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Finding aid for the Camera Shop photo album Collection 073

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Prepared by

Grand Rapids History Center

Grand Rapids Public Library

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Business Number: 616-988-5497

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URL: <https://www.grpl.org/history/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids History Center
Creator:	The Camera Shop (Grand Rapids, Mich.)
Title:	Camera Shop photo album
ID:	Collection 073
Date [inclusive]:	1915
Physical Description:	2.25 Linear Feet Two boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Camera Shop was formed in 1908 by Walter K. Schmidt (1865-1938) in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to provide photo supplies to the community. Schmidt, a pharmacist by training, used his knowledge of chemicals to run the Camera shop along side his drugstore until 1936. The photographs in this collection visually detail the commercial and industrial sector of the Grand Rapids economy in 1915. In addition, images of several substance abuse hospitals, business schools, colleges, public buildings and parks are included.

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Biographical / Historical

The Camera Shop was formed in 1908 by Walter K. Schmidt (1865-1938) to provide photo supplies to the community. Schmidt, a Grand Rapids native, graduated from the University of Michigan as a registered pharmacist. He operated a drug store in Grand Rapids under his name and developed a reputation as a chemist and chemical analyst. An amateur photographer, Schmidt combined his chemical knowledge with his hobby to operate the Camera Shop, in addition to his drug store. He retained ownership of the Camera Shop until 1936. At the time of original processing a Camera Shop still existed in Grand Rapids, serving the downtown area, but all of the known photographs which carry the Camera Shop markings come from the era of Schmidt's ownership.

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Scope and Contents

The photographs in the collection provide a view of the Grand Rapids, Michigan economic sector in 1915. The images include wholesalers, retailers, manufacturers and a variety of service agencies. Among the views included are furniture factories, florists, dry good merchants, show merchants, laundries, news publishers, moving and storage firms, restaurants, hotels, grocers, business schools, flour mills, public buildings and public parks.

The album appears to have been made by the Camera Shop on a subscription basis for firms whose photos are included in the album. The photos also detail several substance abuse hospitals, business schools, or colleges that flourished during the Progressive Era in Grand Rapids, as well as public buildings in the city and public parks. Other Camera Shop photos are found throughout the Grand Rapids Public Library archival collections, as they were collected for use, and then passed on by their original owners. The original negatives from the Camera Shop are owned by the Public Museum of Grand Rapids.

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Arrangement

Images do not appear to be listed in numerical order because of the manner in which they were numbered on the oversized mounts. In most cases, two images are described together, with one image number on one side of the mount, and the other image number mounted on the reserve.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids History Center

Grand Rapids Public Library
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
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URL: <https://www.grpl.org/history/>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Library purchase, accession number 00.000

Processing Information

Original state

It is believed that the mounting of this collection is not original to the 1915 version. The source of the mounting is unknown. The photos have been mounted on brown paper, measuring 11" high and 19" wide. Two images or more were often mounted on each side of the paper, for a total of up to 4 images per sheet. Underneath each image is a caption, mounted separately, and measuring about 2" x 8."

The large sheets were previously filed in folders that were not large enough to cover the piece, and not sturdy enough to support the piece. Due to the poor housing supports, and the constant handling of this popular collection, materials began tearing in the center, including the images in some cases.

Reformatting

When four items are on the sheet, two front and two back, the images have now been cut in the center, at the point where the paper was starting to tear anyway. Thus, two smaller sheets have been created from one. These sheets received additional trimming, to fit standard acid free folders.

Several oversized sheets could not be cut, without damaging the image, in the center of the mount. In this case, the items remain in the oversized state, but evidence of tearing at the center can be seen. Items should be handled with care.

All images have been placed in new acid free folders that cover the image. Also, oversized images have been placed in mylar plastic sleeves, to provide additional strength and protection during handling.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Collection 216, See pictorial "Grand Rapids, the World's Furniture Capital", [1925?] with images from the Camera Shop.

Public Museum of Grand Rapids. Camera Shop Collection.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Business Enterprises -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids Region
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- photographs

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances		
Grand Rapids Press Building, Fulton @ Sheldon SE	Box 1	Folder 1	Object 1a
The Boston Store, Trankla, Charles Company, 145-155 Monroe NW	Box 1	Folder 1	Object 2b
Patterson Institute, 416 Michigan NE	Box 1	Folder 2	Object 1b
Berkey Gay Company, 442-448 Monroe NW	Box 1	Folder 2	Object 2a
Freidman, M. Company, 126 Monroe NW	Box 1	Folder 3	Object 15a
National Candy Company, 36-44 Cherry SE	Box 1	Folder 3	Object 16b
Central Boiler Supply Company, 1130-1132 Monroe NW	Box 1	Folder 4	Object 15b
Burleson Burleson Hospital, 148-150 E. Fulton	Box 1	Folder 4	Object 16a
Herald Building, 8-13 E. Fulton	Box 1	Folder 5	Object 19a
U.S. Post Office (later Grand Rapids Art Museum), Ionia @ Pearl NW	Box 1	Folder 5	Object 20b
Michigan Trust Company, Ottawa @ Pearl NW	Box 1	Folder 6	Object 19b
Cody Hotel Cafeteria, 10 W. Fulton	Box 1	Folder 6	Object 20a
Camera Shop, 16 Monroe NW	Box 1	Folder 7	Object 23a
Crabb Hunter Floral Company, 114 E. Fulton	Box 1	Folder 7	Object 24b
Monument Park, Fulton @ Division NE	Box 1	Folder 8	Object 23b
Builders Traders Exchange, 35-36 Pearl NE	Box 1	Folder 8	Object 24a
Bishop Furniture Company, Louis @ Ionia NW	Box 1	Folder 9	Object 25a
Otto Bros., American Laundry, 634-645 S. Division Ave	Box 1	Folder 9	Object 26b

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Economy Dye House, 150 E. Fulton	Box 1	Folder 10	Object 25b
Rice Veneer Lumber Company, 51-55 Campau NW	Box 1	Folder 10	Object 26a
Churchill Business Institute, 9-11 Ionia NW	Box 1	Folder 11	Object 31a
Hermitage Hotel, Michigan @ Monroe NW	Box 1	Folder 11	Object 32b
Blake Steam Bakery, 433 S. Division	Box 1	Folder 12	Object 31b
Johnson, C.J. Cigar Company, 421-433 Ottawa NW	Box 1	Folder 12	Object 32a
Grand Rapids Trunk Company, 126-128 S. Division	Box 1	Folder 13	Object 33a
Elk's Temple, 220 Ottawa NW	Box 1	Folder 13	Object 34b
Keeley Institute, 733-735 Ottawa NW	Box 1	Folder 14	Object 33b
Security Storage Transfer, 47-49 Market SW	Box 1	Folder 14	Object 34a
Neal Institute, 71 Sheldon SE	Box 1	Folder 15	Object 35a
Grand Rapids Brewing Company, Michigan @ Ottawa	Box 1	Folder 15	Object 36b
Excelsior Wrapper Company, Godfrey @ Hall SW	Box 1	Folder 16	Object 35b
Valley City Milling Company, 217-221 Michigan NW	Box 1	Folder 16	Object 36a
Voight Milling Company, Pearl @ river NW	Box 1	Folder 17	Object 37a
Grand Rapids Association of Commerce, 35-37 Pearl NW	Box 1	Folder 17	Object 38b
Grand Rapids Gas Light Company, Ottawa @ Pearl NW	Box 1	Folder 18	Object 37b
Fourth National Bank, Pearl @ Monroe NW	Box 1	Folder 18	Object 38a
Young Chaffee Furniture Company, 122-128 Ottawa NW	Box 1	Folder 19	Object 39a
Worden Grocery Company, Island @ Ottawa NW	Box 1	Folder 19	Object 40b
Keller Transfer Line, 3 Ionia SW	Box 1	Folder 20	Object 39b
Charlevoix Hotel, Monroe @ Michigan NW	Box 1	Folder 20	Object 40a
Ringe, Kalmbach, Logie Company, 10-22 Ionia NW	Box 1	Folder 21	Object 43a
Rudell Creamery, 45 S. Division	Box 1	Folder 21	Object 44b
Eifert Trunk Leather Goods, 247 Monroe NW	Box 1	Folder 22	Object 43b
Grand Rapids Shoe Rubber Company, 27-29 Ionia SW	Box 1	Folder 22	Object 44a
Michigan Hearse Carriage Company, Union @ railroad tracks SE	Box 1	Folder 23	Object 45a
City Hall, Lyon @ Ottawa NW	Box 1	Folder 23	Object 46b
Alfred Hannah Florist	Box 1	Folder 24	Object 45b
Grand Rapids Public Library, Ryerson Building, 60 Library Plaza NE	Box 1	Folder 24	Object 46a

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Grand Rapids Grain Milling Company, Scribner @ railroad tracks NW	Box 1	Folder 25	Object 47a
Heystek and Canfield Company, 61-63 Commerce SW; 96 Monroe NW	Box 1	Folder 25	Object 48b
Pierce, H.R. (ice cream), 344 Sheldon SE	Box 1	Folder 26	Object 47b
Widdicomb Furniture Company, Dewey @ 4th, 5th, 6th, NW	Box 1	Folder 26	Object 48a
Miller Taxi and Transfer Company, 236-238 Ottawa NW	Box 1	Folder 27	Object 48a
Golden Boter Transfer Company, 25-27 Market NW	Box 1	Folder 27	Object 50b
Reliable Dye House, 133 Michigan NW	Box 1	Folder 28	Object 49b
Grand Rapids News, Ottawa @ Lyon NW	Box 1	Folder 28	Object 50a
Grand Rapids Tailoring Company, 137 Pearl NW	Box 1	Folder 29	Object 51a
City Bakery, Oakes @ Commerce SW	Box 1	Folder 29	Object 52b
Perkins Company, 562 Front NW	Box 1	Folder 30	Object 51b
Van Wyck School of Shorthand, 42-54 N. Division	Box 1	Folder 30	Object 52a
Sligh Furniture Company, Buchanan @ Prescott SW	Box 1	Folder 31	Object 55a
Lilly Breas, 118 Pearl NW	Box 1	Folder 31	Object 56b
Bismark Cafe, 36 Ionia NE	Box 1	Folder 32	Object 55b
Perfection Mills of Watson-Higgins Milling Company, 506-516 2nd NW	Box 1	Folder 32	Object 56a
Dodds, Alexander Company, 451 Monroe NW	Box 1	Folder 33	Object 57a
C.J. Johnson Cigar Company, 342 Monroe NW; 67 Monroe NW	Box 1	Folder 33	Object 58b
Harris Sample Furniture Company, 107-113 S. Division	Box 1	Folder 34	Object 57b
Jesiek Boat Company, 79-91 Market SW	Box 1	Folder 34	Object 58a
Litscher, Electric Company, 41-43 Market SW	Box 1	Folder 35	Object 59a
Furniture City Brewing Company, Ionia @ Wealthy SW	Box 1	Folder 35	Object 60b
Petersen Brewing Company, 838 Bridge NW	Box 1	Folder 36	Object 59b
<u>Processing Information:</u>			
Processing Information			
Copy photo added 4/1999			
Citizens Telephone Company, 246-252 Louis NW	Box 1	Folder 36	Object 60a
Hazeltine Perkins Drug Company, Commerce @ Oakes SW	Box 1	Folder 37	Object 61a
Grand Rapids-Holland Chicago Railway Company, Lyon at the river NW	Box 1	Folder 37	Object 62b

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Letellier Company, 540 Monroe NW	Box 1	Folder 38	Object 61b
McGough Company, 301 S. Division	Box 1	Folder 38	Object 62a
Smith, Ira Company, 41-43 Monroe NW	Box 1	Folder 39	Object 65a
Globe Knitting Works, 315 Commerce SW	Box 1	Folder 39	Object 66b
Roseberry-Henry Electric Company, 41 Pearl NW	Box 1	Folder 40	Object 65b
Reynolds Asphalt Shingle Company, 640 Grant SW	Box 1	Folder 40	Object 66a
Corl, Knott Company, Ltd., Commerce @ Island SW	Box 1	Folder 41	Object 67a
Pantlind Hotel, Monroe @ Pearl NW	Box 1	Folder 41	Object 68b
Stickley Brothers Company, 837-861 Godfrey SW	Box 1	Folder 42	Object 67b
Kindel Bed Company, Garden @ Jefferson SW	Box 1	Folder 42	Object 68a
Anheuser-Busch Company, Oakes @ Ellsworth SW	Box 1	Folder 43	Object 69a
Veit Manufacturing Company, 60-62 Coldbrook NW	Box 1	Folder 43	Object 70b
Grand Rapids-Muskegon Company, 124 Monroe NW	Box 1	Folder 44	Object 69b
Toledo Plate and Window Glass Company, 19-21 Ottawa SW	Box 1	Folder 44	Object 70a
City Trust and Savings Bank, Pearl @ Monroe NW	Box 1	Folder 45	Object 71a
Grand Rapids Fancy Furniture Company, Hall @ Stell SW	Box 1	Folder 45	Object 72b
Covell-Hensen Company, 101-111 Garden SE	Box 1	Folder 46	Object 71b
Alabastine Company, Grandville Ave. @ G.R. I. railroad tracks	Box 1	Folder 46	Object 72a
Druke-Lynch Company, 13-15 Ionia SW	Box 2	Folder 1	Object 3a
General			
Multiple images			
John C. Noel Company, 235 S. Division	Box 2	Folder 1	Object 3b
General			
multiple images			
Baxter Laundry, 747-769 Fountain NE	Box 2	Folder 1	Object 4
General			
Delivery wagons, panorama			
Winegar Furniture Company, 201-207 S. Division	Box 2	Folder 2	Object 5
Michigan Bell Company, Ionia @ Fulton NW	Box 2	Folder 2	Object 6a
Arthur J. Plumb Grocery, 138-140 E. Fulton	Box 2	Folder 2	Object 6b
Veterans Park, Fulton @ Sheldon NE			

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General	Box 2	Folder 3	Object 7a
Including YMCA and Ryerson Library Building			
John D. Raab Chair Company, Monroe @ Mason NW	Box 2	Folder 3	Object 7b
Grand Rapids Public Museum (Kent Scientific Institute), 54 Jefferson SE @ Washington	Box 2	Folder 3	Object 8a
John Ball Park Grotto	Box 2	Folder 3	Object 8b
D.A. Blodgett Home for Children, 920 Cherry SE	Box 2	Folder 3	Object 8c
Veterans Park, Fulton @ Sheldon NE	Box 2	Folder 3	Object 8
Grand Rapids Chair Company, 1661 Monroe NW	Box 2	Folder 4	Object 9
People Savings Bank (Interior), Monroe @ Ionia NW	Box 2	Folder 4	Object 10a
Hauser-Owens-Ames Company, 42 Pearl, NW. Multiple views, including: Am. Lady Corset Factory / Albert Kahn, architect, Hauser contractors; Peninsular Club; Kalamazoo High School; Unidentified building	Box 2	Folder 4	Object 10b
Cody Hotel, 1-11 S. Division.	Box 2	Folder 5	Object 11a
Paul Steketee Sons interior, 90-94 Monroe NW	Box 2	Folder 5	Object 11b
Herkner Jewelry Co. interior	Box 2	Folder 5	Object 12a
Herkner Jewelry Co. exterior, 114 Monroe Ave. or 121 Ottawa Ave.	Box 2	Folder 5	Object 12b
Herpolsheimer Company, Monroe @ Ottawa NW	Box 2	Folder 6	Object 13
General			
Multiple image views, including exterior rendering and interior photos			
Marietta-Stanley Company, 4th @ Turner NW	Box 2	Folder 6	Object 14a
Coye, Charles A., Inc., Campau @ Louis NW	Box 2	Folder 6	Object 14b
Luce Furniture Company, 755-757 Godfrey SW	Box 2	Folder 7	Object 17
Hirth-Krause Company, 16-18 Ionia SW	Box 2	Folder 7	Object 18a
General			
Multiple views, including factories and store			
Terrell's Equipment Company, Hall @ Hilton SW	Box 2	Folder 7	Object 18b
Jennings Perfumery Company, 25-26 Campau NW	Box 2	Folder 8	Object 21a

General

Multiple views, including Dorothy Vernon Perfume advertising display

Camera Shop interior, 16 Monroe NW	Box 2	Folder 8	Object 21b
Macey Company, 1516-1544 S. Division. Drawing, Robinson	Box 2	Folder 8	Object 22
Michigan Chair Co., Godfrey @ Franklin SW	Box 2	Folder 9	Object 27
Monroe Center View NW from Division	Box 2	Folder 9	Object 28a
Western Michigan Cadillac Company, birdseye view, 19-25 Lagrave SE	Box 2	Folder 9	Object 28b
Kent County Courthouse, Crescent @ Ionia NW	Box 2	Folder 10	Object 29a
Grand Rapids Advertising Company, 15 Market NW. American Laundry electric light sign	Box 2	Folder 10	Object 29b
Bissell Carpet Sweeper Company, 210-218 Erie NW [Composite view]	Box 2	Folder 10	Object 30
A.F. Burch Co., 217-219 S. Division	Box 2	Folder 11	Object 41a

General

Multi-mage view

Niagara Café interior, 11 S. Division	Box 2	Folder 11	Object 41b
Leitelt Iron Works, Erie @ Mill NW. Drawing, Detroit : Meinzing Studio	Box 2	Folder 11	Object 42
George Mathews, Jewell Furnaces, 408 S. Division	Box 2	Folder 12	Object 53a
Court House Livery, 241 Bond NW	Box 2	Folder 12	Object 53b

General

Building has C.L. Ives, 1874, with addresses 65 67 of unknown street

Imperial Furniture Company, 1640 Broadway NW	Box 2	Folder 12	Object 54
Mills Paper Company, 704-706 Ellsworth SW	Box 2	Folder 13	Object 63a
Rademacher-Dooge Groceries, 30-32 Ellsworth SW	Box 2	Folder 13	Object 63b
Proudfit Loose Leaf Company, 12-16 Prescott SW	Box 2	Folder 13	Object 64
Henry Smith Florist, Monroe @ Division	Box 2	Folder 14	Object 73
W.L. Cukerski, Greenhouse, Fulton @ Valley NW	Box 2	Folder 14	Object 74a
Offringa Blok, wallpaper paints, 1005 Grandville SW	Box 2	Folder 14	Object 74b