

# Williams-Taylor House History Papers 1791 – 2000 and undated

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## INTRODUCTION

**Title:** The Clinton Holloway Collection of Williams-Taylor House History Papers

**Collection Number:** 44

**Accession Number:** 001-2008

**Physical Description:** 1 box (14 folders, approx. 1/3 linear foot)

**Creator:** Clinton J. Holloway

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Provenance:** This material is photocopied from materials gathered by Clint Holloway before and during renovations to the Williams-Taylor House on Milligan's campus in 2001. The original materials were returned to Mr. Holloway in June of 2008.

**Access:** This collection is open for research.

**Processing Information:** Ginger Dillon processed the collection on February 6, 2008. Processing involved re-folding all of the materials and placing the slides and negatives into protective sleeves. A finding aid was written at this time. In June of 2008, at the request of the donor, all materials were photocopied for the Archives, issues of the *National Register Bulletin* were discarded, and the remaining originals returned to the donor.

## HISTORICAL NOTE

The exact construction date of the Taylor-Phillips House is lost to history, though it is certain that the land came into the possession of North Carolina Land Master Edmund Williams via a Revolutionary War land grant in 1782. The original structure is thought to have been a two-story, three-bay log house facing either north or south, surrounded by 230 acres of farmland. In 1867, one acre of this land adjacent to the Buffalo Creek Christian Church was donated by Joshua Williams for the purpose of erecting a brick building to house the Buffalo Male and Female Institute. Joshua Williams owned the house until 1938. His children were all educated at the Institute, which became Milligan College in 1881.

Five generations of Williams lived in the house. In addition, Colonel Wilson Gilvan Barker, president of Buffalo Male and Female Institute, lived there with his daughter and son-in-law, Nannie and George T. Williams, from 1900 until his death in 1905.

Congressman Alfred Alexander Taylor, a cousin to the Williams family and trustee of Milligan College, bought the house and approximately 16 acres of land in 1906. Taylor and his siblings, including his brother, Tennessee Governor Robert “Our Bob” Taylor, were all alumni of the Buffalo Institute and Milligan College. Taylor’s intention was to raise his family near Milligan and its preparatory department. In 1920, “Uncle Alf” successfully ran for Governor of Tennessee. He returned to the Taylor home-place in 1923.

In 1925 Milligan College acquired part of the Taylor property for the establishment of a better athletics program. College administrators and student clubs also met in the house. Upon Governor Taylor’s death in 1931, the home passed to his son, Robert Love “Little Bob” Taylor. At the time Robert was a prominent Johnson City, TN, lawyer. He would later become the senior U.S. District Judge and preside over several landmark cases, including the 1956 Clinton High School desegregation case.

Milligan College bought both the Taylor House and the surrounding 16.7 acres in 1989. The house was used by various members of the staff for several years, but began to show signs of disrepair. In 2001, Clarinda Phillips Jeanes, wife of Milligan President Donald Jeanes, and alumnus Clint Holloway announced plans to restore the Taylor House and list it among the Tennessee Historic Sites. The Taylor-Phillips House is now used as a hospitality home for campus guests and as a venue for the scholarship fundraising events of The Associated Ladies for Milligan.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection contains photocopies of the materials gathered and used by Clinton J. Holloway in the process of renovating the Williams-Taylor House in 2000 and 2001. In this process, the house itself and both the Taylor and Williams families were researched. The original materials included information from the Tennessee Historical Commission, photocopies of deeds and wills, newspaper and book articles, correspondence, photographs, negatives, and slides, as well as materials submitted to and printed by the National Register of Historic Places. No one date or decade constitutes enough material to be considered a “bulk date,” but the collection is composed of materials dating from 1791 through 2000. The collection is not divided into series.