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Felts Log House (MSS 551)

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**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 refurnishing 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**

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<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>Felts House Collection</th>
<th>1809-1994</th>
<th>249 items</th>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory</td>
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<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Wills and inventories – Logan County</td>
<td>1809-1838</td>
<td>19 items</td>
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<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Data gleaned from wills and inventories – Logan and Warren counties</td>
<td>1810-1830</td>
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<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Census</td>
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<td>Folder 5</td>
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<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Felts Family – Geneology</td>
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<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Felts House – Oral histories about Felt House</td>
<td>1979-1983</td>
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<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Felts House – News clippings</td>
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<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Felts House – Photos</td>
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<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Felts House – Script</td>
<td>1983-1984</td>
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<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Felts House Furniture – Designs and plans</td>
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<td>Folder 12</td>
<td>Felts House – Furnishing plans</td>
<td>1834-1993</td>
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<td>Folder 13</td>
<td>Felts House and early Kentucky folklife – Education manual</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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<td>Folder 14</td>
<td>Felts House – Education material</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>21 items</td>
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</table>
**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS  FELTS Log House  1810-1992
551

Photos, transcripts, design plans, and education materials about the Felt's 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 Felt's descendants and Sam Watkins.

1 box. 14 folders. 270 items. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

SC2015.137.1

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

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