow the Series Title on the same line if short]		
Scanned/Microfilmed		

Box Labels: SAMPLE 1

Box Lid		
Clerk of Courts	(12" short end of box under open handle)	PERMANENT
ELECTION RETURNS Municipal		1820-1824
Scanned		

Box Label: SAMPLE 2

Prothonotary	(12" short end of box under open handle)	Permanent RESTRICTIONS
Civil Cases	1842 May T #38 – 1845 Feb T #183	1842-1845
1. Restrictions: Case 1843 May T #42 <u>sealed</u>		
Scanned		

Volumes: For bound dockets, ledgers, etc. contact the Archives for packing strategies

Records Transfer – Transportation

After the Temporary Records Transfer Form and the packing of records for transport according to guidelines are completed, transportation to the Archives will be made in coordination with the office, department or agency, the Archives, and Maintenance. The Maintenance SRO will be submitted by the office requesting the transfer.

**Records will not be accepted without pre-approval from the Archives.
Do not send records without the approval of the Archives as they will be returned.**

Records Transfer Form

Upon arrival, the Records Manager of an office, department, or agency and the Archival staff will justify records received against the Temporary Records Transfer Form. The word “Permanent” will be substituted for “temporary” becoming the Permanent Records Transfer Form for signatures by the Records Manager and the Archivist. Two copies will be made: one copy will be for the office, department, or agency files and one for the Archives. A sample of the Records Transfer Form is in Appendix 4.

ACCESS TO RECORDS

County Employees

The records of an office, department, or agency are available to that office, department, or agency when the Archives is open. County employees must abide by the same rules for the handling of archival materials as the public as outlined in the Public Usage Rules. Removal of records from the Archives are for essential business only and only by authorization. Procedures must be followed for 1) Removal Inserts and 2) the Removal and Return Log.

General Public (complete policy is elaborated in “Public Usage Rules” in Appendix 5)

1. Members of the public are provided access to the government records stored at the Cumberland County Archives unless restricted. Appointments are recommended.
2. When requesting records, a “Records Request Form” is used.
3. The Archives may refuse any research request deemed to be so broad as to require an unreasonable amount of research time for the staff.
4. For researchers unable to visit the Cumberland County Archives, research requests may be made via the internet, direct mail, or telephone.
5. Copies of records are available. The Cumberland County Archives reserves the right to limit or prohibit the copying of fragile records.
6. Records requested will be provided as quickly as possible within two working days of receiving the request.
7. In accordance with state and federal laws, some records may not be open for public inspection.
8. Information about access, restricted records, or this policy can be obtained from the Archives staff.

Use of Information

Government records are not copyrighted, as they belong to the people. If using Cumberland County government records for publication, public display, etc., a citation is appreciated and recommended in the format found on the Public Usage Rules.

Loans

Original records will not be loaned. Exceptions may be granted under special circumstances.

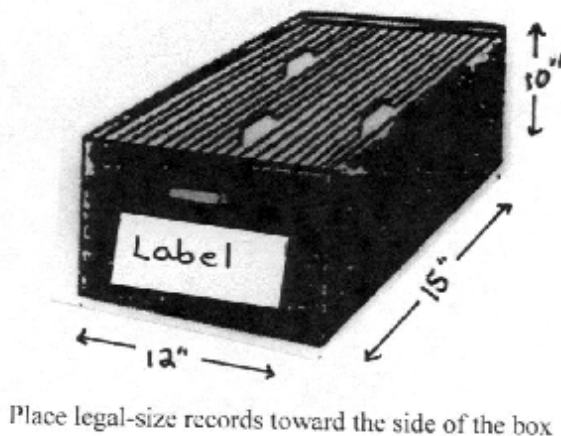
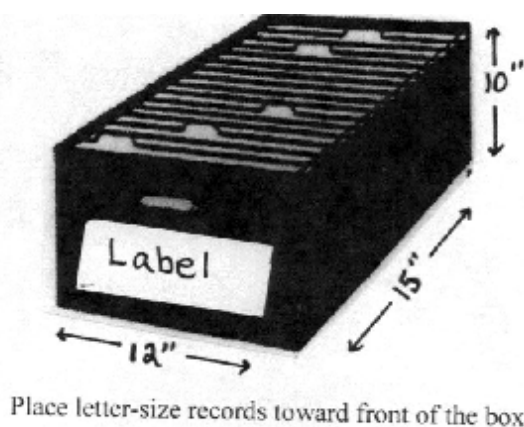
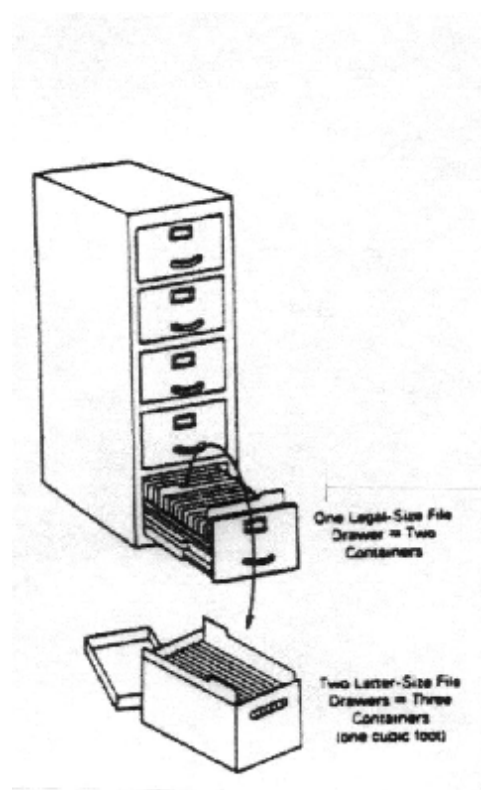
See “Public Usage Rules” (Appendix 5) for policies and procedures.

Appendix 1: PAPER BOX PACKING DIAGRAM

1. Purge all unnecessary material or duplicate copies.
2. List any missing records from the series and place the list in the front of the box.
3. Remove plastic or ring binders and hanging file folders. Remove paper and binding clips and rubber bands. Consult with the Archives about removing staples and other hardware.
4. Keep only records from a single record series together in one box. If the last box is not full, the Archives can provide a spacer board to keep files from slumping.
5. Keep records in the same sequence as found or, when active, in office files to aid retrieval.
6. Leave room for missing records.
7. Pack records upright in the boxes.
8. Records should be packed tightly enough to prevent slumping but not so tightly as to hinder withdrawal. Remember to leave space for interfiling or additions.
9. If possible, a box list of the contents should be placed in front of the box.

For series that require unfolding, cleaning, arranging, etc., contact the Archives for assistance.

Standard Archival Boxes are 12" x 10" x 15"



APPENDIX 2

BOX LABELING FORMAT AND SAMPLE

Box lid		
Office	(12" short end of box under handle opening)	PERMANENT Restricted (if applicable)
Series Title	(Descriptors)	Inclusive Dates
Scanned/microfilmed (if applicable)		

Box Label Sample

Box Lid		
Recorder of Deeds	(12" short end of box under handle opening)	PERMANENT
COMMISSIONS	Volunteer Police Officers	1917...1946
Scanned		

Appendix 3: RECORDS TRANSFER FORM – (Filled out by Archives)

[illegible]

Appendix 5: PUBLIC USAGE RULES

Cumberland County Archives, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

The Archives welcomes the public to use the County's records. Cumberland County Archives is dedicated to preserving the government records of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania and follows standard archival principles. To preserve records for the future, the following policies need to be followed when using the Archives:

1. All visitors must register before entering the Archives and sign out when leaving.
2. All personal belonging (coats, pocketbooks, bags, briefcases, packages, envelopes, etc.) must be left in designated areas.
3. Only one notebook with reference materials and lead pencils may be brought into the Archives.

The Archives reserves the right to search all materials carried into and out of the Archives.

Access

1. Use of the Archives will be consistent with applicable state and federal laws and regulations.
2. Only Archival staff will pull documents and only those submitted on the Records Request Form. Archival staff reserves the right not to pull any original document considered too fragile or restricted.
3. Records are available to view in some form: original paper, volumes, microfilm, scanned images, etc.

When available in another format at the Archives, original records will not be pulled.

4. The Archives reserves the right to deny further access to records to persons who mishandle material or are disruptive.
5. Children under 12 years of age must always be supervised by an adult and cannot handle documents.
6. Final requests for materials must be made 30 minutes prior to closing.

Care and Use of Archival Material

1. When handling archival materials, researchers should be sure their hands are clean and free of lotion. If necessary, especially for photographic material, gloves will be provided.
2. Only pencils can be used in the Archives. Other writing instruments (pens, markers, highlighters, etc.) can irreversibly damage documents.
3. Laptops, computers, typewriters, and tape recorders maybe be used with permission, but must have their own power source. The Archives does have Wi-Fi.
4. Food, drink, candy (including chewing gum), and tobacco products (smoking/chewing) are prohibited in the Archives.
5. Only one box or volume of material will be issued at one time and must remain in full view of the Archival Staff.
6. Only one folder may be removed from a box at a time, and any papers and folders must be laid flat on the table.
7. Keep records in their original order in a folder and the folders in a box.
8. Use the provided file markers/bookmarks to mark the place of a paper in a folder or a folder in a box.
9. Do not use post-its or any other marking device.
10. Loose sheets and volume pages should be carefully handled by the edges. Do not moisten fingers to turn pages.
11. Papers and volumes may not be leaned on, written on, folded, traced over, or handled in a manner to cause damage.
12. Do not exert pressure on any records (such as taking notes on top of the documents or resting an arm on the documents.)
13. Keep papers flat. Book supports are available for volumes. If help is needed to handle documents, the Archival staff is available.

Please alert the archival staff if there is any sign of damage or items appear to be out of order.

Courtesy

1. Visitors are to remain reasonably quiet to avoid disturbing others.
2. Cell phones must be on silent, and no calls should be made in the Archives while other researchers are present.

Copying

1. All photocopies are made by the archival staff. The Archives may determine an original document is not safe to copy due to its condition.
2. Use of other types of image capturing equipment (cameras, camera phones, scanners, etc.) requires permission from the archives. ONLY non-flash camera equipment will be considered.

Archival Citation:

(Cumberland County Office, Series Title: Item details – date, etc. Cumberland County Archives, Carlisle, PA)

Example:

Cumberland County Prothonotary. Civil Case Papers: 1826 June Term #27. Cumberland County Archives, Carlisle, PA.

Under no circumstance are any materials to be removed from the Archives.

Violators will be detained and prosecuted under Act 95 (1982) of the Libraries/Archives Act.

If the above policies are not followed, the Archives reserves the right to take appropriate action.

County Employees conducting business for their office, department, or agency should contact the Archives regarding access.

Scans Requested _____

Records Request Form

Date _____

Cumberland County Archives
310 Allen Road, Carlisle, PA 17013
(717) 240-7886
(archives@cumberlandcountypa.gov)

Names

External User: _____

Internal User: _____ Office _____

Contact Information

Phone or County Extension: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Records Requested (additional requests list on reverse)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Intake Method email _____

Phone _____

Mail _____

On-site _____

Reply Method Email _____

Phone _____

Mail _____

On-site _____

Time needed to identify and locate requested records. (Does not include time to pull or reshelve.)

Less than 15 min. _____

More than 15 min. _____

Referral to:

Additional Pertinent Information

Imaging Services

Number of documents _____ Number of images/scans _____

Date requested

Date Provided

Staff time spend specifically on scan preparation and delivery via email