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Finding aid for the City of Grand Rapids photograph collection at the Grand Rapids Public Library Collection 100

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

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URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator:	Grand Rapids (Mich.). Traffic Engineer's Department
Creator:	Grand Rapids (Mich.). Public Service Department
Title:	City of Grand Rapids photograph collection at the Grand Rapids Public Library
ID:	Collection 100
ID [Archivists Toolkit Database::RESOURCE]:	108
Date [inclusive]:	circa 1911-1971, n.d.
Physical Description:	1.5 Linear Feet Four boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	This collection includes photographs generated by two departments in the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Public Service Department photos document efforts by the city smoke inspector to record air pollution and public works projects in the city. The Traffic Engineer's Department photos document various street, traffic and grade separations in the city's street system. The images include the widening of South Division Avenue in the 1920s, views of expressways and aerial views from the 1960s and 1970s.

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Biographical / Historical

The City of Grand Rapids was organized in 1850, having been organized as a village in 1838. Through steady growth for approximately 100 years, the city has grown to cover 44 square miles.

No information on the history of the particular projects, or any other documents associated with the photo documentation projects is currently known.

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Scope and Contents

The photographs in this collection were generated by two departments in the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan, providing a unique record of various streetscapes in the city.

The Public Service Department photos document efforts by the city smoke inspector to record air pollution as well as several public works projects in the city, such as the widening of Division Avenue in the 1920s.

The Traffic Engineer's Department photos document bridges, grade separations and traffic lanes. The series has many views of expressways throughout the city as well as many aerial views of the city from the 1960s and 1970s. The series also contains many negatives for which there are no positive reproductions in the collection.

The content listings essentially document the 4x5 negatives, though there appears to be some duplication of the basic images in some of the other undescribed negatives.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

City of Grand Rapids, 1989. Unknown accession number.

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Controlled Access Headings

- photographs
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- Photographs
- Air quality management -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Public works -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

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Alger Street views: box 1, folder 9

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Alpine Avenue views: box 1, folder 10

Ann Street bridge: box 3, negatives

Ann Street views: box 1, folder 11

Automobile dealerships: box 1, folder 2: box 2, folder 10

Automobile service stations: box 1, folders 2, 6, 23, 25: box 2, folder 10

Bissell factory razing: box 1, folder 12

Blaine Avenue views: box 1, folder 13

Bridge Street views: box 1, folder 14

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Broadway Avenue bridge: box 3, negatives

Broadway Avenue views: box 1, folder 15

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Burton at Nelson views: box 3, negatives

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Burton Street views: box 1, folder 17
Century Avenue views: box 1, folder 18
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City County Building parking ramp: box 4, negatives
Clyde Park Avenue views: box 1, folder 20
College Avenue views: box 1, folder 21
Columbia Storage warehouse: box 2, folder 6
Creston parking lot: box 1, folder 22
Diamond Street views: box 1, folder 23
Dickinson at Linden views: box 3, negatives
Division Avenue views: box 1, folder 24
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Grandville Avenue views: box 2, folder 1

Hall at Giddings parking lot: box 3, negatives

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I-196: box 3, negatives

I-196 views: box 2, folder 5

I-96 views: box 2, folder 4

Interurban bridge parking: box 3, negatives

Ionia Avenue views: box 2, folder 6

John S. Noel building: box 1, folder 2

Kalamazoo Avenue views: box 2, folder 7

Kamstra Meat Market: box 1, folder 2

Kingma Brothers Produce Center: box 2, folder 7

Kirtland Street views: box 2, folder 8

Knapp Avenue views: box 2, folder 9

Lake Drive views: box 2, folder 10

Lake Michigan Drive views: box 2, folder 11

Leonard Street views: box 2, folder 12

Madison Square parking lot: box 2, folder 13

Market at Godfrey views: box 3, negatives

Market Street views: box 2, folder 14

Martin Auto Electric: box 1, folder 2

Monroe Avenue views: box 2, folder 15: box 3, negatives

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Norwood parking lot: box 3, negatives

Ottawa Avenue views: box 2, folder 17

Otilia Street views: box 2, folder 18

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Parking ramps: box 4, negatives

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Sixth Street views: box 2, folder 25

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Stocking Avenue views: box 2, folder 26

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US 131 aerials: box 4, Neg.

US 131 views: box 2, folder 28

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West River Drive views: box 2, folder 31: box 3, negatives

Woodland Mall: box 1, folder 7

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Collection Inventory

Series I. Public Service Department, ca.1911-1933.

City smoke inspection division, ca.1911 (7)

Title/Description	Instances	
Hardware Supply Company birdseye	Box 1	Folder 1
River front view, including iron foundry right, churches,	Box 1	Folder 1
Railroad yard	Box 1	Folder 1
Western Michigan Transfers and Storage Co., Grand Rapids Sticky Flypaper Co. area, and railways	Box 1	Folder 1
Railroad crossing near ? Schroeder Co.	Box 1	Folder 1
Young Chaffee Furniture Co., Voigt, Herpolsheimer and Co. rooftop view	Box 1	Folder 1
Unidentified factory	Box 1	Folder 1

Division Avenue widening and earlier, ca 1927 to 1933? (15)

Title/Description	Instances	
1. "600" F.F. Wood Motor Co., 201-211 Sheldon Ave. S.E.	Box 1	Folder 2
"604" Salant and Salant Shirts / Kent Awning and Tent Co.	Box 1	Folder 2
"628" Moline Cabinet Shop / 630 MARTIN autoelectric Service	Box 1	Folder 2
722 Division, Apartments / 726 Garage	Box 1	Folder 2
"742" 2 men facing camera near vacant lot. Hardware store at left. Autos.	Box 1	Folder 2
John Kamstra Meat Market, 822 Division Ave. S.	Box 1	Folder 2
St. Andrews (2xx-3xx Sheldon) Division St. view, ca. 1927	Box 1	Folder 2
John S. Noel, electrical supply, 112-117 Division.	Box 1	Folder 2
420 Division / 424 "The Lowes" L. Kleiman and Sons, Department Store.	Box 1	Folder 2
Red Crown Gasoline, 444 Division Kuennen Burkholder Co. sign.	Box 1	Folder 2
House, 500 block Division	Box 1	Folder 2

North from Sycamore St., Aug. 31, 1933 / Jos. Toro Billard Parlor, 645 Division / W.E. Praeger 635 / 634-646 Division.	Box 1	Folder 2
Looking north from Buckley St. Aug. 31, 1933 / White Front Market / Michigan Motors, 514-516 Division.	Box 1	Folder 2
North from Hall St., Aug. 31, 1933 / 1151 Division.	Box 1	Folder 2
Franklin Fuel, Franklin Avenue, bridge. ca.1935 (1)	Box 1	Folder 3
Grand River view. Public Service Dept., City Markets Division, City Wholesale Market Grounds at night. ca.1911 (1)	Box 1	Folder 4

Grand River flood wall construction, ca.1911 (5)

Title/Description	Instances	
Black indistinguishable view with smoke stacks and water tower center right	Box 1	Folder 5
Wall with excavation, telephone pole leaning right.	Box 1	Folder 5
Braces supporting wall, with 3 men at work. One man near center had measuring device on tripod	Box 1	Folder 5
Tunnel like wire construction	Box 1	Folder 5
Tunnel like wire construction with motor on top.	Box 1	Folder 5

Miscellaneous, 1936 (2)

Title/Description	Instances	
Two men standing on a field of white, with industrial landscape in background. Probably City wholesale market grounds, Market Ave.	Box 1	Folder 6
Dec. 4, 1936 Possibly WPA Road construction near Gulf Service Station.	Box 1	Folder 6

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Series II. Traffic Engineer's Department, 1948-1971, n.d.

28th Street, 1958#68 Street views / 28th and East Beltline views.

Title/Description	Instances	
New York Central overpass, possibly near Eastern or Division	Box 1	Folder 7
New York Central overpass with Muller's bakery in background	Box 1	Folder 7
New York Central overpass with sign for Kerr Building Parking, and billboards. Ca. 1958	Box 1	Folder 7
Shopping mall with Wurzburgs, lagoon (body of water) in background	Box 1	Folder 7

View South with mall at right and across the Beltline which crosses the photo left to right. Apartments currently behind Kohls in lower left corner.	Box 1	Folder 7
View East along 28th, with the Beltline crossing in the center of the photo left to right. Sears lower left, Wurzburg across the Beltline upper left.	Box 1	Folder 7
View North along Beltline with 28th St. crossing center of photo left to right. Wurzburg's center right.	Box 1	Folder 7
36th Street and Division, May 1970. View in middle of traffic at meridian. "Keep Right" sign. (1)	Box 1	Folder 8

Alger and Woodcliff Streets, 1971 (6) Winter scenes

Title/Description	Instances	
"#1" written in black marker, bottom center. View up street to curve right.	Box 1	Folder 9
"#3", road at curve right. "Keep Right" sign. "Open Bible Church" sign in field left.	Box 1	Folder 9
#5", Stop sign for 3-way stop. "all traffic must turn" [left or right] sign.	Box 1	Folder 9
"#7", Street view	Box 1	Folder 9
"#8", Street view with truck parked at end of road.	Box 1	Folder 9
"#9" View up hill with cars and houses left.	Box 1	Folder 9

Alpine Avenue, 1958 (2) Two views of intersection near Al's Trailer Mart and Alpine Auto Parts and railroad crossing

Title/Description	Instances	
Auto parts left. Alloys Corp. on building at right.	Box 1	Folder 10
Opposite direction view with Al's Trailer Mart at left, auto parts across street from Al's.	Box 1	Folder 10

Ann Street, 1970 and earlier (3)

Title/Description	Instances	
View down road to bridge. Dividing line down road.	Box 1	Folder 11
Detail from under bridge.	Box 1	Folder 11
View with sign "Pedestrians Keep Off"	Box 1	Folder 11

Bissell factory razing, 1959 (2)

Title/Description	Instances	
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Nov. 6, 1959. Image printed on diagonal. Shows 3 men, one climbing a ladder to the top of a smoke stack, with building at right, watertower on top.	Box 1	Folder 12
Bissell cleanup. Trucks and bull dozer in building demolition zone.	Box 1	Folder 12
"Blain" sic, Blaine Avenue, Dec. 1959 (1) Residential street view.	Box 1	Folder 13

Bridge Street, 1959 (2)

Title/Description	Instances	
Man hanging "Hill" street sign with light, while standing on a ladder extended from a truck.	Box 1	Folder 14
View with sign in operation. "Scott and Bridge Hill sign made by sign shop, 1959"--verso	Box 1	Folder 14

Broadway Avenue, c.1958,65 (2)

Title/Description	Instances	
1958 view with black marker annotations at bridge. Load limit sign at right. Railroad tracks left.	Box 1	Folder 15
196 at Broadway. 2 level overpass. Annotations in black marker across street at overpass.	Box 1	Folder 15

Buchanan Avenue at Hall St., 1948 (3)

Title/Description	Instances	
View South on Buchanan with truck next to pile of junk. Van crossing railroad tracks on Hall St.	Box 1	Folder 16
2. Same views with truck turning South on Buchanan from Hall. Verso notes on Abe ? being fined Dec. 15, 1948.	Box 1	Folder 16
3. View of railroad tracks from front of junk shop, with autos.	Box 1	Folder 16

Burton Street, 1958#59? Or later (7)

Title/Description	Instances	
View on Burton with annotations at bridge. Billboards, Standard and Mobil service stations.	Box 1	Folder 17
Nov. 1959, unidentified event? Men standing in middle of street. Autos on either side.	Box 1	Folder 17
Dec. 1, 1959. View down street at railroad crossing. Standard station left, and billboards.	Box 1	Folder 17
Burton Overpass, Dec. 1959. G.I. Body Shop? At right. Street light at intersection. (2 copies)	Box 1	Folder 17

Burton and Clyde Park, Nov. 1959. View down street. Mobil gasoline station at right. Cities Service station at left.	Box 1	Folder 17
Burton St. Bridge. Barricade on left side of street. Street sign near telephone pole at right.	Box 1	Folder 17
Relocation of Century Avenue, ca.1956 (1)	Box 1	Folder 18
Cherry Street at Lake Drive, near Diamond, ca. 1953 (1)	Box 1	Folder 19

Clyde Park Avenue, 1958 (2)

Title/Description	Instances	
View down street. Crossing street sign at left near telephone pole.	Box 1	Folder 20
View in opposite direction(?) with factory at left.	Box 1	Folder 20
"Accident, College Avenue and Croften, Feb. 22, 1960" Pillow Inc. at lower right.	Box 1	Folder 21

Creston parking lot, 1959 (5) b/w Snapshots

Title/Description	Instances	
D. and C. Stores, Inc.	Box 1	Folder 22
4 views of entrance, including 2 with a sign to left of entrance.	Box 1	Folder 22

Diamond Street, 1957#60 (4)

Title/Description	Instances	
S. of Fulton. Valley City Coat and Apron Van parked across side walk near Gulf station. Paul's Cut Rate diagonally across street.	Box 1	Folder 23
Diamond at Lyon, lane marking 1958.	Box 1	Folder 23
Diamond at Michigan. Texaco station and Zephyr station on diagonal corners.	Box 1	Folder 23
Diamond South of Michigan. Bell Telephone working in traffic land. View North toward intersection in 3. above.	Box 1	Folder 23

Division Avenue, 1957 (3)

Title/Description	Instances	
Division Ave. going under New York Central railroad overpass toward intersection at 28th St. Seagram sign, Drive-in theatre sign, etc.	Box 1	Folder 24
Blurry version of above.	Box 1	Folder 24
1957. Man in crosswalk with factory behind. Sale sign for Fletcher Realty Co. behind him left.	Box 1	Folder 24

"Eastern and Crary, Fruit Town, William Heeren July 8, 1958, C. Baker"	Box 1	Folder 25
Franklin St., Grandville to overpass, Dec. 1959 (1)	Box 1	Folder 26
[Front Street, ca. 1963] (1)	Box 1	Folder 27

Front Street parking lot, 1959 (3 b/w snapshots)

Title/Description	Instances	
Phil Osterhouse Dance Studio sign on building. Stryker Hardware. Parking lot in foreground, other buildings.	Box 1	Folder 28
View down parking lot to Crescent Flour sign on building in background	Box 1	Folder 28
View across the river to the Welsh Auditorium	Box 1	Folder 28

Fuller Ave. 1959 (2)

Title/Description	Instances	
Fuller Avenue with Lake cross street.	Box 1	Folder 29
GR Police Department. Identification Bureau photo. [Damaged]	Box 1	Folder 29
Fulton Street, with Front St. crossing in foreground, c.1963 (1)	Box 1	Folder 30

Godfrey Avenue, 1958 (2)

Title/Description	Instances	
West Michigan Lumber sign near bridge, with railroad tracks crossing in foreground	Box 1	Folder 31
Opposing view, Shows a portion of the lumber building at left.	Box 1	Folder 31

Grand Rapids views, Aerials. 1960s (28)

Title/Description	Instances	
View approaching city center from the South. City center is toward upper ¼ of image.	Box 1	Folder 32
View of city center, left, from the West.	Box 1	Folder 32
View of the Pantlind, Wurzburg's, and Bishops Furniture Co.	Box 1	Folder 32
View to East from River, with Welsh Auditorium at center, and Lyon St. into the horizon. Calder Plaza at center left in photo.	Box 1	Folder 32
View to East from river, with Monroe first cross street. Vandenberg/Calder Plaza, Union Bank Building, Immanuel Lutheran on the hill at Michigan.	Box 1	Folder 32
Near variant of above. Lighter, a bit fuzzy.	Box 1	Folder 32
Variant of above. Fuzzy.	Box 1	Folder 32

View of plaza from Monroe side, with Ottawa visible on the far (top) side. La Grande Vitesse in place	Box 1	Folder 32
Variant of above. Lighter and a bit fuzzy.	Box 1	Folder 32
View of Vandenberg Plaza / Calder Plaza from North to South, with Calder La Grande Vitesse in place.	Box 1	Folder 32
View South on Ottawa with Ionia at the left. Union Bank is the white building between, and the x bank is in construction. Lyon St. crosses in the background.	Box 1	Folder 32
Grand Rapids views, 1960s (51)	Box 1	Folder 33
Grandville Avenue, 1958, n.d.	Box 2	Folder 1
Hall Street, 1959,1961	Box 2	Folder 2
Helicopter, n.d.	Box 2	Folder 3
I#96, c.1963	Box 2	Folder 4
I#196, c.1963	Box 2	Folder 5
Ionia Avenue, c.1950	Box 2	Folder 6
Kalamazoo Avenue, 1959	Box 2	Folder 7
Kirtland Street, 1959	Box 2	Folder 8
Knapp Avenue, 1970	Box 2	Folder 9
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Lake Michigan Drive, 1959	Box 2	Folder 11
Leonard Street, 1958	Box 2	Folder 12
Madison Square parking lot, 1959, view of Lenger, Smitters, Laundry	Box 2	Folder 13
Market Street, c.1958#60	Box 2	Folder 14
Monroe Avenue, 1960s	Box 2	Folder 15
North Park Drive, 1958	Box 2	Folder 16
Ottawa Avenue, 1958, Bird's eye of intersection at Wurzburg's and Siegals.	Box 2	Folder 17
Ottilia Street, 1959	Box 2	Folder 18
Oxford Street, 1958	Box 2	Folder 19
Parking lots, 1959	Box 2	Folder 20
Pearl Street, c.1963	Box 2	Folder 21
Scribner Avenue, 1956	Box 2	Folder 22
Sheldon Avenue, 1959, view of Jacobson's and Medical Arts	Box 2	Folder 23
Sherman Street, 1959		

	Box 2	Folder 24
Sixth Street, 1958	Box 2	Folder 25
Stocking Avenue, n.d.	Box 2	Folder 26
Turner Avenue, c.1958	Box 2	Folder 27
US#131, c.1965	Box 2	Folder 28
Unidentified, 1959, n.d.	Box 2	Folder 29
Wealthy Street, 1958#60, view of International Harvester	Box 2	Folder 30
West River Drive, c.1969	Box 2	Folder 31

Negatives, unidentified

Title/Description	Instances
Negatives 100-01 through 100-51	Box 3

Negatives, identified

Title/Description	Instances
100-051 Alpine Avenue bridge, c.1960	Box 3
100-052 Alpine Avenue bridge, c.1970	Box 3
100-053 to 100-056 Ann Street bridge, c.1970	Box 3
100-057 Broadway Avenue bridge, c.1960	Box 3
100-058 Burton Street overpass, c.1960	Box 3
100-059 Burton at Nelson, c.1959	Box 3
100-060 Dickinson at Linden, c.1960	Box 3
100-061 Dickinson at Linden, c.1960	Box 3
100-062 Eastern Avenue (722), n.d.	Box 3
100-063 Eastern Avenue (722), n.d.	Box 3
100-064 Hall at Giddings parking lot, c.1960	Box 3
100-065 Hall at Giddings parking lot, c.1960	Box 3
100-066 Hall at Giddings parking lot, c.1960	Box 3
100-067 to 100-075 I#196, c.1960	Box 3
100-076 Interurban bridge parking, c.1960	Box 3
100-080 Market at Godfrey, c.1958	Box 3
100-077 to 100-079 Monroe Avenue, 1960s	Box 3
100-081 Norwood parking lot, c.1961	Box 3
US#131, c.1970	

	Box 3	
Unidentified, c.1960	Box 3	
Unidentified, c.1960	Box 3	
Unidentified, c.1960	Box 3	
West River Drive, c.1969	Box 3	
Grand Rapids views, ca.1970 (35 5x5 negs)	Box 4	Folder 1
City#County Building parking ramp, ca. 1970 (21 2.5 x 2.5 negs.)	Box 4	Folder 2
Grand Rapids views, ca.1970 (45 35 mm. Negs. On x strips)	Box 4	Folder 3
US#131 aerials, ca. 1970 (25 5x5 negs.)	Box 4	Folder 4
East Beltline aerials, c.1970 (45 5x5 negs.)	Box 4	Folder 5

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