



New York State Archives

**New York State Department of State Town Boundary
Establishment and Alteration Reports A0461**

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Overview of the Records

Repository:	New York State Archives
Summary:	These proceedings, resolutions, maps, surveyors' reports, and legislative acts filed with the Department of State document the alteration or establishment of town boundaries relating to establishment of new towns; annexation of parts of towns to other towns; and settlement of boundary disputes between towns. Pursuant to legislation, county boards of supervisors (except for New York County) were authorized to divide or alter boundaries of towns within their counties and establish and define boundary lines between towns.
Creator:	New York (State). State Commission on Quality of Care for the Mentally Disabled. Executive Bureau
Title:	Town boundary establishment and alteration reports
Quantity:	4 cubic feet
Quantity:	3 volume(s)
Inclusive Date:	1849-1960
Series:	A0461

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Arrangement

1849-1909: Rough chronological order by filing date.

1910-1960: Alphabetical by name of town.

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Administrative History

Legislation of 1849 (Chapter 194) and 1892 (Chapter 686, Art. II, Sect. 34) authorized county boards of supervisors (except for New York County) to divide or alter boundaries of towns within their counties.

The board was to consider the alteration upon application of at least 12 freeholders and upon being furnished with a map and survey showing proposed alterations for all towns involved. If the board granted the application, the map and survey and a certified statement of the board's actions regarding the alterations were to be filed with the Secretary of State, who was to print them with the next printing of the laws.

Legislation of 1892 (Chapter 686, Art. II, Sect. 36) further authorized county boards of supervisors to establish and define boundary lines between towns. The board was to file a resolution containing a description of the boundaries, along with a map and survey, with the Secretary of State, who was to print them with the next printing of the laws.

The Revised Statutes of 1889 (Part I, Ch. VIII, Title VI, Sect. 5-6) authorized the State Engineer and Surveyor to hear arguments of town officers disputing town boundaries and to direct a survey if necessary to determine the true boundaries. The State Engineer and Surveyor was to file the determination with the Secretary of State. This determination was to be final unless changed by an act of the legislature.

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Scope and Content Note

Documents constituting the official record of the alteration or establishment of town boundaries concern: division of towns to erect new towns; annexation of parts of towns to other towns; and settlement of boundary disputes between towns.

The records include: proceedings, resolutions, and legislative acts of county boards of supervisors considering and acting upon applications to alter or establish town boundaries, usually including descriptions of the boundaries; maps of the boundaries to be altered or established, sometimes showing only the boundary lines and sometimes providing more details such as lot divisions and waterways; surveyors' reports of boundary lines; and State Engineer and Surveyor's determinations of the true boundaries of towns to settle disputes. An endorsement on the back of many documents provides the date filed with the Secretary of State.

The index to Volume 2 contains numerous cartoon drawings and illustrations, often humorous.

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Related Information

Related Material

Series A4695 Office of General Services Bureau of Land Management Index to Maps partially indexes this series.

Related Publications

Between 1850 and 1902, the texts of resolutions of county boards of supervisors establishing towns or altering their boundaries were printed in the annual session laws of the New York State Legislature. The resolutions included were passed either the same year as, or the year previous to the legislative session.

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Other Finding Aids

Available at Repository

A0461-78: Alphabetical place name index in each volume (1849-1909).

A0461-78: Volume list and folder list are available at the repository.

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Use of Records

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding access to or use of the material.

Alternate Formats AvailableAlternate Formats Available

Microfilm is available for use at the New York State Archives or through interlibrary loan.

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Collation date 1849-1937.

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Access Terms

- Land surveys
- Regulating
- Boundaries
- Resolutions (administrative records)
- New York (State)
- Maps (documents)
- New York (State). Canal Commissioners
- New York (State). Office for Local Government