

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

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OVERVIEW

Links: View collection in [Digital Horizons](#).

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

Provenance: Donated by Philadelphia Maritime Museum, 1989.

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

Copyrights: Copyrights to this collection remain with the copyright holder or are in the public domain.

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

Neg. No.	Description
	Finding aid & research materials
	Low Elevation Aerial Series
23078	Aerial looking west over Mandan, N.D.
23079	Aerial looking northwest over Heart River and Mandan, N.D.
23080	Aerial looking northwest over Heart River and Mandan, N.D.
23081	Aerial looking west over south side of Mandan, N.D. and Heart River
23082	Aerial looking west over Fairgrounds and Russell Miller Milling Co.
23083	Aerial looking northeast over Mandan, N.D.
23084	Aerial looking northeast over Mandan, N.D.
23085	Aerial looking northwest over State Training School, Mandan, N.D.

- 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.

- 23243 Heart River in T. 138, R. 81, Sec. 11 & 12, Morton County, N.D.
23244 Heart River in T. 138, R. 81, Sec. 11 & 12, Morton County, N.D.
- 23245 Heart River and Missouri River in T. 138, R. 81, Sec. 13. Morton
County, N.D., including Fort McKeen.
23246 Heart River and Missouri River in T. 138, R. 81, Sec. 13. Morton
County, N.D., including Fort McKeen & Fort Abraham Lincoln.