Finding Aid to the
Red River Floods & Urban Development Photograph Collection

Red River Floods & Urban Development Photograph Collection, 1969-1990s
747 photographic prints
122 35 mm color negatives (c35mm-143 to c35mm-174)
66 35mm B&W negatives (35mm-572 to 35mm-584
Collection number: Photo 2018

History Scope and Content Folder List

OVERVIEW

Links: View collection on Digital Horizons

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Provenance: Donated by Neal A. Eriksmoen, 2008 (Acc. 2843).

Property rights: The Institute for Regional Studies owns the property rights to this collection.

Copyrights: Copyrights to this collection is held by the Institute.

Citation: Institute for Regional Studies, NDSU, Fargo (item number)

HISTORY

The images in the Red River Floods & Urban Development Photograph Collection were compiled and taken by Neal Eriksmoen, president and appraiser with Appraisal Services, Inc. in Fargo, N.D. The images document flooding and real estate development in Fargo-Moorhead and other communities in North Dakota.

The Red River of the North is highly susceptible to spring flooding; this is due to several reasons. First the river flows northward, meaning that the spring thaw takes place in the southern portions of the

watershed first and gradually moves northward causing the drainage of melt water to be impeded by ice jams along the course of the river. The Red River Valley was at one time the bottom of Glacial Lake Agassiz, and it is one of the flattest expanses of land in the world. The Red River is a relatively young river, only about 9,300 years old in its present course. Due to this fact it has had little time to form a significant valley, leading the surrounding land to become a floodplain in times of excess precipitation.

Urban development began in the Red River Valley in the 1870s, and three major metropolitan areas grew along the banks of the river south of the United States-Canadian border; those being Wahpeton-Breckinridge, Fargo-Moorhead, and Grand Forks-East Grand Forks. The Red River Valley was ideal for growing spring wheat, and massive bonanza farms were developed by the railroads to draw attention to the regions agricultural productivity. This drew international attention to the region and began a boom in the late 1870s and 1880s. The land was soon filled with settlers, making the urban centers locations for trade and commerce.

In Fargo-Moorhead, the center of the city was located in the historic downtown district for nearly a century. About 1970, urban development began to shift toward the south and west. This was partially a result of the completion of Interstate Highway 29 and Interstate Highway 94 as well as the construction of West Acres Shopping Center in 1972 near the intersection of these two Interstate Highways. The governmental and financial hub of the city remained downtown, but the retail center moved toward the West Acres area. With the success of West Acres, other businesses and developers chose to locate in this area as more people desired to live closer to shopping, work and other amenities. Similar growth patterns took place in other regional communities during this same time period.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Red River Flood & Urban Development Photograph Collection** is made up mostly of aerial photographs taken by the company Appraisal Services, Inc. based in Fargo, N.D. They give a record of areas of the Red River Valley affected by flooding between 1969 and 1989, and areas of North Dakota urban development and growth from the late 1980s and early 1990s.The collection is divided up into three series: Flood Series, Fargo-Moorhead Urban Development Series, and the North Dakota Urban Development Series.

The **Flood Series** contains aerial photographs of four major floods of the Red River Valley and primarily stay around Fargo-Moorhead and the southern valley region. The 1969 Flood has 10 black and white, enlarged aerial photographs taken by the photographer Chet Gebert on April 14, 1969. They are entirely taken in the Fargo-Moorhead city limits and include the neighborhoods around Cardinal Muench Seminary, Edgewood, Ridgewood Addition, Mickelson Park, Belmont Addition, Woodlawn Park, South Brookdale, and River Oaks. The 1978 Flood images were taken on April 4, 1978, and include aerial snapshots over the Harwood, Argusville, Georgetown, Moorhead, Fargo, Forest River, Heritage Hills, Oxbow, Wild Rice, Horace, West Fargo and rural locations in between these communities. There is a hand drawn flight path for the 1978 flood images with the Finding Aid in Folder 1 of this collection. The 1978 flood photographs were originally housed in a photo album, and the original order has been maintained. The original negatives for the 1978 flood images are housed in the 35 mm B&W negative collection between negative numbers 577 and 584.

The 1979 flood images are all snapshot aerials of the Fargo-Moorhead area including, Forest River, Heritage Hills, West Fargo Reile's Acres, and Harwood. There is a combination of black and white and color images in the 1979 flood aerials. Original negatives for the 1979 Flood images are housed in the 35mm B&W collection under numbers 572 to 576, and the color negatives under c35mm -143 to 144. These photographs were maintained in the original order as they were received at the time of donation. The 1989 flood aerials are all color aerial snapshots over the West Fargo, Horace, Wahpeton, Breckinridge, Oxbow, Heritage Hills, Orchard Glenn, Fargo, Moorhead, Briarwood, Forrest Hills, Hickson, and River Oaks areas. These images were previously numbered by the donor, and this order has been maintained in the arrangement of these images. The original color negatives for the 1989 Flood images are located under c35mm -169 to 174.

The **Fargo-Moorhead Urban Development Series** consists of a number of aerials over areas of new development in and around the Fargo-Moorhead area. Most of these images were likely taken in the late 1980s or early 1990s. There is a set of numbered images taken on June 20, 1988 and February 15, 1989, over the Fargo, West Fargo, and Moorhead areas. These photographs have been organized under the original numerical order assigned by the donor. The original negatives for this dated set of images are located under c35mm -164 to 168.

The **North Dakota Urban Development Series** includes the towns of Beulah, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Langdon, Underwood, Valley City, and Wahpeton. These images seem to focus on newer areas of development rather the central business districts in and around these communities. In the Beulah and Underwood files, there are aerials over the power plants at Coyote and Coal Creek Stations.

FOLDER LIST

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1	Finding aid, and Historical information
	Flood Series
2	1969 Flood (10)
3	1978 Flood- Fargo Non-Aerial Mickelson Park (8)
4	1978 Flood- Harwood and Rivertree Addition (14)
5	1978 Flood- Argusville and Georgetown (20)
6	1978 Flood- Edgewood Mobile Home Park (8)
7	1978 Flood- General Aerial Views South (7)
8	1978 Flood- Heritage Hills (13)
9	1978 Flood- Forest River Addition and Oxbow (18)
10	1978 Flood- General Aerial Views and Oxbow area (22)
11	1978 Flood- Horace (14)
12	1978 Flood- West Fargo (23)

13 1978 Flood- Downtown and North Dakota State University, 12th Ave. Viaduct (6)
14 1979 Flood- Film roll #1 (20)
15 1979 Flood- Film roll #2 (23)
16 1979 Flood- Film roll #3 (21)
17 1979 Flood- Film roll #4 (21)
18 1979 Flood- Film roll #5 (21)
19 1979 Flood- Film roll #1 – Reile's Acres, West Fargo, and Argusville (22)
20 1979 Flood- Film roll A (10)
21 1989 Flood- Film roll #1 includes West Fargo (28)
22 1989 Flood- Film roll #2 includes Horace & Wahpeton/Breckinridge (28)
23 1989Flood- Film roll #3 includes Wahpeton/Breckinridge, Oxbow, Heritage Hills, Orchard Glenn, Fargo Country Club and Downtown Fargo (26)
24 1989 Flood- Film roll #4 South of Fargo/Moorhead, Briarwood, Forrest Hills, Orchard Glen (26)
25 1989 Flood- Film roll #5 – includes Oxbow, Hickson, River Oaks, Gooseberry Park, & downtown Fargo (26)
26 1989 Flood- Film roll #6 – includes north Fargo, Oakport, Oak Grove areas (27)
27 1989 Flood- Film roll #7 – includes North Moorhead/Fargo, Veterans Hosp. & Trollwood (23)

Fargo-Moorhead Urban Development Series

28 General ground level views – Fargo, N.D. (2)
29 Aerials downtown Fargo, N.D. (16)
30 Aerials over Main Avenue west of downtown Fargo, N.D. (7)
31 Aerials over Northport & Trollwood neighborhood, Fargo, N.D. (4)
32 Aerials over industrial area, Fargo, N.D. (4)
33 Aerials over 13th Avenue area east of I-29, Fargo, N.D. (6)
34 Aerials over West Acres and 13th Avenue area west of I-29, Fargo, N.D. (33)
35 Aerials over South University Drive area, Fargo, N.D. (6)
36 Aerials over 32nd Avenue S. and Bluemont Lakes area, Fargo, N.D. (3)
37 Aerials over West Fargo, N.D. (11)
38 Aerials over downtown Moorhead, Minn. (14)
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41 Images C200-C204 northwest Fargo
Images C205-C206 west Main Avenue
Images C207-C212 West Fargo
Image C213 Westwood Estates
Image C214 Dakota View Estates
Image C215 T J Maxx Plaza & Kmart
Images C216-C217 Interstate Blvd. & 36th Street S.
Images C218-C219 7th Avenue industrial area

Images C220-C224 Main Avenue and 25th Street area
Image C225 Maplewood Apartments
Images C226-C228 S. University Drive & Dakota Hospital
Images C229-230 5th Street S. & I-29 area
Images C231-C233 8th Street S., south of I-94, Moorhead, Minn.
Images C234-C237 Moorhead Industrial Park
Image C239 Kmart, Moorhead, Minn.
Images C240-C241 Downtown Moorhead, Minn.
Images C242-C249 Downtown Fargo, N.D.
Image C250 Red River and Hjemkomst Center
Image C251-C253 Downtown Moorhead, Minn.
Image C254 Toll bridge and Red River
Image C255-C261 Northport and Trollwood neighborhood
Image C262-C274 13th Avenue S. east of I-29

Dated aerials over Fargo-Moorhead area 2-15-1989 (47)

42 Images C275-C276 Aerial over east 13th Avenue area, West Fargo, N.D.
Image C277 T J Maxx Plaza & Kmart
Image C278-C279 West Acres area
Image C280-C282 13th Avenue area east of I-29
Images C283-C284 13th Avenue and 25th Street intersection
Images C285-C289 Downtown Fargo & Island Park
Images C290-C291 Downtown Moorhead, Minn.
Image C292 West side of Dilworth, Minn.
Images C293-C295 East Moorhead, Minn. & U.S. Hwy 10
Images C296-C312 I-29 & 12th Avenue N., Fargo Industrial area
Image C313 West Main Avenue area
Images C314-C315 Intersection of 14th Street & 14th Ave. E., West Fargo, N.D.
Images C316-C320 13th Avenue, T J Maxx, and West Acres area
Images C321 13th Avenue east of I-29.
Images C322-C327 25th Street and 13th Avenue S. area
Images C328-C329 Fiechtner Drive
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North Dakota Urban Development Series

43 Aerials over Beulah, N.D. & Coyote Station (3)
44 Aerials over Grand Forks, N.D. (22)
45 Aerials over Jamestown, N.D. (6)
46 Aerials over Langdon, N.D. 1988 (6)
47 Aerials over Coal Creek Station, Underwood, N.D. (3)
48 Aerial over Valley City, N.D. (1)
49 Aerial over Wahpeton, N.D. (3)

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