Finding Aid to the
Mandan, N.D. 1943 Flood Aerials Photograph Collection

Mandan, N.D. 1943 Flood Aerials Photograph Collection
55 negatives
Collection number: Photo 2115

OVERVIEW

Links: View collection in Digital Horizons.

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


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

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

HISTORY

Little information is known on the origins of this negative collection or why the images were taken. The collection was donated by the Philadelphia Maritime Museum, however it is not known how they came into possession of them. Since the images are all taken on the Heart River over and near Mandan, North Dakota during the Spring flood of 1943 they likely were taken by a government agency to document the flood and record causes and effects for future mitigation projects.

The Spring Flood of 1943, was a result of a four-day blizzard that struck the area March 14 to 17. Due to relatively mild temperatures during the storm, the water content of the snow was high. The average snowfall for the state was 14.8 inches. To make matters worse, the state experienced a rapid melt from March 22 to 31. On March 26 the Heart River in Mandan started to rise, and three fourths of the city was flooded. Nearly 2,000 of the 6,685 residents were driven from their
homes. By March 28, the river began to recede and by March 30, much of the flooding was over, leaving thousands of dollars worth of damage to stored grain, personal and business property. U.S. Highway 10 was closed for nearly two weeks and the Northern Pacific Railroad line for two days.

Mandan had been affected many times by flooding due to its proximity to the confluence of the Missouri and Heart Rivers. The construction of the Heart Butte Dam in 1949, and the Garrison Dam in 1953, resolved much of the flooding issues for the city.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Mandan, N.D. 1943 Flood Aerials Photograph Collection document from the air one of the worst floods to hit the Heart River and Mandan, North Dakota. The images were likely taken by a government agency, perhaps to document the event for future flood control. The creator of the negatives gave each item a unique number which was handwritten on the outside of each original envelope sleeve as well as printed on the lower right corner of each negative. The negatives are organized in numerical order based upon this number. Two series are identifiable based upon negative size and content, the **Low Elevation Aerial Series**, and the **High Altitude Aerial Series**.

The **Low Elevation Aerial Series** consist of nineteen negatives that are 20 x 24 cm. in size. They are taken at a lower elevation in and around the city of Mandan, N.D. These images give great detail of the flood inundation in downtown Mandan, the Northern Pacific Railroad yards and roundhouse, the Morton County Fairgrounds, the State Training School, and the Russell Miller Milling Company.

The **High Altitude Aerial Series** consists of thirty-six negative that were taken at a much higher elevation and are 24 x 24 cm. in size. These images follow the Heart River starting approximately 6 miles west of Mandan, and follow the flooded river basin eastward over Mandan to its confluence with the Missouri River. These views not only capture the city of Mandan, but also the railroad siding of Sunny, N.D., Liberty Memorial Bridge over the Missouri River, Fort McKeen and Fort Abraham Lincoln.

NEGATIVE LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neg. No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23078</td>
<td>Aerial looking west over Mandan, N.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23079</td>
<td>Aerial looking northwest over Heart River and Mandan, N.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23080</td>
<td>Aerial looking northwest over Heart River and Mandan, N.D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23081</td>
<td>Aerial looking west over south side of Mandan, N.D. and Heart River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23082</td>
<td>Aerial looking west over Fairgrounds and Russell Miller Milling Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23083</td>
<td>Aerial looking northeast over Mandan, N.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23084</td>
<td>Aerial looking northeast over Mandan, N.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23085</td>
<td>Aerial looking northwest over State Training School, Mandan, N.D.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
23086  Aerial over N.P. railroad and Main Street bridges, Mandan, N.D.
23087  Aerial over N.P. railroad and Main Street bridges, Mandan, N.D.
23088  Aerial looking west over downtown Mandan, N.D.
23089  Aerial looking north over N.P. Railroad yards & downtown, Mandan, N.D.
23090  Aerial looking north over N.P. Railroad yards & downtown, Mandan, N.D.
23091  Aerial looking southwest over N.P. Railroad yards, Mandan, N.D.
23092  Aerial looking east over fairgrounds, Mandan, N.D.
23093  Aerial looking northwest over Russell Miller Milling Co., Mandan, N.D.
23094  Aerial looking northeast over the 8th Ave. railroad viaduct, Mandan, N.D.
23095  Aerial of flood waters over dike, southeast of Mandan, N.D.
23096  Aerial over farmstead surrounded by flood waters

High Altitude Aerial Series

23210  Heart River in T. 138N, R. 82W, Sec. 4, Morton County, N.D.
23211  Heart River in T. 139N, R. 82W, Sec. 33 & 34, Morton County, N.D.
23212  Heart River in T. 139N, R. 82W, Sec. 33, 34, & 27, Morton County, N.D.
23213  Heart River in T. 139N, R. 82W, Sec. 27, Morton County, N.D.
23214  Heart River in T. 139N, R. 82W, Sec. 26 & 27, Morton County, N.D.
23215  Heart River in T. 139N, R. 82W, Sec. 23 & 26, Morton County, N.D.
23216  Heart River in T. 139N, R. 82W, Sec. 23 & 26, Morton County, N.D.
23217  Heart River in T. 139N, R. 82W, Sec. 14 & 23, Morton County, N.D.
23218  Heart River in T. 139N, R. 82W, Sec. 23 & 26, Morton County, N.D.
23219  Heart River in T. 139N, R. 82W, Sec. 23 & 26, Morton County, N.D.
23220  Heart River in T. 139N, R. 82W, Sec. 24 & 25, Morton County, N.D.
23221  Heart River in T. 139N, R. 82W, Sec. 24 & 25, and T. 139, R. 81, Sec. 19 & 30, Morton County, N.D.
23222  Heart River and Sunny siding in T. 139, R. 81, Sec. 30, Morton County, N.D.
23223  Heart River in T. 139, R. 81, Sec. 29, Morton County, N.D.
23224  Heart River in T. 139, R. 81, Sec. 28 & 29, Morton County, N.D.
23225  Heart River in T. 139, R. 81, Sec. 28, and western Mandan, N.D.
23226  Heart River and southwestern Mandan, N.D.
23227  Heart River and southern Mandan, N.D.
23228  Heart River and southern Mandan, N.D.
23229  Heart River in T. 139, R. 81, Sec. 26 & 35, Morton County, N.D.
23230  Heart River in T. 139, R. 81, Sec. 26, 35 & 36, Morton County, N.D.
23231  T. 139, R. 81, Sec. 25 & 35, Morton County, N.D.
23233  Missouri River, Liberty Memorial Bridge and the N.P. railroad bridge, and the Fraine Barracks, near Bismarck, N.D.
23234  Heart River in T. 139, R. 81, Sec. 27 & 28, and western Mandan, N.D.
23235  Heart River and Mandan, N.D.
23236  Heart River and eastern Mandan, N.D.
23237  Heart River and eastern Mandan, N.D.
23238  Heart River, Missouri River and eastern Mandan, N.D.
23239  Heart River, Missouri River and eastern Mandan, N.D.
23240  Heart River in T. 139, R. 81, Sec. 26, 35 & 36, Morton County, N.D.
23241  Heart River in T. 138, R. 81, Sec. 1 & 2, Morton County, N.D.
23242  Heart River in T. 138, R. 81, Sec. 1 & 2, Morton County, N.D.
<table>
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<tr>
<td>23243</td>
<td>Heart River in T. 138, R. 81, Sec. 11 &amp; 12, Morton County, N.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23244</td>
<td>Heart River in T. 138, R. 81, Sec. 11 &amp; 12, Morton County, N.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23245</td>
<td>Heart River and Missouri River in T. 138, R. 81, Sec. 13. Morton County, N.D., including Fort McKeen.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23246</td>
<td>Heart River and Missouri River in T. 138, R. 81, Sec. 13. Morton County, N.D., including Fort McKeen &amp; Fort Abraham Lincoln.</td>
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