



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Washington, DC Bridges Collection

NMAH.AC.1095

NMAH Staff

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Washington, DC Bridges Collection
Date:	1900-1905.
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1095
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry (Collector) National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of History of Technology (Collector) National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering (Collector)
Creator:	Meigs, John (Creator)
Extent:	4.5 Cubic feet (20 boxes)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Collection donated by the Department of Highways and Traffic, District of Columbia Government, through Thomas F. Airis, Director, 1965.

Ownership and Custodial History

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

Processing Information

processed by ALison Oswald, archivist, 2023.

Preferred Citation

Washington, DC Bridges Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

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Biographical / Historical

Meigs was a Washington, D.C. civil engineer.

Scope and Contents

Photoprints and negatives documenting the construction of several Washington, D.C. bridges. The Washington Aqueduct Bridge is the subject of most of the images. The Washington Channel Bridge, the Potomac Highway Bridge, and the 11th Street Bridge are also included among the images. Additionally, there is a letterpress book, an employee time book, and a notebook containing diagrams and measurements.

Arrangement

Collection is divided into five series.

Series 1: Glass Plate Negatives (5 in x 7 in), 1904

Series 2: Glass Plate Negatives (6 in x 8 in), undated

Series 3: Glass Plate Negatives (4 in x 5 in), 1900

Series 4: Photographs Photographs, 1894, 1900

Series 5; Other Materials Other Materials, 1901-1992

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Bridges -- Washington (D.C.)
Rivers -- Washington (D.C.)

Names:

National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of History of Technology
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry

Places:

Washington (D.C.)

Container Listing

Series 1: Glass Plate Negatives (5 in x 7 in), 1904

Scope and Contents: Consists of 5 in x 7 in glass plate negatives documenting bridge construction in the Washington, DC area. Many of the negatives contained paper jackets which remain adhered to the plate. The plates are numbered and are arranged chronologically. There are gaps and the series is incomplete.

Box 1	Glass Plate Negatives, #4-#24 (Bridge Construction), 1904 Notes: Not inclusive.
Box 2	Glass Plate Negatives, #25-#53 (Bridge Construction), 1904
Box 3	Glass Plate Negatives, #54-#65 (Bridge Construction), 1904
Box 4	Glass Plate Negatives, #66-#76 (Bridge Construction), 1904
Box 5	Glass Plate Negatives, #77-#90 (Bridge Construction)
Box 6	Glass Plate Negatives, #92-#104 (Bridge Construction)
Box 7	Glass Plate Negatives, #105-#117 (Bridge Construction)
Box 8	Glass Plate Negatives, #118-#127 (Bridge Construction)
Box 9	Glass Plate Negatives, #128-#140 (Bridge Construction)
Box 10	Glass Plate Negatives, #143-#164 (Bridge Construction)
Box 11	Glass Plate Negatives, #165-#180 (Bridge Construction)
Box 12	Glass Plate Negatives, #181-#198 (Bridge Construction)
Box 13	Glass Plate Negatives, #202-#229 (Bridge Construction)
Box 14	Glass Plate Negatives, #230-#239 and B6 to B12 (Bridge construction and condemned property views.)
Box 15	Glass Plate Negatives, unnumbered
Box 16	Glass Plate Negatives, unnumbered
Box 20, Folder 4	Long Bridge, Washington, DC, Glass Plate Negatives, circa 1904

11 Glass plate negatives

Notes: #133, #149, #172-174, #862, and unnumbered

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Series 2: Glass Plate Negatives (6 in x 8 in), undated

Box 17	Glass Plate Negatives #19, Boylston Manufacturing Company, Oakdale
Box 17	Glass Plate Negative #1, Boring Machine at Dam Site
Box 17	Glass Plate Negative #2, Below Dam Site, Clinton
Box 17	Glass Plate Negative #4, South Clinton
Box 17	Glass Plate Negative #5, Below Sawyers Mill
Box 17	Glass Plate Negative #9, Dam Site, Clinton
Box 17	Glass Plate Negative #10, Sandy Pond, Clinton
Box 17	Glass Plate Negative #13, Sawyers Mill, Boylston
Box 17	Glass Plate Negative #14, Clarendon Mills, West Boylston
Box 17	Glass Plate Negative #15, Sawyers Mill, Boylston
Box 17	Glass Plate Negative #16, Below West Boylston
Box 17	Glass Plate Negative #17, Below Oakdale
Box 17	Glass Plate Negative #18, West Boylston Manufacturing Company, Oakdale
Box 17	Glass Plate Negative #19, West Boylston Manufacturing Company, Oakdale
Box 18	Glass Plate Negative #20, Dam Site Clinton 3 Glass plate negatives
Box 18	Glass Plate Negative #21, Boring Machines at Dam Site
Box 18	Glass Plate Negative #22, Below Dam Site
Box 18	Glass Plate Negative #23, Below Dam Site
Box 18	Glass Plate Negative #24, Above Dam Site
Box 18	Glass Plate Negative #25, Nashua River, South Clinton
Box 18	Glass Plate Negative #26, Valley Above South Clinton
Box 18	Glass Plate Negative #28, valley Above South Clinton

Box 18 Glass Plate Negative #29, Sawyers Mills

Box 18 Glass Plate Negative #34, Sandy Pond

Box 18 Glass Plate Negative #32, Below West Boylston

Box 18 Glass Plate Negative #30, Sawyers Mills

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Series 3: Glass Plate Negatives (4 in x 5 in) , 1900

10 Glass plate negatives

Box 20, Folder 3

Aqueduct Bridge, Washington, DC, circa 1900

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Series 4: Photographs, 1894, 1900

Box 19, Folder 1	Aqueduct Bridge over Potomac, Washington, DC, circa 1900
Box 19, Folder 2	Aqueduct Bridge over Potomac, Washington, DC, circa 1900
Box 19, Folder 3	Aqueduct Bridge over Potomac, Washington, DC, circa 1900
Box 19, Folder 4	Aqueduct Bridge over Potomac, Washington, DC (negatives), circa 1900
Box 19, Folder 5	Aqueduct Bridge over Potomac, Washington, DC (cyanotype), circa 1900
Box 19, Folder 6	Photographs, various bridges, circa 1900
Box 19, Folder 7	Columbia University Civil Engineering Class at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, 1894
Box 21, Folder 3	Potomac Highway Bridge, Bronze Tablet , undated

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Series 5: Other Materials , 1901-1992

Box 19, Folder 8	History and Construction of Railroad Bridge over Potomac River at Washington, DC , 1933
Box 19, Folder 9	Building the Potomac Aqueduct, 1830, 1975
Box 19, Folder 10	Connecticut Avenue Bridge (William H. Taft bridge), Historic American Engineering Record, 1992
Box 19, Folder 11	Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge, Historic American Engineering Record, 1992
Box 19, Folder 12	Potomac Aqueduct, Historic American Building Survey , 1968
Box 19, Folder 13	Q Street (Dumbarton Bridge), Historic American Engineering Record, 1992
Box 19, Folder 14	Aqueduct Bridge Over Potomac, Reconstruction of Pier #4 and Piankatank River Wreck and Carter's Wreck, 1900, 1902
Box 20, Folder 1	Washington and Alexandria Highway Bridge Payroll Notebook , 1901-1905
Box 20, Folder 2	Washington Chain Bridge Field Notebook #361, undated
Box 21, Folder 1	John Meigs Letterpress Book, No. 2, 1905-1906
Box 21, Folder 2	Long Bridge Across the Potomac River, 1901

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