**Public Transport 1 – Hire Vehicles Source Sheet No. 34**

In 1858 the Corporation became responsible (under the Public Conveyances Act of 1853) for licensing and regulating the activities of horse-drawn vehicles plying for hire within the City. The routine inspection and licensing of all hackney carriages and cabs and other passenger and goods carrying vehicles was performed under By-Law No.11 by the Inspector of Vehicles. This responsibility was continued into the age of motorised transport by the City Inspector’s Office under By-Law No. XXV which required half-yearly inspection and testing of all hire vehicles to ensure they were in a safe condition, and the licensing of drivers considered fit and proper persons to be in charge of such vehicles. It also involved policing designated cab-stands within the City, fixing fares and rates of hire, and periodic testing and certifying of taxi-cab meters. The administration of taxi-cabs remained a Corporation responsibility until 1958, when this function was taken over by the Metropolitan Taxicab Board, on which the Corporation was represented. In addition to taxis, the Corporation was also responsible from 1881 for licensing boats made available for public hire on the Torrens Lake.

**Archival Sources**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Record Description** | **Date Range** | **Accession Number(s)** |
| Master Index [to Town Clerk’s Dockets and Special Files] | c1930 - 1976 | 2426 |
| Town Clerk’s Department Dockets | 1856 - 1976 | 2530 |
| Town Clerk’s Letters Received Books | 1862 - 1976 | 4182 |
| Index of Town Clerk’s Letters Received | 1856 - 1973 | 4183 |
| Town Clerk’s Department Letter Books – General | 1853 - 1924 | 602 |
| Town Clerk’s Special File 85 ‘Taxi Cabs - Meters, Fares, etc.’ | 1920 - 1927 | 352 |
| Town Clerk’ Special File 122, 407 ‘Yellow Cabs’ | 1925 -1958 | 352 |
| Town Clerk’s Special Files 58, 110, 167, 385, 499, 512 ‘Street Traffic’ | 1916 - 1976 | 352 |
| Town Clerk’s Special File 244 ‘Green Cabs in Victoria Street’ | 1941 - 1942 | 352 |
| Town Clerk’s Special File 274 ‘Applications for Hire Car Licences’ | 1946 - 1955 | 352 |
| Town Clerk’s Special File 334 ‘Appointment of Stands, King William Street, etc’ | 1927 - 1975 | 352 |
| Town Clerk’s Department Newspaper Clippings – General | 1898 - 1971 | 283 |
| Town Clerk’s Newspaper Clippings - Traffic | 1928 - 1972 | 288 |
| Control and Licensing of Taxi Cabs by ACC | 1929 - 1952 | 29/15 |
| City Inspector’s Licences Registers | 1867 - 1950 | 671 |
| City Inspector’s Instruction Books | 1953 - 1970 | 1889 |
| [Licensing Officer’s Journal] | 1860 - 1875 | 653 |
| [City Inspector’s Cash Books - Licences] | 1925 - 1931 | 640 |
| [Record of Complaints and Adjudications Under the Hackney Carriages and Public Conveyances Act] | 1860 - 1862 | 619 |
| Taxi Dockets | c1955 - 1957 | 2142 |
| Applications for Motor Driver’s Licence [forms] | 1950s | 2145, 2146, 2147 |
| Unregistered Files re Motor Drivers | 1942 - 1958 | 2144 |
| [Register of] Registration Numbers | Undated | 2148 |
| Motor Drivers’ [Indexes] | 1951 - 1952 | 2187 |
| [Record of Motor Vehicles and Drivers Licensed for Hire] | 1926 - 1954 | 2186 |
| Vehicle Licence Plates | Undated | 840 |
| Licensed to Carry Plates | Undated | 4189 |
| [Index of Licences Issued] | 1913 - 1937 | 5629 |
| [Card Index of Drivers] | Undated | 2149 |
| [Register of Licensed Private Boats, Boatmen and Rents for the Torrens Lake] | 1882 - 1893 | 2113 |
| Commercial Department Photographs | c1960s | 3554 |
| Historical Pictorial Collection | 1850 - 1970 | S59, 1461, 3016, 5531 |
| Town Clerk’s Lantern Slides Collection | 1860 - 1940 | 4351 |
| City Engineer’s Photo Albums | 1925 - 1970 | 3261, 5751 |

**Other Sources**

Mayor’s Reports, Annual Reports and the Digests of Proceedings 1872 –,

City Archives Source Sheet No. 35 *Public Transport 2 - Buses and Trams.*

**Further Information**

**City Archives:** Topham Mall, off Currie and Waymouth Streets, Adelaide 5000

**Counter / telephone enquiries:** 9**.**00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday

**Search Room open for public research:**10.00 am to 4.00 pm Tuesday to Thursday

**Telephone:** +618 8203 7439

**Email:** [cityarchives@cityofadelaide.com.au](mailto:cityarchives@cityofadelaide.com.au)

**Web:** <https://cityofadelaide.com.au/cityarchives>