



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Northrop RB-49A and FB-49A Drawings

2007

National Air and Space Museum Archives  
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# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Northrop RB-49A and FB-49A Drawings
<b>Date:</b>	(bulk 1948)
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.1995.0069
<b>Creator:</b>	Northrop Corp
<b>Extent:</b>	0.05 Cubic feet ((1 folder))
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

John Keen Miller, Gift, 1995

### Preferred Citation

Northrop RB-49A and FB-49A Drawings, Accession number 1995-0069, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

In March 1948, a proposal was made to the United States Air Force by Northrop Aircraft, Inc. for a photographic reconnaissance version of the "flying wing." This proposed aircraft was referred to as the RB-49A and the FB-49A, and officially known as the Northrop YRB-49A. This proposal grew out of the failed XB-35 program, and the USAF desperately hoped for the success of this aircraft. However, shortly after an agreement was made in August 1948, the project was abandoned. Disagreements and indecision led to a rocky beginning and only preliminary plans for this aircraft were completed. Once the RB-49A project was abandoned, Northrop focused their efforts on the YRB-49A as a conversion of the YB-35A.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of ten 22.5 by 11 inch drawings from Northrop Aircraft, Inc. Included here are eight drawings of the RB-49A and two drawings of the FB-49A.

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Aeronautics, Military
- Northrop FB-49A
- Northrop RB-49A
- Photographic reconnaissance systems

Types of Materials:

- Drawings