

## Locating Records about Pullman Cars

Pullman manufactured three types of Pullman cars: wood(19<sup>th</sup> century), heavyweight steel(1900's-1920's), and lightweight steel(1930's-1960's). In general, the Newberry's records are most complete for heavyweight cars, although we do have information on wood cars and lightweight cars. Most individual cars records are located in Record Groups 05,07,02, and 13. The firm also manufactured other types of crs(freight, passenger, street, private) for railroads and other parties(See RG: 02/01/06 and RG: 07/00/02 for contracts, specifications, blueprints, and cost records relating to their manufacture, 1888-1924).

The manufacturing records are dispersed among several institutions because of the corporate reorganization in the 1920's and the anti-trust-provoked separation of the operating and manufacturing arms of the firm in the 1940's. An excellent source for heavyweight and lightweight cars is The Illinois Railway Museum located in Union IL. This facility is the largest repository of technical records from the manufacturing arm of Pullman Incorporated. Pullman Technologies, Inc., the corporate successor of the Pullman-Standard Car Manufacturing Company, donated all of the remaining construction drawings, photographs, and technical data in its possession to the museum in 1987. Their address and phone number is the following:

Pullman Library  
P.O. Box 427  
Union, IL 60180  
(815) 923-2020

### Information needed to conduct a search for Pullman car records:

1. Car Name: Most Pullman cars were named. Be aware that certain cars were renamed at some point.
2. Plan Number: Number of the design of the car. Many cars use the same plan or cars use the same plan or a modification thereof.
3. Lot Number: A specific contract or order number for building a certain building a certain number of cars. Cars having different plant numbers may be included in a single lot.

\* If the name of the car is known, plan and lot numbers can be found in Barger, Ralph L. *A Century of Pullman Cars, Volume 1 Alphabetical List, 1988.*

A copy of this book is available on the open shelf in the Special Collections Reading Room.

**Most Useful Records to Consult (For Fuller descriptions of these record groups or to request specific box or folder number refer to the *Guide*.)**

**1. RG: 07/00/01 Car Construction and Repair Records (Cars Withdrawn), 1888-1964, pages 631-634. All of these records are available on microfilm.**

Organized by car category and then arranged alphabetically by car category  
Then arranged alphabetically by car name (in most cases) Mainly heavyweights and lightweights, although wood cars can be found in the tourist category.

**Information included in this record group:** overall summary reference sheet listing data reconstruction, repair, remodeling, and final disposition of a car. Includes car name, where constructed, date, lot number, plan number, date, lot number, plan number, date completed, photo numbers, and specification numbers) shop repair notes, dimensions, weight, and final disposition.

**2. RG: 05/02/03 Car Drawings, Specifications, etc., 1870-1969(bulk 1919-1969), pages 331-345. Folders 1-49 have been digitized and are available through our Website at [www.newberry.org](http://www.newberry.org) These drawings are part of our “Digital Collections” and can be found under this description.**

Floor plans, duct layouts, heating pipe diagrams, etc. organized by category and then plan number.

Specifications(often includes drawing lists and photographs) are organized by Lot Number. Immediately following, there are a few specs arranged by Plan number.

Information included in this record group: drawing registers, linen drawing registers, linen drawings, paper drawings (blueprints), specifications, etc. mainly for heavyweights and some light weights.

\* If you have a drawing list for a particular car (see specifications and or box 55, folders 517-517a) or drawing numbers, you can also search numbered drawing sequences that follow types of plans.

**3. RG: 13/01/01/ Car Interior and Exterior Photographs, 1880-1966, pages 729-731.**

--organized by type of car or subject, e.g. accidents, than alphabetically by car name.

Information included in this record group: Images of cars involved in **Accidents, heavyweights, lightweights, troop cars, trucks, wood cars, etc.**

\* It is likely that the Smithsonian will have photographs of individual Pullman cars. A guide to their holdings is available in the Special Collections Reading Room on the open shelf. You can contact the Smithsonian at the following address:

**History of Technology, Rail Collection  
National Museum of American History  
Room 5010, MRC 628  
Washington, D.C. 20560**

\* When requesting material, include the record group number and the box or folder number you are requesting. Always include your name and any pertinent information regarding the car you are researching on each call slip.

## **Where to Look for Information on Specific Topics Relating to Cars:**

### **Accidents**

**Photographs**            **13/01/01**

**Admin. Files**            **05/03/06; 05/03/01;05/03/02; 05/01/02**

**Assignments**            **05/01/02; 05/04/01; 05/03/01**

### **Contracts**

Operating            **01/01/03; 01/01/05; 02/01/03  
02/01/06**

**Construction**            **02/01/06;07/00/01;07/002/02;  
07/005/05; 03/02/04**

**Drawings**                **05/02/03**

hospital cars            **05/03/07**

commissary            **05/04/01**

### **Equipment and supplies**

Admin. Files            **05/02/01; 05/03/01; 05/01/02; 05/04/01**

Catalogs                **05/03/05**

Patents                 **02/01/07**

Requisition rec.        **05/05/02**

Specifications           **05/01/04**

Standards & testing    **05/02/02**

**Freight, private, street,  
And passenger cars  
(1884-1924)**            **02/01/06;07/00/01**

### **Furniture**

Photographs            **13/01/02**

Photos-car int.        **13/01/01**

Furniture #'s            **07/00/01; also specs 05/02/03**

<b>Hospital Cars</b>	
Files	05/03/07
Photographs	13/01/01
<b>Lists(descriptive of cars)</b>	05/01/05
<b>Maintenance Manuals</b>	05/03/05
<b>Patents</b>	02/01/07; 02/01/03; 05/02/01
<b>Photographs</b>	13/01/01; 12/01/02; 05/02/03(specs)
<b>Private Cars</b>	
Contracts	02/01/06
Leasing	03/04/02
<b>Sale of Cars</b>	
To railroads	05/03/01; 01/01/03; 04/01/01
Final disposition	05/01/02; 07/01/01; 05/05/05; 05/03/04
<b>Shop Repairs</b>	07/00/01; 05/03/02; 05/03/04
<b>Specifications</b>	05/02/03
Equipment used on cars	05/02/02; 05/02/04
<b>Storage (U.S. govt.)</b>	05/01/02; 05/03/01

