

Finding Aid to the Fargo, North Dakota Photograph Collection

Caron, John, collector

Fargo, North Dakota Photograph Collection, 1870s - 2001
1,881 postcards, photographic postcards and photographs
1 lantern slide (LS-1)
10 5x7 in. negatives (Neg. 5x7P-403 to 412)
196 35mm color negatives (Neg. C35mm-1 to 58)
Collection number: Photo 2006

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OVERVIEW

Links: View collection in [Digital Horizons](#)
View John Caron's [Fargo History](#) website.

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

Provenance: Donated by John Caron, 2004 (Acc. 2740).

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

Copyrights: Copyrights to this collection remain with creator or in the public domain.

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

BIOGRAPHY

John Caron is a native of Fargo, N.D., and a graduate of Fargo Central High School and NDSU, where he received his BA in mathematics in 1966. His graduate studies in mathematics, philosophy, and public administration took him to the University of Minnesota, Harvard University, and American University. He has served both in government and private industry as an executive in the field of information technology. One of Mr. Caron's interests is the history of Fargo. He collected photographic and postcard images of Fargo from which he developed a website on Fargo's history.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The John Caron Fargo, N.D. Photograph Collection comprises 2088 items documenting the history and development of Fargo, N.D. The photographs in the collection date from the 1870s to 2001. The majority of the items are in postcard format, however there are other photograph formats represented throughout the collection. His collecting of images and information on his hometown led to his developing the web site, *Fargo, North Dakota: It's History and Images*. The site was first made public on July 4, 2000, yet Mr. Caron continued to enlarge and enhance the site. In 2004 he donated the web site of some 600 individual pages containing over 1,000 images to the Institute for Regional Studies. As part of this donation, Mr. Caron also donated the photographic, book and print resources he had collected to build the entire web site.

The Caron Collection has been organized into six series: Downtown Fargo, Fargo Photographs (Summer 2002), Buildings & Businesses, Education, People, and Topical. Researchers should consult the Contents Listing for a detailed folder-by-folder breakdown to the collection.

The [Downtown Fargo Series](#) contains images related to downtown, including aerials, elevated views, panoramic views and photo montages. Scenes taken of the main downtown thoroughfares of Broadway, Main Avenue, N.P. Avenue, First Avenue North, Roberts Street and Seventh Street South, have been organized in their own folders. These street files are organized by building address going from lowest to highest. After each streets file there is a file that contains buildings and businesses which are located on that street. There is a separate file for those buildings and businesses that are not located on one of these main thoroughfares. Of interest in this series is an oversized albumen print of the Stephens & Sears Livery taken in the 1880s by F. Jay Haynes. There are also several stereo views likely taken in the 1870s and 1880s of some downtown streets. They are incorporated into the files based upon address.

The [Fargo Photographs \(Summer 2002\) Series](#) contains over 180 color prints taken by John Caron on a visit to Fargo in the Summer of 2002. As in the Downtown Fargo Series the images are organized by street and address. Images that did not fit under the street criteria are organized alphabetically by the topics: Bonanzaville U.S.A., Fine Arts Clubhouse, Radisson Hotel, School buildings and Statuary. The original negatives are housed in the Institute's 35mm negative collection.

The images in [Buildings & Businesses Series](#) are organized alphabetically by topic or business name. These are buildings and businesses that tend to stand out in importance, or are located out of the downtown area and thus cannot be included in the Downtown Fargo Series. Some of the topics include the Cass County Courthouse, Churches, Fargo City Buildings, Hospitals, Hotels and motels, etc.

The [Education Series](#) images have been organized into the following subseries: Business colleges, Fargo College, Private schools, Public schools and North Dakota State University. Under each file, with the exception of North Dakota State University, the photographs are organized alphabetically by building name. North Dakota State University is broken down topically due to the volume of material involved. Within this topical listing there is a building file that lists the campus buildings alphabetically. Of interest in the North Dakota State University Buildings file, are some postcards for which the original negatives also had been collected by Mr. Caron. These negatives are housed in the Institute's 5x7 negative collection and are cross referenced with the postcards.

The [People Series](#) has been divided into three files; Groups, Portraits and Snapshots. In the Groups file there are some formal portraits of letter carriers and police officers. There is also a very nice folio-size

portrait of the Fargo postal workers standing on the steps of the old post office building. The Snapshots file contains a series of images taken of people inside and outside the Broadway Café.

The [Topical Series](#) is arranged alphabetically by subject. Of interest in this series is an early photograph of a survey party taken in the early 1870s when Fargo was just a tent city. This item is a stereo view taken by Caswell and Davy, photographers from Duluth, Minnesota. There is also a very nice stereo view of a Red River ox cart. The Cemeteries file contains a cabinet photograph of the grave of Johannes J. Westerby (1861-1887) in Riverside Cemetery, Moorhead, Minn. The Events folder contains images of visiting dignitaries including Theodore Roosevelt, Billy Sunday, Charles Lindbergh, William Howard Taft and Prince Gustavus of Sweden. The Tornado – 1957 file contains a series of snapshots taken of the destruction following that storm. There is also a glass lantern slide of a harvesting scene. This is housed in the lantern slide collection.

FILE.ITEM	CONTENTS (No. of images)
1	Finding aid
	Downtown Fargo Series
2	Aerials (12)
3	Elevated views (6)
4	Panoramic views (9)
5	Photo montages (10)
6	General downtown buildings (23)
6.1	American Life and Casualty Insurance Co.
6.2	Branick Vulcanizing Co.
6.3	Bronk's Package Store
6.4-5	Elks Lodge
6.6	Federal Land Bank Association
6.7	Finch Brothers, importers of stallions and mares
6.8	Gate City Savings
6.9	Jo Davies Service Co.
6.10	Knerr Dairy Company
6.11-12	Merchants National Bank and Trust Co.
6.13	N.D. Metal Culvert Co.
6.14-16	Pioneer Mutual Life (A.O.U.W.)
6.17	Pioneer Mutual Life (Mural from lobby)
6.18	Regans Fargo Moorhead Bakery
6.19	Shotwell Floral (greenhouse)
6.20	University Drive Manor
6.21-22	Walker Opera House
6.23	Western States Life
	Broadway—
7	Looking North from Main Ave. (48)
8	Looking South from N. P. Ave. (3)
10	Looking North from N.P. Ave. (35)
11	Looking South from First Ave. (6)
12	Looking North from First Ave. (5)
13	Looking South from Second Ave. (7)
14	North of Second Ave. (9)

15	Buildings & businesses (43)
15.1-2	13 South Broadway (Armory/Auditorium)
15.3	1 (Eggert's Grocery & Meat Market interior)
15.4-7	15-17 (First National Bank, interior and exterior)
15.8-11	22-24 (Edwards Building/Alex Stern Co.)
15.12-13	65 (Fargo Café)
15.14	68 (Golden Maid Café & Times Café, interiors)
15.15	69 (McClane's Art Store, interior)
15.16	72 (Sundberg Co. Jewelry Store, interior)
15.17	100 block (Freeman & Drew, early 1880s)
15.18	102 (Straus interior)
15.19-23	114-118 (Black Building)
15.24	120 (Broadway Dairy Lunch, interior)
15.25-26	124 (Economy Drug interior)
15.27	200 block (Fargo Furniture, 1880s)
15.28	209 (Perkins Pancake House – interior)
15.29	222-224 (Knights of Columbus Building)
15.30	309 (The Club Cigar Store, interior)
15.31	302 (R & G Bootery interior)
15.32	311-319 (Derecci Building/Y.W.C.A.)
15.33	313 (Scherling Studio interior)
15.34-39	314 (Fargo Theatre)
15.40-41	401-431 (Fargo Mercantile Co.)
15.41-43	509 (Ford Motor Co.)
	Main Avenue—
16	Looking east of Broadway (8)
17	Looking west of Broadway (28)
18	Buildings and businesses (14)
18.1-2	(High Rise for the Elderly)
18.3	116 (Fargo Union Mission)
18.4	500 block (Union Block, 1880s)
18.5-7	512 (Armstrong's Dairy Lunch)
18.8-9	520-524 (Fargo National Bank)
18.10	606 (Fargo Drug interior)
15.14	616 (Times Café, interiors & Golden Maid Café)
18.11-12	618 (Monson Trunk Co.—largest trunk in world)
18.13	618-624 (deLendrecie's)
18.14	708 (Waldorf Pharmacy, interior)
	N.P. Avenue—
19	Looking east of Broadway (19)
20	Looking west of Broadway (11)
21	Buildings & businesses (11)
21.1	424 (Corwin-Churchill Co.)
21.2-4	502-506 (Greyhound Bus Station)
21.5-6	500 block (Chapin Hall, interior and exterior, 1870s)
21.7	600 block (Stephens & Sears Livery, 1880s)
21.8-10	611 (Orpheum Theatre)
21.11	619 (Bridal Shop window display at night)
22	First Avenue North— (17)
23	Buildings & businesses (14)
23.1	301 (Fargo Ice Cream & Cider Co.)

23.2-3	615 (Stone Piano Co. & Daveau Music Co.)
23.4	618-620 (Grand Recreation)
23.5-12	632 (Y.M.C.A.)
23.13-14	635-637 (Pioneer Life building)
24	Roberts Street— (2)
25	Buildings & businesses (2)
25.1-2	112-114 (A.O.U.W.)
26	Seventh Street S. (3)

Fargo Photographs – Summer 2002 Series

	North Streets -
27	Fourth Street (5)
28	Broadway (east side of the street) (30)
29	Broadway (west side of the street) (41)
30	Roberts Street (6)
31	Seventh Street N. (6)
	South Streets -
32	Seventh Street S. (4)
33	Eighth Street S. (4)
	Avenues –
34	Main Avenue (11)
35	N.P. Avenue (3)
36	First Avenue N. (30)
37	Second Avenue N. (3)
38	Fourth Avenue N. (10)
	Topical –
39	Bonanzaville, U.S.A. (7)
40	Fine Arts Clubhouse (2)
41	Radisson Hotel (3)
42	School Buildings (11)
43	Statuary (8)

Buildings & Businesses Series

44	Bowling Alleys (1)
45	Cass County Courthouse (34)
46	Churches— (104)
46.1	Broadway Methodist
46.2-3	Christian Science
46.4-12	First Baptist
46.13-17	First Congregational
46.18-30	First Lutheran
46.31-39	First Methodist
46.40-60	First Presbyterian
46.61-66	Gethsemane Episcopal
46.71	Immanuel Lutheran
46.67-68	Olivet Lutheran
46.69-70	Pontoppidan Lutheran
46.72-103	St. Mary's Cathedral
46.104	Swedish Baptist

47	Fargo City Buildings— (16)
47.1-12	City Hall
47.13-15	Civic Memorial Auditorium
47.16	Fargodome
48	Hospitals— (92)
48.1-3	Dakota Hospital and Clinic
48.4	Fargo Sanitarium
48.5-40	St. John's Hospital and Nurses Home
48.41-67	St. Luke's Hospitals and Fargo Clinic
48.68-92	Veterans Administration
49	Hotels and Motels— (100)
49.1	Annex
49.2	Biltmore Motor Hotel
49.3-4	Fargo House
49.5-38	Gardner
49.39-41	Graver
49.42-45	Headquarters
49.46-47	Holiday Inn
49.48	Home Sweet Home Motel
49.49	Jul's Cabin Court
49.50-51	Oak Manor Motor Lodge
49.52-58	Powers
49.59-60	Prescott
49.61	Radisson
49.62	Sherman House
49.63	Town House Motor Inn
49.64-67	Viking (Bison)
49.68-99	Waldorf (Earle)
49.100	White Auto Court
50	Interiors – Unidentified Businesses (3)
51	Nursing Homes (1)
52	Post Office and Federal Building (1 st Ave. North) (31)
53	Public Library (15)
54	Railroad Depots - Great Northern (28)
55	Railroad Depots - Northern Pacific & Depot Park (64)
56	Restaurants (1)
57	St. John's Orphanage (3)
58	Union Elevator (1)

Education Series

59	Business Colleges (25)
59.1-13	Aakers Business College
59.15-26	Dakota Business College
60	Fargo College (32)
61	Private Schools (35)
61.1-13	Oak Grove
61.14-34	Sacred Heart Academy
61.35	Shanley High School
62	Public Schools (34)
62.1-2	Agassiz

62.3	Ben Franklin
62.4-12	Central High School
62.13-29	Old Central High School
62.30	Horace Mann
62.31	Longfellow
62.32-33	Roosevelt
62.34	Woodrow Wilson
	North Dakota State University
63	Aerials (13)
64	Buildings— (102)
64.1	Alba Bales House
64.2	Alpha Gamma Rho
64.3	Alpha Tau Omega
64.4-5	Barns
64.6-13	Bentson-Bunker Fieldhouse
64.14-15	Bjørnson Obelisk
64.16	Burgum Hall
64.17-28	Ceres Hall
64.29-30	Chemistry Building
64.31-32	Churchill Hall
64.33	Dairy Building
64.34	Engineering Center
64.35-41	Francis Hall
64.42-51	Library
64.52-58	Ladd Hall
64.59-60	Mechanical Arts & Old Engineering
64.61-62	Memorial Union
64.63-69	Minard Hall
64.70	Morrill Hall
64.71-72	E. Morrow Lebedeff Hall
64.73	Nelson Health Center
64.74-91	Old Main
64.92	President's House
64.93	School of Religion
64.94	Shepperd Arena
64.95-101	South Engineering
64.102	Van Es – Old
65	Entrance Gate and Drive (13)
66	General views (27)
67	Panoramic views (2)
68	Photomontages (7)
69	Student Activities (7)

People Series

70	Groups (11)
71	Portraits (18)
72	Snapshots (16)

Topical Series

73	Animals (9)
74	Bridges (37)
75	Cemeteries (1)
76	Eighth Street South (13)
77	Events (12)
78	Fargo survey party, 1870s (1)
79	Farming – Harvesting (43 & 1 lantern slide)
80	Farmsteads (9)
81	‘Faux’ Fargo (2)
82	Fires (1)
83	Floods (18)
84	Gardens (1)
85	Golf Courses (8)
84	Grand Forks, N.D. (4)
87	Greeting cards (4)
88	Hail (1)
89	Hector Airport (12)
90	Homes (2)
91	Hot air balloon (4)
92	Humorous (30)
93	Indians (1)
94	Masonic Temple and Masonry (20)
95	Military (5)
96	Monuments and statues (22)
97	Moorhead, Minn. (5)
98	Museums (6)
99	Musicians (3)
100	Newspapers (3)
101	Parades (8)
102	Parks (59)
103	Radio (12)
104	Red River (55)
105	Red River dam and boathouse (27)
106	Red River Ox Cart (1)
107	Souvenir Folders (13)
108	Sports (7)
109	State Fairgrounds (13)
110	Tornado, 1957 (35)
111	Transportation (8)
112	West Acres Shopping Center (1)