



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
**ARCHIVES**  
AND HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

## East Lansing Police Records c.00668

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on October 08, 2019.

Finding aid written in English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

943 Conrad Road, Room 101

East Lansing , MI 48824

[archives@msu.edu](mailto:archives@msu.edu)

URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

---

## Table of Contents

---

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Summary Information .....        | 3 |
| Historical Note .....            | 3 |
| Scope and Contents .....         | 4 |
| Administrative Information ..... | 4 |
| Controlled Access Headings ..... | 5 |
| Collection Inventory .....       | 5 |

---

## Summary Information

---

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b>               | Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections |
| <b>Creator:</b>                  | East Lansing (Mich.). Police Department                       |
| <b>Creator - vdg:</b>            | Miller, Whitney, 1962-  |
| <b>Title:</b>                    | East Lansing Police records                                   |
| <b>ID:</b>                       | c.00668   |
| <b>Date:</b>                     | 1957, 2001  |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>     | 0.25 Cubic Feet , 2 video tapes                               |
| <b>Language of the Material:</b> | English   |

### Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: "Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Historical Note

---

The City of East Lansing first authorized the municipal police department in 1921. Before this, a Town Constable was appointed by the City Council to enforce laws. In 1921, the department consisted of the first police chief, Rev. John G. Biery and three officers. The East Lansing Police Department (ELPD) had a small jail which was seldom used. At that time, the annual budget for the police department was \$2,000.

In the early years, East Lansing was a very different place and the police work was of a different nature, including chicken thefts and stray cows. ELPD has records of noise complaints in response to the milk wagon that made its deliveries in the very early hours of the morning in the 1930s.

After World War II, Michigan State College (now Michigan State University) separated its police force from ELPD. ELPD Chief Art Brandstatter resigned and was appointed as the chief of the Michigan State College Police Force. Lt. Charles F. Pegg was then appointed as the ELPD police chief, a position which he held from 1946 until 1972.

The City of East Lansing continued to grow at a rapid pace, especially during the 1950s when Michigan State College became Michigan State University and the student population grew significantly. ELPD had to grow to meet the public safety needs of a thriving city and expanding college population.

Chief Pegg expanded his small police force of four officers into a force of more than 50 officers by the time that he retired in 1972. His successors, Chiefs Steve Naert, Bob Foster, Tom Hendricks, Lawton Connelly, Louis Muhn, Tom Wibert, Juli Liebler and Jeff Murphy all have made significant contributions in progressively improving the organization of the East Lansing Police Department.

(Source: <https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/364/History>)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents

---

"East Lansing Police -- On Call" is a promotional film made to inform the public about the East Lansing Police Department. The "History of the East Lansing Police Department" video is of a presentation given to the East Lansing Historical Society at their spring meeting held at the East Lansing Public Library. It was videotaped by Whitney Miller.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

943 Conrad Road, Room 101

East Lansing , MI 48824

[archives@msu.edu](mailto:archives@msu.edu)

URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

### Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish material from this collection must be obtained from University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.

## Conditions Governing Access

**Legal Status:** Donor(s) have transferred any applicable copyright to Michigan State University but the collection may contain third-party materials for which copyright was not transferred. Copyright restrictions may apply. **Property Rights:** Michigan State University.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- Police -- Michigan -- East Lansing
- Video recordings
- Video tapes
- Wibert, Thomas
- East Lansing (Mich.). Police Department

---

## Collection Inventory

---

| Title/Description  | Instances                               |
|--|---|
| Videotape: "East Lansing Police -- On Call", 1957                      | item<br>Videotape --<br>On Call         |
| Videotape: "History of East Lansing Police Department", April 28, 2001 | item<br>Videotape<br>-- ELPD<br>History |