

Grand Rapids History & Special Collections

Archives

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Finding Aid for the
Camera Shop Photo Album

Collection # 073

September 2007 version

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 was a pharmacist by training, using his knowledge of chemicals to run the Camera shop along side his drugstore, until 1936. The Camera Shop Photo Album Collection visually details the commercial and industrial sector of the Grand Rapids, Michigan economy in 1915. 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.

Collection #: 073
Accession #: 00.000
Donor: Library purchase
Span dates: 1915
Original archival processing date: May 1988.
Size: 0.5 cu. ft. ; x linear ft.

Related Collections

Coll. 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.

Box Summary

Box No.	Description of Contents	Box Description
1	Smaller images	Standard
2	Oversized images	1.5 in. drop front print

History

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.

Scope and Content

The photos 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.

Processing Notes

These images have been refoldered and reboxed into boxes better fitting and supporting the items.

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 & 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 4 items are on the sheet, 2 front & 2 back, the images have now been cut in the center, at the point where the paper was starting to tear anyway. Thus, 2 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 & protection during handling.

Arrangement note

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.

Contents

Box 1

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Image Nos.</u>	<u>Description and address</u>
1-1	1a	Grand Rapids Press Building - Fulton @ Sheldon, SE
	2b	The Boston Store, Trankla, Charles & Company - 145-55 Monroe, NW
1-2	1b	Patterson Institute - 416 Michigan, NE
	2a	Berkey & Gay Company - 442-8 Monroe, NW
1-3	15a	Freidman, M. & Company - 126 Monroe, NW
	16b	National Candy Company - 36-44 Cherry, SE
1-4	15b	Central Boiler & Supply Company - 1130-2 Monroe, NW
	16a	Burleson & Burleson Hospital - 248-50 E. Fulton
1-5	19a	Herald Building - 8-13 E. Fulton
	20b	U.S. Post Office - Ionia @ Pearl, NW (later Grand Rapids Art Museum)
1-6	19b	Michigan Trust Company - Ottawa @ Pearl, NW
	20a	Cody Hotel Cafeteria - 10 W. Fulton
1-7	23a	Camera Shop - 16 Monroe, NW
	24b	Crabb & Hunter Floral Company - 114 E. Fulton
1-8	23b	Monument Park - Fulton @ Division, NE
	24a	Builders & Traders Exchange - 35-6 Pearl, NE
1-9	25a	Bishop Furniture Company - Louis @ Ionia, NW
	26b	Otto Bros., American Laundry - 634-45 S. Division Ave.
1-10	25b	Economy Dye House - 150 E. Fulton
	26a	Rice Veneer & Lumber Company - 51-5 Campau, NW
1-11	31a	Churchill Business Institute - 9-11 Ionia, NW
	32b	Hermitage Hotel - Michigan @ Monroe, NW
1-12	31b	Blake Steam Bakery - 433 S. Division
	32a	Johnson, C.J. Cigar Company - 421-33 Ottawa, NW

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- 1-13 33a Grand Rapids Trunk Company - 126-8 S. Division
34b Elk's Temple - 220 Ottawa, NW
- 1-14 33b Keeley Institute - 733-5 Ottawa, NW
34a Security Storage & Transfer - 47-9 Market, SW
- 1-15 35a Neal Institute - 71 Sheldon, SE
36b Grand Rapids Brewing Company - Michigan @ Ottawa,
- 1-16 35b Excelsior Wrapper Company - Godfrey @ Hall, SW
36a Valley City Milling Company-217-21 Michigan, NW
- 1-17 37a Voight Milling Company - Pearl @ river, NW
38b Grand Rapids Association of Commerce - 35-7 Pearl, NW
- 1-18 37b Grand Rapids Gas Light Company - Ottawa @ Pearl, NW
38a Fourth National Bank - Pearl @ Monroe, NW
- 1-19 39a Young & Chaffee Furniture Company - 122-8 Ottawa, NW
40b Worden Grocery Company - Island @ Ottawa, NW
- 1-20 39b Keller Transfer Line - 3 Ionia, SW
40a Charlevoix Hotel - Monroe @ Michigan, NW
- 1-21 43a Ringe, Kalmbach, Logie Company - 10-22 Ionia, NW
44b Rudell Creamery - 45 S. Division
- 1-22 43b Eifert Trunk Leather Goods - 247 Monroe, NW
44a Grand Rapids Shoe & Rubber Company - 27-9 Ionia, SW
- 1-23 45a Michigan Hearse & Carriage Company - Union @ railroad tracks, SE
46b City Hall - Lyon @ Ottawa, NW
- 1-24 45b Alfred Hannah Florist
46a Grand Rapids Public Library, Ryerson Building - 60 Library Plaza, NE
- 1-25 47a Grand Rapids Grain & Milling Company - Scribner @ railroad tracks, NW
48b Heystek and Canfield Company - 61-3 Commerce, SW & 96 Monroe, NW
- 1-26 47b Pierce, H.R. (ice cream) - 344 Sheldon, SE
48a Widdicomb Furniture Company - Dewey @ 4th, 5th, & 6th, NW

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- 1-27 49a Miller Taxi and Transfer Company - 236-8 Ottawa, NW
50b Golden & Boter Transfer Company - 25-7 Market, NW
- 1-28 49b Reliable Dye House - 133 Michigan, NW
50a Grand Rapids News - Ottawa @ Lyon, NW
- 1-29 51a Grand Rapids Tailoring Company - 137 Pearl NW
52b City Bakery - Oakes @ Commerce, SW
- 1-30 51b Perkins & Company - 562 Front, NW
52a Van Wyck School of Shorthand - 42-54 N. Division
- 1-31 55a Sligh Furniture Company - Buchanan @ Prescott, SW
56b Lilly & Breas - 118 Pearl, NW
- 1-32 55b Bismark Cafe - 36 Ionia, NE
56a Perfection Mills of Watson-Higgins Milling Company - 506-16 2nd, NW
- 1-33 57a Dodds, Alexander Company - 451 Monroe, NW
58b C.J. Johnson Cigar Company - 342 Monroe, NW & 67 Monroe, NW
- 1-34 57b Harris Sample Furniture Company - 107-13 S. Division
58a Jesiek Boat Company - 79-91 Market, SW
- 1-35 59a Litscher, Electric Company - 41-3 Market, SW
60b Furniture City Brewing Company - Ionia @ Wealthy, SW
- 1-36 59b Petersen Brewing Company - 838 Bridge, NW [Copy photo added
4/1999]
60a Citizens Telephone Company - 246-52 Louis, NW
- 1-37 61a Hazeltine & Perkins Drug Company - Commerce @ Oakes, SW
62b Grand Rapids-Holland & Chicago Railway Company - Lyon at the river,
NW
- 1-38 61b Letellier & Company - 540 Monroe, NW
62a McGough & Company - 301 S. Division
- 1-39 65a Smith, Ira Company - 41-3 Monroe, NW
66b Globe Knitting Works - 315 Commerce, SW
- 1-40 65b Roseberry-Henry Electric Company - 41 Pearl, NW
66a Reynolds Asphalt Shingle Company - 640 Grant, SW

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- | | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 1-41 | 67a
68b | Corl, Knott & Company, Ltd. - Commerce @ Island, SW
Pantlind Hotel - Monroe @ Pearl, NW |
| 1-42 | 67b
68a | Stickley Brothers & Company - 837-61 Godfrey, SW
Kindel Bed Company - Garden @ Jefferson, SW |
| 1-43 | 69a
70b | Anheuser-Busch Company, Oakes @ Ellsworth, SW
Veit Manufacturing Company- 60-2 Coldbrook, NW |
| 1-44 | 69b
70a | Grand Rapids-Muskegon Company - 124 Monroe, NW
Toledo Plate and Window Glass Company - 19-21 Ottawa, SW |
| 1-45 | 71a
72b | City Trust and Savings Bank - Pearl @ Monroe, NW
Grand Rapids Fancy Furniture Company - Hall @ Stell, SW |
| 1-46 | 71b
72a | Covell-Hensen Company - 101-11 Garden, SE
Alabastine Company - Grandville Ave. @ G.R.& I. railroad tracks |
| Box 2 | | |
| 2-1 | 3a
3b
4 | Druke-Lynch Company - 13-15 Ionia, SW. Multiimage
John C. Noel Company - 235 S. Division. Multiimage
Baxter Laundry - 747-69 Fountain, NE. Delivery wagons, panorama |
| 2-2 | 5
6a
6b | Winegar Furniture Company - 201-7 S. Division
Michigan Bell Company - Ionia @ Fulton, NW
Arthur J. Plumb Grocery - 138-40 E. Fulton
All Multiimage views |
| 2-3 | 7a

7b
8a

8b
8c
8d | Veterans Park, Fulton @ Sheldon, NE, including YMCA & Ryerson
Library Building
John D. Raab Chair Company, Monroe @ Mason, NW
Grand Rapids Public Museum, 54 Jefferson SE at Washington (Kent
Scientific Institute)
John Ball Park Grotto
D.A. Blodgett Home for Children, 920 Cherry, SE
Veterans Park, Fulton @ Sheldon, NE |

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- 2-4 9 Grand Rapids Chair Company, 1661 Monroe, NW
10a People Savings Bank. Interior, Monroe @ Ionia, NW
10b Hauser-Owens-Ames Company, 42 Pearl, NW.
Multiimage views, including:
- Am. Lady Corset Factory / Albert Kahn, architect, Hauser contractors
 - Peninsular Club
 - Kalamazoo High School
 - Unidentified building
- 2-5 11a Cody Hotel, 1-11 S. Division
Note: Copy print on 054-7-8, 9/26/2005
11b Paul Steketee & Sons. Interior, 90-4 Monroe, NW Multiple views
12a Herkner Jewelry Co. Interior,
12b Herkner Jewelry Co. Exterior, 114 Monroe Ave. or 121 Ottawa Ave.
- 2-6 13 Herpolsheimer Company, Monroe @ Ottawa, NW
Multiimage view, including exterior rendering & interior photos
14a Marietta-Stanley Company, 4th @ Turner, NW
14b Coye, Charles A., Inc., Campau @ Louis, NW
All multiimage views
- 2-7 17 Luce Furniture Company, 755-7 Godfrey, SW
18a Hirth-Krause Company, 16-18 Ionia, SW. Multiimage view, including
factories & store
18b Terrell's Equipment Company, Hall @ Hilton, SW Interior, lockers
- 2-8 21a Jennings Perfumery Company, 25-6 Campau, NW. Multiimage view,
including Dorothy Vernon Perfume advertising display
21b Camera Shop, 16 Monroe, NW. Interior.
22 Macey Company, 1516-44 S. Division. Drawing, Robinson (architects?)
- 2-9 27 Michigan Chair Co., Godfrey @ Franklin, SW
28a Monroe Center View, NW from Division.
28b Western Michigan Cadillac Company, 19-25 Lagrave, SE. Birdseye view
- 2-10 29a Kent County Courthouse, Crescent @ Ionia, NW
29b Grand Rapids Advertising Company, 15 Market, NW. American Laundry
electric light sign.
30 Bissell Carpet Sweeper Company, 210-218 Erie, NW [Composite view]

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- 2-11 41a A.F. Burch Co., 217-9 S. Division. Multiimage view
41b Niagara Café, 11 S. Division. Interior
42 Leitelt Iron Works, Erie @ Mill, NW. Drawing. Detroit : Meinzinger
Studio.
- 2-12 53a George Mathews, Jewell Furnaces, 408 S. Division
53b Court House Livery, 241 Bond, NW. [Building has C.L. Ives, 1874, with
addresses 65 & 67 ? St.]
54 Imperial Furniture Company, 1640 Broadway, NW
- 2-13 63a Mills Paper Company, 704-6 Ellsworth, SW
63b Rademacher-Dooge Groceries, 30-2 Ellsworth,SW
64 Proudfit Loose Leaf Company, 12-16 Prescott, SW Multiimage view
- 2-14 73 Henry Smith Florist, Monroe @ Division, Int.
74a W.L. Cukerski, Greenhouse, Fulton @ Valley,NW
74b Offringa & Blok, wallpaper & paints, 1005 Grandville, SW

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