

**James Houston Henderson Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2009**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm94084036>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms009186>

Prepared by Harry G. Heiss

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009  
Revised 2010 April

## Collection Summary

**Title:** James Houston Henderson Papers

**Span Dates:** 1913-1920

**ID No.:** MSS84036

**Creator:** Henderson, James Houston, 1878-1935

**Extent:** 23 items

**Extent:** 1 container

**Extent:** 0.2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm94084036>

**Summary:** Surveyor and civil engineer. Correspondence, employment records, biographical notes, and photographs chiefly relating to Henderson's work as chief surveyor of the Panama Canal and as civil engineer for the the Panama Railroad.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Henderson, James Houston, 1878-1935.

Henderson, Lula Ross--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Panama Railroad Co.

### Subjects

Bridges--Design and construction.

Civil engineering--Panama.

Railroads--Panama.

Roads--Construction--Panama.

Surveying--Panama.

### Places

Panama Canal (Panama)--Surveys.

### Occupations

Civil engineers.

Surveyors.

## Provenance

The papers of James Houston Henderson, surveyor and civil engineer, were given to the Library of Congress by his daughter, Frances Henderson Carter, in 1994.

## Processing History

The papers of James Houston Henderson were arranged and described in 1998. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of James Houston Henderson is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of James Houston Henderson are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, James Houston Henderson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of James Houston Henderson (1878-1935) span the years 1913-1920 and contain correspondence, employment records, biographical notes, and photographs. Henderson was employed by the Isthmian Canal Commission in 1913 as a rodman and later chief of the party which surveyed the Panama Canal. He also oversaw construction of roads and bridges for the Panama Railroad in 1914 and for the Panama Canal in 1915. The papers consist chiefly of correspondence to his wife, Lula Ross Henderson, that detail his work with the construction of the Panama Canal and personal family matters. The correspondence is augmented with photographs of the canal construction as well as records outlining Henderson's employment history. Included in the papers are letters of recommendation from C. A. McIlvain of the Panama Canal and George W. Goethals of the Isthmian Canal Commission and a biographical outline compiled by Henderson's daughter, Frances Henderson Carter. After his tenure with the construction of the Panama Canal, Henderson was employed as a surveyor and civil engineer for several oil companies in Texas and Oklahoma.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

## Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1913
BOX 1	Employment records and letters of recommendation, 1913-1920, undated
BOX 1	Photographs, 1913-1914