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## **Finding aid for the John Douglas images collection Collection 226**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

111 Library Street NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Grand Rapids History and Special Collections
<b>Creator:</b>	Douglas, John A
<b>Title:</b>	John Douglas Images Collection
<b>ID:</b>	Collection 226
<b>ID [Archivists Toolkit Database::RESOURCE]:</b>	234
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1969-1990s
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 Linear Feet Eight boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	John A. Douglas is a Grand Rapids, Michigan filmmaker and film critic. This collection contains primarily slides and negatives as well as 16mm films. The images depict buildings and scenes around Grand Rapids, primarily the downtown area. The films appear to be promotional films from companies in the Grand Rapids area.

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## Scope and Contents

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The John Douglas collection is less about Douglas and more about images of Grand Rapids and other places or people of interest. The collection appears to be a sampling of things he has been involved in and found of value.

The bulk of the collection are the slides with around 478 of these of Grand Rapids. The 16 different films currently documented as coming from Douglas are in 16mm format. Limited information on the films is available; most appear to be commercially produced.

There is a wide role of what looks like blank film material labeled "Hard Core Local TV Spots 1 & 2." This was found with Douglas unprocessed collection materials, and believed to be part of his collection. However, another accession number 1986.343, related to photographs in Coll. 054 for Hard Core, might suggest another original for this film content. Hard Core, the national movie of that title with George C. Scott, was filmed, in part, in Grand Rapids and an association of this item with John Douglas, a film reviewer, is logical but not included in the marking of the item itself.

Of interest is a letter dated 1986, from then Vice President George Bush to Douglas, urging a vote for Republican candidates in the upcoming Michigan Primary.

There is also a small empty check box labeled "Douglas."

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

John Douglas, accession numbers 1999.037, 1988.043

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Coll. 54-47-2/6 and 105, GRPL Photographs Collection, are photos given by Douglas in 1987 and processed into Coll. 054 before the Douglas Collection was created. These images are from a scrapbook on the Welsh Civic Auditorium Construction.

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## Controlled Access Headings

- moving images
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- photographs
- photographs
- Douglas, John A

## Collection Inventory

### Series I. Biographical and Miscellaneous Documents.

Title/Description	Instances	
Biographical on Douglas. Pending	Box 1	Folder 1
Select Grand Rapids Press articles RE Douglas. ProQuest version.	Box 1	Folder 2
Photo print of Heritage Hill sign, "image used in Grand Rapids century exhibit 1999/2000"	Box 1	Folder 3
Letter from George Bush, Vice-President, to John Douglas, 1986	Box 1	Folder 4
Chesapeake and Ohio, Lines Magazine. Aug. 1939, v. 24, no. 8 (serial)	Box 1	Folder 5

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### Series II. Slides: Grand Rapids Views, dated

#### Scope and Contents

Many of the slides have dates native to the material, and have been arranged in this order. Where other slide numbers are missing from the holdings received the numbers are given with the words "Absent from the Collection" or just "Absent"

Title/Description	Instances		
Views of a house and yard, unidentified adult and children, 1974	Box 1.5	Slide 1-6	
April 1975, Duke University Parking Lots/Buildings, Statue of James B. Duke	Box 1.5	Folder 1	Slide 7-8
Two unidentified children and adult in a yard, 1975	Box 1.5	Slide 9-11	
1975, Various Downtown Grand Rapids Slides	Box 1.5	Folder 1	Slide 12-26
1976, Various Downtown Grand Rapids Slides	Box 1.5	Folder 2	Slide 27-42
September 1976 Rodeo	Box 1.5	Folder 2	Slide 43-45

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Robert Morris "Keeler" Ariel View	Box 1.5	Folder 2	Slide 46-47
"The New Grand Rapids, A Classy Little City" / This presentation sponsored by the New Grand Rapids Committee. (18 duplicates or variants of the same title slide for a presentation)	Box 1.5	Folder 3	Slide 48-65
"Save Old City Hall" View of Downtown Grand Rapids, including razed building site and rubble from the Hall, new construction, etc. ca. 1969	Box 1.5	Folder 4	Slide 66-77
Select Buildings and details; Heritage Hill houses, including the "Castle," St. Mark's Church, old telephone company building at Division and Fountain, Central High School.	Box 1.5	Folder 5	Slide 78-97
Frey Building	Box 1.5	Folder 6	Slide 98-101
St. Cecilia Building	Box 1.5	Folder 6	Slide 102
Kent Skills Center	Box 1.5	Folder 6	Slide 103-107
Bowen Chaney Building Model	Box 1.5	Folder 6	Slide 108-111
Campau Square Office Building and map, all four similar views of the same information	Box 1.5	Folder 6	Slide 112-115
Chamber of Commerce	Box 1.5	Folder 6	Slide 116
Interstate System Building	Box 1.5	Folder 7	Slide 117-120
Furniture Company, including one interior	Box 1.5	Folder 7	Slide 121-126
The Morton House entrance and yellow marquee	Box 1.5	Folder 7	Slide 127
Amway Grand Plaza, including a drawing of Plaza and construction	Box 1.5	Folder 7	Slide 128-132
Senior Citizens Apartment Building	Box 1.5	Folder 7	Slide 133-136
Fifth Third Bank	Box 1.5	Folder 7	Slide 137
Gerald R. Ford Museum	Box 1.5	Folder 8	Slide 138-149
Grand Center/Civic Auditorium	Box 1.5	Folder 8	Slide 161-192
Grand Center/Civic Auditorium cont.	Box 2	Folder 1,2	Slide 161-192
Pantlind Hotel/Away Grand Hotel	Box 2	Folder 3	Slide 193-196
Olds Manor, Former Morton Hotel	Box 2	Folder 3	Slide 197-198
New Art Museum/Old Post Office			

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	Box 2	Folder 3	Slide 199-202
Unidentified Grand Rapids Businesses	Box 2	Folder 3	Slide 203
Unidentified Grand Rapids Buildings	Box 2	Folder 3	Slide 204-206
Prisms, Grand Rapids Business	Box 2	Folder 4	Slide 207-211
The Waters Building Downtown Grand Rapids	Box 2	Folder 4	Slide 212-213
College Park Plaza	Box 2	Folder 4	Slide 214-215
Unidentified Grand Rapids Building	Box 2	Folder 4	Slide 216-217
Chase Bank Building, before it was Chase	Box 2	Folder 4	Slide 218-219
State of Michigan office building	Box 2	Folder 4	Slide 220-222
Currently Unidentified	Box 2	Folder 4	Slide 223
City-County Administration Building	Box 2	Folder 5	Slide 224
Currently Unidentified	Box 2	Folder 5	Slide 225-231
Calder Plaza	Box 2	Folder 5, 6	Slide 232-252
Calder Plaza Office Building	Box 2	Folder 6	Slide 253-269
Downtown Grand Rapids Willard Building	Box 2	Folder 7	Slide 270-271
White and White Health Care Center/Liberty Mutual	Box 2	Folder 7	Slide 272-275
Timeless Furniture- Carl Forslund	Box 2	Folder 7	Slide 276-279
The Mole Hole	Box 2	Folder 8	Slide 280-284
Fox's Jewelers	Box 2	Folder 8	Slide 285-286
Steketee's Department Store	Box 2	Folder 8	Slide 287
E.A. Roods	Box 2	Folder 8	Slide 288-292
Various Grand Rapids businesses			

	Box 2	Folder 9, 10	Slide 293-318
Davenport College	Box 2	Folder 10	Slide 319-326
Old Pike House "Grand Rapids Art Museum"	Box 2	Folder 11	Slide 327-330
Heritage Hill – Stickley House	Box 2	Folder 11	Slide 331-336
Stain Glass Windows	Box 2	Folder 11	Slide 337-339
The Monroe Mall	Box 2	Folder 11	Slide 340-341
Walkways and Leisure Paths in Grand Rapids	Box 2	Folder 12, 13	Slide 342-368
Fishing in Grand Rapids	Box 2	Folder 13	Slide 369-376
1980 Festival, among other Grand Rapids celebrations	Box 2	Folder 14-16	Slide 377-424
Freeways, bridges, and signs	Box 2	Folder 17	Slide 425-441
"Motu Viget" Art Sculpture	Box 2	Folder 17	Slide 442-446
Grand Rapids Welsh Civic Auditorium Expansion and Performances	Box 2	Folder 18	Slide 447-460
1978 Fifth Third River Bank Run	Box 2	Folder 18	Slide 461-462
Paintings of Grand Rapids Area and Buildings	Box 2	Folder 19	Slide 463-466
Grand Rapids Junior College	Box 2	Folder 19	Slide 467-477
Various Grand Rapids Slides	Box 2	Folder 20	Slide 478-493

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### Series III. Negatives

Title/Description	Instances	
Historic Grand Rapids	Box 3	Folder 1
Old Architecture	Box 3	Folder 2
Frey Building	Box 3	Folder 3



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St. Cecilia Building	Box 3	Folder 4
Kent Skills Center	Box 3	Folder 5
Chamber of Commerce	Box 3	Folder 6
Interstate System	Box 3	Folder 7
Furniture Company	Box 3	Folder 8
Morton House	Box 3	Folder 9
Senior Citizens Apartment	Box 3	Folder 10
Calder Plaza Office Building	Box 3	Folder 11
Gerald Ford Museum	Box 3	Folder 12
Grand Center/Civic Auditorium	Box 3	Folder 13
Amway Grand Plaza	Box 3	Folder 14
New Art Museum	Box 3	Folder 15
Buildings in Grand Rapids, assorted	Box 3	Folder 16
Abstract Buildings	Box 3	Folder 17
White and White	Box 4	Folder 18
Timeless Furniture- Carl Forslund	Box 4	Folder 19
The Mole Hole	Box 4	Folder 20
E. A. Roods	Box 4	Folder 21
Prisms	Box 4	Folder 22
Grand Rapids businesses, assorted	Box 4	Folder 23
Davenport College	Box 4	Folder 24
Heritage Hill	Box 4	Folder 25
Calder Plaza	Box 4	Folder 26
Monroe Mall	Box 4	Folder 27
Walkways and leisure paths in Grand Rapids	Box 4	Folder 28
Fishing in Grand Rapids	Box 4	Folder 29
Festival 1980	Box 4	Folder 30
Same	Box 4	Folder 31
Freeways, bridges, and signs	Box 4	Folder 32
Art sculpture	Box 4	Folder 33
Welsh Auditorium performances	Box 4	Folder 34
Various Grand Rapids shots	Box 4	Folder 35

Same	Box 4	Folder 36
Gas Company	Box 4	Folder 37
Zilwaulau Bridge	Box 4	Folder 38

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## Series IV. 16mm Films

Title/Description	Instances
Mr. Edison's Dilemma	Box 6
Michigan in Motion pr55	Box 6
Opening Doors to our Energy Future	Box 6
Michigan Year pr57	Box 6
When Michigan Was Young pr43	Box 6
Michigan-I-A	Box 6
The Race is Losing	Box 7
First National Bank	Box 7
Williams Magnavox Home Entertainment Center	Box 7
Michigan-I-A	Box 7
Our Poisoned World- Air	Box 7
Our Poisoned World- Garbage, Noise, Heat	Box 7
Our Poisoned World- Pesticides	Box 7
Our Poisoned World- Water	Box 7
Consumers Power Talk About Energy	Box 7
Consumers Power Talk About Energy- Trip to Ludington (?)	Box 7

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