

# **Finding Aid for the Laura Lorensen photographs Collection 093**

**Finding aid prepared by Richard H. Harms**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department  
December 1988  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Creator - Photographer</b>	Lorensen, Laura, 1889-1971
<b>Title</b>	Laura Lorensen photographs
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1955-1961
<b>Extent</b>	2.2 Linear feet Five boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The Laura Lorensen photographs contains images which primarily document architecture and buildings in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Included are 464 photographs and 8 photo postcards depicting views of various houses, churches, businesses and public buildings. Most of the images are black and white snapshots, but occasional color images are found. The images were taken in the late 1950s, but most of the houses date to the construction period of 1850-1920 and represent examples of various styles current during that period.</p>

## Biographical/Historical note

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Laura Lorenson (1889-1971), a Lakeview, Michigan native, came to Grand Rapids in 1943 following a successful career in glass and pottery and ceramics. At different times in her life, she was associated with the Wedgewood Pottery Works and the Spode China Company, both in England. In 1943 she came to Grand Rapids to help build a pottery display for the Grand Rapids Public Museum. She remained with the Museum for eleven years, creating displays on a variety of topics, and retired in 1954. During the five years after her retirement she took, and collected, photographs of some of the architecturally more notable houses in the city.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The collection contains: 464 photographs, 8 postcards, 380 negatives matched to the photographic prints, 33 negatives of known locations, and 8 negatives of unknown locations. These depict various houses, churches, businesses and public buildings in Grand Rapids, Mich. The images were taken in the late 1950s, but most of the houses date to the period 1850-1920 and represent examples of various styles current during that period. Architectural styles evident are: Gothic, Greek Revival, Victorian Gothic, Italianate, Late Victorian (Queen Anne), Shingle, Prairie, Period Revival and Bungalow. Also included are the two Frank Lloyd Wright inspired houses in the city (they are the Meyer May House designed by Wright and Amberg, designed by Wright's student Mary Mahoney).

In addition to houses, Lorenson also photographed businesses and public buildings in the city. Her views of the Union Station are among the best in the Library's collections to date, particularly the views of the building's details. Lorenson also took a number of photos of Ramona Park during the winter of 1955-56, just prior to the park's demolition.

The reverse of the photos contains information on the structure's history as well as the residents in 1912. Of the 464 photos, 380 have matched negatives on safety film. An additional 33 negatives are identified by location, but have no positive prints. Eight negatives are not identified as to location. All the matched negatives are numbered sequentially and the number is preceded with an "L" for Lorenson to distinguish these negatives from those in other collections. The photo's arrangement remains as it was when the accession was received. The negatives were sleeved by street name and have been re-sleeved into individual envelopes.

The house photos (which is the bulk of the collection) are arranged alphabetically by street, and numerically within each folder. Negatives matched to prints are filed in numeric order, negatives without prints are filed alphabetically by street name and numerically within the street divisions.

## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department December 1988

### Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Laura Lorenson, March 1968, accession number 1987.020

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## Related Materials

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### Related Archival Materials note

Coll. 078, GRPL Postcard Collection, contains duplicates or additional postcard images of the Grand Rapids area.

Coll. 254, GRPL Buildings Collection.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Genre(s)

- photographs

### Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- Photographs

### Subject(s)

- Architecture -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
  - Buildings -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- Photographs
- 

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## Series I. Photographs

## Collection Inventory

## Series I. Photographs

## Scope and Contents note

This series contains the positive photographic prints, with the addition of photo postcards in some cases. The images are arranged alphabetically by street name, and then chronologically by street number. Streets with names that are numbers are given at the beginning.

A few subject categories, such as building types, out of town views, or specific areas such as “Ramona Park” are given at the end, after the street arrangement.

## 3rd Street

	Box	Folder
340 3rd Street. Apr. 1959	1	1

## 28th Street

	Box	Folder
601 28th Street. Rogers Home	1	2
850 28th Street. Owned by Abram J. Longstreth since 1885; his death, 1/15/1959.	1	2

## Barclay Avenue

**Boltwood Drive NE**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
55 Barclay Avenue. Nov. 1955. Henry T. Heald and Lester T. Rindge in 1912	1	3

220 Barclay Avenue	1	3
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224 Barclay Avenue. May 1955. Theo. C. Putnam in 1912.	1	3
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**Boltwood Drive NE**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
167 Boltwood Drive NE Aug. 1958	1	4

215 Boltwood Drive NE Aug. 1958	1	4
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**Bonnell Avenue**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
2747 Bonnell Avenue Dr. Noyes L. Avery, Jr.	1	5

**Breton Road**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1101 Breton Road Aug. 1958. Partly old farmhouse	1	6

**Broadway Avenue**

**Burton Street**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
433 Broadway Avenue Aug. 1959	1	7
<b>Burton Street</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
247 Burton Street Apr. 1955. Edward Feakins built in 1832-1834. (2)	1	8
<b>Butterworth</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
706 Butterworth St. SW Jan. 1955 and Dec. 1958. Octagon House. Built in late 1840's by William Peaselee.	1	9
<b>Cherry St. (24)</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
220 Cherry Street Aug. 1958. R.L. Richmond, 1912	1	10
230 Cherry Street Aug. 1959. Formerly D.A. Blodgett Home.	1	10
255 Cherry Street SE May 1955. Probably built by Dr. Schurtz before 1900.	1	10
200 Block Cherry St., below Lafayette. May 1956	1	10
350 Cherry Street	1	10

## Coit Avenue

356 Cherry Street	1	10
415 Cherry St. May 1956. Built by Joseph H. Wonderly, ca. 1880	1	10
427 Cherry Street Probably built by Henry Spring	1	10
434 Cherry St. SE Apr. 1955. Built 1858 by Gilbert Brothers, sold to Morris in 1865.	1	10
445 Cherry St. SE. Built by Damon Hatch in 1844-1845.	1	10
455 Cherry Street Apr. 1955 and Unknown. "The Castle". Built in 1889 and original residence of E. Crofton Fox and Chas. Fox.	1	10
540 Cherry St. Apr. 1955 and unknown. Built by Samuel Sanford, 1847.	1	10
547 Cherry Street. Site of Oakwood Manor	1	10
600 Cherry St.	1	10
601 Cherry St. SE. Probably built 1900, Thos. Friant in 1912	1	10
617 Cherry St. SE Apr. 1955 and unknown. Built in 1890 by Lowe	1	10
<b>Coit Avenue</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>

## Coldbrook Street

448 Coit Avenue Apg. 1955. Built about 1895 by Arthur Rush, an architect	1	11
<b>Coldbrook Street</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
10 Coldbrook Street	1	12
<b>North College Ave. (4 total)</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
154 College Avenue – North (1)	1	13
440 College Avenue – North (2)	1	13
no address, College Ave. - North (1)	1	13
<b>South College Ave. (24 total)</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1 College Avenue – South (2)	1	14
15 College Avenue – South (3)	1	14
33 College Avenue – South (1)	1	14
36-44 College Avenue – South (3)	1	14



**Congress Avenue**

45 College Avenue – South (2)	1	14
50 College Avenue – south (2)	1	14
64 College Avenue – South (1)	1	14
103 College Avenue – South (1)	1	14
112 College Avenue – South (2)	1	14
115 College Avenue – South (1)	1	14
125 College Avenue – South (2)	1	14
134 College Avenue – South (1)	1	14
300 College Avenue – South (1)	1	14
505 College Avenue – South (2)	1	14
<b>Congress Avenue</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
107 Congress Avenue (1)	1	15
<b>Crescent Street</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>

**Division Avenue**

302 Crescent Street (2)	1	16
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457 Crescent Street (1)	1	16
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**Division Avenue**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
123 Division Avenue, (1)	1	17

Ringuette House, Division Avenue (1)	1	17
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**East Paris Avenue**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
3180 East Paris Avenue. Octagon House (2)	1	18

**Eastern Avenue**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
220 Eastern Avenue (1)	1	19

330 Eastern Avenue (2)	1	19
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822 Eastern Avenue (2)	1	19
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2055 Eastern Avenue (3)	1	19
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## Fitzhugh Avenue

<b>Fitzhugh Avenue</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
117 Fitzhugh Avenue (1)	1	20
<b>Fountain Street (19)</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
112 Fountain Street (2)	1	21
145 Fountain Street (1)	1	21
165 Fountain Street (1)	1	21
230 Fountain Street (1)	1	21
241 Fountain Street (1)	1	21
301 Fountain Street (1)	1	21
322 Fountain Street (1)	1	21
323 Fountain Street (1)	1	21
330 Fountain Street (2)	1	21
333 Fountain Street (1)	1	21

## Front (17)

404 Fountain Street (2)	1	21
422 Fountain Street (1)	1	21
432 Fountain Street (2)	1	21
465 Fountain Street (1)	1	21
535 Fountain Street (1)	1	21
<b>Front (17)</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
537 Front Street (3)	1	22
611 Front Street (3)	1	22
641 Front Street (3)	1	22
671 Front Street (2)	1	22
731 Front Street (3)	1	22
923 Front Street (2)	1	22
1100 Front Street (1)	1	22

## Fruit Ridge Avenue

<b>Fruit Ridge Avenue</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
4481 Fruit Ridge Avenue (3)	1	23
<b>Fulton Street</b>		
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
*Dikeman House listed as 300 in later references, See GR Press, Oct. 8, 1970, 5-D.		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
119 Fulton Street	1	24
222 Fulton Street	1	24
230 Fulton Street	1	24
254 Fulton Street	1	24
302?* 302 Fulton Street	1	24
303 Fulton Street	1	24
317 Fulton Street	1	24
320 Fulton Street	1	24

**Fulton Street**

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325 Fulton Street	1	24
326 Fulton Street	1	24
422 Fulton Street	1	24
427 Fulton Street	1	24
433 Fulton Street	1	24
439 Fulton Street	1	24
440 Fulton Street	1	24
448 Fulton Street	1	24
449 Fulton Street	1	24
458 Fulton Street	1	24
461 Fulton Street	1	24
638 Fulton Street	1	24
1234 Fulton Street	1	24
1425 Fulton Street	1	24

## Gay Avenue

<b>Gay Avenue</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
20 Gay Avenue	1	25
<b>Hall Street</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
220 Hall Street	1	26
<b>Hastings Street</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
7 Hastings Street, near Coit	1	27
<b>Ionia Avenue</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
114 Ionia Avenue	1	28
<b>Jefferson Avenue</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
40 Jefferson Avenue	1	29
55 Jefferson Avenue	1	29

## John Street

230 Jefferson Avenue	1	29
<b>John Street</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
221 John Street	1	30
<b>Lafayette Avenue - North</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
28 Lafayette Avenue – North	1	31
35 Lafayette Avenue – North	1	31
54 Lafayette Avenue – North	1	31
55 Lafayette Avenue – North	1	31
62 Lafayette Avenue – North	1	31
65 Lafayette Avenue – North	1	31
70 Lafayette Avenue – North	1	31
71 Lafayette Avenue = North	1	31
74 Lafayette Avenue – North	1	31



**Lafayette Avenue - South**

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111 Lafayette Avenue – North	1	31
151 Lafayette Avenue – North	1	31
217 Lafayette Avenue – North	1	31
223 Lafayette Avenue – North	1	31
247 Lafayette Avenue – North	1	31

**Lafayette Avenue - South**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
25 Lafayette Avenue – South	1	32
28 Lafayette Avenue – South	1	32
33 Lafayette Avenue – South	1	32
38 Lafayette Avenue – South	1	32
46 Lafayette Avenue – South	1	32
57 Lafayette Avenue – South	1	32

**LaGrave Avenue**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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## Lake Drive

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98 LaGrave Avenue	1	33
137 LaGrave Avenue	1	33
206 LaGrave Avenue	1	33
<b>Lake Drive</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
852 Lake Drive	1	34
1033 Lake Drive	1	34
1152 Lake Drive(garage)	1	34
2006 Lake Drive	1	34
2025 Lake Drive, corner Carlton	1	34
2175 Lake Drive	1	34
2801 Lake Drive	1	34
<b>Lake Michigan Drive</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
418 Lake Michigan Drive	1	35

**Leonard Street**

2120 Lake Michigan Drive	1	35
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2124 Lake Michigan Drive	1	35
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2514 Lake Michigan Drive	1	35
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2645 Lake Michigan Drive	1	35
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**Leonard Street**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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4301 Leonard Street	1	36
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4351 Leonard Street, house in Lamont, MI	1	36
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**Livingston Avenue**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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408 Livingston Avenue	1	37
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**Lyon Street**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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128 Lyon Street	1	38
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201 Lyon Street	1	38
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## Madison Avenue

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212 Lyon Street	1	38
324 Lyon Street	1	38
440 Lyon Street	1	38
<b>Madison Avenue</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
100 Madison Avenue	1	39
121 Madison Avenue	1	39
326 Madison Avenue	1	39
450 Madison Avenue	1	39
455 Madison Avenue	1	39
515 Madison Avenue	1	39
538 Madison Avenue	1	39
620 Madison Avenue	1	39
630 Madison Avenue	1	39

## Michigan Street

<b>Michigan Street</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
111 Michigan Street	1	40
<b>Morris Avenue</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
316 Morris Avenue	1	41
342 Morris Avenue	1	41
<b>Ottawa Avenue</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
444 Ottawa Avenue	1	42
<b>Paris Avenue</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
312 Paris Avenue	1	43
338 Paris Avenue	1	43
<b>Plainfield Avenue</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>

## Plymouth Avenue

1330 Plainfield Avenue	1	44
<b>Plymouth Avenue</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
250 Plymouth Avenue	1	45
350 Plymouth Avenue	1	45
601 Plymouth Avenue	1	45
750 Plymouth Avenue	1	45
<b>Portsmouth Place</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
36 Portsmouth Place	1	46
48 Portsmouth Place	1	46
<b>Prospect Avenue - North</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
28 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47
29 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47

Prospect Avenue - North

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37 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47
40 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47
41 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47
50 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47
55 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47
64 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47
119 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47
126 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47
134 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47
135 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47
142 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47
152 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47
158 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47
168 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47

**Prospect Avenue - South**

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236 Prospect Avenue – North	1	47
<b>Prospect Avenue - South</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
18 Prospect Avenue - South	1	48
37 Prospect Avenue - South	1	48
<b>Ransom Avenue</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
206 Ransom Avenue	1	49
216 Ransom Avenue	1	49
234 Ransom Avenue	1	49
<b>Robinson Road</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1720 Robinson Road	1	50
1869 Robinson Road	1	50
<b>Scribner Avenue</b>		



**Sheldon Avenue**

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	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
517 Scribner Avenue	1	51
518 Scribner Avenue	1	51
529 Scribner Avenue	1	51
538 Scribner Avenue	1	51
554 Scribner Avenue	1	51
643 Scribner Avenue	1	51
657 Scribner Avenue	1	51
669 Scribner Avenue	1	51
758 Scribner Avenue	1	51
<b>Sheldon Avenue</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
59 Sheldon Avenue	1	52
131 Sheldon Avenue	1	52
228 Sheldon Avenue	1	52

**State Street**

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333 Sheldon Avenue	1	52
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**State Street**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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216 State Street	1	53
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222 State Street	1	53
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**Summer Avenue**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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226 Summer Avenue	1	54
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**Turner Avenue**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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655 Turner Avenue	1	55
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710 Turner Avenue	1	55
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711 Turner Avenue	1	55
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831 Turner Avenue	1	55
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1129 Turner Avenue	1	55
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## Union Avenue

<b>Union Avenue</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
21 Union Avenue	1	56
26 Union Avenue	1	56
28 Union Avenue	1	56
32 Union Avenue	1	56
<b>Washington Street</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
317 Washington Street	1	57
345 Washington Street	1	57
400 Washington Street	1	57
405 Washington Street	1	57
414 Washington Street	1	57
416 Washington Street	1	57
417 Washington Street	1	57

**Wealthy Street**

439 Washington Street	1	57
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**Wealthy Street**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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549 Wealthy Street	1	58
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2006 Wealthy Street	1	58
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**Bridges**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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Dean Memorial (Fulton Street) Bridge	1	59
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Bradfield Covered Bridge	1	59
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Fallasburg Bridge	1	59
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White's Covered Bridge	1	59
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**Businesses (9 photos, 2 postcards, 1 graphic clipping)**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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Bissell Carpet Sweeper Company	1	60
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Cody Hotel	1	60
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## Churches

Doll House	1	60
Monarch Company	1	60
Pantlind Hotel	1	60
Saloon	1	60
Voigt Mill	1	60
<b>Churches</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Central Seventh Day Adventist	1	61
Church of God	1	61
First Methodist-Epicopal	1	61
Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed	1	61
Ebenezer Christian Reformed	1	61
Fourth Reformed	1	61
First Presbyterian	1	61

## Churches

Fountain Street Baptist	1	61
Greek Orthodox	1	61
Immanuel Lutheran	1	61
LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed	1	61
First Christian Reformed	1	61
Park Congregational	1	61
Second Avenue Methodist	1	61
Second Church of Christ, Scientist	1	61
Second Congregational	1	61
St. Mark's Episcopal	1	61
St. Paul's Episcopal	1	61
Scribner Avenue Baptist	1	61
Trinity Lutheran	1	61
Unity Lutheran	1	61

## Public buildings

Wesleyan Methodist	1	61
<b>Public buildings</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Grand Rapids City Hall	1	62
Kent County Jail, 1871	1	62
Kent County Courthouse	1	62
Michigan Veterans Facility	1	62
Police Headquarters	1	62
St. Cecelia	1	62
Railroad Stations	1	62
Grand Rapids & Indiana RR Office	1	62
Grand Trunk Railroad Station	1	62
Union Station	1	62
<b>Ramona Park</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>

**Miscellaneous**

Roller Coaster	1	63
Skating Club	1	63
Ramona (boat)	1	63
Pavilion	1	63
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Maynard Avenue Log Cabin (Memorial Pioneer Cabin)	1	64
Bostwick Avenue Elms	1	64
Jenison Mills	1	64
Lansing Historical Museum	1	64
<b>Out of Town - Churches</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Ann Arbor, MI - St. Patrick's Roman Catholic	1	65
Hesperia, MI - Presbyterian	1	65
Muir, MI - Church of Christ	1	65



## Out of Town - Miscellaneous

Saugatuck, MI - All Saints Episcopal	1	65
Three Rivers, MI – church	1	65
<b>Out of Town - Miscellaneous</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Chelsea, MI - Spaulding House	1	66
Holland, MI - house	1	66
Ionia County, MI - Kietzman House	1	66
Kalamazoo, MI - Chinese Chippendal House	1	66
Marshall, MI - Octagonal House	1	66
Sigonier, IN - Barn	1	66
Stanford, KY - Whitley House	1	66
Wayland, MI - Trepod House	1	66
Hyland House	1	66
2 houses, no data	1	66

**Series II. Negatives.**

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**Series II. Negatives.**

**Scope and Contents note**

The negatives are arranged by assigned negative number. To match the positive print to the negative, check the back of the photo for the negative number.

**General note**

Negatives without matching prints:

220 Cherry

455 Cherry

455 Cherry

80 College

132 N. Division

70 Fountain

332 Fountain

671 Front (2)

703 Front

731 Front

461 Fulton

28 Jefferson

852 Lake Drive, Michigan @ Livingston (2)

36 Portsmouth (3)

24 Ransom

1720 Robinson

## Series II. Negatives.

518 Scribner
669 Scribner (2)
711 Turner (3)
831 Turner
Union Station
Fallasburg Covered Bridge
White's Covered Bridge
Greek Revival style House (2)
Italianate style House
Period Revival style House (4)
Late Victorian style House (2)
Victorian Gothic style House

**Box**

Negatives L001-L100	2
Negatives L101-L200	3
Negatives L201-L300	4
Negatives L301-L380	5