



## Legacy Finding Aid for Manuscript and Photograph Collections

801 K Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001

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Finding aids are narrative guides to archival collections created by the repository to describe the contents of the material. They often provide much more detailed information than can be found in individual catalog records. Contents of finding aids often include short biographies or histories, processing notes, information about the size, scope, and material types included in the collection, guidance on how to navigate the collection, and an index to box and folder contents.

### What are Legacy Finding Aids?

The following document is a legacy finding aid – a guide which has not been updated recently. Information may be outdated, such as the Historical Society’s contact information or exact box numbers for contents’ location within the collection. Legacy finding aids are a product of their times; language and terms may not reflect the Historical Society’s commitment to culturally sensitive and anti-racist language. This guide is provided in “as is” condition for immediate use by the public. This file will be replaced with an updated version when available.

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## HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FINDING AID

**Title:** MS 56 Jesse Brown Papers, 1826-1839

**Processor:** Michelle A. Krowl

**Date:** April 2001

**Jesse Brown** (d. 1847) is best known as the proprietor of the Indian Queen Hotel, on the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. A native of Havre de Grace, Maryland, Brown assumed the management of the City Hotel (Gadsby's Tavern) in Alexandria, Virginia in 1817. He moved to Washington, D.C. in 1820, and reopened the Davis Hotel on 6<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania in 1821 as the Indian Queen Hotel. After Jesse Brown died in 1847, his sons Marshall and Tillotson Brown continued to run the establishment, which was renamed Brown's Marble Hotel in 1851, following extensive renovations to the building. The Browns sold the hotel in 1865, at which time it became the Metropolitan Hotel.

**Scope and Content:** The Jesse Brown Papers, 1826-1839 include deeds and mortgages which document the real estate transactions of Washington, D.C. hotel proprietor Jesse Brown, especially those relating to the property occupied by Brown's Indian Queen Hotel and other parcels near the hotel. This collection is arranged chronologically.

**Size:** 1 legal-size folder and 1 oversize folder

**Donor:** Unknown donor, 1983.056, 1986.015 (Pleasant Plains survey), 1986.076 (1829 deed),

**Restrictions:** None

**Related Materials:**

Brown's Hotel Registration Page, 1853, MS 33, Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

### Container List

**Folder 1:** Real estate documents, 1826-1839. Includes bond of conveyance for half of the Indian Queen Tavern from Richard Ross to Brown; release of mortgage between Thomas Cookendorffer and Brown with reference to a lease indenture between Daniel Carroll of Duddington and Brown; two deeds between Brown and Commissioners Thomas Corcoran, Nathan Luftborough, James Magruder, William Marbury, and Clement Smith on behalf of the heirs of William Crawford, for land which included the Indian Queen Tavern; deeds between William B. Todd and Brown, and Anna M. Thornton (Mrs. William Thornton) and Brown for property in Washington, D.C.; 1837 survey for Anthony Holmead by Lewis Carbery of "Pleasant Plains" property, sold to Jesse Brown by Philip Baltzell and William E. Mayhew in 1839. Contains photocopies of 1829 deed and "Pleasant Plains" survey; see Folder 2 for originals.

**Folder 2 (oversize):** Originals of 1829 deed and "Pleasant Plains" survey.