Freedom Ainsworth papers
21.75 linear feet; 5 manuscript boxes, 2 half-manuscript boxes,
3 drop front boxes, 4 oversize tubes

Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury University,
Salisbury, Maryland


Accession Number: 1999.008

Creator: Freedom Ainsworth

Acquisition: The Freedom Ainsworth papers were donated to the Nabb Research Center by Allison Ainsworth, 1999.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Use: Records are open for research. Copyright, including literary rights, belongs to the author(s) or their legal heirs.

Citation Style: “Item, Freedom Ainsworth papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland.”

Related Materials: Fulton Allen papers, 1998.116
Pat Russell papers, 2000.020

Separated Materials: Oversize Materials have been rolled and housed in acid-free tubing.
Fragile materials in boxes 5 and 6 have been housed in fireproof cabinets.
Library materials have been cataloged and shelved with the Nabb Research Center’s non-circulating collection.
**Biographical History:** Freedom Ainsworth (1915-2008) was born in Massachusetts and raised in New York City. He was a Harvard trained engineer and preservationist who also invented the gas station fuel blending pump. He met and married Norma Ruedi (1911-1987) who was born in Missouri and became the Head of the Information Staff at the Bureau of Land Management in Washington, D.C. Together they restored and preserved Beckford Manor, Almodington and More And Case It.

**Scope and Content Note:** The Freedom Ainsworth papers document the restoration and preservation efforts of three of the Manokin Historic District’s oldest structures Beckford Manor, Almodington and More And Case It (also known as Holly Hurst), located in Princess Anne, Md. The materials date from 1766-1767, 1803-1999 with the bulk of the material dating from the purchase and restoration of the three structures, 1967-1994. Restoration activities as well as property histories are documented via correspondence, detailed measurements and notes, architectural drawings, and photographs. Also documented through a series of ledgers are the accounting transactions of Henry Smith Lankford and H. Fillmore Lankford as well as various merchants from Somerset County including Teackle Dennis and Teackle.

**Arrangement Statement:** The Freedom Ainsworth papers have been arranged into five series, HISTORIC PROPERTIES, BECKFORD MANOR, ALMODINGTON, MORE AND CASE IT, and PERSONAL PAPERS.

Historic Properties series documents properties on the Eastern Shore predominately in Somerset County, Maryland. Records include maps, articles and photographs. Preservation guidelines for easements, restoration and landscaping are also of note.

Beckford Manor series documents the property history and restoration. It is further subdivided into three subseries, *Restoration, Lankford Family* and *Somerset County Ledgers*. The Restoration subseries documents the ownership history of the property as well as the restoration and preservation efforts through research notes, chain of ownership title, detailed dimensions and notes regarding the restoration with corresponding photographs. The Lankford Family subseries documents Lankford family history as well as the business accounts and correspondence of H. Fillmore Lankford, who acquired the Beckford property in 1887. Also included are the ledgers of Henry Fitzsimmons Lankford and Henry Smith Lankford. Lastly, the Somerset County Ledgers includes merchant ledgers from known and unknown goods and services providers including Brig Peggy trade ship and Teackle, Dennis and Teackle.

Almodington series documents the history and extensive restoration of the historic structure. Records include correspondence, restoration reports and analysis, blue prints, detailed measurements and photographs.

More And Case It series documents the purchase of the home and includes contracts, chain of ownership and line drawings for possible renovations. Records include correspondence, blue prints and photographs.
Personal Papers series documents the lives of Freedom and Norma Ainsworth through correspondence, ephemera from their travels and interests, a memory book and photographs.

Folders are listed by their location in each box; any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entirety of the collection.

**Subject Terms:**

**General Terms**

- Architecture--Maryland.
- Buildings Maryland
- Colonial Architecture
- Dennis Family
- Elzey family
- Georgian Architecture
- Historic building--Conservation and restoration
- Historic hotels
- Historic preservation
- Lankford Family
- Ledgers
- Littleton Family
- Marshall Family
- Pinckard Family
- Porter Family
- Princess Anne, Md.
- Real Estate
- Restoration and conservation
- Somerset County, Md.

**Corporate Names**

- Almodington
- Anderson Road
- Beckford Manor
- Brig Peggy
- The Community Players, Inc.
- Corbett-Sharp House, Odessa, Del.
- Glenstone
- Holly Hurst
- The Irish World and American Industrial Liberator
- Knights of Pythias
Manokin Historic District
More And Case It
National Register of Historic Places
Olde Princess Anne Days
Teackle, Dennis and Teackle
Teackle Mansion
The United States Gazette
Washington Academy
Wharton House

Personal Names

Ainsworth, Freedom
Ainsworth, Norma Ruedi
Bourne, Michael
Dashiell, Harry
Jackson, Henry
Lankford, Catherine F.
Lankford, H. Fillmore
MacCallum, Ian Crawford
Polk, William H.
Porter, Sallie Mills
Series I: Historic Properties

Box 1

1. Appraisal, Fair Market Value, Manokin Historic District, 1991 March 16
2. Presentation, Sales and Price of Maryland Farm and Open Country Real Estate, Edwin I. Cissel, 1968 February 21
3. Maps, Somerset County, Princess Anne, Md., undated
4. Maps, Somerset County Tax Map No. 22, 1970 July 30
5. Maps, Eastern Shore Waterways, undated
6. Maps, Location of Farms, Manokin Historic District, 1980
11. Article, History of Washington Academy, 1930s
12. Article, Discovery and Reward: The Story of Restoration of the Teackle Mansion, Robert Laird and Allen Hauck, undated
13. Article, Somerset Schools, Princess Anne Churches, Restaurants to Integrate, 1963 June 26
17. Guidelines, National Register of Historic Places, 1975
18. Guidelines, Preservation Easements, Maryland Historical Trust, 1975
20. Ephemera, Landscaping and Pruning, undated
22. Print, Teackle Mansion, undated
24. Photographs, Aerials of Manokin Historic District, 1994 July

Series II: Beckford Manor

26. Photocopy, 1894 Crop and Land Use, undated

Subseries A: Restoration

27. Research Documents, Lankford Family, undated
29. Family History, Dennis Family, 1963
30. Chain of Ownership Title, 1973
31. Purchase Contracts, 1973
32. Contract of Sale, 1973
33. Request, Survey of Beckford, 1973
34. Map, Plat, 1973
Box 2

1. Map, Plat, 1973 April
2. Application, Historic Grant Program, 1975
3. Grant Application, Maryland Historical Trust, 1976-1977
4. Land Records, Somerset County, 1980
6. Market Value, Beckford, 1993 May 2
7. Maryland Property Valuation Record, 1997 November 17
10. Program, Somerset County Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Program, 1987
12. Correspondence, From Emily Keating to Norma Ainsworth, 1973
13. Correspondence, From Various People to Norma Ainsworth, Regarding Beckford, 1973
15. Nomination, National Register of Historic Places, 1972
18. Essay, Beckford Manor, undated
22. Estimate, Interior Ornamentation, 1975
23. Specifications, Restoration Contractor, 1974
26. List, Work to be Completed, 1976 May 20
27. Interior Descriptions, undated
28. Elevation Drawings, Restoration and Alteration, 1976 March 22
30. Dimensions, Foundation and Parlor Floor, 1973
31. Dimensions and Notes, Interior Bathrooms, 1976
32. Dimensions and Notes, Interior Drawing Room, 1976
33. Dimensions and Notes, Interior Great Room, 1976
34. Dimensions and Notes, Turnbuckle Braces, 1976
35. Dimensions and Notes, Hand-Forged Ironwork, 1976
36. Dimensions and Notes, Storm Windows, 1974-1977
37. Dimensions, Storm Windows, 1975
38. Dimensions and Notes, Storm Windows, 1975-1977
40. Dimensions and Notes, Hardware and Electrical to be Installed, 1974-1976
41. Adjustments, Antenna and Amplifier, 1994
42. Specifications, Electrical, Plumbing and Heating, 1974
44. Dimensions and Notes, Heating and Cooling Grates, 1976
48. Circuit and Fail Coil Labels, undated
49. Inquiry, Plumbing Restoration, 1973
51. Drawings and Notes, Gutters and Platforms, 1978-1979
52. Drawings and Notes, Route 13 Tree Fence, 1974-1978

Box 3

1. Dimensions and Notes, Smokehouse and Woodshed, 1976
2. Photographs, 1900-1920s
3. Photographs, Before Restoration, 1973
5. Photographs, House and Property, 1974
7. Photographs, Keystones and Lintels, 1974, 1976
8. Photographs, Interior Restoration, 1976
10. Photographs, Restoration, 1977
12. Photographs, Exterior, Fall and Winter Seasons, 1994
13. Photographs, Aerial View, 1995
15. Post Cards, 1920s

Subseries B: Lankford Family

16. Family History, Littleton Family, undated
17. Family History, Marshall Family, undated
18. Family History, Pinckard Family, undated
19. Family History, Porter Family, undated
20. Poetry and Songs, Sallie Mills Porter, undated
21. Obituaries, 1880s
22. Copies, Probation of Will, Smith, Marshall and Caldwell Families, 1713-1814
23. Correspondence, From Polly Allen to her Mother and Father, 1800 January 30
24. Correspondence, From Mame to Dr. Catherine F. Lankford, 1919 October 21
25. Correspondence, From H. Fillmore Lankford to William H. Polk, 1908-1914
26. Correspondence and Receipts, H. Fillmore Lankford Services Rendered, 1899-1925
27. Ledger, Henry Smith Lankford Accounts Receivable and Payable, 1862
29. Ledger, H. Fillmore Lankford Accounts, 1899-1925
30. Ledger, H. Fillmore Lankford Accounts, 1910-1919

Box 4
1. Ledger, Henry Smith Lankford, Sundries to Stock/Cash, 1862 September – 1867 December
2. Ledger, Henry Smith Lankford, Accounts and Expenses, 1862 September – 1867 December

Box 5
Subseries C: Somerset County Ledgers
1. Ledger, Brig Peggy, 1766-1767

Box 6
1. Ledger, Teackle, Dennis and Teackle, Merchants, 1801

Box 7
1. Ledger, Marriage Licenses Issued, 1797-1831
2. Ledger, Accounts Received, 1803-1821
3. Ledger, Ledger, Accounts Paid for Goods and Services, 1812-1825
4. Receipts, Payment Received, 1812-1825
5. Ledger, Accounts received, 1881-1887

Box 8
1. Ledger, Merchandise Accounts, 1895-1897
2. Ledger, Knights of Pythias, Lodge No. 77, Meeting Minutes, 1898-1902
3. Ledger, Accounts and Goods Sold, 1898-1903
4. Ledger, E.O. Smith Accounts, 1900-1913

Box 9
1. Ledger, Index of Somerset County Individuals and Entities, circa 1900-1910
2. Ledger, Accounts for Goods Purchased, 1903-1904
3. Ledger, Debt Book, 1907-1912
4. Ledger, C.H. Weaver Accounts, 1911-1912

Series III: Almodington
5. History of Almodington, undated
6. Property Appraisal, 1992
7. Estimate, Real Estate Fair Market Value, 1992 January 20
11. Press Releases, 1994 July 28
14. Correspondence, From Norma Ainsworth to Mrs. Arcy Hall, 1983 November 30
16. Correspondence, From Marshal Fritz to Beatrice Epstein, 1993 October 25
17. Correspondence, From Freedom Ainsworth to Roy Beauchamp, 1991 June 20
18. Correspondence, From Freedom Ainsworth to Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1982 September 11
22. Newspaper Clippings, 1992 October
23. Work Completed, Restoration, 1972-1973
27. Feasibility Study, Restoration, 1992
28. Report, Dining Room Fireplace Restoration, 1980 July-August
29. Report, Main House and Site, 1993 October 20
30. Report, Restoration of Existing Structure, 1995 February 7
31. Report, Main House and Site, 1993 October 20
32. Report, From ALM Bricks and Mortar, 1995 January 22
33. Report, From Smith and Merrill Masonry, 1995 January – February
34. Report, Masonry Analysis, 1995 January – March
35. Blue Prints, Descriptive Plat, 1952 April 15
36. Blue Prints, Almodington, 1981 June 2
37. Blue Prints, Manor House, As-Is Plans 1981 June 2
38. Blue Prints, Manor House, As-Is Plans, Second Floor, 1981 June 4
39. Blue Prints, Main Stair Hall, Turnbuckles, 1981 July 5
40. Blue Prints, Pipe Chase and Steel Supports, 1981 July 23
41. Blue Prints, First Floor and Grounds, 1981 August 24
42. Blue Prints, Wall Outlets and Switch Locations, 1981 August 24
43. Blue Prints, Fan Coil Locations, 1981 September 23
44. Blue Prints, Hydronic Piping, 1981 September 27
45. Blue Prints, New 2nd Floor Path, 1982 July 18
47. Measurement Sheets, Electrical, 1981-1982

Box 10
2. Floor Plans, After Fire, undated
3. Print, Almodington, undated
11. Photographs, Snow Scape, undated
12. Negatives, Interior and Exterior, undated

Series IV: More And Case It
13. Bill of Sale, 1960 June 29
14. Chain of Ownership, Hollyhurst/More And Case It, circa 1967
16. Residential Sales Contract, Anderson Road, Princess Anne, Md., 1981 March 5
20. Correspondence, From James F. White, Williamsburg to Freedom Ainsworth, 1974 February 11
22. Blue Print, First Floor, 1956, 1967
23. Blue Prints, 1967
25. Line Drawings, Possible Plans, 1967 November 9
27. Map, Land Plot, 1958
29. Map, Highways to Property, 1965
30. Maps, Survey Plot of Goose Creek Farm, Princess Anne, Md., 1968 March 28
31. Old Home Prize Essay, More And Case It/Holly Hurst, Deke Sheller, 1960
32. Old Home Prize Essay, More And Case It, Tracy Moffatt, 1977
33. Newspaper Clippings, 1980
34. Photographs, 1964

Series V: Personal Papers
35. Correspondence, From The A.N. Marquis Publishing Company to Norma Ainsworth, 1956 November 21
36. Correspondence, From Freedom Ainsworth to Joel Posner MD, 1989 July 5
37. Instructions, Dog and House Care, 1980 October 31
38. Opinion, War as Economic, 1982 April 8
39. Newspaper, The United States Gazette, 1846 March 27
41. Ephemera, The Home Teacher: The Chautauqua Industrial Desk, 1913
42. Ephemera, Wharton: A Philadelphia Townhouse in the Country, undated
44. Ephemera, Junior Auxiliary Board of Peninsula General Hospital, 1949
45. Memory Book, Norma Ruedi Ainsworth, 1987
46. Photographs, Freedom and Norma Ainsworth, 1930s-1960s
47. Photographs, Ainsworth’s at Beckford, circa 1980-1982
48. Photographs, Wharton House, Mappsville, Va., 1973
49. Photographs, Michael Bourne’s House, Sudlersville, Md., 1973
50. Photographs, Corbett-Sharp House, Odessa, Del., 1976

Oversize Materials
Tube 11
1. Architectural Renderings, Beckford, 1974

Tube 12

Tube 13

Tube 14
1. Architectural Renderings and Blue Prints, More And Case It, 1967-1976
Library Materials