



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering Glass Plate Negatives

NMAH.AC.1089

Kamina Gager

2024

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering Glass Plate Negatives
Date:	1869-1920, undated
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1089
Creator:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering (Creator) Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Division of (Creator) National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry (Creator)
Extent:	2.5 Cubic feet (5 boxes)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Date and source of acquisition unknown.

Ownership and Custodial History

Artificially created collection, collected for the Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering's reference collections. Transferred to the Archives Center in 2007 by the Division of Work and Industry.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Kamina Gager, intern, 2024; supervised by Alison Oswald, archivist.

Preferred Citation

Mechanical and Civil Engineering Glass Plate Negatives, 1915-1980s, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection open for research on site by appointment. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

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Scope and Contents

Glass plate negatives (10 in 8 in; 5 in x 4 in; and 8.5 in x 6.5 in.) documenting civil and mechanical engineering activities, equipment, facilities, and projects. Some of the subjects are boilers, engines, turbines, lighthouses, aqueducts, bridges, factories, roads, hydroelectric stations, kilns and mills. Few of the images are identified.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into nine series.

Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering Glass Plate Negatives

Series 1: Boilers

Series 2: Bridges

Series 3: Hydraulic Engineering

Series 4: Lighthouses

Series 5: Machinery

Series 6: Rigging, Shop, Work and Office Scenes

Series 7: Steam Engings, Turbines, Equipment

Series 8: Structures and Construction

Series 9: Miscellaneous

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Aqueducts
- Boilers
- Bridges
- Civil engineering
- Engines
- Factories
- Kilns
- Lighthouses
- Mills
- Roads
- Turbines
- Water-power

Types of Materials:

Photographs -- Black-and-white negatives -- Glass

Container Listing

Series 1: Boilers, undated

Scope and Contents: Glass plate negatives depicting images of industrial activity related to boilers. Notable boilers captured are of the Campbell and Zell Boiler Room and Shop in Baltimore and of Babcock and Wilcox. Also includes various boiler parts and factory images. Glass plates are 8 in x 10 in.

Box 1, Item 1	Campbell and Zell Boiler Room, undated
Box 1, Item 2	Campbell and Zell Boiler Shop Baltimore, undated
Box 1, Item 3	Campbell and Zell Boiler Shop Baltimore 1/5, undated
Box 1, Item 4	Campbell and Zell Boiler Shop Baltimore 2/5, undated
Box 1, Item 5	Campbell and Zell Boiler Shop Baltimore 3/5, undated
Box 1, Item 6	Campbell and Zell Boiler Shop Baltimore 4/5, undated
Box 1, Item 7	Campbell and Zell Boiler Shop Baltimore 5/5, undated
Box 1, Item 8	MMS 37 Boiler Battery, undated
Box 1, Item 9	MMS 24 Boiler Battery, undated
Box 1, Item 10	Boiler Part, undated
Box 1, Item 11	Babcock and Wilcox, undated
Box 1, Item 12	Boiler Factory, undated
Box 1, Item 13	Industrial Parts Storage, undated
Box 1, Item 14	Image of destroyed building, undated
Box 1, Item 15	Looking Down West of Boilers From Right of Chimney, undated

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Series 2: Bridges

Scope and Contents: Glass plate negatives documenting civil and mechanical engineering activities related to bridges. Few of the images are identified, but named bridges are the Boulder Park Bridge, Middletown Draw bridge, and the Easton Suspension Bridge. Bridge types include burr truss, bowstring truss, skew truss, steel truss, chain, swing draw, swiss draw, bascule, and suspension. The glass plates are 8 in x 10 in, 4 in x 5 in, and 6.5 in x 8.5 in.

Box 1, Item 16	Decorative Masonry Park Bridge, undated
Box 1, Item 17	Decorative Masonry Park Bridge, undated
Box 1, Item 18	Men Driving To Burr Trusses Long or Chain Bridge, Washington, D.C., undated
Box 1, Item 19	Interior View Long or Chain Bridge Burr Truss, Washington, D.C., undated
Box 1, Item 20	Swing Draw Bridge, undated
Box 1, Item 21	Swing Draw Bridge with donkey on the banks of the river, undated
Box 1, Item 22	Boardwalk Bridge from Town, undated
Box 1, Item 23	Walkway Bridge from Town, undated
Box 1, Item 24	Boulder Park Bridge, undated
Box 1, Item 25	Boulder Bridge Park, undated
Box 1, Item 26	Draw Span, Bascule Bridge, undated
Box 1, Item 27	Multi Span Bascule Swing Drawbridge (Middletown), undated
Box 1, Item 28	Bascule Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 1	Steel Truss Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 2	Bowstring Truss from Middletown Draw Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 3	Steel Truss Bridge End View with 'Walk Your Horses' Signs, undated
Box 2, Item 4	Skew Truss Railroad Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 5	Two Track Steel Truss Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 6	Small Park Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 7	Small Park Bridge, undated

Box 2, Item 8	Small Park Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 9	Small Park Suspension Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 10	Park Suspension Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 11	Park Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 12	Middletown Draw Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 13	Middletown Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 14	Middletown Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 15	View of Turntable Swing Draw Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 16	People Walking Across Arched Bridge Over River, undated
Box 2, Item 17	Interior of Bridge Tender's Shack, Electric Draw Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 18	Japanese Humpback Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 19	Small Concrete Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 20	Tunnel Under Bridge with Icicles/Stalactites, undated
Box 2, Item 21	40, Natural Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 22	Portage Viaduct Erie Railroad, undated
Box 2, Item 23	H.G. Tyrrell's Proposed Memorial Bridge Rendering, undated
Box 2, Item 24	Equestrian Monument, undated
Box 2, Item 25	Two Men a top Park Steel Arch, undated
Box 2, Item 26	Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 27	Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 28	Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 29	Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 30	Rough Terrain Before River, undated
Box 2, Item 31	Bridge, undated

Box 2, Item 32	Bridge Over River, Town in Distance, undated
Box 2, Item 33	Crowd of People on Bridge over Water, undated
Box 2, Item 34	Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 35	Workers on Bridge Over River, undated
Box 2, Item 36	Bridge Across River, undated
Box 2, Item 37	Easton Suspension Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 38	Easton Suspension Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 39	Easton Suspension Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 40	Tyrell Easton Park Suspension Foot Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 41	Easton Suspension Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 42	Easton Suspension Bridge, undated
Box 2, Item 43	Tyrell's Easton Suspension Bridge, undated

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Series 3: Hydraulic Engineering

Scope and Contents: Glass plate negatives documenting civil and mechanical engineering activities relating to hydraulic engineering. Glass plates are 8 in x 10 in and 4 in x 5 in.

Box 2, Item 44	Riverside Town and Klock Boat, undated
Box 2, Item 45	View of Canal into Lake, undated
Box 2, Item 46	Moveable Dam 2/2, undated
Box 2, Item 47	Chicago Water Tower, 1869
Box 2, Item 48	Moveable Dam 1/2, undated
Box 2, Item 49	Hydraulic Station, undated

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Series 4: Lighthouses

Scope and Contents: Glass plate negatives documenting civil and mechanical engineering activities related to lighthouses, their construction, and their parts. Few of the images are identified, but named lighthouses are the Minot's Ledge lighthouse, Liston's Rear Delaware, and Spectacle Reef Lake Huron Lighthouse. Also featured is the 1893 Columbian Exposition. The glass plates are 8 in x 10 in, 4 in x 5 in, and 6.5 in x 8.5 in.

Box 3, Item 1	Light House Far View, undated
Box 3, Item 2	Light House on Hilltop with Traintracks, undated
Box 3, Item 3	Lighthouse Construction, undated
Box 3, Item 4	Lighthouse in Water, undated
Box 3, Item 5	Lighthouse Construction, undated
Box 3, Item 6	Lighthouse Construction on Land, undated
Box 3, Item 7	Lighthouse Construction with Scale, undated
Box 3, Item 8	Construction Plan for Minot's Ledge Lighthouse, undated
Box 3, Item 9	Lighthouse and Reflection, undated
Box 3, Item 10	Lighthouse Exterior, undated
Box 3, Item 11	Lighthouse Construction with Boat for Scale, undated
Box 3, Item 12	Lighthouse Construction with Boat for Scale, undated
Box 3, Item 13	Island Lighthouse Distant View, undated
Box 3, Item 14	Water View from Lighthouse, undated
Box 3, Item 15	Lighthouse Among Fenced Trees, undated
Box 3, Item 16	Small Lighthouse in Water, undated
Box 3, Item 17	Men in Rowboat Near Lighthouse on Water, undated
Box 3, Item 18	Suspended Lighthouse, undated
Box 3, Item 19	William J.T. Bell Painting of a Lighthouse, Washington D.C., undated
Box 3, Item 20	Painting of a Lighthouse, undated

Box 3, Item 21	Spectacle Reef Lake Huron Lighthouse Blueprint, undated
Box 3, Item 22	The Intensities and Luminous Ranges (Data) of a Lighthouse, undated
Box 3, Item 23	Cross-Section Plan of Foghorn Building, undated
Box 3, Item 24	Working Machine, undated
Box 3, Item 25	89, Lighthouse, home and out buildings in field, undated, undated
Box 3, Item 26	Lighthouse Machine Part, undated
Box 3, Item 27	Interior Center of a Lighthouse, undated
Box 3, Item 28	Center of a Lighthouse, undated
Box 3, Item 29	Lighthouse Machinery, undated
Box 3, Item 30	Lighthouse Lightroom, undated
Box 3, Item 31	Liston's Rear Delaware Lightstation Core Part, undated
Box 3, Item 32	Lighthouses and Farm, undated
Box 3, Item 33	Peabody 2, Columbian Exposition Exhibit of Lighthouse Lenses, 1893
Box 3, Item 34	Lighthouse in City, Woman on Top, undated
Box 3, Item 35	View of Lighthouse, snow on ground, undated
Box 3, Item 36	Lighthouse Among Trees, undated

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Series 5: Machinery

Scope and Contents: Glass plate negatives documenting miscellaneous civil and mechanical engineering activities related to machinery. A good portion of the images are identified, including Altroy Damper Regulator, Drinhaus-Stiker reffridgerating machine, Fiat Diesel and American Diesel power plants, Philadelphia's Concrete Mixer Pipe No. 70, Bucyrus steam shovel, and Outer Diamond Shoal. The glass plates 8 in x 10 in, 4 in x 5 in, and 6.5 in x 8.5 in.

Box 4, Item 1	Altroy Damper Regulator, 5/5, circa 1903
Box 4, Item 2	Altroy Damper Regulator, 4/5, circa 1903
Box 4, Item 3	Altroy Damper Regulator, 3/5, circa 1903
Box 4, Item 4	Altroy Damper Regulator, 2/5, circa 1903
Box 4, Item 5	Altroy Damper Regulator, 1/5, circa 1903
Box 4, Item 6	Industrial Machinery, undated
Box 4, Item 7	Machine Room with 'Decimal Equivalents' Sign, undated
Box 4, Item 8	Machine Part, undated
Box 4, Item 9	Machine Part, undated
Box 4, Item 10	Machine Part, undated
Box 4, Item 11	Machine Part, undated
Box 4, Item 12	Drinhaus-Stiker Refrigerating Machine, undated
Box 4, Item 13	Drinhaus-Stiker Refrigerating Machine, undated
Box 4, Item 14	Drinhaus-Stiker Refrigerating Machine, undated
Box 4, Item 15	31455, Fiat Diesel, Used in Hall of Heavy Machinery, undated
Box 4, Item 16	Rope Drive Failure, undated
Box 4, Item 17	1884, Concrete Mixer Pipe, 70. Philadelphia, 1920
Box 4, Item 18	82, Rock Drill Exhibit at Columbian Exposition, 1893
Box 4, Item 19	38-18, Interior of American Diesel Power Plant, undated
Box 4, Item 20	Bucyrus Steam Shovel, undated

Box 4, Item 21	Frame Work For Making Borings at Outer Diamond Shoal, from Newport News Virginia, May 1894
Box 4, Item 22	Factory Exterior, undated
Box 4, Item 23	Factory Exterior, undated

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Series 6: Rigging, Shop, Work and Office Scenes

Scope and Contents: Glass plate negatives documenting civil and mechanical engineering activities related to rigging and shopwork scenes, mostly showing construction projects and the people behind them. the glass plates are 8 in x 10 in.

Box 4, Item 24	Workers Pose at L.A. and Company Construction Site, undated
Box 4, Item 25	Workers Pose by Turbine, undated
Box 4, Item 26	Curtis Turbine Rigging, PEPco 'E' Street 5th, 1906
Box 4, Item 27	Curtis Turbine Rigging, PEPco 'R' Street South, 1906
Box 4, Item 28	Workers Posing Outside Wilderness Building, undated
Box 4, Item 29	Laying C.V. Pipe, Washington D.C., undated
Box 4, Item 30	Laying C.I. Sewer or Water Pipe, Washington D.C., undated

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Series 7: Steam Engines, Turbines, Equipment

Scope and Contents: Glass plate negatives documenting civil and mechanical engineering activities related to steam engines and turbines. Most of the images are identified; named subjects include the U.S.S. "North Dakota" engine room, Evieson Hot Giv engine, Willans high speed engine and direct coupled generator, Russell engine, Gao engine, Tandem compound corliss engines, Riedler air compressors, 2-cylinder steam engine, Bryant Street pumping station, Thresher Electric Company, and the Largo Worthington steam pump. The glass plates are 8 in x 10 in, 4 in x 5 in, and 6.5 in x 8.5 in.

Box 4, Item 31	7874, Outline of U.S.S. "North Dakota" Engine Room, undated
Box 4, Item 32	Engine or Generator, undated
Box 4, Item 33	Engine Room, undated
Box 4, Item 34	Engine Room, undated
Box 4, Item 35	Evieson Hot Giv Engine, 1880
Box 4, Item 36	223, Willans High Speed Engine and Direct Coupled Generator at Columbian Exposition, 1893
Box 4, Item 37	2090, Generators and Russell Engine, Columbian Exposition, 1893
Box 4, Item 38	2071, Russell Engine, Columbian Exposition, 1893
Box 4, Item 39	First Gao Engine, July 1846
Box 4, Item 40	51, Tandem Compound Corliss Engines on Riedler Air Compressors, undated
Box 4, Item 41	MMS 38, Tandem Compound Corliss Driving Air Compressor, undated
Box 4, Item 42	2 Cylinder Steam Engine, 1870
Box 4, Item 43	Man and Interior Machinery Cogs, undated
Box 5, Item 1	159, Bryant Street Pumping Station, Washington D.C., circa 1905
Box 5, Item 2	Industrial Power Room, undated
Box 5, Item 3	Generator Room, undated
Box 5, Item 4	Thresher Electric Company Generator Room, undated
Box 5, Item 5	Industrial Power Room Interior, undated

Box 5, Item 6	Potomac Electric Power Company Machine, undated
Box 5, Item 7	Industrial Power System, undated
Box 5, Item 8	MMS 25 84, Largo Worthington Steam Pump, undated
Box 5, Item 9	Machinery Part, undated
Box 5, Item 10	Industrial Machinery, undated
Box 5, Item 11	Generator Equipment, undated
Box 5, Item 12	Machine Part, undated

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Series 8: Structures and Construction

Scope and Contents: Glass plate negatives documenting civil and mechanical engineering activities related to various construction projects and structures. Few of the images are identified, but many depict the same scene or project. Named projects that show up in multiple images include the Washington, D.C. sewage pumping station, Columbian Exposition ferris wheel, and Gas and Coke Works. Other construction projects include factories, railroad tracks and stations, wreckage, and scaffolding/framework. The glass plates are 8 in x 10 in, 4 in x 5 in, and 6.5 in x 8.5 in.

Box 5, Item 13	Roofing Materials for Washington, D.C. Sewage Pumping Station, March 2, 1906
Box 5, Item 14	Roofing Framework of Washington, D.C. Sewage Pumping Station, Claudy Photo, January 1, 1906
Box 5, Item 15	Construction Framework of D.C. Sewage Pumping Station, Claudy Photo, January 1, 1906
Box 5, Item 16	Roofing Materials for Washington, D.C. Sewage Pumping Station, January 31, 1906
Box 5, Item 17	D66 52-02, Washington, D.C. Sewage Pumping Station, December 27, 1905
Box 5, Item 18	50-27 776, Washington, D.C. Sewage Pumping Station, December 27, 1905
Box 5, Item 19	Columbian Exposition Ferris Wheel, 1893
Box 5, Item 20	Columbian Exposition Ferris Wheel, 1893
Box 5, Item 21	Columbian Exposition Ferris Wheel, 1893
Box 5, Item 22	Columbian Exposition Ferris Wheel Side View, 1893
Box 5, Item 23	8627, Ferris Wheel Under Construction, World Fair Jackson Park Chicago, 1893
Box 5, Item 24	Quarry Guy Darrick, Unknown Location, From Old Printed Word Connecticut Avenue D.C., undated
Box 5, Item 25	Gantry Crane, Unknown Location, From Old Printed Word Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C., undated
Box 5, Item 26	Segovia Aquaduct, undated
Box 5, Item 27	13, Stone Mill with Iron Overshot Wheel Near Philadelphia, circa 1920
Box 5, Item 28	8-15 696, Rock Cut and Shovel, undated
Box 5, Item 29	Rock Cut and Shovel, undated

Box 5, Item 30	601, Rock Cut and Shovel, undated
Box 5, Item 31	Large Power Plant and River Siene, H. Wright, Newton Massachusetts, undated
Box 5, Item 32	Gas and Coke Works, F.H Wright, Newton, Massachusetts, undated
Box 5, Item 33	Small Coal Pocket Northeast Gas and Coke Works New England, F.H. Wright, Newton, Massachusetts, undated
Box 5, Item 34	Gas and Coke Works, F.H Wright, Newton, Massachusetts, undated
Box 5, Item 35	Coal Pocket, New England Gas and Coke, Small Wide Angle, F.H. Wright, Newton, Massachusetts, undated
Box 5, Item 36	Gas and Coke Works, F.H Wright, Newton, Massachusetts, undated
Box 5, Item 37	Construction Area, undated
Box 5, Item 38	Exterior Structure Construction, undated
Box 6, Item 1	Machinery Work on Constructing Building, undated
Box 6, Item 2	Machinery Construction by River, undated
Box 6, Item 3	Stewart and Wilmoth Railroad Contractors Laying Down Rail Lines, undated
Box 6, Item 4	Building Rails, undated
Box 6, Item 5	Workers on Building Construction Site, undated
Box 6, Item 6	Building Foundation, undated
Box 6, Item 7	Constructing Railways in Washington D.C., circa 1906
Box 6, Item 8	Railway Lines on Rocky Terrain, undated
Box 6, Item 9	733, Railroad Tunnel Work, undated
Box 6, Item 10	RR Station Depot Columbia Pennsylvania, undated
Box 6, Item 11	8534/36, Train Tracks Chicago, 1893
Box 6, Item 12	Connecting Power Lines to Building, undated
Box 6, Item 13	Building Scaffolding or Supports, undated
Box 6, Item 14	Building Interior Pillars, undated

Box 6, Item 15	Construction, undated
Box 6, Item 16	Brennan Construction Company, undated
Box 6, Item 17	Factory Construction in Washington D.C., circa 1906
Box 6, Item 18	Second Floor Construction, undated
Box 6, Item 19	38-4075, City Construction Scene, undated
Box 6, Item 20	760, Large Office Building Under Construction, circa 1905
Box 6, Item 21	Construction, undated
Box 6, Item 22	Building Exterior Construction, undated
Box 6, Item 23	Workers and Partly-Constructed Building, undated
Box 6, Item 24	Construction Work, undated
Box 6, Item 25	Building Construction, undated
Box 6, Item 26	Building Construction Materials, undated
Box 6, Item 27	Brick Pile and Building Construction, undated
Box 6, Item 28	Building and Reflection, undated
Box 6, Item 29	Horse and Carriage Outside Construction Site, undated
Box 6, Item 30	Industrial Tubing at Construction Site, undated
Box 6, Item 31	Man Atop Industry Building Wreckage/Supplies, undated
Box 6, Item 32	Industry Support Beams, undated
Box 6, Item 33	Workers and Demolished Beams, undated
Box 6, Item 34	Industrial Beam Frame, undated
Box 6, Item 35	Industry Support Beams, undated
Box 6, Item 36	Industry Beam Support Structure, undated

Box 6, Item 37

Industry Beam Supports, undated

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Series 9: Miscellaneous

Scope and Contents: Contains one item, which is a glass plate negative depicting John Worrell Keeley, copied from the William J. Hammer Collection. The glass plate is 8 in x 10 in and cracked in half horizontally.

Box 6, Item 38	John Worrell Keeley, Copied From William J. Hammer Collection, undated Notes: Glass plate negative depicting John Worrell Keeley, copied from the William J. Hammer Collection. Plate is 8 in x 10 in and cracked in half horizontally.
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