

Finding Aid for the Pictorial History of Grand Rapids Collection 138

Finding aid prepared by Richard H. Harms

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
November 1991
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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Mapes, Lynn G
Creator	Travis, Anthony
Title	Pictorial History of Grand Rapids
Date [inclusive]	1870-1975, n.d.
Extent	2.25 Linear feet Six boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>A Pictorial History of Grand Rapids is a book published by Lynn G. Mapes and Anthony Travis in 1976. The book details the social history and development of Grand Rapids, Michigan. This collection includes photographs copied from various sources that document the metropolitan Grand Rapids area. Included are views of the city from the 1920s and 1930s, as well as images taken in 1975. The images depict street scenes, activities, churches, trucks, streetcars, theaters and churches. They focus on the emergence and decline of a downtown business district, urban transportation and a spreading economic infrastructure.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

“Pictorial History of Grand Rapids” was created by Lynn G. Mapes and Anthony Travis, two United States History instructors at Grand Valley State University. The book was an effort to detail the social history of the city's people and the development of that people's urban environment. The authors surveyed pictorial collections throughout the city, particularly those at the Grand Rapids Public Library and the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

Scope and Contents note

The images depict the emergence of a concentrated urban core and the expansion from that core in a mid-size Midwestern city. As such it details the emergence and decline of a downtown business district, urban transportation, a spreading economic infrastructure, public and private sector development, the role of neighborhoods, recreational activities, schools and churches.

Included in the book publication are images that come from several other collections in the Archives at the Grand Rapids History & Special Collections Center, as well as Coll. 138. Many of the images/photos included in Coll. 138, however, are not actually items that were finally selected for use in the publication.

An index in this finding aid provides additional access to subject matter found in various folders.

Arrangement note

Photos were first grouped by general subject, with those items filed together in the same folder. The number in parentheses indicates the number of items in the folder. Subject folders are arranged alphabetically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department November 1991

Copyright

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Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Lynn G. Mapes, accession number 1991.015

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- photographs

Geographic Name(s)

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

Subject(s)

- Publications -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

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