

# Mt. Vernon Cotton Factory Collection Finding Aid MS097

Mt. Vernon Cotton Factory Collection (MS097)  
1866-1875



## Title Statement

Mt. Vernon Cotton Factory Collection Finding Aid MS097

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## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** Local History and Special Collections Branch, Alexandria Library

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URL: <http://alexlibraryva.org/lhsc>



## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-12-15 14:27:25 +0000.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

MS097

**Unit Date**

1866-1875

**Text**

02 (Assorted Box)

**Language**

English .

**Extent**

.142 Cubic Feet 7 folders

**Repository**

Local History and Special Collections Branch, Alexandria Library

## Administrative Information

**Preferred Citation**

[Item identification], Mt. Vernon Cotton Factory Collection, MS097, Alexandria Library, Local History and Special Collections, Alexandria, Virginia

# Biographical / Historical

In 1847, a group of Alexandria business owners William Fowle, Anthony Cazenove, Hugh Smith, Henry Daingerfield, William Gregory, John Withers, Pober Jamieson, John C. Vowell, William Stabler, and Robert Miller proposed the founding of a cotton manufacturing industry for Alexandria. The enterprise began with the building of a four-story manufacturing plant, The Mt. Vernon Cotton Factory, on the corner of Oronoco and Washington, at what is now 515 N. Washington St. The business did not prosper, and was offered for sale in 1855 and was bought by Lewis McKenzie, John Withers, Robert Jamieson, James Green, Henry Daingerfield, and William Gregory. The business was again unsuccessful and was bought by John Rosencrantz of Philadelphia in 1858. The building was seized by the U.S. Federal government during the Civil War, 1863, and was used as a prison and later a barracks. After the war, Abijah Thomas tried to restart the plant, and entered into a deed of trust with C. Turnbull Baxter and Company, and borrowed money from the First National Bank of Alexandria to finance the restoration. Thomas failed, and the resulting legal issues surrounding the building reached the Supreme Court in 1875. In 1877, Robert H. Garrett of Baltimore, bought the company and shut it down so as to prevent competition with his flour company. The building has since exchanged many hands, serving as a bottling plant for the Robert Portner brewing company, a factory for the Express Spark Plug Factory, and an apartment complex.

## Content Description

The collection consists of a deed, purchase proposals, business agreements, foreclosure notices, and fire insurance policies for the Mt. Vernon Cotton Factory.

## Keywords

Business -- Virginia -- Alexandria  
Business records

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Deed of Sale

**Unit Date** 1866 October 17

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 97-1 (folder)

### 2nd Sale

**Unit Date** 1875

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 97-2 (folder)

### Foreclosure of Abijah Thomas

**Unit Date** 1866-1869

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 97-3 (folder)

### A.E. Addison proposal for purchase

**Unit Date** 1869 August 14

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 97-4 (folder)

### Advertisement, New York Journal of Commerce

**Unit Date** 1869

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 97-5 (folder)

**Qty. of 6 fire insurance policies**

**Unit Date** 1870-1871

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 97-6 (folder)

**Agreement, A. Thomas & Turnbull & Co.**

**Unit Date** 1868 February 18

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 97-7 (folder)

**Cotton Factory, Sale of/Advertising**

**Unit Date** 1869-1875

**Text** 02 (Assorted Box)

**Container** 97-8 (folder)