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GRANTS, LEASES AND LICENCES OF OCCUPATION, Upper Canada, 1791-1841

Volumes 1-65

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Surrendered deeds for grants and leases of land, impounded by the Executive Council of Upper Canada for a variety of reasons, and descriptions of unclaimed grants and leases, 1791-1841, have been placed in one series. The two basic types of records are arranged by township in two concurrent sub-series, as outlined in the shelf list. Volume 1A contains correspondence from E.B. Littlehales (secretary to J.G. Simcoe) to the Land Boards, copies of petitions received, 1792-1793, and schedules of impounded deeds, 1796-1811.

In the normal course of events, the Description of a grant was prepared by the Surveyor General and sent to the Provincial Secretary, who engrossed the patent deed according to the detailed description of the grant given on that document. Records of unclaimed grants and leases appear to have been sent to the Clerk of the Executive Council. Similarly, when deeds and leases were prepared for persons who had died during the application process, or were found to contain errors, the documents were surrendered to the Crown.

The arrangement of the records is geographical, by township, and approximately chronological within that. A card index, by personal and by township name, is available as a finding aid to the series. The shelf list indicates the contents of volumes (whether Descriptions or Deeds). The card index and shelf list were microfilmed in September 1977.

4 drawers of the finding aid were found March 1975 and integrated with the other index cards in May 1975.

Examination of the card index, August 1977, showed it to be roughly 85% accurate but totally lacking in cross-references.

TO DO: insert file folders; relabel boxes.

revised 24/7/73  
retyped 28-7-77

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