



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Niagara Railroad Negatives

NMAH.AC.1081
John Benko, intern

2019

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Niagara Railroad Negatives
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1081
Date:	1896-1898
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (3 boxes)
Source:	Work and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI Niagara Railroad
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

Ownership and Custodial History

Transferred to the Archives Center by the Division of Work and Industry in 2007.

Processing Information

Collection processed by John Benko, intern, 2019; supervised by Alison Oswald, archivist, 2019.

Preferred Citation

Niagara Railroad Negatives, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research by appointment. Glass plate negatives must be handled with gloves.

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Biographical / Historical

The Niagara Railroad Company has two beginnings as the result of being merged from two companies, one American, the other Canadian. The American company was the Niagara Falls and Whirlpool Company and aimed for a track that spanned from Prospect Point to Whirlpool. Before construction could begin, however, the company went bankrupt. It was reorganized by American Businessmen Captain George M. Brinker and George A. Ricker as the Niagara Falls and Lewiston Railroad, which opened its railway in April of 1895 after 75 days of construction. Thanks to the view it gave to tourists, the track was an immediate success and within a year warranted the construction of a second track. The Canadian company was commissioned by Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park, which was then in need of a larger source of income. The company was named the Niagara Falls Park & River Railroad Company and was to span from Queenston to Chippawa. The track opened in May of 1893 and transported 354,000 people in its first season. As with its American counterpart, the company added a second track within a year of opening.

The Niagara Falls and Lewiston Railroad was sold to General Francis V. Green and Herbert P. Bissell in 1899 and renamed the Niagara Gorge Railroad Company. Three years later, the Niagara Falls Park and River Railroad was sold to its American counterpart and the result was the International Railway Company. Although it was prosperous for a number of decades, the company went into decline due to a series of accidents that forced parts of the railway to be abandoned and the rise of the automobile which rendered the railway obsolete.

Sources

Great Gorge Route and the Niagara Falls Park and River Railway at: <http://www.niagarafrontier.com/greatgorge.html> (last accessed December 3, 2019)

Amtrak, The Great American Stations at: <https://www.greatamericanstations.com/stations/niagara-falls-ny-nfl/> (last accessed December 3, 2019)

Scope and Contents

Glass plate negatives (silver gelatin) documenting the Niagara Railroad and its architectural structures.

Arrangement

Collection arranged into one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Railroads -- New York
Stations -- New York
Trains -- New York

Names:

Work and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI

Container Listing

Box 1, Item 1	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-08
Box 1, Item 2	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-08-25
Box 1, Item 3	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-08-26
Box 1, Item 4	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-08-26
Box 1, Item 5	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-08-31
Box 1, Item 6	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-09-04
Box 1, Item 7	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-09-11
Box 1, Item 8	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-09-04
Box 1, Item 9	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-09-12
Box 1, Item 10	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-09-14
Box 1, Item 11	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-09-21
Box 1, Item 12	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-09-28
Box 1, Item 13	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-10-03
Box 1, Item 14	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-10-9
Box 1, Item 15	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-10-10
Box 1, Item 16	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-10-19
Box 1, Item 17	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-10-19
Box 1, Item 18	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-10-22
Box 1, Item 19	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-10-23
Box 1, Item 20	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-10-26

Box 1, Item 21	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-10-27
Box 1, Item 22	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-10-29
Box 1, Item 23	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-10-30
Box 1, Item 24	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-10-31
Box 1, Item 25	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-11-08
Box 1, Item 26	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-11-09
Box 1, Item 27	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-11-09
Box 1, Item 28	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-11-13
Box 1, Item 29	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-11-16
Box 1, Item 30	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-11-16
Box 1, Item 31	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-11-18
Box 1, Item 32	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-11-19
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Box 1, Item 49	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-12-24
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Box 1, Item 51	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1896-12-31
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Box 3, Item 4	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1897-03-28
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Box 3, Item 32	Niagara Railroad architectural structures, 1898-03-29
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