

**Robert Mills Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2009**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82032995>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009112>

Prepared by Joseph Sullivan

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009  
Revised 2010 April

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Robert Mills Papers

**Span Dates:** 1804-1862

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1830-1850)

**ID No.:** MSS32995

**Creator:** Mills, Robert, 1781-1855

**Extent:** 140 items

**Extent:** .4 linear feet

**Extent:** 1 microfilm reel

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82032995>

**Summary:** Architect and engineer. Correspondence, bills, receipts, plans, drawings, sketches, reports, notebooks, and printed matter relating mainly to Mills's designs for public buildings in Washington, D.C., and to his duties as architect of the Capitol.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Mills, Robert, 1781-1855.

### Organizations

United States. Architect of the Capitol.

### Subjects

Architecture--Maryland.

Architecture--Virginia.

Architecture--Washington (D.C.)

Monuments--Maryland--Baltimore.

Monuments--Virginia--Richmond.

Public buildings--Maryland--Baltimore.

Public buildings--Virginia--Richmond.

Public buildings--Washington (D.C.)

### Occupations

Architects.

Engineers.

## Provenance

The papers of Robert Mills, architect and engineer, were obtained by the Library of Congress through gift, purchase, and exchange, 1917-1967.

## Processing History

The Mills Papers were processed and prepared for microfilming in 1985. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Robert Mills is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The Robert Mills Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on one reel. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Robert Mills Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Robert Mills (1781-1855), first American-born professional architect, and an early proponent of Greek revival in American architecture, consist of correspondence, bills, receipts, cost estimates, plans, drawings, sketches, proposals, reports, and notebooks. Dating from 1804 to 1862, the collection relates chiefly to his design of public buildings. Only a few letters of a personal nature are present, and are for the period 1804-1808. Other correspondence consists principally of letters, 1830-1850, addressed to Mills as Architect of the Capitol and of copies and drafts of letters by him. The subject matter in both cases is the design, construction, expansion, alteration, and furnishing of public buildings in Washington, such as the Patent Office, Post Office, Treasury, Capitol, and Washington Monument.

Two of Mills's notebooks, or memoranda books, are similarly devoted to matters relating to his career as architect and engineer. The first, dated 1816, contains notes, small drawings and sketches, plans for furnaces, formulae, calculations, and diary-like comments on his activities, largely in connection with commissions in Richmond and Baltimore, including Baltimore's Washington Monument. The second notebook, undated, but with some entries spanning 1835-1840, has notes and sketches of a like character, but pertaining to the public buildings and public works of Washington, and to the Washington Monument.

Also in the papers are a few reports and proposals in Mills's hand, a folder of plans and drawings, miscellaneous bills, receipts, and cost estimates, and printed matter.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by material type.

## Container List

Microfilm shelf no. 19,524.

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1 REEL 1	Notebook, 1816* *Available only on the microfilm edition of the Mills Papers. The original is in the Joseph Toner Papers, Container 267.
BOX 1 REEL 1	Notebook, with photographic copy, 1835-1840
BOX 1 REEL 1	Correspondence, 1804-1862, undated (5 folders)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Bills and receipts, 1817-1855, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Cost estimates, 1842, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Plans and drawings, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Proposals, agreements, and reports, 1847, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Writings, 1834
BOX 1 REEL 1	Miscellany, 1836, 1842, undated