



Wormsloe Library, 2010.

Photograph by Drew Swanson

Wymberley J. De Renne hired African American workers to build a library on Wormsloe, completed in 1908. The impressive structure, modeled on classical Greek architecture and incorporating the latest in fireproof technology, housed the family's expansive collection of Georgia historical materials. Among the library's holdings were eyewitness accounts of Colonial Georgia, materials from and about the colony's Trustees, and a copy of the original Confederate Constitution. In 1938 the University of Georgia acquired the majority of the De Renne collection, which today forms the core of the university's Hargrett Special Collections Library.

Wymberley's library was part of a long family tradition of collecting and preserving Georgia's history. George Wymberley Jones compiled an impressive library of rare books and manuscripts during the antebellum era, much of which was destroyed in the Civil War. After the war, he worked to rebuild his collection, a labor that his son Wymberley expanded around the turn of the century. Today, the Barrow family continues to support Georgia scholarship, aiding projects as wide-ranging as the University of Georgia Press and the Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History.