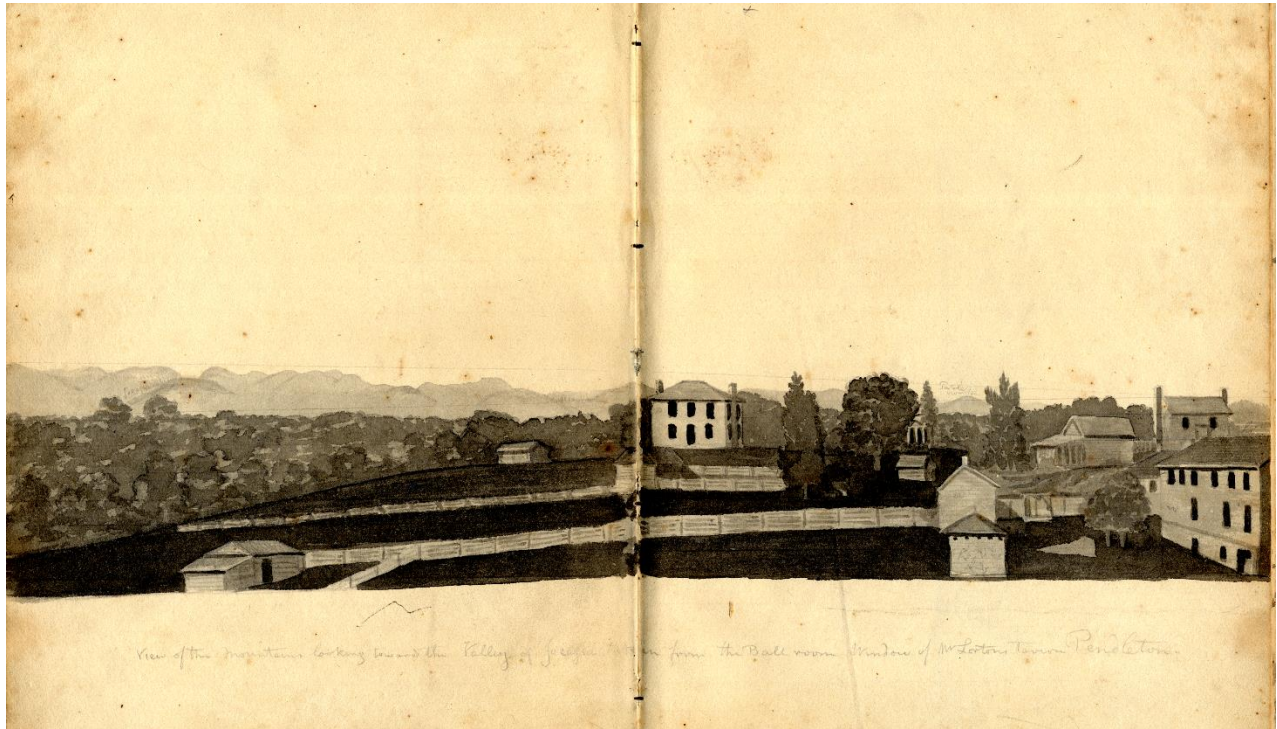


Robert Mills Papers

SOUTHEASTERN ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVE COLLECTION 28



“View of the mountains looking toward the Valley of Jocassee taken from the ball room window of Mr. Lorton’s tavern, Pendleton.” Undated. Ink and ink wash on paper. From Robert Mills’ diary.

SCOPE and CONTENTS

Letters, diaries, and other items

1802 – 1854; 1916 – 1919

2 boxes

Papers of Robert Mills (1781-1855), considered the first native-born professional architect in the United States. Included are letters, diaries, and other items. Of special interest is a manuscript essay “The Tuscan Order” (with related drawings for buildings). Also of interest is Mills’ diary containing the manuscript “Manuel (sic) on Rail Roads”, the incomplete “Works of Robert Mills”, and sketches of towns and subjects in South Carolina. Papers also contain “Notes on Survey of Town of Newcastle” by B.H.B. Latrobe. Additionally, there are letters from Mills biographer, Helen M.P. Gallagher to collection donor Moise H. Goldstein, and letters from Mills’ sister, Sarah Lusher, and his mother Ann Smith Mills. There are also letters to his daughter Mary P. Dimitry, New Orleans, with a note by daughter Jacqueline.

Many of the documents in the collection were transcribed in Pamela Scott's microfilm project, *Guide to the Papers of Robert Mills*.

PROVENANCE

Papers were acquired in the early 1900s by New Orleans architect Moise H. Goldstein, perhaps from Mill's grandson, Thomas Dabney Dimitry of New Orleans. They were definitely in his possession by 1916, as letters preserved in the collection testify. Goldstein gave the papers to Howard-Tilton Library in 1948. They were eventually placed with the Manuscripts Department, and then transferred to SEAA in 1980.

ACCESS

This collection is housed in Tulane University's Southeastern Architectural Archive (SEAA) and requires an advance appointment for use. For further information, call (504) 865-5699, or email seaa@tulane.edu. The unauthorized use, including, but not limited to, publication of the materials without the prior written permission of the Southeastern Architectural Archive is strictly prohibited. All inquiries regarding permission to publish should be submitted in writing. Please see our [Permission to Publish Guidelines](#).

PREFERRED CITATION

Robert Mills Papers, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University.

INVENTORY

Box 1.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Folder 1. 1802. | <i>The Tuscan Order</i> by Robert Mills. Includes 9 drawings of buildings in pencil and ink, including Walnut Street Theater, Philadelphia. 6 pieces. |
| Folder 2. 1803, July 2-12. | Diary of Robert Mills while working for Mr. Latrobe in Washington. 30 pieces. |
| Folder 3. 1803, August 19. | Survey notes of Robert Mills. 3 pieces. |
| Folder 4. 1804, September 1-1805, May 21. | B. Henry Latrobe, notes on survey of town of Newcastle. 46 |

- pieces.
- Folder 5. 1811, June. Sarah Lusher, Charleston, South Carolina, to Brother [Robert Mills], Philadelphia. 3 pieces.
- Folder 6. 1812, April 29. Sarah Lusher, Charleston, South Carolina, to Brother [Robert Mills], Philadelphia. 3 pieces.
- Folder 7. 1816, April 6. Sarah Lusher, Charleston, South Carolina, to Brother [Robert Mills], Philadelphia. Announcement of mother's death. 3 pieces.
- Folder 8. 1817, October 5. Joseph Delaplaine, Philadelphia, to Robert Mills, Baltimore, requesting payment of debt owed. Written on advertisement of Mills' *Principal of Architecture* published by Delaplaine. 1 piece.
- Folder 9. 1817, December-1818, October. Stubs of transactions from Office of Discount and Deposit. 1 piece.
- Folder 10. 1828, December 27-1830, May 4. Diary of Robert Mills. Contains notes on the Washington Monument, central dome of capital, Christ Church, Baltimore, etc. 75 pieces.
- Folder 11. 1832. Report card of Anna S. Mills from the Washington Female Academy, Washington, DC. Eliza B. Mills, principal. 3 pieces.
- Folder 12. 1835, September 21. Letters patent for a device for compressing air by harnessing the tides, by Robert Mills and Henry B. Fernald. 2 pieces.
- Folder 13. 1837, September 1. Robert Mills' description of the proposed Marine Hospital in New Orleans. 2 pieces.
- Folder 14. [1839, January 7]. Petition for land deed by Robert Mills. Attached: 1827 Receipt of Commissioner of Revenue, Walter Richards. 1 piece.
- Folder 15. 1841, October 20. Francis Benne, Washington, to Robert Mills. Written on advertisement of an evening school for architectural drawing. 2 pieces.
- Folder 16. 1842, December 14. Request of subscription dues for Apollo Association by N.S. Solomons, New York. (Note on printed listing). 1 piece.
- Folder 17. 1847. Constitution of the Washington National Monument Society, Washington. John T. Towers, 1847. 7 pieces.
- Folder 18. 1850, May 11. Robert Mills and Jacqueline Mills to Mary P. Dimitry. 4 pieces.
- Folder 19. 1850, July 30. Thomas Corwin, Treasury Department, Washington, to Robert Mills, Washington. 1 piece.
- Folder 20. 1851. Newspaper clipping of poem "The Seasons of Love", dedicated to My Beloved Wife, by Robert Mills. 1 piece.

- Folder 21. 1852, March 4. Report by Robert Mills on a suitable house for the marble statue of Washington. Includes description, materials, site, cost, and time estimates. 4 pieces. 2 copies.
- Folder 22. 1853, August 8. George W. Spooner, University of Virginia, to Robert Mills, Washington. Requests a sample of German tile. 1 piece.
- Folder 23. 1854, January 12. Robert [Mills Lusher], New Orleans, to Mary [Mills Dimitry]. 2 pieces.
- Folder 24. 1916, September 3. Notes by Moise Goldstein from Benjamin H. Latrobe's survey of town of Newcastle, 1804-1805. 6 pieces.
- Folder 25. [1916]. Notes on Evans by Moise Goldstein. 1 piece.
- Folder 26. [1916]. Notes by Moise Goldstein from Anna Smith's book. 4 pieces.
- Folder 27. 1919, February. Wilson, Charles C., "Robert Mills, Architect." Bulletin of University of South Carolina. 47 pieces.
- Folder 28. 1919, June 16. J.C. Fenhagen, Baltimore, to Moise H. Goldstein, New Orleans. 1 piece.
- Folder 29. [1919]. Helen M.P. Gallagher, Carroll Orchards, Westminster, Maryland, to Mr. Goldstein. 4 pieces.
- Folder 30. 18?, March 1. Robert Mills, Washington, to W. Breedlove, New Orleans. Directions for building a Marine Hospital. 3 pieces.
- Folder 31. Undated. A. Smith to [Robert Mills], Baltimore. 2 pieces.
- Folder 32. Undated. M. Murdock, Hackwood, Winchester, Virginia, to Mrs. Eliza B. Mills, Columbia, South Carolina. 3 pieces.
- Folder 33. Undated. Draft of letter to Mr. Noury concerned with a power to Propel machinery. 2 pieces.
- Folder 34. Undated. Draft of preface to writing on Rail Roads. 1 piece.
- Folder 35. Undated. Specifications by Robert Mills for a building designed by Thomas Jefferson. 6 pieces.
- Folder 36. Undated. Newspaper advertisement of farm land for sale by the executors of Judge Duncan from his Cumberland estate. 1 piece.
- Folder 37. Undated. Lewis G. Bull photograph (Philadelphia). 1 piece.

Box 2.

- Folder 1. 1820s-1830s. Robert Mills diary. Contains the following:
- *Manuel on Rail Roads with Numerous Tables...* By Robert Mills, Pennsylvania, Engineer and Architect. 1827.
 - *The Architectural Works of Robert Mills.*

• And the following sketches:

“Front view of the town hall, Columbia.”

“View of the north side of the Carolina College buildings during the presence of a double rainbow of perfect alignment created as imprinted above. July 10, 1823. Columbia.”

Waterfall scene.

“View of toll house State Road looking south, Col. Maroney, September 20, 1821.”

Stone bridge with arch underpass.

“View from Prospect Hill looking South-this hill was on the west side of the State Road at the head of Little Gap Creek-198 meters from Columbia and 20 from Greenville-500 above the head of S. Tiger.”

“Mountains from the road by Enores(?) at Underwood.”

“View of the mountains looking toward the Valley of Jocassa taken from the Ball room window of Mr. Lorton’s tavern Pendleton.”

“View of Abbeville from one mile NE of the village.”

“View up the Falls of Saluda from Col. Ware’s (?) old Saw Mill.”

“View looking up the Valley of N. Fork of Saluda....”

“Saluda Bridge looking up.”

“View from Col. Barton’s of the Glassy, Hogback mountains.”

“View of the mountains descending the hill to North Tiger on the road from Spartanburg and Greenville 5 miles from S. and in direct line 25 miles from the mountains. September 20, 1821.”

“View of the country seat of W. Gibbs, Esq. in Chester District, entering from the s.e. by the road.”

“Mill at Fishing Creek on the road to Chester 8 miles from Landsford.”

“View of Mr. Izard’s place taken from the piazza of Mr. Davy and Landford.”

“Thomas and Briggs quarry to the east of the works opposite the upper end of Mountain Island.”

“Battle ground of Fishing Creek.”

“U.S. Establishment looking east.”

“Great falls of Catawba River just above the U.S. establishment taken near the fishing place.”

“View of the New and Old courthouses, Winnsboro looking toward the town.”

Unidentified building.

Folder 2 – Folder 3. National Archives transcriptions of Mills’ Manuel on Railroads.