CAPITOL CONSTRUCTION RECORDS
BOARD OF BUILDING COMMISSIONERS
OF THE STATE CAPITOL
1844-1865

RECORD GROUP 7

Processed by:

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Date Completed: March 29, 1971
Location:

MICROFILMED
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of the Capitol Construction records, Board of Building Commissioners of the State Capitol, 1844-1865, consists of financial data, but there is some information on the specifications of materials used in the building. Labor agreements, contracts, and correspondence are fragmentary. Reports to and from the commission, as well as commission minutes have been preserved, as has the lawsuit between Francis Strickland and the State of Tennessee. A history of the Capitol’s construction was written, possibly by Return J. Meigs, and gives insight from a personal viewpoint which could not be gained through the records contained herein. Included in the Sketch Book is a newspaper account of William Strickland’s death. A copy of Clayton B. Deckle’s “Tennessee State Capitol,” completes the materials in this record group.

Please note that as a supplement to these materials, there is a bound journal in the Public Service Commission (PSC) records from its predecessor, the Rail Road Public Utilities Commission, 1862-1866, (identified on cover as “Archive No. 75”) that contains within the first nine pages, some purchase lists for the Capitol construction dated 1862-1863. This volume can be found with the other P.S.C. materials on the southwest wall of the 8th floor stack.
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SERIES NUMBER 13—SKETCH BOOK

Sketch Book

Oversized Material

This is a briefly written historical view of the Capitol Construction, 1843-1859. It is believed that the author was Return J. Meigs, a prominent lawyer, former member of the Commission, and in 1859 listed as an Assistant State Librarian. The book is composed of some of the random ideas of the author as well as the events he considered to be of importance. This document is important not only for its personalized view of the construction process, and the people involved, but also for the numerous brochures and newspapers clippings which are included. Particularly interesting is the account of William Strickland’s death from the Philadelphia Daily, May 6, 1854.

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