



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

Powers (W. C.) Helicopter (1862) Collection

Powers (W. C.) Helicopter (1862) Collection

Patti Williams

2011, updated 2018

National Air and Space Museum Archives
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151
NASMRefDesk@si.edu
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

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

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Powers (W. C.) Helicopter (1862) Collection
Date:	1862-1863
Identifier:	NASM.XXXX.0562
Creator:	Powers, William C.
Extent:	0.11 Cubic feet (2 folders)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection contains photographs and blueprints of the Powers (W. C.) Helicopter (1862).
Digital Content:	Image(s): Powers (W. C.) Helicopter (1862) Collection

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Clara McDermott and William V. McDermott, Gift, 1940, XXXX-0562

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Patti Williams, 2018.

Preferred Citation

PowPowers (W. C.) Helicopter (1862) Collection, NASM.XXXX.0562, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at [Permissions Requests](#) .

Biographical Note

William C. Powers was an architectural engineer-mechanic in Mobile, AL during the Civil War. Between 1862 and 1863 he designed and built experimental plans and a model of a helicopter intended to provide the Confederate defenders of Mobile with a means for aerial bombing of the Federal blockading fleet. A family dispute apparently arose over the fear that the North would capture the ship and use it to destroy the South, and the plans were set aside until 1940.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains 7 black and white photographs of Powers (W. C.) Helicopter (1862) model and blueprints, as well as the original blueprints.

Arrangement

No arrangement.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Aeronautics -- pre-1903
- Aeronautics, Military
- Aeronautics, Military -- pre-1903
- Powers (W. C.) Helicopter (1862)

Types of Materials:

- Drawings
- Photographs

Names:

- Powers, William C.

Places:

- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865