

Guide to the El Paso County Records, MS 132

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Note to the Researcher:

The El Paso County records held by the University of Texas at El Paso Library and listed in this inventory are arranged in series by county office of origin or office of responsibility. The task of identifying and dating the records was very difficult in some cases as the office of origin or responsibility and the dates were not always evident from the title or the contents of the records.

Identification of the records and assignment of titles and office of responsibility was complicated by their poor condition from storage in various environments and continuous use by county officials and the public through the years. Many books had missing covers or titles. When the cover of a book had no title, a title was assigned based on the information contained in the book. Brackets around the title in the inventory indicate that the title was assigned. If the interior pages had a title, that title was used when no other title existed for the book.

The name of the specific court was not listed in some of the court records, and the decision was made to place those records in the series, "Records of Various Courts". Likewise, the office of origin or responsibility was not always readily apparent in some of the account books and other records, and those documents were placed in the series of the most likely county office. The tax records were especially difficult to identify, because many of the books had no titles or had duplicate titles with different contents. A variety of tax forms and reports were bound together in books throughout the years, and those combinations of forms seemed to change periodically along with the title of the books.

Although the number of ledgers and files in the county records is extensive, the collection has large gaps of missing records. Attempts were made to list the records in chronological order and in case- and file-number order in each series in this guide, but at times this task was impossible when the dates and numbers overlapped or were out of sequence. For example, the dates and case numbers of the Justice of the Peace records were not in sequence, and the precinct numbers were not always notated on the record books.

A few records had no dates or numbers at all. When dates were not available in the records, dates were estimated and listed in brackets, if possible. Some records will require further research to ascertain the dates, titles or proper series.

Therefore, this guide to the El Paso County records is a preliminary account and a work in progress. This inventory will be updated periodically as more information is revealed from the records and by researchers using the records.

Table of Contents
(<http://tinyurl.com/5uaej66>)

Records of El Paso County Auditor	1
Records of El Paso County Clerk as Recorder	1
Records of El Paso County Clerk as Clerk of Commissioners' Court	25
Records of El Paso County Clerk as Clerk of County Courts (County, Probate and Court-at-Law)	26
Records of El Paso County Courts, Various Records	40
Records of El Paso County District Clerk	43
Records of El Paso County Judge	52
Records of El Paso County Justice of the Peace	52
Records of El Paso County Sheriff	60
Records of El Paso County Tax Assessor-Collector	84
Records of El Paso County Treasurer	188
Records of San Elizario, Socorro and Ysleta in El Paso County	189

Other El Paso County Records—Unofficial Records

190