

Harrison House Collection, 1841-ca. 2000 (bulk 1841-1864)

Collection Summary

Creator: Moore, Eula C., collector

Title: Harrison House Collection

Inclusive Dates: 1841-ca. 2000 (bulk 1841-1864)

Summary/Abstract: A collection of primarily 19th-century documentary sources pertaining to the Harrison House, the plantation home of the William Harrison family, located in Franklin in Williamson County, Tennessee.

Physical Description/Extent: .20 cu. ft. (9 folders)

Series: I. 19th-century Documents; II. 20th-century Photographs, Ephemera and Newspaper Clippings

Accession Number: 2006.030

Language: English

Stack Location: Closed stacks workroom range 3 section 1

Repository: Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

Chronology

- ca. Dec. 25, 1779 Gen. James Robertson's overland party of men, boys, and livestock arrived at French Lick and crossed the frozen Cumberland River on Christmas Day to establish a settlement and Fort Nashborough. The fort served as the central fort of protection on the Cumberland River bluffs. The group of men included Edward Swanson, who would subsequently acquire a land grant of 640 acres among the rolling hills of West Harpeth, prior to the creation of Williamson County, Tennessee. During the antebellum period, Amanda Swanson, his granddaughter, would marry William Harrison.
- April 2, 1781 The Indian attack on the fort known as "The Battle of the Bluff," occurred when a large band of Chickamauga Cherokees led by Dragging Canoe attacked Fort Nashborough. The settlers barely managed to fend off the attack. Edward Swanson was wounded during the Battle of the Bluff but survived to serve as a constable at Freeland's Station and settled later in Williamson County where he resided until his death in 1840.
- 1800 Williamson County, Tennessee was established and named for Hugh Williamson, a North Carolina politician who signed the U.S. Constitution. The county seat is Franklin, Tennessee and the first courthouse was built in the center of the public square.
- ca. 1826-1840s The original core of the Harrison House was built, perhaps by Medley

and remodeled by William Harrison, Sr., circa 1848. The early façade and entrance of a small unit of the house is in the Federal style of architecture, which is believed to have been built around 1810, although the builder is unknown. The remodeling included a dining room, parlor and downstairs study, with a two-story entrance portico and second-story gallery porch typical of many antebellum homes.

- 1836-1842 William Harrison, Sr. served as sheriff of Williamson County.
- 1841-1848 William Harrison, Jr. acquired several slaves in bill of sale deeds registered in Williamson County, Tennessee.
- April 19, 1863 The First Battle of Franklin occurred during the American Civil War in Williamson County, Tennessee.
- April 25, 1864 William Harrison, Jr. received a protection on the Harrison House and personal property, issued by the Federal Headquarters District of Nashville, Provost Marshal's Office.
- Sept. 2, 1864 The mortally wounded Brig. Gen. John H. Kelly, CSA, was brought to the Harrison House after the affair between his cavalry division and Federals under Brig. Gen. James D. Brownlow. He was buried in the garden and in 1866, was reinterred in Mobile, Alabama.
- ca. Nov. 30, 1864 Gen. Hood held his last staff conference before committing his army to the Battle of Franklin, Nov. 30, 1864. This Second Battle of Franklin resulted in one of the worst disasters of the war for the Confederate States Army that historians cited as "Pickett's Charge of the West."
- ca Dec. 10, 1864 The wounded Brig. Gen. John C. Carter was brought to the Harrison House after the Battle of Franklin and died on Dec. 10, 1864, and was buried in Columbia, Tennessee.
- 1975 The Harrison House was added to the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1993 The antebellum home was privately purchased by Pamela Lewis, a Music Row executive in Nashville, Tennessee, saving the home from destruction by commercial development.
- Dec. 1993 The Harrison House was featured as a new tour feature in the annual Carter House Candlelight Tour.

Biographical/Historical Sketch

The Harrison House is located south of Franklin, Tennessee, on Columbia Pike in Williamson County. The structure was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. The architecture of the house is in the Federal style on the early façade and entrance, when the Columbia Pike road was at another location, believed to have been built circa 1810, although the builder is unknown. The original core of the house was added to and remodeled by William Harrison, Sr., circa 1848. The antebellum design includes a dining room, parlor and downstairs study, with a two-story entrance portico and second-story gallery porch typical of many antebellum homes. The Harrison House is a significant example of the architectural style of pre-Civil War Middle Tennessee. During the Civil War, the home would later be directly connected to the military events in Franklin, Tennessee.

On September 2, 1864, the Harrison House was the site where the mortally wounded Brig. General John H. Kelley, CSA, was brought after the affair between his cavalry division and Federals under Brig. Gen. James D. Brownlow. He was buried in the garden and in 1866, was reinterred in Mobile, Alabama.

The Harrison House and surrounding grounds became a part of the Battle of Franklin. The mansion's parlor was used by Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood as headquarters where he planned his frontal attack on Union soldiers camped nearby, the troops going over Winstead Hill for the two-mile charge into the Battle of Franklin on Nov. 30, 1864. The property was later used as a field hospital. It was at the Harrison House that the mortally wounded Brig. Gen. John C. Carter was brought after the Battle of Franklin. Gen. Hood's Army of Tennessee, though left with control of Franklin, was all but destroyed in the Battle of Franklin.

In the 20th-century, a longtime resident of the historic Harrison House was Dr. Harry Guffee, a Franklin physician and well-known horseman, who raised his family there. In 1993, the antebellum home was privately purchased by Pamela Lewis, a Music Row executive in Nashville, Tennessee, saving the home from destruction by commercial development. In December of 1993, the Harrison House was featured in the annual Carter House Candlelight Tour of historic homes.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

A collection of primarily 19th-century documentary sources related to the Harrison House, the plantation home of the William Harrison family, located in Franklin in Williamson County, Tennessee. Present in the collection are four slave deed bills of sale from the 1840s, and a protection order issued to William Harrison, Jr., by the provost marshal's office dated April 25, 1864, when the Federals occupied Nashville during the Civil War. The collection includes one capital stock certificate that the Franklin and Columbia Turnpike Company issued to William Harrison, Sr., on December 2, 1850. The 20th-century documentary sources consist of two photographs, ephemera, and newspaper clippings about the Harrison House.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

The collection is comprised of two series.

Series I. 19th-century Documents

Series II. 20th-century Newspaper Clippings, Ephemera, and Photographs

Arrangement:

Each series is arranged chronologically.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: In library use only. Available by appointment. No photocopies of the original documents due to the fragile nature of the materials.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction: This material may be protected by copyright (Title 17 U.S. Code).

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Harrison family

Harrison, William, 1799-1865

Harrison, William, 1825-1889

Corporate Names/Organizations:

Franklin and Columbia Turnpike Co. (Franklin, Tenn.)

Harrison House (Franklin, Tenn.)

Subjects:

African Americans--Social conditions--19th century

African Americans--Tennessee--Franklin--Genealogy

African Americans--Tennessee, Middle--History--Sources

African Americans--Tennessee--Williamson County--Genealogy

Architecture, Domestic--Tennessee--Franklin

Buildings--Tennessee--Franklin

Slave bills of sale--Tennessee--Williamson County

Slavery--Tennessee--Williamson County

Places:

Franklin (Tenn.)--Buildings, structures, etc.

Franklin (Tenn.)--Social conditions--19th century

Nashville (Tenn.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865—Sources

Tennessee--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Sources

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Economic aspects

Williamson County (Tenn.)--History--Sources

Williamson County (Tenn.)--Social conditions--19th century

Genre/Document Types:

Clippings
Deeds
Documents
Ephemera
Photographs
Stock certificates

Occupations:

Plantation owners--Tennessee--Franklin
Plantation owners--Tennessee--Williamson County

Administrative Information

Additional Physical Form Available: Digital scans of the 19th-century documents are available online in the Nashville Public Library's Digital Collection by searching the keyword "Harrison House" at the URL address <http://digital.library.nashville.org/portal/>

Copyright: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

Preferred Citation: Harrison House Collection, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Donated to the Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library by Eula C. Moore on June 29, 2006.

Ownership and Custodial History: The records originated from the collection of Mrs. Eula C. Moore, a descendant of Edward Swanson (1759-1840) and William Harrison, Senior. Edward Swanson's granddaughter Amanda married William Harrison, the family associated with the Harrison House during the antebellum and Civil War period.

Processing Information: Processed by Leanne Garland in June 2007.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Electronic Location and Access <http://digital.library.nashville.org/portal/>

References to Works by or about Collection Creator/Topic

McRaven, William Henry. *Life and Times of Edward Swanson*. Nashville, 1937.

Detailed Description of the Collection**Series I. 19th-century Documents, 1841-1864, 6 items**

This series consists of six 19th-century documents, related to William Harrison, Sr. and his son, William Harrison, Jr. and their plantation home in Franklin, Tennessee. The documents consist of four slave deed bills of

sale from the 1840s, a capital stock certificate issued by the Franklin and Columbia Turnpike Company on December 2, 1850, and a protection order issued in protection of his “farm, timber, forage, stock, buildings, provisions, and all personal property ...” by the provost marshal’s office dated April 25, 1864, when the Federals occupied Nashville during the Civil War.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Container List

Box 1

- f.1 Slave deed bill of sale from Joshua Reams to William Harrison, Jr.
1841 February 2
- f.2 Slave deed bill of sale from F[rancis] T. Reid to William Harrison, Jr.
1843 January 25
- f.3. Slave deed bill of sale from Timothy Terrell to William Harrison, Jr.,
1844 January 18
- f.4 Slave deed bill of sale from Rob[er]t Glafs [i.e. Glass] to William
Harrison, Jr. 1848 April 22
- f.5 Franklin and Columbia Turnpike Company capital stock certificate
issued to William Harrison, [Senior] 1850 December 2
- f.6 Protection order granted to William Harrison, Jr. of Williamson
County, Tennessee by Head-Quarters District of Nashville, Provost
Marshal’s Office, 1864 April 25

**Series II. 20th-century Newspaper Clippings, Ephemera, and Photographs,
ca. 1964-ca. 2000, 3 folders**

This series consists of 20th-century documentary sources pertaining to the history of the Harrison House in Williamson County, Tennessee. The photocopied newspaper clippings contain information about the Harrison House, James Robertson and early settlers of Nashville, “Harrison House on Tour,” development plans related to Winstead Hill and an article “Living with History: Pam Lewis Creates an Oasis at the Antebellum Harrison House in Franklin,” published in the *Tennessean* written by staff writer Elizabeth S. Betts (March 24, 2000). The ephemera consists of a newspaper picture of the Harrison House, a ticket and program for the 1993 Carter House Christmas Candlelight Tour, and a small art print of the Harrison House by Marvin Stalnaker.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Container List

- f.7 Newsclippings, ca. 1964-2000
- f.8 Ephemera, ca. 1980-ca. 1993

f.9 Photographs, ca. 2000 (dates unavailable)