

Robert Mills Papers

SOUTHEASTERN ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVE COLLECTION 28

Letters, diaries, and other items.
1802 – 1854; 1916 – 1919
2 boxes (one box typed translations)

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 the manuscript “Manuel (sic) on Rail Roads” (with unrelated drawings). 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, and his diary in two volumes.

PROVENANCE

Papers were acquired in the early 1900’s 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 S.E.A.A. in 1980.

INVENTORY

Date

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

- pieces.
- 1811, June Sarah Lusher, Charleston, South Carolina, to Brother [Robert Mills], Philadelphia. 3 pieces.
- 1812, April 29. Sarah Lusher, Charleston, South Carolina, to Brother [Robert Mills], Philadelphia. 3 pieces.
- 1816, April 6. Sarah Lusher, Charleston, South Carolina, to Brother [Robert Mills], Philadelphia. Announcement of mother's death. 3 pieces.
- 1817, October 5. Joseph Delaplaine Phila to Robert Mills, Baltimore, requesting payment of debt owed. Written on advertisement of Mills' *Principal of Architecture* published by Delaplaine. 1 piece.
- 1817, December-1818, October Stubs of transactions from Office of Discount and Deposit. 1 piece.
- 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.
1832. Report card of Anna S. Mills from the Washington Female Academy, Washington, DC. Eliza B. Mills, principal. 3 pieces.
- 1835, September 21. Letters patent for a device for compressing air by harnessing the tides, by Robert Mills and Henry B. Fernald. 2 pieces.
- 1837, September 1. Robert Mills' description of the proposed Marine Hospital in New Orleans. 2 pieces.
- [1839, January 7]. Petition for land deed by Robert Mills. Attached: 1827 Receipt of Commissioner of Revenue, Walter Richards. 1 piece.
- 1839, January 7. Statement of taxes paid. Signed Jason E. Heath. 1 piece.
- 1841, October 20. Francis Benne, Washington, to Robert Mills. Written on advertisement of an evening school for architectural drawing. 2 pieces.
- 1842, December 14. Request of subscription dues for Apollo Association by N.S. Solomons, New York. (Note on printed listing). 1 piece.
1847. Constitution of the Washington National Monument Society, Washington. John T. Towers, 1847. 7 pieces.
- 1850, May 11. Robert Mills and Jacqueline Mills to Mary P. Dimitry.

4 pieces.

1850, July 30. Thomas Corwin, Treasury Department, Washington, to Robert Mills, Washington. 1 piece.

1851. Newspaper clipping of poem "The Seasons of Love", dedicated to My Beloved Wife, by Robert Mills. 1 piece.

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.

1853, August 8. George W. Spooner, University of Virginia, to Robert Mills, Washington. Requests a sample of German tile. 1 piece.

1854, January 12. Robert [Mills Lusher], New Orleans, to Mary [Mills Dimitry] 2 pieces.

1916, September 3. Notes by Moise Goldstein from Benjamin H. Latrobe's survey of town of Newcastle, 1804-1805. 6 pieces.

[1916] Notes on Evans by Moise Goldstein. 1 piece.

[1916] Notes by Moise Goldstein from Anna Smith's book. 4 pieces.

1919, February. Wilson, Charles C., "Robert Mills, Architect." Bulletin of University of South Carolina. 47 pieces.

1919, June 16. J.C. Fenhagen, Baltimore, to Moise H. Goldstein, New Orleans. 1 piece.

[1919] Helen M.P. Gallagher, Carroll Orchards, Westminster, Maryland, to Mr. Goldstein. 4 pieces.

[1919] Helen M.P. Gallagher, Carroll Orchards, Westminster, Maryland, to Mr. Goldstein. 4 pieces.

18?, March 1. Robert Mills, Washington, to W. Breedlove, New Orleans. Directions for building a Marine Hospital. 3 pieces.

Undated. Manual on Rail Roads with Numerous Tables (containing the theory and practice of these roads) by Robert Mills, Pennsylvania. Engineer and architect. 119 pieces with 20 drawings.

Undated. A. Smith to [Robert Mills], Baltimore. 2 pieces.

Undated. M. Murdock, Hackwood, Winchester, Virginia, to Mrs. Eliza B. Mills, Columbia, South Carolina. 3 pieces.

Undated. Draft of letter to Mr. Noury concerned with a power to propel machinery. 2 pieces.

Undated. Draft of preface to writing on Rail Roads. 1 piece.

Undated. Specifications by Robert Mills for a building designed by Thomas Jefferson. 6 pieces.

Undated. Newspaper advertisement of farm land for sale by the executors of Judge Duncan from his Cumberland estate. 1 piece.

Undated. Lewis G. Bull photograph (Philadelphia). 1 piece.

