



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Transportation Nitrate Negatives

NMAH.AC.0790

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Transportation Nitrate Negatives
Date:	1925-1930.
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0790
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Transportation (Collector)
Creator:	Finney, Bill (Photographer) White, Roger (Collector)
Extent:	0.2 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Nitrate negatives depicting street views with automobiles and railroad cars, in several areas of the country. Many are numbered and dated in ink on the negative. The groups are: views of Newark, Ohio, by Bill Finney, March 19, 1926; Huntington, West Virginia, 1927; Cumberland, Md., by Bill Finney, Oct. 28, 1925; and "Baltimore, Md.--Sharp St. Looking South from Camden St. / for Police Dept. / Oct. 21, 1930.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

Ownership and Custodial History

These negatives were collected by the NMAH Division of Transportation because of the subject matter depicted. They were transferred to the Archives Center by Roger White of the transportation collections (formerly Division of Transportation), primarily because of the self-destructing nature of the nitrate composition of the film. Before the transfer, White obtained copies of all the images for his office files.

Location of Originals

Prints from the negatives were made by OIPP for Roger White prior to the transfer of the negatives and are in the NMAH transportation collection files.

Processing Information

Processed by David E. Haberstich, 2003. The headings below are transcriptions from the original envelopes (all of which have deteriorated and crumbled due to brittleness from exposure to the nitrate fumes). All original envelopes have been discarded, but the envelope captions were photocopied: the xerographic copies are filed in the collection control file.

Preferred Citation

Transportation Nitrate Negatives, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Advance appointment required, as original negatives are stored in a freezer. Researchers should use copies. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Scope and Contents

This is a group of forty-three (43) cellulose nitrate negatives (8" x 10", 5" x 7", and smaller) depicting streets and railroad tracks with buildings such as houses, stores, and other commercial establishments. In many cases vehicles such as automobiles, trucks, and railroad cars from about 1925-1930 appear in the images. Dates on the photographs include 1925, 1926, 1927, and 1930, and the unidentified images appear to have been made within the same date range. Most of the photographs apparently were taken by Bill Finney of Concord, New Hampshire. The locales depicted include Baltimore and Cumberland, Maryland; Newark, Ohio; Huntington, West Virginia; and areas in New England.

Arrangement

1 series. Numerically arranged.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Automobiles -- 1920-1930
- Railroads
- Railroads -- Trains
- Streets -- Maryland
- Streets -- Maryland -- Baltimore
- Streets -- Ohio
- Streets -- West Virginia

Types of Materials:

- Photographs -- Black-and-white negatives -- Nitrate -- 19th-20th century

Names:

- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Transportation

Places:

- Baltimore (Md.) -- 1920-1930
- Cumberland (Md.)
- Huntington (W. Va.)
- Newark (Ohio)

Container Listing

	Unidentified photographs, circa 1930
Box 2	Pedestrians crossing street. Approximately 2-1/2 x 3-1/2".
Box 2	Truck and church. Approximately 2-1/2 x 3-1/2".
Box 2	Unidentified city street scene, including car with 1930 Rhode Island license plate. Approximately 2-1/2 x 3-1/2".
Box 2	City street with cars, trolley, and Hotel Narragansett sign. Approximately 2-1/2 x 3-1/2".
Box 2	Automobile traffic on Connecticut Rt. U.S. 6 with signs pointing to Providence, Machester, and Springfield. Approximately 2-1/2 x 3-1/2".
Box 2	Cars and toll booths, ca. 1930. Approximately 2-1/2 x 3-1/2".
Box 2	Tracks, underpass, restaurant, drugstore, 8" x 10". Bad blistering beginning at bottom. Tunnel, 8" x 10"
Box 2	Railroad tracks and car, #16, Sept. 8, 1926. 8" x 10". Date and number in ink on negative.
Box 2	Street view, Jan. 5, 1926, #24 (date and number on image), 8" x 10".
	Cumberland, Maryland, Oct. 28, 1925: Bill Finney B Photography / 25 Tremont St., Concord, New Hampshire [transcribed from original envelope].
Box 1	A29. Street with cars and businesses on either side, tracks down the center. 8" x 10".
Box 1	A30. Underpass with billboard (with workers) for South Cumberland Planing Mill Co. 8" x 10".
Box 1	A31. Street with tracks and buildings on either side, plus South Cumberland Planing Mill Co. billboard. 8" x 10".
Box 1	A32. Trolley tracks on street with buildings bearing restaurant and Baltimore & Ohio Y.M.C.A. signs. 8" x 10".
	Street Scenes / Newark, Ohio / March 9, 1926 / #1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16, 20 & 22 / Bill Finney B Photography / 25 Tremont St. B Concord, N.H. / Tel. 228-8718 [transcribed from original envelope]. All 8" x 10".
Box 1	A1. Railroad crossing with stores, incl. feed store.

Box 1	A2. Railroad crossing and buildings with mud or snow.
Box 1	A3. Brick street with houses. Note: No. 4 is missing.
Box 1	A5. Street with houses, trees, and cars.
Box 1	A6. Street with houses and one car.
Box 1	A7. Brick street, car, and Harold Smucker Coal Co.
Box 1	A8. Tree-lined street with houses.
Box 1	A12. Road with Baltimore & Ohio R.R. cars.
Box 1	A13. Street with cars and stores.
Box 1	A16. Brick street with cars and stores.
Box 1	A20. Crystal Ice and Coal Co. truck in front of Newark Crystal Ice building.
Box 1	A22. Street scene, brick street with cars and commercial buildings. Baltimore, Maryland B Sharp St. / Looking south from Camden St. / for Police Dept. / 9368 Oct. 21, 1930 [transcribed from original envelope]. Railroad cars and White Transportation Co. tr
	Street Scenes / Huntington, West Virginia, May 17, 1927 [transcribed from original envelope], #1 through 16 and 3 duplicates without numbers. 5" x 7" negatives on thin film, probably from film packs.
Box 2	A1. Trainyard showing boxcars, etc.
Box 2	A2. Commercial area with railroad tracks.
Box 2	A3. Commercial area, including apparent hardware business warehouse, cars.
Box 2	A4. Street view, commercial buildings and cars.
Box 2	A5. View down railroad tracks with vehicles
Box 2	A6. Street corner showing houses, pole, fire hydrant.
Box 2	A7. Street view car and covered, open structures.
Box 2	A8. Street with houses, parked car, telegraph poles.
Box 2	A9. Street with houses, parked car; with unlabeled duplicate image.

Box 2	A10. Cars, houses, and fence.
Box 2	A11. Street view with houses and car. Numbered and identified negative and unlabeled duplicate.
Box 2	A12. Street corner with houses.
Box 2	A13. Street corner with telephone pole, building, parked automobiles.
Box 2	A14. Train tracks, showing portion of tanker(?) and distant automobile.
Box 2	A15. Automobiles with tall chimneys and debris.
Box 2	A16. Street scene with cars and bridge. Numbered and dated in ink on negative. Plus duplicate negative without identification.