



Office of Archives & Records Management

11625 Old St. Augustine Road
Jacksonville, FL 32258

(904) 262-3200, ext. 120

www.archives.dosafl.com

Collection Title: Pre-Vicariate Apostolic of Florida Collection
Collection Number: PVAFL-01

Collection Summary

Date Span 1820 – 1858, bulk 1820-1849
Size/Extent 0.23 cubic feet/0.21 linear feet 1 box and 2 oversized file folders (1, ½ legal DB; 1 12" x 17" folder; 1, 18" x 24" folder)
Language(s) English, Spanish
Abstract This collection comprises papers created prior to the erection of the Vicariate Apostolic of Florida (1857-01-09). Records are seemingly unrelated to St. Augustine's early bishops or real estate transactions. Since these pre-date local Catholic administration of Florida, they were stored together.
Creator Diocese of St. Augustine
Repository Archives & Records Management Office, Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine
Preferred Citation [Item Description], [Classification], PVAFL-01, Archives & Records Management Office, Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information Catholic Center, Diocese of St. Augustine
Accession Numbers 2010-125-01
Access/Restrictions Collection contains no materials with restricted access.
Copyright Notice Copyright is owned and controlled by the Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine, FL. All materials are to be retained in the Diocese of St. Augustine Archives & Records Management Office and are not circulated or loaned for reproduction or publication purposes without express permission.

Subject Headings

Authorities Diocese of Louisiana and the Floridas
Diocese of Mobile
Diocese of Savannah
St. Augustine Church Wardens
Vicariate of Alabama and the Floridas
Vicariate Apostolic of Florida
Churches St. Augustine Church
Clerics England, Rt. Rev. John
Personal Names Alvarez, Antonio
Benet, Peter
Bridier, Francis
Camp[here?], William W.
Drysdale, John
Fraser, John



Office of Archives & Records Management

11625 Old St. Augustine Road
Jacksonville, FL 32258

(904) 262-3200, ext. 120

www.archives.dosafll.com

Hull, Henry
Nickerson, Seth
McQueen, Capt. John
Po[iyund], Augustus
Seton, C[arlos?]
Subjects Incorporation of St. Augustine Catholics in Territory of Florida

Historical Information

Though the Diocese of St. Augustine was established in 1870, Catholics inhabited the state of Florida from 1565. It was Spanish *conquistador*, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés who landed on Florida’s Atlantic Coast of Florida September 8 (1865) and established St. Augustine, the longest continually occupied city in the country. The first parish church in the country was also established here. At that time, Spanish Florida extended to the entire peninsula, west to the Mississippi, and north to the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. Spain oversaw the peninsula for the majority of Florida’s colonial history, with the exception of 20 years (1763 through 1783), when the First Treaty of Paris forced its transfer to England. Florida became a US territory in 1821 and was officially admitted as the 27th state of the Union in 1845.

Until erected as the Vicariate Apostolic of Florida (1857-01-09) and finally the Diocese of St. Augustine (1870-03-11), Florida was governed by six different Catholic Dioceses’. They are: the Diocese of Santiago de Cuba (1565 – 1787); the Diocese of Havana (1787-1793); the Diocese of Louisiana and the Floridas (1793-1825); the Vicariate of Alabama and the Floridas (1825-1829); the Diocese of Mobile (1829-1850); and the Diocese of Savannah (1850-1857).

Scope And Content

These records were already on the shelf and identified as being created before the diocese was erected as a Vicariate. They were unable to be matched with any particular bishop or collections, so they were grouped together. These records mostly relate to legal transactions in Florida as well as the incorporation records for the Roman Catholic Church in St. Augustine. Some may relate to other real estate records in later Diocesan collections. The collection bulk is from the 1830s through 1840s and is a very small collection. Particularly of note are the certified copy of the Act to Incorporate the Roman Catholic Church in St. Augustine and the certified copy of the Petition for land restitution made by the Catholic Church in St. Augustine after Florida becomes a US territory.

Content List

Box TB-13	Executive Files [E], 1822-1856 <i>Records from before region was erected as a Vicariate</i>
-----------	---

FF1 **Correspondence, General [E], 1835-1836**

Legal Correspondence w/John Drysdale, Esq.

FF2 **Real Estate Files [L], 1822-1856**

Cathedral St. Augustine, St. Augustine Church Wardens sign church and property over to Bishop

Box TB-02

Executive Files [E]

Oversized Records From Bishop's Collections

FF1 **Entity Files [E], 1836**

St. Augustine Church

- 1836-02-10, Correspondence from Rt. Rev. John England (Charleston) to St. Augustine Church Wardens

Box TB-21

Executive Files [E]

Large Oversized Records From Bishop's Collections

FF1 **Legal Files [L], 1820-1835**

- 1821-07-10, Petition of the Catholics of St. Augustine East Florida to the President and Congress of the US for the restitution of their Church Property.
- 1833, An Act to incorporate the Roman Catholic Congregation of St. Augustine. Enacted by the governor of the legislature council of the Territory of Florida. Passed at their second session.
- 1835-02-13, Indenture between the Church Wardens of the Roman Catholic Church of Florida and Henry Hull of St. Augustine, Territory of Florida
- 1835-02-13, Two property indentures between the Church Wardens of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Augustine and Seth Nickerson
- 1835-07-22, Agreement between William Lawrence (agent to heirs of Capt John McQueen) and Carlos (?) Seton for sale of shipyard sent to John Drysdale, Esq.
- 1835-07-24, Correspondence from William W. Camphere(?) requesting estate on behalf of the heirs of John Fraser sent to John Drysdale, Esq.
- 1838-03-10, Property Indenture between Church Wardens of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Augustine and Francis Bridier of St. Augustine, Territory of Florida
- 1838-03-10, Property Indenture between Church Wardens of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Augustine and Augustus Poiyund(?) of St. Augustine, Territory of Florida
- 1838-05-19 certified copy of 1820-06-10 land ownership document by East Florida Public Archives keeper Antonio Alvarez [Spanish]
- 1849-06-20, Property lease between Church Wardens of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Augustine and Peter Benet of St. Augustine



Office of Archives & Records Management

11625 Old St. Augustine Road
Jacksonville, FL 32258

(904) 262-3200, ext. 120

www.archives.dosafll.com

Processing Information

Initial Process & Date:	Sr. Cathy Bitzer, before 2021
Arrangement/Processing Notes:	Records were transferred from the Catholic Center (Jacksonville) to the Archives at the SSJ Motherhouse c. 2009-2010. Items were organized based on timeframe, though sub-series descriptions were not been recorded.
Item Separated:	unknown
Reprocess & Date:	KLockard, 10/5/2022
Reprocess Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modern research, historical information, and photocopies of records with no locatable original were removed and stored with the DOSA, Subject File Collection• Paper was flattened and stored by size for preservation purposes• Photos were separated out and stored together• Paper photocopies of original records were separated out