

Louisa Porter Foundation records

Descriptive Summary

Repository:	Georgia Historical Society
Creator:	Louisa Porter Foundation (Savannah, Ga.)
Title:	Louisa Porter Foundation records
Dates:	1875-1975
Extent:	0.85 cubic feet (1 box, 4 volumes)
Identification:	MS 0500

Biographical/Historical Note

This organization was chartered by the Chatham County Superior Court in 1869. It was named "The Refuge for the Homeless," and its purpose was to provide a temporary home for "friendless" and destitute women and children until permanent homes and work could be secured. It was not completely organized until 1875, when its name was changed to "The Industrial Relief Society and Home for the Friendless." Its purpose was enlarged to include free instruction in domestic occupations and assistance to the poor living at home but temporarily unemployed. It occupied the building of the Widows' Society, which it bought in 1885. This was on the corner of Charlton and Drayton Streets. In 1890 its name was changed to "Louisa Porter Home" in appreciation of a generous gift from the heirs of Louisa Porter Gilmer. It opened a nursery for children in 1892. In 1936 the building was leased to the city of Savannah for use as the Health Center. In 1938 the lots on which the building stood were deeded to the city for the erection of a new Health Center building. As it no longer operated a home, the name of the organization was changed to Louisa Porter Foundation" in 1940. It gives donations to various charitable and philanthropic organizations, and medical equipment to the Health Center.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of minutes, deeds to the property and miscellaneous papers. Item 1 is the minute book of "The refuse for the Homeless;" Item 2 is the minute book of "The Industrial Relief Society and Home for the Friendless." The remainder is records of the Louis Porter Home. Included is the deed to the "Little Minnie Mission" lot in Laurel Grove Cemetery. The Little Minnie Mission was established for the care of orphaned infants.

Index Terms

Annual reports.
Deeds.
Laurel Grove Cemetery (Savannah, Ga.)
Letters (correspondence)
Louisa Porter Foundation (Savannah, Ga.)
Minute books.
Orphans.
Public welfare--Georgia--Savannah.
Shelters for the homeless.
Women--Services for.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Most materials were acquired from creating foundation.

Preferred Citation

[item identification], Louisa Porter Foundation records, MS 500, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Mrs. Gordon Saussy, 1941 (Items 1 and 2). Deposited by various members of the Board of the Louisa Porter Foundation, ca. 1948, 1957, 1970, 1975.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Sponsorship

Encoding funded by a 2012 Documenting Democracy grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Container List

Volume

- 1 1875 February 1-1884 December 8
 Includes reports of various officers and committees; printed annual reports, 1876 (#1), 1877 (#2), 1878 (#3), 1879 (#4), 1880 (#5), 1881 (#6), 1882 (#7), 1883 (#8), laid in.

Volume

- 2 1884 December 29-1900 October 31
 Includes reports of officers and committees; letters, report for 1890 (clipping), resolutions.

Volume

- 3 1900 December-1927 March 8
 Includes reports, some laid in; letters, etc. laid in.

Volume

- 4 1927 May 24-1952 December 1
 A few letters, reports, etc. laid in.

Box

1 Miscellaneous papers

Correspondence, 1890-1954, 14.0 items.

Financial records, 1884-1953, 20.0 items.

Treasurers' reports, cash accounts, donations by Louisa Porter Foundation, January 1940-November 1953; investments, 1884-1927; contents of bank deposit box, 1929.

Reports, 1894-1912 and undated, 5.0 items.

Report of sewing room, 1894-1912; report of the house committee, undated.

Miscellaneous, 1898-1956, 5.0 items.

Resolutions on resignation of Mrs. Julia McLeod as president, undated; resolutions on death of Bessie Shotter Lawton, 1956; bylaws, 1955; clipping, 1898; petitions re Mary Haskell Minis, and estate of J. Florance Minis, 1962.

Annual reports, 1883, 1893, 1894, 1895, 6.0 items.

Historical sketches (2 copies).

Charters, 1896-1953, 2.0 items.

Deeds to property (lots 29 and 30, Jasper Ward); deed to Little Minnie Mission Lot, Laurel Grove Cemetery, 1848-1975, 1881, 12.0 items.