

**Records of the Farmers Home Administration
Record Group 96**

**The National Archives and Records Administration
Southeast Region
5780 Jonesboro Road
Morrow, Georgia 30260**

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Farmers Home Administration

Administrative History

The records described in this inventory are the records of the Farmers Home Administration and its predecessors that are in the custody of the National Archives and Records Administration, Southeast Region. They are designated as Record Group 96, Records of the Farmers Home Administration. The function of the Farmers Home Administration was to provide small farmers with credit to construct or repair homes and farm buildings, improve farming operations, or become farm owners.

The Farmers Home Administration was established in the Department of Agriculture by the Farmers Home Administration Act (60 Stat., 1062), August 14, 1946.

The following organizational units were established successively to direct rural rehabilitation and other programs for the aid of “destitute or low-income” rural families, farm tenants, sharecroppers, and migratory workers:

- Division of Subsistence Homesteads, Department of the Interior, June 1933 – May 1935
- Rural Rehabilitation Division, Federal Emergency Relief Administration, April 1934 – June 1935
- Resettlement Administration, April 1935 – August 1936
- Department of Agriculture, Farm Security Administration, September 1937 – August 1946

Records of Field Offices

Shortly after its establishment in April 1935, the Resettlement Administration set up 11 (later 13) regional offices to supervise its field activities. In fixing the boundaries of these regions, State lines were sometimes crossed in an effort to deal with common or similar problems. There were only minor changes in areas covered by each region and few shifts of headquarters offices during the period of the existence.

In addition to a Regional Director, each region had two Assistant Directors in charge of the Rural Rehabilitation Division and the Resettlement Division, respectively, and staff divisions, sections, or officers. The staff setups typically included an Executive Assistant, a business management staff, a personnel staff, a labor relations staff, and an information staff. The two operating divisions were the Resettlement Division and the Rural Rehabilitation Division, the latter Division containing among other units a Tenant Purchase Section, later called the Farm Ownership Section. Most of the regions had a Land Use Planning Section, and at least one, Region 4 also had, for a time, a Land Utilization Division.

Shortly before the closing of the regional offices, a records survey was made of regional offices 1 and 5. After extensive study, records in certain classes were selected for retention jointly by personnel of the National Archives and the Farmers Home Administration. These classes of records, eventually accessioned by the National Archives for most regions, are denoted by numeric-subject headings as follows:

000 General—028 Suggestions (from individuals and organizations relative to the Farm Security Administration programs)

060 Projects (project planning, construction, family selection, possession, site selection, and liquidation)

070 Cooperation (dealing with cooperation between the Farm Security Administration and other Federal agencies, States, municipalities, and private organizations)

100 Administration—160 Public Relations

161 Speeches

163-01 Articles and Press Releases

163-03 [Press] Clippings

The Southeast Region has custody of records from the following regions:

- Region IV, Raleigh North Carolina

Kentucky
North Carolina
Tennessee
Virginia
West Virginia

- Region V, Montgomery, Alabama

Alabama
Florida
Georgia
South Carolina

Records of County Offices

The Southeast Region has custody of case files for paid rural rehabilitation loans made in 145 selected counties of the following states, 1934-1944: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

A considerable quantity of records of the Farmers Home Administration and its predecessors have been disposed of because they duplicated information in retained records or because they were of insufficient intrinsic value to warrant keeping them any longer.

Region 4

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Entry 56 **Correspondence of the Director, 1938-1940**

Boxes 1-3

Mainly copies of the letters sent, but including a few letters received, concerning loans, complaints, job applications, and other matters in which Congressmen's aid was solicited. There is also some correspondence, primarily regarding job applications, with Julian N. Friant, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture, with W. W. Alexander, Administrator of the Farm Security Administration, and with State directors. Arranged in groups by official title, alphabetically by name and correspondent.

Entry 57 **Correspondence and Reference File of Homer H.B. Mask, Regional Director, 1934-1936**

Box 1-6

Mainly copies of letters, telegrams, and interoffice memoranda sent by the Director and others in his office, but including some letters received and reference materials such as reports, press releases, circulars, and other materials, 1935-36. The records relate chiefly to rural rehabilitation, land use planning, rural resettlement, and other regional activities. Included also, and to some extent, intermixed throughout the series, is a small quantity of Mr. Mask's correspondence as a Regional Land Planning Consultant with the National Resources Board, 1934-35. The file is unarranged.

Entry 58 **Correspondence and Reference File of the Regional Director, 1936-1941**

Boxes 1-37

Letters received; copies of letters, telegrams, and memoranda sent; and reports and other enclosures. The file was maintained by Directors George S. Mitchell, 1936-39, and Howard H. Gordon, 1939-41. It concerns the administration of the regional office, the direction of the rural rehabilitation and tenant purchase programs, and the operation of such resettlement projects as Cumberland Homesteads in Tennessee and Penderlea Homesteads in North Carolina. Arranged in several sub series, there under alphabetically by subject, name, or other designation.

Entry 59 **General Correspondence, 1935-1941**

Boxed 1-9

Relates to activities of the regional office as reflected in correspondence classified as follows:

- 070 Cooperation (with States, municipalities, organizations, individuals);
- 161 Speeches;
- 163-01 Articles and Press Releases;
- 200 Land Acquisition (program);
- 500 [Rural] Rehabilitation (program);
- 505 Relocation (resettlement of individuals and families by the Government);
- 530 Plans (rural rehabilitation farm and home plans for clients);
- 570 [Farms] Debt Adjustment; and
- 912 Occupancy (of resettlement projects).

Arranged according to the classification scheme of 1935, then by state.

Entry 60 **General Correspondence, 1942-1946**
Boxes 10-16

This series is a continuation of the correspondence described in entry 59. It contains information classified as follows:

- 28 Loans—Grants (farm ownership loans)
- 30 Organization—Administration
- 34 Public Relations and Information

Arranged according to the classification scheme of 1942.

Entry 61 **Correspondence File of James S. Heizer, Executive Assistant, Relating to the Regional Medical Program, 1937-1939**
Box 1

Concerns the organization and operation of low-cost medical care programs for rehabilitation clients and their families. Arranged chronologically.

Entry 62 **Letters Sent Relating to Applications for Employment, 1937-1939**
Boxes 1-5

These letters were written mainly to Congressmen from the States comprising Region 4 on behalf of applicants. Included are some memoranda concerning visits of an official of the Farm Security Administration to these Congressmen. Arranged by State, there under alphabetically by name of Congressman.

RECORDS OF THE RURAL REHABILITATION DIVISION

Entry 63 **Correspondence and Reference File of J.B. Slack, Assistant Regional Director in Charge of Rural Rehabilitation, 1935-1941**

Boxes 1-10

Mainly copies of letters, telegrams, and interoffice memoranda sent, but including some letters received and reference material. Also included are some summary reports on rehabilitation loans as well as some detailed reports of Bernard G. Torreyson, Regional Collection Adviser, concerning loan operations in various offices in the region. Arranged by subject.

Entry 64 **Correspondence of J.R. Allgyer, Regional Rural Rehabilitation Adviser, 1934-1935**

Boxes 1-5

Correspondence exchanged with the central office, State Rural Rehabilitation Corporations, and others regarding loans, grants, debt adjustment, and other matters. The name, State, and subject folders are mostly unarranged, with material therein arranged chronologically.

Entry 65 **General Correspondence, 1934-1940**

Boxes 1-84

Relates to all activities of the Division. These activities are reflected especially in the correspondence classified as follows: 560 [Rehabilitation] Reports, 580 [Rehabilitation] Clients, and 626 Funds (legal questions regarding the transfer of Rural Rehabilitation Corporation funds). In two sub series: (1) arranged according to the classification scheme of 1935, and (2) arranged alphabetically by State, there under according to the classification scheme of 1935.

Entry 66 **Correspondence of C. W. E. Pittman, Special Assistant to the Director of the Division, 1934-1935**

Box 1-3

Covers mainly the period when Pittman was located in the State office of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration at Raleigh, N.C. Mr. Pittman supervised relief and rehabilitation work in several districts, each one composed of several counties. The aid given to the farmers consisted chiefly in providing farm equipment, supplies, livestock, and other operating necessities. Arranged alphabetically by county, chronologically.

Entry 67 Office File of H.P. Edwards, State Loan Officer for North Carolina, 1935-1936

Boxes 1-2

Consists chiefly of reference materials on various background subjects, such as policies and procedures, laws and legal options, financial data and statistics on loans, and various other informational materials. Included are some copies of letters sent by Mr. Edwards regarding rural rehabilitation loans and grants in the State. Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Entry 68 Copies of Letters Sent, 1935-1942

Boxes 1- 11

Chiefly copies of letters sent to the central office, State directors, project managers, and others by Division employees. Also included are some internal memoranda. The series concerns mainly rehabilitation matters and farm ownership loans. In two sub series, the first of which is arranged alphabetically by subject and the second, alphabetically by name of employee, chronologically.

Entry 69 Farm Ownership Case Files, 1938-1946

Each case file usually includes the following: loan application; appraisal reports and data concerning prospective borrower; option; loan agreement and variable payment agreement; loan analysis; mortgage and occasionally a warranty deed; certification by county committee; farm and home plans; title insurance policy; fire and property damage insurance policy; and certification of closing of tenant-purchase loan. Also included in a case file are subsidiary forms and correspondence relating to the processing of the loan. Arranged in five sub-series, alphabetically by name of borrower.

Sub-series 1

Farm Ownership Case Files

Boxes 1-24

Sub-series 2, 1938-1946

Farm Ownership Case Files

Boxes 1-64

Sub-series 3, 1940-1946

Farmer Ownership Case Files

Boxes 1-17

Sub-series 4, 1938-1946

Farm Ownership Case Files
Boxes 1-6

Sub-series 5, 1938-1946
Farm Ownership Case Files
Boxes 1-36

Entry 70 **General Correspondence of the Farm Debt Adjustment Commission
North Carolina, Federal Emergency Relief Administration, 1934-1935**
Boxes 1-4

Chiefly, correspondence of G.W. Forester, Executive Secretary of the Commission, and of Harry F. Watkins, its State Representative. The Series documents the Commission's attempts to work out satisfactory adjustment between distressed farmer-debtors and their creditors. Arranged alphabetically by county, chronologically.

Entry 71 **Administrative Correspondence of the Farm Debt Adjustment
Commission for North Carolina, Federal Emergency Relief
Administration, 1934-1935**
Boxes 1-8

Chiefly, correspondence of Mr. Forester and Mr. Watkins. There are also a few folders of correspondence with State and other officials regarding program matters. Arranged by name of official or other correspondent and by subject, chronologically.

Entry 72 **Correspondence of the Farm Debt Adjustment Section, 1935-1937**
Boxes 1-2

Chiefly, correspondence of Harry F. Watkins, as State Farm Debt Adjustment Supervisor for North Carolina. It relates to the same subjects as the correspondence described in entry 70. Arranged by district number, alphabetically by county, chronologically.

Entry 73 **General Correspondence of the Community and Cooperative Services
Section, 1935-1940**
Boxes 1- 13

Relates to the Section's work in connection with loans to cooperatives or to individual borrowers wishing to join them. Arranged by subject.

Entry 74 Correspondence of the Community and Cooperative Service Section, 1935-1938
Boxes 1-2

Concerns all phases of organizing, financing, and operating cooperatives under subheadings of classification 590 Cooperatives, such as raising, harvesting, canning, storing, and marketing crops; assisting in erosion control; manufacturing lime fertilizers; providing educational, recreational, and medical facilities; and furnishing other services. Each sub-classification is arranged chronologically.

Entry 75 Loan Applications and Supporting Papers of Cooperative Associations, 1935-1937
Boxes 1-2

The cooperatives represented by these few records were engaged mainly in such activities as soil erosion control and establishing farm community centers. A folder for each association usually contains correspondence, a loan application, and supporting exhibit material such as bylaws, a certificate of incorporation, a financial statement, a membership list, a plat, and other papers/ Arranged alphabetically by State, by name of association.

Entry 76 Instructional and Reference Materials for the Use of Home Management Supervisors, 1934-1937
Box 1

Consists chiefly of printed and mimeographed pamphlets and sheet giving instructions on canning fruits and vegetables, gardening, preparing meals, and other homemaking activities. Included is a report on the home management program for 1936 in Tennessee. Arranged alphabetically by State.

Entry 77 Miscellaneous Reports and Procedures File, 1934-1940
Boxes 1-2

Consists of annual and other periodic reports of home and farm management supervisors; summary reports on rural rehabilitation activities; a report on leased and optioned lands; procedural and instructional materials from the central, regional, and State offices; and circulars, bulletins, and conference notes. Unarranged.

RECORDS OF THE RESETTLEMENT DIVISION

- Entry 78** **Office file of C. B. Faris, Assistant Regional Director in Charge of Resettlement, 1935-1937**
Boxes 1-5
Consists of letters received, copies of letters sent, reports, maps, and other records of Mr. Faris. Most of the correspondence deals with setting up and administering resettlement projects. Classified in accordance with a numeric scheme.
- Entry 79** **Correspondence Relating to Resettlement Projects, 1935-1942**
Boxes 1-84

In two sub-series, the first for 1935-1940 and the second for 1941-1942. The correspondence concerns mainly the acquisition of land, and the construction, occupancy, and management of the following projects: Christian-Trigg Farms in Kentucky; Penderlea Homesteads, Roanoke Farms, Pembroke Farms, and Scuppernong Farms in North Carolina; and Shenandoah Homesteads in Virginia. Included is a little correspondence on farm tenant projects in North Carolina and Tennessee. Each of the two sub-series is arranged alphabetically by State, project, and according to the classification scheme of 1935.
- Entry 80** **Correspondence Relating to Resettlement Projects, 1942-1946**
Boxes 1-5

This series appears to be a continuation of the correspondence described in entry 79. Arranged alphabetically by State, project, and according to the classification scheme of 1942.
- Entry 81** **Correspondence and Other Records Concerning the Relocation of Families, 1936-1939**
Boxes 1-6

Correspondence relating to the movement of families from land utilization projects, forms containing statistics on the numbers of families moved, and a few other records. Arranged mainly by project number.
- Entry 82** **Correspondence Concerning Operation of the Roanoke Farms Project, 1936-1940**
Boxes 1-6

Correspondence of C.B. Faris, Assistant Regional Director in Charge of Resettlement, and others concerned with the operation of the project. It is classified under the following main headings: 000 General, 100 Administration, 200 Land Acquisition, 400 Finance, 500 Rehabilitation, 600 Legal, 700 Development and Construction, and 900 Property Operation and Disposition. Arranged according to the classification scheme of 1935, chronologically.

Entry 83 **Correspondence and Other Records Concerning the Shenandoah Homesteads, 1934-1937**

Boxes 1-5

In addition to the correspondence, there are reports, maps, and other records pertaining to the construction and administration of this project, established originally by the Division of Subsistence Homesteads. Under the Resettlement Administration, it was an agricultural community-type project for the resettlement of 250 destitute and low-income families from an area later included in Shenandoah National Park. Also included are letters received and copies of letters sent by L. F. Zerkel, the project Manager. Arranged according to the classification scheme of 1935.

Entry 84 **Correspondence of Percy Bloxam, Chief of the Architectural and Engineering Section, 1936-1937**

Boxes 1-3

Letters received from and copies of letters sent to regional, project, and other employees concerning the planning and construction of resettlement projects. Arranged alphabetically by state, and project number.

Entry 85 **Project Plans File of C. B. Faris, Assistant Regional Director in Charge of Resettlement, 1935-1936.**

Boxes 1-2

Consists of plans for proposed resettlement projects. Typically, each plan contains a letter from the Regional Director to the Administrator of the Resettlement Administration, transmitting and recommending the plan; a detailed description of the plan, with suitable maps and other illustrative materials; a soil report; budget estimates; estimated production reports on crops and livestock; and other descriptive and informational materials. Arranged alphabetically by state, and name of project.

Entry 86 **Rural Resettlement Project Plans, Proposals, and Related Records, 1935-1936**

Boxes 1-4

Concerns mainly the preliminary phases of planning. The series includes correspondence, comprehensive reports, maps, and blueprints, options on land, and data concerning project costs and crop production. Arranged alphabetically by state and by the name or proposed project.

Entry 87 **Overall Plans for Resettlement Projects in Tennessee, 1936**

Box 1

A file identified as docket 5 (Cumberland Homesteads, SH-TN-5) contains forms summarizing the plans for each farm unit in the project; and files identified as dockets 6 and 7 contain unit plans for Tenant Security Project RR-TN-27 and some tract maps and blueprints of farm layouts and buildings. Arranged by docket number.

Entry 88 **Correspondence and Preliminary Plans Pertaining to Projects in West Virginia, 1935-1936**

Boxes 1-3

The correspondence relates largely to administrative matters; and the plan folders contain an outline of the final project, the final plan in detail, plans for buildings and for households and farm equipment, and a small quantity of related correspondence. Subjects include Morgantown Homesteads, Noola Rural Resettlement and Land Acquisition, Flat Top Community Farms, Little Kanawha, Upshur, Bluestone Dams, and Monroe Resettlement Farms. Arranged by project number, according to the classification scheme of 1935.

Entry 89 **Land Acquisition Case Files, 1934-1941; 1943-1944**

Boxes 1-12

Concerns land purchased in North Carolina for Magnolia Farms, Penderlea Homesteads, Roanoke Farms, and Wolf Pit Farms, and in Virginia for Shenandoah Homesteads. Each case file usually contains some or all of the following records: offer to sell lands to the United States, government option to purchase land, appraisal report, tract map, abstract of title, certificate of title, condemning hearing, warranty deed, preliminary opinion of the district attorney on title, final opinion of the Attorney General on title, and certificate of settlement. Also included in a case file are subsidiary forms and correspondence relating to the acquisition process. Arranged alphabetically by state, project number, and case number.

Entry 91 **Administrative and Reference Files on Resettlement Projects, 1935-1938**
Boxes 1-3

Files, probably accumulated for convenience, concerning certain projects in the Region. There is no uniformity in subject matter, although it relates chiefly to the construction, administration, and operation of projects. In addition to construction, administration, and operation of projects. In addition to correspondence, there are plans, specifications, and various kinds of reports, maps, blueprints, budgetary and fiscal records, project proposals, and agreements. Arranged alphabetically by state and by project number.

RECORDS OF THE LAND UTILIZATION DIVISION

The Series described below in entry 92 remained with the Farm Security Administration at the time the Land Utilization Division was transferred to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Entry 92 Correspondence of the Regional Director of the Land Policy Section, Division of Program Planning, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, 1934-1935
Boxes 1-10

This correspondence deals with functions taken over by the Land Utilization Division, but only a small part of it was created in that Division. Carl C. Taylor was Regional Director of the Land Policy Section at the time, and some of his correspondence concerns the sub-marginal land purchase program in North Carolina and Virginia. Arranged by subject.

Records of Region 5

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Entry 93 **General Correspondence, 1934-1942**
Boxes 1-29

Correspondence, memoranda, and reports reflecting the work of the regional office. The records are divided into two sub-series, one for 1935-1940 and the other for 1940-1942. Some of the correspondence is classified under the following main headings: 161 Speeches, 163-01 Articles and Press Releases, and 505 Relocation. Included also is a report, classified under 500 Rehabilitation, on the early rural rehabilitation program in Georgia. Each of the two sub-series is arranged according to the classification scheme of 1935.

RECORDS OF THE AUDIT DIVISION

Audit Reports and Correspondence, 1935-1938
Boxes 1-4

Audit reports and correspondence for Cumberland Farms Cooperative Association and Coffee Farms Project, Alabama.

RECORDS OF THE RURAL REHABILITATION DIVISION

Entry 94 **Farm Ownership Files, 1938-1946**
Boxes 1-196

Each case file usually includes the following: loan application; appraisal reports and data concerning prospective borrower; option; loan agreement and variable payment agreement; loan analysis; mortgage and, occasionally, a warranty deed; certification by county committee; farm and home plans; title insurance policy; fire and property damage insurance policy; and certification of closing of tenant-purchase loan. Also included in a case file are subsidiary forms and correspondence relating to the processing of the loan. Arranged alphabetically by name of borrower.

RECORDS OF THE RESETTLEMENT DIVISION

Entry 95 **Correspondence Relating to Proposed Projects, 1934-1941**

Boxes 1-7

Chiefly letters received, suggesting the creation of resettlement project in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, but also including a little correspondence concerning projects already in operation. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

Entry 96 **Land Acquisition Case Files and Related Project Correspondence, 1935-1942**

Boxes 1-2

Divided into two types of records under each project: (1) land acquisition case files, and (2) correspondence relating to the operation of projects constructed on the land. Each case file usually contains some or all of the following records: offer to sell lands to the United States, Government option to purchase land. Appraisal report, tract map, abstract title, certificate of title, condemnation hearing, warranty deed, preliminary opinion of the district attorney on title, final opinion of the Attorney General on title, and certificate of settlement. Also included in a case file are subsidiary forms and correspondence relating to the acquisition process. The related correspondence pertains to the establishment and administration of these projects in the Region; it is classified by numbers and corresponding subjects. Most of the records were withdrawn by the Farmers Home Administration, with the exception of two boxes concerning Lee County, South Carolina.

Entry 97 **Project Construction Files, 1938-1941**

Boxes 1-19

Bids, contracts, plans, specifications, correspondence, and related records pertaining to construction work on the Coffee Farms project (01-17) in Alabama and the Ashwood Plantation project (46-9) in South Carolina. Arranged by project and by subject.

Records of County Offices

RURAL REHABILITATION LOAN CASE FILES

Entry 133 **Rural Rehabilitation Loan Case Files, 1934-1944**
193 Boxes

Case files of paid-in-full rural rehabilitation loans of _ typical counties on the _major type farming areas in _ states, as classified by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. A typical case file contains a loan application, a loan agreement, a lease agreement, a mortgage, statements of accounts, receipts, a farm and home management plan, farm visit reports, and related correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by state, county, and name of borrower. For the method used in selecting these folders, see Carl J. Kulsrud, "Sampling Rural Rehabilitation Records for Transfer to the National Archives," in *The American Archivist*, 10:328-334 (October, 1947).

There are representative Rural Rehabilitation Loan Case Files for the following counties:

Alabama

Dallas
Elmore
Marshall
Shelby

Florida

Lee
Orange
Volusia

Georgia

Hart
Worth

Kentucky

Bell
Nelson

Mississippi

Attala
Carroll
Jasper

North Carolina

Bertie
Forsyth
Pender
Wake

South Carolina

Berkeley

Tennessee

Davidson
Franklin
Moore
Perry
Williamson

For the method used in selecting these folders, see Carl J. Kulsrud, "Sampling Rural Rehabilitation Records for Transfer to the National Archives," in *The American Archivist*, 10:328-334 (October, 1947).

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