Through the passage of By-Laws, the Town and City of Port Arthur appointed Plumbing and Building Inspectors. Duties of the plumbing inspector included the issuing of permits for construction or repairs to plumbing and drainage systems and duties of the building inspector included the issuing of permits for the construction of or alterations to buildings. Under By-Law 1123, in 1913, the Department of the Building Inspector was established. This By-law also designated the Building Inspector as being responsible for keeping a record of the issuance of building permits, probably making him or someone in the department responsible for producing this series.

The series consists of indexes contained in four bound volumes, arranged chronologically and alphabetically by street name. The following details are usually included:

- building permit number/plumbing permit number, date, municipal address, name of applicant, and type of construction.

- Plumbing permits do not appear to be recorded in these indexes until 1951, and on a regular basis, until 1953.

- Transferred to the City Archives from the Building department and stored by Archives for a number of years before accessioning.

Typescript

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Further accruals are not anticipated.

Microfilm copies of building permit applications covering the dates 1912 to 1969 are available under Series 445.

Microfilm copies of plumbing permits covering the dates 1960 to May 1971 are available under Series 451.