

A Guide to the Washington statue and state capitol model : records, 1784-1803

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History

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Auditor of Public Accounts

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Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

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There are no restrictions.

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No acquisition information is available.

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Biographical Information

In 1784 the General Assembly authorized the sculpting of a statue of George Washington. At Thomas Jefferson's urging, Jean Houdon of Paris was hired for the work. Before Houdon came to the United States in 1785 to measure Washington for the statue, he insisted that the state purchase an insurance policy on his life for the travel abroad. During this time, Jefferson ordered a plaster model of the capitol building, which was constructed in Paris by Charles-Louis Cl  risseau.

Scope and Content

This series documents several of Jefferson's endeavors in France, primarily the purchase of weapons, the commissioning of Washington's statue, as well as the creation of the plaster model of the capitol building. These records contain accounts, correspondence, receipts, and vouchers. The accounts contain the names of persons to whom payments were made, the amounts, and the dates paid. Each receipt contains the date, the amount received, and the reason for the payment. The vouchers include the names of persons to whom money was owed, the amounts, and the dates the vouchers were submitted. Included in the correspondence are letters from Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, Charles-Louis Cl  risseau, Andre[w] Limozin, John Pendleton, and Thomas Barclay, and the business partners St. Victour and Bettinger.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Contents List

Washington Statue and State Model Records, 1784-1803.

Box 1-2

1784-1785 .

Box 1

Folder 1

Voucher, 1784 Nov 8 .

Scope and Content

Voucher paid to Jefferson for 8957 livres, 11 sols.

Houdon's Life Insurance Policy, 1785 Oct 12 .

Scope and Content

Life Insurance policy taken out for Houdon. He paid a premium of 27 pounds for a six month premium for the assurance of 670 pounds for Houdon for his passage across the Atlantic.

1786 .

Box 1,

Folder 2

Box 2,

Oversize Folder 1 (folder)

Receipt for Thomas Barclay, Agent of Virginia, 1786 Jan 13 .

Scope and Content

Receipt to Thomas Barclay for the sum of 166666 livres in specie from Virginia in exchange in a timely manner for weapons. Translated in December 1786.

St. Victour and Bettinger to Thomas Jefferson, 1786 Apr 8 .

Scope and Content

Letter to Jefferson regarding the purchase and shipment of weapons and goods.

St. Victour and Bettinger to Thomas Jefferson, 1786 May 13 .

Scope and Content

Letter to Jefferson regarding the purchase and shipment of weapons and goods.

St. Victour and Bettinger to Thomas Jefferson, 1786 May 14 .

Scope and Content

Letter to Jefferson regarding the shipment of weapons.

St. Victour and Bettinger to Thomas Jefferson, 1786 May 29 .

Scope and Content

Letter to Jefferson notifying him that there is a plan to dispatch 1500 rifles from France to Virginia.

St. Victour and Bettinger to Thomas Jefferson, 1786 June 30 .

Scope and Content

Letter acknowledging the shipment of weapons, the total amount due, and inquiries as to who to contact for payment.

Accounts for Weapons Manufacturing and Shipping, 1786 Jul 5-15 .

Box 2

Oversize Folder 1 (folder)

Scope and Content

Account balances for the manufacturing and shipment of arms from France to Virginia.

Account for Duties and Transportation of Model, 1786 Jul 6 .

Scope and Content

Account for the transportation of and duties paid on the model of the capitol building.

John Bandfield to Bettinger, 1786 Aug 15 .

Scope and Content

Letter acknowledging the arrival of one of the shipments of weapons, includes a copy.

St. Victour and Bettinger to Thomas Jefferson, 1786 Aug 24 .

Scope and Content

Letter acknowledging the receipt of weapons, the total amount due, and inquiries as to who to contact for payment

John Bandfield to Bettinger, 1786 Sept 23 .

Scope and Content

Letter acknowledging the arrival of one of the shipments of weapons, includes a copy.

Receipt, 1786 Nov 18 .

Scope and Content

Receipt and letter for weapons shipments.

1787 .

Box 1,

Folder 3

Houdon's Account, 1787 Jan 20 .

Scope and Content

A list of expenses for Houdon and his travel, including passage to Southampton, equipment, and a mattress.

St. Victour and Bettinger to Thomas Jefferson, 1787 Jan 23 .

Scope and Content

Letter stating enclosed documents regarding previous transactions and a request for payment, including letter to Bandfield from Bettinger.

Andre[w] Limozin to Thomas Jefferson, 1787 May 22 .

Scope and Content

Includes the amount of expenses and shipping information for twelve cases of merchandise from Limozin on the ship Portsmouth, to the Governor of Virginia. Includes a note informing Jefferson of new debts to his account for transportation, and one about Mr. Rucker staying in London due to him being unable to honor Robert Morris's drafts.

Thomas Barclay to Thomas Jefferson, 1787 Jul 8 .

Scope and Content

Letter from Thomas Barclay regarding his account balance and payments owed to him.

Thomas Barclay to Thomas Jefferson, 1787 Jul 27 .

Scope and Content

Letter from Thomas Barclay adding payments owed to his account for extra expenses, including Brandy purchased for Jefferson. Barclay also updates Jefferson on news from America, and his intention to clear his name from slanderous accusations.

Receipt, 1787 Aug .

Scope and Content

Receipt made to Thomas Jefferson, Ambassador to France.

Houdon's Receipt, 1787 Nov 1 .

Scope and Content

Houdon's receipt for the cost of a bust of the Marquis de Lafayette.

1788 .

Box 1,

Folder 4

Houdon's Account of Expenses, 1788 Oct 20 .

Scope and Content

List of expenses for the Houdon, with a note from Jefferson.

Andre[w] Limozin's Account, 1788 Nov 12 .

Scope and Content

List of expenses for Limozin and his transportation on the ship, Le Sally, including the shipment of a bust of Marquis de Lafayette.

Cl  risseau's Bill, 1788 June 6 .

Scope and Content

Letter and bill from Clérisseau to Jefferson. The letter thanks Jefferson for his friendship and their mutual appreciation of antiquity. The bill totalled 12 Louis, or 288 livres, for his assistance with the model of the capitol building.

1789 .

Box 1,

Folder 5

Bill to Thomas Jefferson, 1789 June 3 .

Scope and Content

Bill to Jefferson for work done repairing columns and other sculptural work.

Account Balances, 1789 Dec 9 .

Scope and Content

Three account balances: one totalling 25 livres and 18 silvers; the second totalling over 650 livres; the third amounting to 16 livres and 4 sols

Account Balance from Virginia to Thomas Jefferson, 1789 Dec 9 .

Scope and Content

Account balance listing all expenses from 1785 to 1789 including numerous bills, accounts, and receipts included in this collection. Includes line items such as transportation of Washington's portrait, Houdon's life insurance, muskets, the bust of Lafayette, the coffee pot "as a present to Clérisseau for his trouble with the drawings of the public buildings," amongst other expenses.

1793-1796 .

Box 1,

Folder 6

Box 2,

Override Folder 2 (folder)

Account of Expenses, 1793 May 25 .

Box 2

Override Folder 2 (folder)

Scope and Content

A list of expenses dates to 1793, and certified by Jefferson in 1796. On this it lists the costs for the statue of Washington, the busts of the Marquis de Lafayette, and the weapons purchased.

James Monroe to Gov. Robert Brooke, 1795 Aug 20 .

Scope and Content

Letter from Monroe regarding the statue of Washington which was left unresolved upon Jefferson's return to Virginia from France. Monroe is happy to make inquiries and report back to Governor Brooke as soon as possible.

Thomas Jefferson to John Pendleton, 1796 Mar 20 .

Scope and Content

Letter from Jefferson to John Pendleton, the Auditor of Public Accounts, notifying them that he was "astonished" to see that he still owed money to the state and would still owe that sum unless told otherwise by Pendleton. He had anticipated a return to France rather than assume the role as Secretary of State and was thus so caught up in his new position that it his "mind never recurred to the subject of [his] settlement."

John Pendleton's Summary of Thomas Jefferson's Account, 1796 Mar 28 .

Scope and Content

Description by Pendleton of the balance owed by Jefferson to the state of Virginia.

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, 1796 Jul 29 .

Scope and Content

Letter from Monroe stating that he hoped the statue of Washington arrived safely at Richmond. He also discusses the amount owed to Houdon which he will be happy to fulfill Jefferson's wishes in this matter, "whatever they made be in this respect."

1802-1803 .

Box 1,

Folder 7

Copy of 1795 Letter from Jefferson to Brooke, 1802 Mar 15 .

Scope and Content

Copy of letter originally dated from 1795 but was returned to Jefferson. The letter is regarding the balance owed to Grand and Company by the state, which Jefferson found to be 6931-9-6.

Certificates for Claims Signed by Fulwar Skipwith, 1803 June 10 .

Scope and Content

Certificates asserting the claims by Houdon that the payment originally paid in Assignats was only worth 6200 livres and that Houdon did sustain a loss of 2800 livres.

Receipt of Payment to Houdon, 1803 June 16 .

Scope and Content

Copy of certificate asserting Houdon's claim, and a note stating that the sum of 2800 livres was received by Houdon from Monroe on behalf of Virginia.

James Monroe to Gov. John Page, 1803 Aug 12 .

Scope and Content

Letter from Monroe to Governor John Page apologizing for not writing as of late, and relaying that he paid Houdon the amount requested for his services on the statue. In the letter Monroe asks for reimbursement for his payment to Houdon, and expresses his hope to write more frequently to his friends in Richmond. Includes a copied extract from the letter regarding the payment made to Houdon.