



**Robert Mills papers, 1803-1856**  
**SCHS 1135.00**  
**Containers 11/517-518**

**Creator:** Mills, Robert

**Description:** ca. 400 items.

**Biographical/Historical Note:** South Carolina architect.

**Scope and Content:** Correspondence (1808-1834) with Mrs. Robert Mills (Eliza Barnwell Smith Mills) concerning personal and family matters.

Correspondence (1808-1853) with clients, and fellow architects from Charleston, Columbia, Abbeville, Richmond, Va., Philadelphia, Pa., Baltimore, Md., and elsewhere concerning politics, social life, taste of liquors (1810), art gallery in Baltimore from Joseph Delaplaine, railroads in N.C. (1827), Robert Mills' architectural and engineering projects, and other matters. Also includes a letter (1852) of Mills about the Henry Clay steamship disaster. Correspondents include Thomas S. Grimké, James B. Pye, M.P. Mills, and others. Includes papers for architectural proposals and projects in Charleston, S.C., Richmond, Va., Baltimore, Md., Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia, Pa. for churches, monuments, parks, public buildings, etc. including the Fireproof Building (Charleston, S.C.), U.S. House of Representatives (1830), U.S. Treasury and State Building (1831-1840), naval monument, Washington, D.C. (1831), Smithsonian Institution proposal (ca. 1846-1847), and U.S. Capitol beacon (1847).

Also includes other project papers for Mills' atlas and a trans-continental railroad proposal (1852).

Also included are fragments of Mills' autobiographical sketch, a prayer concerning creation, Mills' land holdings, newspaper correspondence, a photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Mills, writings (1850) regarding the Ladies Union Benevolent Employment Society (1850), family history material including information on the Dimitry, Smith, and Mills families, and miscellaneous receipts, bills, printed matter, etc.

Also contains architectural drawings of the Fireproof Building (Charleston, S.C.), Didian House (Baltimore, Md.), Lunatic Asylum (Columbia, S.C.), Wade Hampton House (Columbia, S.C.), Camden, S.C. Courthouse, Washington City Hall, and the Octagon Church (Philadelphia).

**Preferred Citation:** Mills, Robert, 1781-1855. Robert Mills papers, 1803-1856. (1135.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

**Search terms:**

Delaplaine, Joseph, 1777-1824.

Grimké, Thomas Smith, 1786-1834.

Mills, Eliza Barnwell Smith, 1784-1865.  
Mills, Mary Powell, 1816-1894.  
Mills, Robert, 1781-1855.  
Pye, James B.  
Mills family.  
Fireproof Building (Charleston, S.C.)  
Henry Clay (Ship)  
Smithsonian Institution.  
Architects -- South Carolina.  
Architecture -- United States.  
Atlases.  
Engineering -- United States.  
Monuments -- Washington (D.C.)  
Public buildings -- United States.  
Railroads -- United States.  
Baltimore (Md.) -- Buildings, structures, etc.  
Charleston (S.C.) -- History -- 1775-1865 -- Sources.  
Charleston (S.C.) -- Buildings, structures, etc.  
Columbia (S.C.) -- Buildings, structures, etc.  
Philadelphia (Pa.) -- Buildings, structures, etc.  
Richmond (Va.) -- Buildings, structures, etc.  
South Carolina -- History -- 1775-1865 -- Sources.  
United States -- History -- Sources.  
Washington (D.C.) -- Buildings, structures, etc.  
Architectural drawings.  
Letters (correspondence).  
Photographs.  
Architects.

**Container list:**

**33/22/1-10 Mills, Robert. 1784-1855**

**Oversized drawings & papers, ca. 1820-1850. 10 items**

Charleston architect. Oversized drawings and documents (ca. 1810-1850) of Robert Mills. Included are renderings of the Fireproof Building, Charleston; Lunatic Asylum, Columbia; Didian house, Baltimore, MD; Wade Hampton House, Columbia; Camden Courthouse; Octagon Church, Philadelphia PA; City Hall, Washington DC; unidentified house plan; house plan for US Congressman, Robert W. Johnson. Also notes on architecture in Virginia.

**11/517/1-7 Mills, Robert. 1781-1855**

**Correspondence, 1808-1834. Approx 100 items**

Charleston architect. Correspondence (1808-1834) of Robert Mills and his wife, Eliza Barnwell Smith Mills from Charleston, Columbia, Abbeville, Richmond VA, Philadelphia PA, Baltimore MD and elsewhere. Letters regarding personal and family matters, health, politics, social life, Robert Mills's architectural and engineering projects, his schedule, travels, and other matters.

**11/517/8-11 Mills, Robert, 1781-1855**

**Letters, 1808-1853. Approx 45 items**

Charleston architect. Misc. letters (1808-1853) to Robert Mills. Letters from Richmond, VA, Baltimore MD, Philadelphia PA, Charleston, Columbia regarding taste of liquors (1810), Richmond Courthouse (1815); cooking box (1817); art gallery in Baltimore from Joseph Delaplume, SC Internal Improvement budget (1822); railroads in NC (1827); public buildings committee (1931); specifications on many buildings, personal matters, and many other subjects. Correspondents include Thomas Symington, Thomas S. Grimke, James B. Pye, M.P. Mills, and many others. Also letter of Robert Mills regarding causes of disaster of steamer Henry Clay (1852).

**11/517/12-46 Mills, Robert, 1781-1855**

**Project papers, 1803-1852. Approx 80 items**

Charleston architect. Architectural and engineering projects (1803-1852) of Robert Mills. Included are Chesapeake & Delaware canal (1803); proposed extension of St. Michael's Church, Charleston (1804); Artist's Society (ca. 1807); Monumental Church, Richmond VA (1813); First Baptist Church, Baltimore MD (1816); Washington Monuments, Richmond VA and Washington DC (1817); Asylum proposal, Baltimore MD (1818); building for Robert Oliver (1818); Washington Park, Charleston (1822); misc. statistics (c. 1824); Charleston water supply (n.d.); Letters regarding attempted republication of Robert Mills Atlas (ca. 1825-1852); fireproof building ironwork, Charleston (1826); US House of Representatives (1830); US Treasury and State Building (1831-1840); Naval Monument, Washington DC (1831); Washington tomb plan (1832); Customs Houses, Newburyport MA (1835), and Mobile AL (ca. 1835); Marine Hospital (1837); Washington City Hall (ca. 1840); Post Office mantels, Washington DC (1841); Naval Hospital, Key West FL (1844); McDermott House (ca. 1845); Jefferson Memorial proposal (ca. 1845); Smithsonian Institution (ca. 1846-1847); US Capital Beacon (1847); University of Virginia (1851-1852); drafting bills by Emil S. Friedrich (1852); Water Work, Philadelphia (ca. 1852); US Capital Work extension (1852-1853); trans-continental railroad (1852) and National Mausoleum proposal (1852).

**11/518/1-10 Mills, Robert, 1781-1855**

**Misc. papers, 1816-1852. Approx 65 items**

Charleston architect. Misc. writing, business papers, and other materials (ca. 1816-1852) of Robert Mills. Included are fragments of Robert Mills's autobiographical sketch, a prayer recreation, land holdings of Robert Mills; misc. bills and receipts of Robert Mills and wife, Eliza B.S. Mills; newspaper correspondence, a photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mills; writings regarding the Ladies Union Benevolent Employment Society (1850); family history material regarding Dimitry, Smith, Mills, and other families; and misc. printed matter.