

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Parris, Alexander, Sketchbook, 1806-1812

LOCATION:

Octavo vols. "p"
Oversize mss. boxes "p"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

1 octavo volume (64 p.); 1 oversize folder (56 items—photostats of the contents of the volume)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

For a biography of Parris, see *DAB*, vol. 14, p. 254-255.

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Gift of Charles Henry Taylor, 1926

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Alexander Parris (1780-1852), architect and builder, began as an apprentice to a carpenter in Pembroke, Me., and worked as an architect in Portland, Me., before his enlistment as captain of a company of engineers during the War of 1812. Afterwards, Parris settled in Boston, where he performed his most important work, such as St. Paul's Church and Faneuil Hall's market hall. In 1847, he was appointed civil engineer of the Portsmouth, N.H., navy yard.

This collection consists of Alexander Parris' sketchbook, for the period 1806 to 1812, with a folder of negative and positive photostats of its contents. The book is a portfolio of architectural designs, including the Portland Church, 1807, the Governor of Virginia's House in Richmond, 1811-1812, Commodore Edward Preble's (1761-1807) house in Portland, 1807-1808, and the Portland Bank Building, 1807. The book also contains sketches of dogs, a list of books Parris planned to read, and names of famous architects.