

to reconnect these documents when the Commonwealth records were separated out from the general McAllister manuscripts in 2005 and described as a single collection. Therefore, readers finding a cover letter, or a document with a number or letter in the docketing area, are advised to survey the box and folder list for material with a similar subject or theme to find items that may have once been presented to the legislature as a group. One important example is the document titled "List of documents delivered with the governor's speech" (7313.F.59), which was annotated by the clerk of the Senate on December 28, 1790, and had been created to record the attachments to the transcript of Mifflin's presentation to the legislature on December 21, 1790 (the transcript itself is filed out of order at 7314.F.13). Because each of the attachments had dates spanning August through December 1790, most of the documents are now in files that precede the list. Readers are also encouraged to peruse the finding aid for the McAllister Miscellaneous Manuscripts (McA MSS 025) in case some of the material that has remained there might have a relationship to the documents in the General Assembly collection, and was not recognized when the collections were processed.

As with the chronological filing system, the numbering system for these documents remains as it was imposed in the late 1890s: the four-digit number (i.e. 7334) represents a former box number, and the sub-number represents the assigned document number (which includes an .F for folio). Together, they make a unique identification number for each document, and should be employed by readers when filling out call slips; i.e. McA MSS 017 folder 7334.F.35 would request a petition promoting the incorporation of Harrisburg. Document numbers absent from this finding aid are now in held other McAllister manuscript collections.

The provenance of the papers in this collection is unclear. Though they predate record groups held in the Pennsylvania State Archives, the McAllister Collection material does not comprise the full archival record of the Assembly from those earlier periods.

Series I, Correspondence and Documents (1788-1849) primarily holds letters and reports submitted to the state Senate and House of Representatives. The material dating prior to December 1796 was filed with the Senate, and that afterward was mostly filed with the House of Representatives. Generally, the material was officially docketed, dated, and filed with a clerk after being read into the legislative record.

Some of the earliest items in the collection are letters sent to the legislature from Governor Thomas Mifflin (1744-1800, served 1790-1799); many are simply formal messages notifying the legislators of acts that he had approved. Mifflin also kept the Assembly apprised of acts passed by the federal government, such as the creation of the Bank of the United States in 1791 (7315.F.7). Also on file in 1790 and 1791 are several documents that relate to the visit of the Seneca Indian Chiefs, including the noted diplomat Cornplanter (1732?-1836), to Philadelphia, and to Robert King's journey to the Seneca Nation in July 1790, where he presented dispatches from Governor Mifflin respecting the murder of two Seneca tribesmen by the Walker brothers and Samuel Doyle at Pine Creek in June 1790.