



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Records of the Robert Mills Papers Project,
[xerographic and photographic copies]

NMAH.AC.0344

Dan Dalrymple

1989

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Records of the Robert Mills Papers Project, [xerographic and photographic copies]
Date:	circa 1800-1860s, 1984-1989
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0344
Creator:	Evelyn, Douglas E. (Director)
Extent:	23.3 Cubic feet (50 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection is comprised solely of xerographic and photographic reproductions with architect Robert Mills.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Douglas Evelyn.

Provenance

The Robert Mills Papers Project was begun in 1984 with the goal of producing a microfilm publication of historical documents by, to, from, and about Mills. This was organized by Robert Alexander, John Bryan, Douglas Evelyn, and Pamela Scott. The majority of the documents are from the National Archives; however a mass mailing to 3,000 other libraries and archives across the country resulted in the inclusion of documents from thirty other repositories as well. The project was supported primarily by grants from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The final publication was scheduled to be released in late 1989 consisting of approximately 3,500 documents on twelve rolls of microfilm. Typed transcriptions of the documents that are illegible (about 1/3 of those microfilmed), and a complete index, both by subject and name are available.

Alternate Form Available

Microfiche copies of the papers are available in the Smithsonian's American Art Portrait Gallery Library.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Dan Dalrymple, 1989

Preferred Citation

Records of the Robert Mills Papers Project, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

Robert Mills (1781 1855) was born in August, 1781, in Charleston, South Carolina. After completing grammar school he took classes under architect James Hoban.

Hoban left in 1792 to supervise construction of the President's House in Washington (which he designed). About 1799 Mills moved to Washington and began work as a draftsman of plans for the Capitol under Hoban. For about a year, Mills presumably lived with Thomas Jefferson, studying architecture from his library.

In 1802 Mills entered his first professional design competition for the design of South Carolina College, but did not win. From 1802 1809, Mills worked (with sporadic interruptions from assorted commissions) with Benjamin Latrobe, who was at the time the acting federal engineer of the Chesapeake and Delaware region. Under Latrobe he worked as a draftsman on the design of the U.S. Capitol and the Baltimore Cathedral.

In 1814 Mills received national recognition when he won the competition for the design of Baltimore's Washington Monument. He supervised its construction until 1820, when he moved back to South Carolina to become the civil architect for the state, designing several courthouses and jails throughout the area.

Mills moved back to Washington in 1829. In 1836 he won the competition for the design of the Treasury and began a long career as an architect for the Federal Government. It was during this time that Mills designed the buildings he is most widely known for: the Post Office and the Washington National Monument. He also supervised construction of the Patent Office and submitted preliminary designs for the Capitol extension and the Smithsonian Institution. He served under seven Presidents, retiring in 1851.

Scope and Contents

This collection is composed entirely of xerographic and photographic reproductions made for the Robert Mills Papers Project. The copies include correspondence, plans, federal legislation regarding proposed government construction projects, construction records, and material regarding people with a relation to Mills or one of his projects.

The material is organized into three series. The first is information relating to Mills' various projects, such as payroll lists; it is organized by state. The second consists of subject files on 163 individuals, all of whom have some relation to Mills. The last series is composed of reference and research materials from the project, including correspondence with various libraries and archives seeking material on Mills, ten reels of microfilm, and 46 diskettes containing typed transcriptions of the illegible documents included in the microfilm publication.

The documents included in this collection relate to the construction of Mills's buildings, but do not mention him specifically. Of all the papers collected for this project, this collection consists of copies of those documents that were not selected for microfilming. They are, therefore, not included in the microfilm publication.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into four series.

Series 1: Projects by state

Series 2: Individuals

Series 3: Reference Materials

Series 4: Camera Ready Copy

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Architects -- 19th century
- Architectural drawing
- Architecture -- United States

Types of Materials:

- Construction Records
- Correspondence -- Copies -- 19th century
- Plans (drawings)

Names:

- Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848
- Alexander, Robert L.
- Bache, A. D. (Alexander Dallas), 1806-1867
- Bryan, John
- Calhoun, John C. (John Caldwell), 1782-1850
- Clay, Henry
- Clinton, DeWitt
- Corcoran, W. W. (William Wilson), 1798-1888
- Davis, Jefferson
- Hoban, James
- Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826
- Lafayette
- Latrobe, Benjamin (architect)
- Mills, Robert, 1781-1855
- Peale, Rembrandt, 1778-1860
- Pierce, Franklin
- Renwick, James, Sr.
- Scott, Pamela
- Trumbull, John, 1756-1843

Container Listing

Series 1: Projects by State

Subseries 1.1: Alabama

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Subseries 1.2: Connecticut

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Box 1, Folder 3	Newburyport Custom House, undated
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Box 1, Folder 4	Newburyport, New London Custom House, undated
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Box 1, Folder 5	New London Custom House, undated
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Subseries 1.3: Delaware

Box 1, Folder 6	Wilmington Custom House, undated
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Subseries 1.4: Georgia

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Box 1, Folder 8	Savannah Custom House, undated
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Subseries 1.5: Indiana

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Subseries 1.6: Kentucky

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Subseries 1.7: Louisiana

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Box 1, Folder 12 New Orleans Marine Hospital, undated

Subseries 1.8: Maryland

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Box 1, Folder 16 Buchanan-Calhoun Vault, undated

Box 1, Folder 17 Courtland Street Houses, undated

Box 1, Folder 18 First Baptist Church, undated

Box 1, Folder 18 John Hoffman House, undated

Box 1, Folder 19 House of Industry, undated

Box 1, Folder 20 Jones Falls, undated

Box 1, Folder 21 Library Design, undated

Box 1, Folder 22 Robert Oliver House, undated

Box 1, Folder 23 Powder Magazine, undated

Box 1, Folder 24-25 Baltimore Washington Monument, undated

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Box 1, Folder 28 Maryland Historical Society, undated

Box 1, Folder 29 Maryland Research Materials, undated

Subseries 1.9: Massachusetts

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Box 1, Folder 31 Bunker Hill Monument - Charleston, 1826

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Box 1, Folder 33	Massachusetts Custom Houses, undated
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Box 1, Folder 34	Newberryport Custom House, undated
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Subseries 1.10: New Jersey

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Subseries 1.11: New York

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Box 1, Folder 37	New York City Research Materials, undated
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Subseries 1.12: North Carolina

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Subseries 1.13: Pennsylvania

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Box 1, Folder 43	Benjamin Chew Invoices, undated
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Box 1, Folder 44-45	Columbian Society of Artists, undated
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Box 1, Folder 46	Dorsey's Gothic Mansion, undated
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Box 1, Folder 47	Harrisburg State House, undated
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Box 1, Folder 48	Historical Society, undated
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Box 1, Folder 49	Philadelphia Rotary Engine, undated
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Box 1, Folder 50	Mills in Philadelphia, undated
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Box 1, Folder 51	2nd Bank of the United States, undated
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Box 1, Folder 52	Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, undated
Box 1, Folder 53	Sansom Street Baptist Church, undated
Box 1, Folder 54	Washington Hall, undated
Box 1, Folder 55	Washington Monument (proposed), undated
Box 1, Folder 56	Waterworks, undated

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Box 1, Folder 58	Asylum, 1822
Box 1, Folder 59	Atlas of South Carolina, undated
Box 1, Folder 60	Charleston Circular Church, undated
Box 1, Folder 61	Charleston Custom House, undated
Box 1, Folder 62	Charleston First Baptist Church, undated
Box 1, Folder 63-64	Charleston Marine Hospital, undated
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Box 8, Folder 10	Robert Mills Project - Bryan, John, undated
Box 8, Folder 11	Robert Mills Project - General Correspondence, undated
Box 8, Folder 12	Robert Mills Project - Documents, undated
Box 8, Folder 13	Robert Mills Project - Harris, Monty, undated
Box 8, Folder 14-15	Robert Mills Project Other Papers Project, undated
Box 8, Folder 16	Robert Mills Project Proposals, undated
Box 8, Folder 17	Robert Mills Project Resumes, undated
Box 8, Folder 18	Robert Mills Project - Scott, Pamela, undated
Box 8, Folder 19	Robert Mills Project - Scott, Pamela (Correspondence), undated
Box 8, Folder 20	Robert Mills Project - Scott, Pamela (Notes), undated
Box 8, Folder 21	Proposal to NEH, undated
Box 8, Folder 22	NEH Proposal, 1985-10
Box 8, Folder 23	RMP Proposal to NHPRC - Drafts, undated

Box 8, Folder 24-25	NHPRC, undated
Box 8, Folder 26	Miscellaneous, undated
Box 8, Folder 27-28	NHPRC Proposal, 1985
Box 9, Folder 1	MTG Week, 1985-05-20-1985-05-24
Box 9, Folder 2	Publication Permissions, undated
Box 9, Folder 3-4	Repositories, undated
Box 9, Folder 5-6	Special Letter Responses, undated
Box 9, Folder 7	Mass Mailing - Details, undated
Box 9, Folder 8	Transcriptions, undated
Box 9, Folder 9	The Domestic Architecture of Robert Mills, Claudia Parker, Roberts Chapel Hill, 1979
Box 9, Folder 10	"Robert Mills and U.S. Marine Hospitals," Gale Shipman Adler, University of Missouri, 1974
Box 9, Folder 11	"The Monumental Church," Margaret Pearson Mickler, Randolph Macon College,, 1980
Box 9, Folder 12	"The Latrobe Survey of New Castle, 1804-1805," Lucille P. Toro, University of Delaware,, 1971
Box 9, Folder 13	Index Drafts, undated
Box 9, Folder 14	New Mills Material, undated
Box 10, Folder 1	Format Sheet and Directory, undated
Box 10, Folder 2-6	Archives, undated
Box 10, Folder 7	Baltimore City Archives, undated
Box 10, Folder 8	Plastoror's Daybook & Chew Papers (Pennsylvania Historical Society), undated
Box 10, Folder 9	Mills' Journal, 1816
Box 10, Folder 10	Schuylkill Bridge Company, undated
Box 10, Folder 11	Miscellaneous Diskettes, undated

Box 10, Folder 12	Formatted Diskettes, undated
Box 10, Folder 13	Wang System Diskettes, undated
Box 10, Folder 14	System Diskettes (Wang, DOS, etc.), undated
Box 11, Folder 1	Mills Chronology, undated
Box 11, Folder 2	Building List, undated
Box 11, Folder 3-5	Non-Mills Government Printed Documents: Reference Use, undated

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Series 4: Camera Ready Copy - Microfiche Edition

Subseries 4.1: General Correspondence & Miscellaneous

Box 12	0001-0085, undated
Box 13	0086-0160, undated
Box 14	0161-0240, undated
Box 15	0241-0330, undated
Box 16	0331-0410, undated
Box 17	0411-0500, undated
Box 18	0501-0590, undated
Box 19	0591-0690, undated
Box 20	0691-0780, undated
Box 21	0781-0870, undated
Box 22	0871-0950B, undated
Box 23	0951-1020, undated
Box 24	1021-1110, undated
Box 25	1111-1200, undated
Box 26	1201-1300, undated
Box 27	1301-1370, undated
Box 28	1371-1470, undated
Box 29	1471-1570, undated
Box 30	1571-1670, undated
Box 31	1671-1760, undated
Box 32	1761-1860, undated

Box 33	1861-1970, undated
Box 34	1971-2070, undated
Box 35	2071-2170, undated
Box 36	2171-2270, undated
Box 37	2271-2370, undated
Box 38	2371-2470, undated
Box 39	2471-2540, undated
Box 40	2541-2640, undated
Box 41	2641-2740, undated
Box 42	2741-2830, undated
Box 43	2831-2930, undated
Box 44	2931-3020, undated
Box 45	3021-3122, undated

Subseries 4.2: Unpublished Works (4000 Series)

Box 46, Folder 1	4000: The Tuscan Order, 1802
Box 46, Folder 2	4001: Robert Mills Diary, 1803-07-02-1803-07-11
Box 46, Folder 3	4002: Mills Pocket Memorandum Book, 1816
Box 46, Folder 4	4003: Rotary Engine, 1824
Box 46, Folder 5	4004: Manual on Rail Roads, undated
Box 47, Folder 1	4005: Journal, 1829-1830
Box 47, Folder 2	4006: Journal, 1838-1840

Subseries 4.3: Published Works (5000 Series)

Box 47, Folder 3	5000:Treatise on Inland Navigation, 1820
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Box 47, Folder 4	5001: Internal Improvement of South Carolina, 1822
Box 47, Folder 5	5002: Atlas of South Carolina, 1825
Box 47, Folder 6	5003: Statistics of South Carolina, 1826
Box 48, Folder 1	5004: The American Pharos or Lighthouse Guide, 1832
Box 48, Folder 2	5005: Guide to the Capitol of the United States, undated
Box 48, Folder 3	5006: Subsitute for Railroads and Canals; Embracing a New Plan of Roadway, 1834
Box 48, Folder 4	5007: Guide to the National Executive Offices and the Capitol of the United States, 1841
Box 48, Folder 5	5008: Guide to the National Executive Offices and the Capitol of the United States, 1842
Box 48, Folder 6	5009: The American Lighthouse Guide, 1845
Box 48, Folder 7	5010: Mills' Guide to the Capitol, undated
Box 48, Folder 8	5011: Waterworks for the Metropolitan City of Washington, undated
Box 48, Folder 9	5012: Mills' Guide to the Capitol, 1854

Subseries 4.4: Drawings and Photographs, undated

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Duplicates

Records of the Robert Mills Papers Project, [xerographic and
photographic copies]
NMAH.AC.0344

Duplicates

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