

## Burnet R. Maybank Mayoral Papers, 1931-1986

### Descriptive Summary

**Title and Dates:**

Burnet R. Maybank Mayoral Papers, 1931-1986 (bulk 1931-1937)

**Creator:**

Burnet R. Maybank, Mayor of the City of Charleston, 1932-1938

**Quantity:**

34 Folders

**Forms of Material:**

Correspondence, notes, resolutions, advertisements, newspaper articles, pamphlets, speeches

**Processed by:**

Rebecca Schultz, 2014

**Location:**

01-A-011

**Abstract**

The collection consists of the papers of Burnet R. Maybank, mayor of the City of Charleston from 1932 to 1938. The papers contain correspondence, newspaper clippings, resolutions, notes and speeches related to the political, economic, and municipal developments occurring during Maybank's administration.

**Scope and Content Note**

Burnet R. Maybank came to office during a time of worsening financial conditions in the City of Charleston. An increase in municipal services coupled with a decrease in tax revenue in the preceding decades had resulted in a significant enlargement of the city's debt. Moreover, the collapse of the People's National Bank in 1932 wiped out the city's finances. With \$11 million dollars in debt, the city was forced to resort to a scrip plan to pay creditors, as well as employee salaries. Over the course of the next two years, Maybank sought to resolve the city's financial problems through the collection of back taxes, a reduction in the city's operating budget, salary reductions for employees, and refinancing of debt. By 1934 the city was able to return to operating on a cash basis, although many of the city's residents remained in difficult financial situations. Maybank embraced the federal relief programs of Franklin D. Roosevelt's

administration as a means of easing unemployment and making improvements to the city's infrastructure. He likewise took steps to encourage tourism, including the establishment of the Azalea Festival in 1934.

The papers of Burnet R. Maybank contain a wealth of information related to city finances during the Great Depression. Tax assessment and the collection of taxes are topics of special importance. Also of interest are various public works initiatives undertaken during the era, including road improvements and the construction of a municipal swimming pool.

### **Related Material:**

Researchers interested in this collection may also wish to consult microfilmed copies of Mayor Maybank's Scrapbooks, 1931-1939, which contain newspaper clippings relevant to his tenure. The microfilm is located on roll numbers MAY.SB.003, MAY.SB.004, and MAY.SB.005.

Please consult the Records Manager or Records Specialist to view the microfilm or request information on other materials in the City's Records Center holdings relevant to Mayor Maybank's papers.

### **Folder List:**

#### **Folder**

- 1 W.W. Ball, News and Courier, 1933: papers re: tax assessments, State Tax Commission
- 2 Joseph C. Barbot, Clerk of Council, 1933-1935: papers re: scrip plan, city finances, Wragg Square, Second Presbyterian Church, A.T. Smythe, municipal auditorium
- 3 Boards and Commissions, 1932-1938: papers re: Roper Hospital Board, F.O. Bates, city finances, Commissioners of Public Works, Water Works Company, Edisto River Tunnel, T.W. Carroll, Committee on Streets
- 4 Chamber of Commerce, 1933: papers re: scrip plan, city finances, Coleman C. Martin, Cooper River Bridge Company, G.L. Buist Rivers, W.R. Bonsal
- 5 Charleston Oil Company, 1933: papers re: Cannon / Spring Street development, Civic Club, G.R. Mood, T. Wilbur Thornhill, Ashley River Bridge
- 6 Henry F. Church, Port Development Bureau, 1932-1933: papers re: scrip plan, Lafayette Highway, Christian Science Monitor, Coleman C. Martin, Chamber of Commerce, municipal swimming pool, public works projects, South Carolina Rep. John H. Graham, Thomas P. Stoney, Harmon Field, African Americans

## Folder

- 7 City Employees and Departments, 1934
- 8 College of Charleston, 1934-1937: papers re: tax assessments, city finances, M. Rutledge Rivers, J.H. Easterby, John Lining, Historical Commission
- 9 Corporation Counsel, 1932-1933: papers re: J. Waties Waring, William McG. Morrison, tax penalties, automobile taxes, Cooper River Bridge Company
- 10 Department Heads, 1932-1934: papers re: election, scrip plan, Charleston merchants, hiring freeze
- 11 James H. Dingle, City Engineer, 1934-1937: papers re: Jenkins Orphanage, Department of Public Buildings, municipal swimming pool, dilapidated buildings, list of demolished buildings (Dec. 1931-July 1935), Bedons Alley
- 12 Election Correspondence, 1931: papers re: bribery, A. Russell McGowan, J.C. Long, Edward K. Pritchard, voter fraud, Lawrence M. Pinckney, John P. Grace
- 13 Election Speeches and Advertisements, 1931: papers re: Lawrence M. Pinckney, Thomas P. Stoney, J.C. Long, A. Russell McGowan, John P. Grace, Murray Boulevard
- 14 Emergency Relief Administration, 1933: papers re: municipal swimming pool, prison farm, Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) labor
- 15 O. Robert Friedell, Jr., 1938: papers re: City Council
- 16 W.O. Gray & Company, 1932: papers re: city finances, municipal bonds
- 17 Miscellaneous Papers, 1932-1938: papers re: Washington Park tree dedication, city finances, Charleston Orphan House, Susan Pringle Frost, paving bonds, unpaid taxes, 1936 Democratic National Convention, 1938 Governor election
- 18 Julian Mitchell, 1932-1933: papers re: South Carolina National Bank – Peoples State Bank, city finances, tax assessments, Cooper River Bridge Company, W.R. Bonsal
- 19 Newspaper Clippings, 1930-1937: articles re: Lawrence M. Pinckney, mayoral election of 1931, Stock Market, the Great Depression, Washington Park tree dedication, taxes, visit of President Franklin D. Roosevelt
- 20 Plumbing Inspector, 1938: pamphlet re: “Ordinance and Rules Governing City Inspector of Plumbing, City of Charleston, S. C.”

## Folder

21 Public School Commissioners, 1932: papers re: taxes, Julian Mitchell, South Carolina State Treasury, M. Rutledge Rivers, George H. Moffett

22 L.M. Redd, City Controller, 1935-1936: papers re: Harmon Field, Ringling Brothers Circus, cancelled bonds, sewer bonds

23 Resolutions, 1932-1937: papers re: Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company, property sales, conveyances, unpaid taxes, Annie G. Waring, W.W. Murray

24 Scrip Plan, 1932-1933: papers re: city finances, pay warrants

25 Daniel L. Sinkler, 1932: papers re: Cooper River Bridge Company, tax exemption

26 W.S. Smith, City Treasurer, 1931-1934: papers re: city finances, unpaid taxes, scrip plan, Peoples State Bank, Sinking Fund Commissioners of Public Schools, cancelled bonds, paving bonds, pay warrants, unemployment fund, H.R. Buist

27 South Carolina Tax Commission, 1932-1934: papers re: tax assessments, John P. Grace, Daniel Sinkler, Cooper River Bridge Company, Public School Board, Board of Assessors, city property purchases, Sheriff J.M. Poulnot

28 Board of Survey, 1934-1936: J.H. Dingle, J.H. Wohlers, "An Act to Prevent Injury From Unsafe Buildings in the City of Charleston," dilapidated buildings

29 Time Capsule Letter, 1936-1986: papers re: Reconstruction Era economics, Harley-Smoot Tariff, Azalea Festival, Gardens Tournament, the Great Depression, Trans-Atlantic Air Line, aviation, Santee-Cooper, tourism, paper industry

30 J.A. Von Dohlen, Alderman, 1932-1934: papers re: scrip plan, pay warrants, municipal swimming pool, Swimming Pool Commission

31 Ways and Means, 1932-1933: papers re: Agricultural Fair Building, Agricultural Society, Johnson Hagood Stadium

32 R.G. White, City Controller, 1931-1935: papers re: city finances, property taxes, Murray Boulevard mortgages, scrip plan, King Street Wharf, unemployment funds, city property, Municipal Golf Course, Peoples State Bank

33 R.G. White, City Treasurer, 1935-1937: papers re: Charleston Water Works Improvement Bonds, unpaid taxes, seized property deeds, Annie G. Waring, South Carolina National Bank

34 Robert N.S. Whitelaw, 1934: papers re: Carolina Art Association, Gibbes Memorial Art Gallery, Carnegie Corporation