

# **Finding Aid for the Grand Rapids Public Library urban renewal pictorials Collection 118**

**Finding aid prepared by Laura Bachelder, Richard Harms**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department  
June 1990  
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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</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library (Grand Rapids, Mich.).
<b>Title</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library urban renewal pictorials
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1979-1980
<b>Extent</b>	0.92 Linear feet Four boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This collection contains approximately 160 images of downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan during a period of urban renewal. During 1979 and 1980 staff members from the Grand Rapids Public Library's Audio-Visual Department set about to visually document the urban renewal landscape. The images were photographed, and 4x5 negatives were provided. Subsequently, 8x10 photographic prints or contact prints were made from these negatives. The images depict the downtown area, buildings being demolished, street scenes, and some of the new construction. This time period captures the change of Monroe Ave., which before the suburban malls had been Grand Rapids central shopping district, converting it into a pedestrian mall. Also included is the then new Amphitheater on the South side of the old Campau Square area.</p>

## **The Grand Rapids Public Library Audio Visual Departmental**

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Originally formed under the national SETA program, this department existed for about ten years during the late 1970s and the early 1980s. As part of their initial services, they provided videotapes and equipment for use to the general public, when this was brand new technology. The equipment was first loaned and then rented to those who didn't have their own videotape players, and the initial collection of moving images replacing the traditional reel to reel films were developed under their tutelage.

The four staff members of the department, Monique Ciofu Jim Wendt, Jim Searn and Uris Lazdis, took original photographs and did copy photography to be added to the collections or sponsored public photo contests. In addition to Coll. 118, other images created by the Audio Visual Department are in Coll. 109, or live undocumented in several other archival collections, including Coll. 054, the GRPL Photographs Collection.

Perhaps due to the burden of the cost of the positions, as they were dropped by SETA, or perhaps as videotape technology became more main stream in libraries, the Department was disbanded by the Board. Monica Ciofu was motivated by this action to become an elected member of the Grand Rapids Public Library board, and served for several years, including as President.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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During 1979 and 1980 members from the Grand Rapids public Library's Audio-Visual Department, under the direction of Department Head Monique Timmer, set about to photographically document the urban renewal of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The images were photographed onto 4x5 negatives and labeled. The images depict the downtown area, buildings being demolished, street scenes and some of the new construction of the urban renewal period. The collection provides a unique view of the downtown commercial and retail building, as well as theaters that were demolished during the urban renewal era. Generally, the quality of the negatives is good, but in a few cases they are under exposed or with faulty exposures.

The negatives have been retained in their original numeric order.

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## **Arrangement note**

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Negatives are arranged in numerical order, as assigned, with a numerical prefix for the year taken, either 1979 or 1980, for example: 1979-x....

Photoprints were previously grouped by topic or geographical area. The photos are now arranged in the same order as the negatives, using the negative number, or the collection/box/order number 1 ... Note that several prints were missing at the time of the reordering.

There are several notes on the back of the photos which are often confusing.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department June 1990

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Grand Rapids Public Library, accession number 1980.000

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials note**

Collection 151: Kenneth C. Welch architecture and design collection

Collection 177: Michigan Department of Transportation photographs

Collection 212: William F. Drueke photographs

Collection 222: William A. Seeley Grand Rapids and Michigan graphics collection

Collection 231: Marius Rooks old City Hall images

Coll. 254: Grand Rapids Buildings

Collection 363: Robert G. Nelson Grand Rapids and Michigan history collection

Collection 372: Hero D. Bratt Grand Rapids images

## Controlled Access Headings

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### Genre(s)

- photographs

### Geographic Name(s)

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

### Subject(s)

- Buildings -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- Photographs
- Urban renewal -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

## Negatives

## Collection Inventory

## Negatives

## Conditions Governing Use note

A 4x5 print of each negative is available in box 3. These prints should be used for general access to the collection.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
79.001: Monroe Center demolition	1	3
79.002a: Grand Rapids Views	1	3
79.002b	1	3
79.003: Ransom Street views. View to South. Bird's eye. Library parking lot lower right. Park Church. Fountain Street in foreground.	1	3
79.004: Ransom Street Views	1	3
79.005: Fountain Street views. Bird's eye SW. Grand Rapids Public Library 1967 building, Fountain Street Church	1	3
79.005: Grand Rapids Views	1	3
79.006: Grand Rapids Views	1	3

## Negatives

79.007: Grand Rapids Views	1	3
79.008: Pearl Street Views. Midtown Theatre. Pantlind	1	3
79.009: Lyon Street Views. Tarry House Cafeteria	1	3
79.010: Powers Opera House, missing	1	3
79.011: Powers Opera House, missing	1	3
79.012: Powers Opera House, missing	1	3
79.013: Powers Opera House missing. 4x5 Prints 10-13 missing 7/17/2001, but negative available	1	3
79.014: Grand Rapids Views	1	3
79.015: Grand Rapids Views	1	3
79.016: Library side view. View from John St. west. L-R St. Cecilia, Park Church, Pantlind in the distance, Ryerson Library building with the 1967 building addition. Snow, truck in foreground.	1	3
79.017: Library side view. Probably Ransom Tower construction, with the Grand Rapids Public Library behind the crane right.	1	3
79.018: Library side view, as above.	1	3



## Negatives

79.019: Grand Rapids Views	1	3
79.020: Grand Rapids Views. Michigan Street hill, view to west. Immanuel Lutheran Church left. From Belkap Lookout area.	1	3
79.021: Division Avenue Views	1	3
79.022: George Welsh Civic Auditorium	1	3
79.023: George Welsh Civic Auditorium	1	3
79.024: George Welsh Building	1	3
79.025: Woolworth Building. Pantlind behind	1	3
79.026: Powers Opera House, missing	1	3
79.027: Powers Opera House missing. 4x5 Prints 026-027 missing 7/17/2007, but negative available	1	3
79.028: Grand Rapids views. Bird's eye, Monroe North. Vandenberg Center at right.	1	3
79.029: Grand Rapids views. Bird's eye. Welsh Building of #024 lower left, Grand River in background.	1	3
79.030: Grand Rapids Public Library. Roof	1	3

## Negatives

79.031: Grand Rapids Views from Library roof. Buildings on Fulton Street East in background, including First Methodist Church and Masonic Building	1	3
79.032: Ransom Tower Construction. Masonic Hall right background. View east toward Heritage Hill	1	3
79.033: Grand Center site. Pantlind Hotel	1	3
79.034: Grand Rapids Public Library. Roof. View to North from roof toward hospital on Michigan.	1	3
79.035: Division Avenue views. North. St. Marks right.	1	3
79.036: Grand River views	1	3
79.037: Grand River views	1	3
79.038: Grand River views	1	3
79.039: Grand River views	1	3
79.040: A-Nab-Awen Bicentennial Park	1	3
79.041: Monroe Center Views. Construction	1	3
79.042: Monroe Center demolition	1	3

## Negatives

79.043: Fulton Avenue and Ionia Street views.	1	3
79.044: Monroe Center demolition. Workman in hard hat seated on a wall right foreground.	1	3
79.045: Monroe Center demolition. "Green's" sign in rubble	1	3
79.046: Monroe Center demolition. Sign "Monroe Avenue will begin here in 1979."	1	3
79.047: Ionia Street and Fulton views. "MN" tower. Old Kent sign on building.	1	3
79.048: Division Avenue views. Majestic Theatre. Allen Books.	1	3
79.049: Monroe Center views	1	3
79.050: Grand Rapids Art Museum at old Post Office, Pearl St.	1	3
79.051: Monroe Center views. Construction. Pantlind. McKay Tower.	1	3
79.052: New Monroe Extension, looking North (west) from Louis St. Site of Amphitheater, later Rosa Park Circle.	1	3
79.053: Grand Rapid views	1	3
79.054: Pearl Street views. Midtown Theatre.	1	3

## Negatives

79.055: Division Avenue views. Majestic, Allen books, Dodds Records.	1	3
79.056: Pearl Street views	1	3
79.057: Ionia Avenue views. Michigan National Bank. Old Kent.	1	3
79.058: Monroe Center views	1	3
79.059: Ionia Avenue views	1	3
79.060: Grand Center site	1	3,4
79.061: Grand Center site	1	3
79.062: Grand Center site	1	3
79.063: Grand Center site	1	3
79.064: Grand River views	1	3
79.065: Grand Rapids views	1	3
79.066: A-Nab-Awen Bicentennial Park	1	3
79.067: A-Nab-Awen Bicentennial Park site	1	3
79.068: Louis Street views	1	3

## Negatives

79.069: Louis Street views	1	3
79.070: Monroe Center demolition	1	3
79.071: Grand Rapids Views	1	3
79.072: A-Nab-Awen Bicentennial Park	1	3
79.073: Ionia and Fulton Street views	1	3
79.074: A-Nab-Awen Bicentennial Park	1	3
79.075: Grand Rapids Art Museum	1	3
79.076: Grand Rapids Art Museum	1	3
79.077: Grand Rapids Art Museum	1	3
79.078: Louis Street and Market Street views	1	3
79.079: Monroe Center views	1	3
79.080: Monroe Center views	1	3
79.081: Monument Square	1	3
79.082: Grand Rapids Art Museum	1	3

## Negatives

79.083: Monument Square	1	3
79.084: Monument Square	1	3
79.085: Monument Square	1	3
79.086: Market Street and Monroe Avenue Views	1	3
79.087: Civil War Monument	1	3
79.088: Monument Square	1	3
79.089: Monument Square	1	3
79.090: Monument Square	1	3
79.091: Monument Square	1	3
79.092: Monroe Center Views	1	3
79.093: Monument Square	1	3
79.094: Monument Square	1	3
79.095: Fulton Street and Sheldon Avenue views	1	3
79.096: Monument Square	1	3

## Negatives

79.097: Pearl Street Views	1	3
79.098: Monroe Avenue and Fulton Street views	1	3
79.099: Monroe Center views	1	3
79.100: Monroe Center views	1	3
79.101: Monroe Center views	2	3
79.102: Campau Street views	2	3
79.103: Louis Street and Market Street views	2	3
79.104: Monroe Center views	2	3
79.105: Ottawa Street views	2	3
79.106: Monroe Center views	2	3
79.107: Market Street views	2	3
79.108: Market Street views	2	3
79.109: Louis Street views	2	3
79.110: Louis Street views	2	3

## Negatives

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79.111: Woolworth Building	2	3
79.112: Monroe Center views	2	3
79.113: Monroe Center views	2	3
79.114: City Garage	2	3
79.115: City Garage	2	3
79.116: City Garage	2	3
79.117: City Garage	2	3
79.118: City Garage	2	3
79.119: City Garage	2	3
79.120: City Garage	2	3
79.121: City Garage	2	3
79.122: City Garage	2	3
79.123: Monroe Center demolition	2	3
79.124: Pearl Street views	2	3



## Negatives

79.125: Pearl Street views	2	3
79.126: Monroe Center demolition	2	3
79.127: Monroe Center demolition	2	3
79.128: Louis Street and Market Street views	2	3
79.129: Monroe Center demolition	2	3
79.130: Monroe Center views	2	3
79.131: Monroe Center demolition	2	3
79.132: Monroe Center demolition	2	3
79.133: Monroe Center views	2	3
79.134: Monroe Center demolition	2	3
79.135: Monroe Center demolition	2	3
79.136: Louis Street and Market Street views	2	3
79.137: Ionia Avenue views	2	3
79.138: Ionia Avenue views	2	3

## Negatives

79.139: A-Nab-Awen Bicentennial Pak	2	3
79.140: Grand River views	2	3
79.141: Louis Street views	2	3
79.142: A-Nab-Awen Bicentennial Park site	2	3
79.143: Grand Rapids Views	2	3
80.001: Monroe Center views	2	3
80.002: Monroe Center Amphitheater construction	2	3
80.003: Ransom Towers construction	2	3
80.004: Monroe Center amphitheater construction	2	3
80.005: Monroe Center Amphitheater construction	2	3
80.006: Monroe Center views	2	3
80.007: Monroe Center views	2	3
80.008: Ransom Towers construction	2	3
80.009: Amway Grand Plaza Hotel construction	2	3

## Prints

80.010: Amway Grand Plaza Hotel construction	2	3
80.011: Amway Grand Plaza Hotel construction	2	3
80.012: Monroe Center Amphitheater construction	2	3
80.013: Monroe Center views	2	3
80.014: Monroe Center views	2	3
80.015: Monroe Center views	2	3
80.016: Ottawa Street views	2	3
80.017: Monroe Center Amphitheater construction	2	3
<b>Prints</b>		
		<b>Box</b>
4 x 5 prints for all images		3
8 x 10 prints (one)		4