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Felts Log House (MSS 551)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 551 FELTS Log House

1 box. 14 folders. 270 items. 1809-1994. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

SC2015.137.1

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Archibald Felts moved his family from North Carolina to Logan County, Kentucky around 1815. For a while Felts lived in a small log cabin, but in 1820 he erected this unusually fine two-story home which Mary Felts filled with furnishings made locally or brought from Nashville and Louisville.

Archibald married Mary Weldon sometime before the birth of their first child, Sally, in 1785. By the 1810 census Archibald, 52 at the time, had 15 people registered as living in his house. Only two people were above the age of 26, and 10 were under the age of 10. Some of the children either belonged to a married son or possibly to an elder daughter, or Sally. Sally may have moved back in with the Felts with her children while she was waiting for the state to grant her a divorce from her husband who became a Shaker at South Union, Kentucky.

According to 1819 tax records, Archibald was in the upper third income bracket of Kentucky taxpayers. It's unknown what he raised on his farm, though in later years the Felts grew corn and tobacco on their land according to Otis Felts

Descendants of Mary and Archibald Felts lived in the log structure until 1960. In 1968 Miss Ollie Felts sold the house to Sam Houston Watkins, who donated the house to the Kentucky Museum in 1978. In 1980 the house was move from Logan County to its current site on the campus of Western Kentucky University. Today the log home serves as one of the Kentucky Museum's exhibits and is furnished with facsimiles of household items similar to those the Felts family probably used in the 1830s.

It is believed that Archibald Felts died in 1825, and he is purportedly interred in an unmarked grave in the Felts Cemetery, located on Gasper River near Cave Spring Church on the Auburn Richleu Road.

COLLECTION NOTE

The collection is chiefly centered around the restoration and history of the Felts Log House. Some genealogy records (Folder 6) of the Felts family can be found in this collection. Of particular interest are transcripts of interviews of Otis Felts, donor Sam Watkins (Folder 7), and an interview of Lucille Callis who talks about the her time in the house. Additionally photos from

the refurbishing of the Felts House (Folder 9) by WKU can be found in the collection. A copy of the script used by docents is found in Folder 10.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Felts House Collection	1809-1994	249 items
Folder 1	Inventory		
Folder 2	Wills and inventories – Logan County	1809-1838	19 items
Folder 3	Data gleaned from wills and inventories – Logan and Warren counties	1810-1830	29 items
Folder 4	Census	1830	1 item
Folder 5	Felts House wills and inventory – Warren County	1810-1826	42 items
Folder 6	Felts Family – Geneology	n.d.	11 items
Folder 7	Felts House – Oral histories about Felt House	1979-1983	7 items
Folder 8	Felts House – News clippings	1980-1992	21 items
Folder 9	Felts House – Photos	n.d	68 items
Folder 10	Felts House – Script	1983-1984	4 items
Folder 11	Felts House Furniture – Designs and plans	1828-1994	24 items
Folder 12	Felts House – Furnishing plans	1834-1993	21 items
Folder 13	Felts House and early Kentucky folklife – Education manual	1992	2 items
Folder 14	Felts House – Education material	n.d.	21 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS FELTS Log House 1810-1992
551

Photos, transcripts, design plans, and education materials about the Felts Log House, a log structure originally built in Logan County, Kentucky, in the early nineteenth century and moved to the campus of Western Kentucky University in 1978. Contains a variety of worksheets for children, furnishing plans by WKU, and news clippings about the house. It also contains transcripts of interviews about the house from Felts descendants and Sam Watkins.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Basham, Emma Lee (Felts), 1906-1991 – Relating to F6
 Brigl, Robert Clemens – Relating to F8
 Bough, Mary Weldon – Comments about F6
 Felts, Agnes B. – Relating to F6
 Felts, Archibald, 1758-1825 – Comments about F6
 Felts, Augustine – Comments about F3
 Felts, Betsy – Relating to F6
 Felts, Charles Monroe – Relating to F6
 Felts, Cinthy M. – Relating to F6
 Felts family
 Felts, Fetney Isolene – Relating to, F6
 Felts, James H. – Comments about F3
 Felts, John J. – Comments about F3
 Felts, John H. – Comments about F3
 Felts, Joseph W. – Comments about F3
 Felts, Joshua – Comments about F3
 Felts, Lousia – Relating to F6
 Felts, Monroe – Relating to F6
 Felts, Nathaniel – Relating to F6
 Felts, Polly – Relating to F6
 Felts, Sally W., b. 1785, – Relating to F6
 Felts, Slaughter Loving – Relating to F6
 Felts Log House – Furnishing plans F3
 Felts, William – Relating to F6
 Estates – Felts, Archibald, Jr. F3
 Estates – Felts, James A. F3

Estates – Felts, William 1834-1835 F2-3
Hallet, Ollie Felts – Comments about F6
Hallet, Ollie Felts – Relating to F6
Handy, Riley Dean, 1941-2010 – Letters to F12
Peacock, June Basham – Relating to F6
Sanford Duncan Inn – Franklin – Comments about F8
Short, Betty Basham– Relating to F6
Vineyard, William – Relating to F11
Watkins, Sam Houston, 1914-1999 – Relating to F6

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