

Miscellaneous Landmarks Commission Photographs (P34-4)

Introduction

The Miscellaneous Landmarks Commission Collection contains images produced by various Kansas City, Missouri city departments during the 1920s through the 1980s. This subcollection is a part of the Landmarks Commission Collection (P34).

Descriptive Summary

Title: Miscellaneous Landmarks Commission Photographs

Dates: 1920s ca. – 1980s ca.

Size: 2 linear feet, 5 boxes

Collection Number: P34-4

Donor Information

Gift, 2004, 2005, and 2009, Brad Wolf.

Citation Note

Miscellaneous Landmarks Commission Photographs (P34-4), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information

Additional form available: Photographs have been digitized and are available on KCHistory.org.

Historical Sketch

The Landmarks Commission was established in 1970 as a division of the City Plan Commission in response to the community's renewed interest in Kansas City's architectural history. The Commission's stated purpose was to locate and identify structures, sites, objects, and districts within the corporate limits of the city which, due to their exceptional architectural and historical significance, should be preserved for posterity. The now renamed Historic Preservation Commission is a division of the City Planning and Development Department and oversees the Kansas City Register of Historic Places and identifies and evaluates historic structures in Kansas City.

Scope and Content Note

This subcollection of photographs is part of the Landmarks Commission collection. This subcollection was originally processed in 2006-2007, but photographs were added in 2020-2021 from multiple donations of additional Landmarks Commission

materials. Detailed descriptions of the images can be found by searching the Landmarks Commission Digital Collection on KCHistory.org.

The collection provides a wide-ranging look at Kansas City, Missouri from the 1920s through the 1970s, as well as a reflection of various city improvement and planning efforts during this time period. These photographs were intended to assist city planners making changes to streets, sidewalks and intersections, and many include handwritten notes and drawings of proposed improvements in the Plaza/Brookside area superimposed upon the prints themselves. In addition to providing a window into the planning and design process, these photographs provide a record of the Country Club Plaza area in its early years, and include images of Brush Creek, E.C. White School, streetcar lines, brickworks, and open spaces in the area before development. Several historic Kansas City landmarks, neighborhoods, and events also are captured in the collection. Over 100 photographs document the damage and repair efforts associated with the 1951 Flood, and another series shows the week-by-week progression of improvements to Municipal Stadium in preparation for the first game to be played there by the Kansas City Athletics. Additionally, photographs in the collection show the City Market, Hyde Park, Roanoke and Valentine Neighborhoods, Signboard Hill and Pershing Road near Union Station, and Downtown. Also noteworthy are the photographs of the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department, which include publicity stills featuring demonstrations of law enforcement tools just becoming popular in the 1950s, such as radar patrol cars, polygraph and chemical sobriety tests. Several other groups of photos in the collection document rarely photographed aspects of the city's functioning, such as landfills, rat control efforts, salvage yards, and drainage.

Collection Inventory

Box 1

- f. 1 Pershing Road Area
- f. 2 Pershing Road Area
- f. 3 Brookside Extension, 1926
- f. 4 Brookside Extension, 1926
- f. 5 Brookside Extension, 1926
- f. 6 Brookside Extension, 1926
- f. 7 Brookside Extension, 1926
- f. 8 Brookside Extension, 1926
- f. 9 Brookside Extension, 1926
- f. 10 Brookside Extension, 1926
- f. 11 Brush Creek
- f. 12 Stockyards/West Bottoms
- f. 13 Valentine Area, 1946-1948
- f. 14 Various Photographs (no known category or department of origin)
- f. 15 Various Photographs (no known category or department of origin)
- f. 16 Various Photographs (no known category or department of origin)
- f. 17 Various Photographs (no known category or department of origin)
- f. 18 Various Photographs (no known category or department of origin)
- f. 19 Kansas City, Missouri Police Department
- f. 20 Kansas City, Missouri Police Department

- f. 21 Kansas City, Missouri Police Department
- f. 22 Kansas City, Missouri Police Department
- f. 23 Kansas City, Missouri Police Department
- f. 24 Kansas City, Missouri Police Department
- f. 25 84th Terrace and Central
- f. 26 U.S. 169 and Barry Road/Hyde Park Area Apartments
- f. 27 Hyde Park Area Apartments
- f. 28 Southwest Trafficway and Roanoke
- f. 29 Southwest Trafficway and Roanoke
- f. 30 Street and Lighting
- f. 31 Street and Lighting
- f. 32 Street and Lighting
- f. 33 Street and Lighting
- f. 34 Street and Lighting
- f. 35 Street and Lighting

Box 2

- f. 1 Street and Lighting
- f. 2 Street and Lighting
- f. 3 Street and Lighting
- f. 4 Street and Lighting
- f. 5 Country Club District
- f. 6 Country Club District/Municipal Stadium
- f. 7 Municipal Stadium
- f. 8 Municipal Stadium
- f. 9 Municipal Stadium
- f. 10 Municipal Stadium
- f. 11 Municipal Stadium
- f. 12 Municipal Stadium
- f. 13 Parks and Recreation
- f. 14 Parks and Recreation
- f. 15 Landfills
- f. 16 Landfills/Rat Control
- f. 17 Rat Control
- f. 18 Rat Control
- f. 19 Rat Control
- f. 20 Municipal Farm
- f. 21 Municipal Farm
- f. 22 Municipal Farm
- f. 23 1951 Flood
- f. 24 1951 Flood
- f. 25 1951 Flood
- f. 26 1951 Flood
- f. 27 1951 Flood
- f. 28 1951 Flood
- f. 29 1951 Flood
- f. 30 1951 Flood
- f. 31 1951 Flood
- f. 32 1951 Flood
- f. 33 1951 Flood

f. 34 1951 Flood

Box 3

- f. 1 1951 Flood
- f. 2 1951 Flood
- f. 3 1951 Flood
- f. 4 1951 Flood
- f. 5 1951 Flood
- f. 6 1951 Flood
- f. 7 1951 Flood
- f. 8 1951 Flood
- f. 9 1951 Flood
- f. 10 1951 Flood
- f. 11 1951 Flood/City Market
- f. 12 Kansas City, Missouri Fire Department
- f. 13 Kansas City, Missouri Fire Department
- f. 14 Public Housing
- f. 15 Public Housing
- f. 16 Public Housing
- f. 17 Public Housing
- f. 18 Public Housing/Public Works
- f. 19 Public Works
- f. 20 Public Works
- f. 21 Public Works
- f. 22 Public Works/Sewer and Drainage
- f. 23 Sewer and Drainage
- f. 24 Sewer and Drainage
- f. 25 Works Progress Administration (WPA)
- f. 26 Works Progress Administration (WPA)
- f. 27 Works Progress Administration (WPA)
- f. 28 Works Progress Administration (WPA)
- f. 29 Works Progress Administration (WPA)/Auto Wrecking
- f. 30 Auto Wrecking
- f. 31 Auto Wrecking
- f. 32 Auto Wrecking
- f. 33 Auto Wrecking
- f. 34 Auto Wrecking

Box 4

- f. 35 Negatives

Box 5

- f. 1 Photo #1-12
- f. 2 Photo #13-27
- f. 3 Photo #28-51
- f. 4 Photo #52-67
- f. 5 Photo #68-84
- f. 6 Photo #85-103
- f. 7 Photo #104-123
- f. 8 Photo #124-153
- f. 9 Photo #154-169
- f. 10 Photo #1-32

f. 11 Photo #33-64

f. 12 Photo #65-97

**Processed by Special Collections Librarian Daniel Coleman, 2006-2007.
Additional photographs added and finding aid updated by Kara Evans Flinn,
Special Collections Librarian/Archivist, September 2021.**