

A Guide to the Sully Foundation Records, 1959-2009

The Sully Foundation Records, 1959-2009
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A Collection in The Fairfax County Public Library MSS 05-42

Title Statement

A Guide to the Sully Foundation Records, 1959-2009

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Collection: MSS 05-42

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid created by Ross Landis, April 21, 2024

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Descriptive Summary

Record Group Number

MSS 05-42

Language

English

Abstract

The Sully Foundation Records consist of 2.5 linear feet and span the years 1959-2009, and contains meeting minutes, correspondence, reports, financial reports, catalog records, invitations, newspaper clippings, brochures, microfilm, photographs, magazines, a galley proof, and a certificate.

Creator

Sully Foundation (1969-present)

Extent

2.5 linear feet

Repository

Fairfax County Public Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

None

Use Restrictions

Consult repository for information

Acquisition Information

A small portion of this collection was donated at an unknown time. The Sully Foundation through Lee Hubbard donated the bulk of this collection in August 2010.

Processing Information

Logan Tapscott, 2016 updated by Chris Barbuschak, 2018

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Preferred Citation

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Adjunct Descriptive Data

Separated Material

None

Historical and Biographical Information

In October 1969, Robert E. "Eddie" Wagstaff established the Sully Foundation Ltd. to promote and support the preservation and interpretation of the Sully Historic Site, also known as Sully Plantation. Henry Lee I purchased the plantation in 1725, and gave it to his son, Richard Bland Lee, in 1794. Several families lived on the plantation until the Fairfax County Park Authority acquired the site in 1959, saving it from demolition during the construction of Dulles International Airport.

Wagstaff, who was largely instrumental in saving Sully from destruction, formed the Sully Foundation to promote the site's educational value and to maintain, further develop, and restore the house. The Foundation sought to use Sully for educational purposes by providing tours and encouraging visitors. The organization also sought to restore and furnish the plantation and its grounds through the solicitation of financial gifts and donations of artifacts. The Foundation consisted of a directorate of six to fifteen persons of which Wagstaff named the original group. Wagstaff died only a few months after he donated his life's savings to create the Sully Foundation in August 1970.

In 1971, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors expressed a desire to publish a manuscript on the history of Sully Plantation. The Fairfax County Office of Comprehensive Planning appointed Robert S. Gamble to prepare a study which resulted in the 1974 publication of the book "Sully: The Biography of a House". The Sully Foundation supported and underwrote the book's publication and later received publication rights for it. Gamble's book is now widely regarded as the definitive study on Sully Plantation.

In 1996, the Fairfax County Park Authority erected a plaque in front of Sully in commemoration of the Sully Foundation's many years of service towards preserving the house.

Scope and Content

The Sully Foundation Records consist of 2.5 linear feet and span the years 1959-2009, and contains meeting minutes, correspondence, reports, financial reports, catalog records, invitations, newspaper clippings, brochures, microfilm, photographs, magazines, a galley proof, and a certificate. Subjects covered are the Sully Foundation's efforts in preserving and promoting Sully Plantation.

Series 1: Administrative Records, 1959-2009, Boxes 1-2

This series contains meeting minutes, correspondence, reports, articles of incorporation papers, magazines, periodicals, a book, invitations, newspaper clippings, and a certificate. Meeting minutes, correspondence, and staff reports are interfiled together chronologically as was maintained by the Sully Foundation. Of particular note is a letter from 1975 signed by First Lady Betty Ford in which she declined an invitation to Sully's restoration reception.

Series 2: Financial Records, 1970-2008, Boxes 2-3

This series contains financial statements, reports, and account books for the Sully Foundation.

Series 3: Photographs, 1967-1974, Box 3

The photographs in this series depict various scenes at Sully including Robert Gamble's 1974 book signing for "Sully: The Biography of a House" which was attended by Mary Haight, Alex Haight, and Ben Peck; the 1967 Garden Week Candlelight tour at Sully; various women in period dress at Sully; and a street map of the Falls Church, VA area. Also included is an undated print of Sully depicted as it looked circa 1800 by Joseph Pisani.

Series 4: Catalog Records, 1962-1980, Box 4

Throughout its existence, the Sully Foundation acquired books, periodicals, and artifacts of which they

maintained catalog records for. There are two duplicate sets of catalog records included in this series; one set is in a folder and another in a small box.

Series 5: "Sully: The Biography of a House", 1974-1994, Boxes 4-5

This series contains the cover and galley proof for "Sully: The Biography of a House" by Robert S. Gamble, as well as Gamble's author's introduction to the 1994 edition. Also included is a microfilm reel containing the Haight-Barlow Papers which consists of genealogical papers, correspondence, miscellaneous deeds, contracts, receipts, business papers, and an account book dating from 1816-1889 from the Haight-Barlow family of Sully. Robert Gamble received permission to microfilm these papers from their owners, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon W. Barlow, Sr. of Humboldt, Kansas. The current status and location of these papers is unknown.

Index Terms

Gamble, Robert S.
Historic buildings -- Virginia-- Fairfax County
Leigh, Lewis, Jr.
Plantations -- Virginia -- Fairfax County
Sully Foundation, Inc.
Sully Plantation (Fairfax County, Va.)
Wagstaff, Robert Edward "Eddie"

Container List

Series 1:Administrative Records, 1959-2009

Box 1 Folder 1: Articles of Incorporation and Correspondence , 1969

Box 1 Folder 2: Articles of Incorporation Amendments, Tax Exemption Status, and Correspondence, 1970

Box 1 Folder 3: Meeting Minutes, Correspondence, and Reports, 1969-1972

Box 1 Folder 4: Meeting Minutes, Correspondence, and Reports, 1973-1974

Box 1 Folder 5: Meeting Minutes, Correspondence, and Reports, 1975-1979

Box 1 Folder 6: Meeting Minutes, Correspondence, and Reports, 1980-1999

Box 1 Folder 7: Meeting Minutes, Correspondence, and Reports, 2000

Box 1 Folder 8: Meeting Minutes, Correspondence, and Reports, 2001

Box 1 Folder 9: Meeting Minutes, Correspondence, and Reports, 2002

Box 1 Folder 10: Meeting Minutes, Correspondence, and Reports, 2003

Box 1 Folder 11: Meeting Minutes, Correspondence, and Reports, 2004

Box 2 Folder 1: Meeting Minutes, Correspondence, and Reports, 2005

Box 2 Folder 2: Meeting Minutes, Correspondence, and Reports, 2006

Box 2 Folder 3: Meeting Minutes, Correspondence, and Reports, 2007

Box 2 Folder 4: Meeting Minutes, Correspondence, and Reports, 2008

Box 2 Folder 5: Meeting Minutes, Correspondence, and Reports, 2009

Box 2 Folder 6: "Legislation relating to Second Washington Airport" (History of the Sully Planation on pages 7-21), 1959

Box 2 Folder 7: Report on Restoration of Sully Plantation, Chantilly, Virginia for Fairfax County Park Authority, Garland A. Wood & Associates, 1960

Box 2 Folder 8: Magazine, "Echoes of History" Vol. 1, No. 3 (article about Little Sully), 1971 March

Box 2 Folder 9: Magazine, "Virginia Cardinal" ("Christmas at Sully" by Claire S. Muller, pg. 25), 1972 December

Box 2 Folder 10: Book, "A History of the Fairfax County Park Authority", 1982

Box 2 Folder 11: Sully Dwelling House Downspouts Selected Documentation , 1990

Box 2 Folder 12: A Furnishings Plan for the South Lane Slave Quarters a Representative Exhibit at Sully Historic Site by Jeanne Niccolls, 1998

Box 2 Folder 13: Highlights of the Sully Restoration, Undated

Box 2 Folder 14: Invitation, Reception honoring Robert S. Gamble, author of "Sully: The Biography of a House" , 1974

Box 2 Folder 15: Invitation, Freedom Hill Chapter, NSDAR installation of Historic Marker at Sully, 1980

Box 2 Folder 16: Invitation, 200th anniversary of Sully Plantation, 1994

Box 2 Folder 17: Brochures, 1974

Box 2 Folder 18: Newspaper clippings [photocopies], Undated

Box 2 Folder 19: Certificate of Resolution, Sully Foundation donation to Fairfax County Park Authority for Sully fire and security system [includes photos of Mayo Stuntz accepting plaque], 1998

Series 2: Financial Records, 1970-2008

Box 3 Folder 1: Account book, 1988-1995

Box 3 Folder 2: Account book, 1996-2002

Box 3 Folder 3: Annual Report, 1971

Box 3 Folder 4: Annual Report, 1972

Box 3 Folder 5: Financial Report, 1970

Box 3 Folder 6: Financial Report, 1972

Box 3 Folder 7: Financial Reports, 1974-1979

Box 3 Folder 8: Financial Reports, 1980-1985

Box 3 Folder 9: Financial Reports, 1986-1989

Box 3 Folder 10: Financial Reports, 1990-1995

Box 3 Folder 11: Financial Reports, 1996-1999

Box 3 Folder 12: Financial Reports, 2000-2005

Box 3 Folder 13: Financial Reports, 2006-2008

Series 3: Photographs, 1967-1974

Box 3 Folder 14: Garden Week Candlelight Tour, Debbie Jackson, Lorraine Cross, unidentified woman, 1967 April 23

Box 3 Folder 15: Mary Haight, Alex Haight, Ben Peck at Sully Plantation book signing, 1974

Box 3 Folder 16: Robert S. Gamble and others at Sully Plantation book signing, 1974

Box 3 Folder 17: Betty Merriam posing in front of Sully fireplace [3 photos], Undated

Box 3 Folder 18: Betty Merriam and Lynn Woodard in period dress [2 photos], Undated

Box 3 Folder 19: Jean Stallings in period dress on Sully's front porch [2 photos], Undated

Box 3 Folder 20: Street map of Falls Church area, Undated

Box 3 Folder 21: Print, Illustration of Sully Plantation circa 1800 by Joseph Pisani, Undated

Series 4: Catalog Records, 1962-1980

Box 4 Folder 1: Catalog Record Cards, 1962-1980

Series 5: Sully: The Biography of A House, 1974-1994

Box 4: Microfilm, Haight-Barlow Papers, 1816-1889, 1974

Box 5 Folder 1: Cover, "Sully: The Biography of a House", Undated

Box 5 Folder 2: Author's Introduction, "Sully: The Biography of a House" , 1994

Box 5 Folder 3: Galley proof, "Sully: The Biography of a House", Undated