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005 Private Photograph Collection - Frank R Zebley Collection  
140 General Photograph Collection  
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200 1883  
210 1954  
220 1908-1954  
241 2.08 cf, in one 0.38 box, two 0.19 boxes, one 0.18 box and two 2.96  
drawers (1 @ 0.35 cfb; 1 @ 8x11x6; 2 @ 6x12x4; & 2 negative drawers)  
261 Photographic prints and negatives taken by Frank R. Zebley. Mr. Zebley  
was a Wilmington building contractor and State Representative where he  
served for a time as Speaker of the House.  
27X A long-time amateur photographer, Zebley's photos include a wide range  
of subjects. He traveled extensively in Delaware and many of the  
photographs document events, buildings, and landmarks from all over the  
state. Notable events captured here on film include: Circus and  
Firemen's Parades in Wilmington, the 1917 draft, 1918 Peace Parade, the  
Harlan Company Parade, the Kent-Sussex Fair and State Fair, and National  
Guard exercises at Bethany Beach during the 1930's. As a life-long  
resident of Wilmington, many of Zebley's photos document that city. Of  
particular interest are the pictures of Wilmington taken from 1930 to  
1950. Zebley photographed many downtown buildings and neighborhoods  
which were razed to make way for construction around Rodney Square and  
other urban renewal projects. During the 1910's and 1920's Zebley build  
and sold over 200 homes in Wilmington's Ninth Ward; photographs of these  
building projects are also part of this collection. Outside of  
Wilmington, the collection features photographs of many other Delaware  
cities, towns and rural areas. Some of those cities and towns include  
Bay View, Dover, Georgetown, Harrington, Laurel, Lewes, Middletown,  
Milford, Milton, and New Castle. Many notable Delaware landmarks are  
documented here as well. These include the Port Mahon Lighthouse,  
Fenwick Island Lighthouse, Fort Saulsbury, Fort duPont, Fort Delaware,  
the New Castle County Workhouse, charcoal making in Sussex County, the  
Dickinson Mansion prior to its restoration, and the Chesapeake and  
Delaware Canal.  
Transportation subjects are documented as well, of special shipping  
related interest are pictures of the tanker "Thomas Tracy" run aground  
at Rehoboth Beach in 1944, freighter "Olaf Bergh" off Fenwick Island in  
1941, the Pusey and Jones Co. shipyard in Wilmington, fishing and oyster  
boats in Kent County, the battleship "USS Delaware", and the passenger  
ferries to New Jersey. Zebley also recorded the Pennsylvania Railroad  
in and around Wilmington, including numerous photos of P.R.R. shop  
workers. Other transportation related topics include auto accidents and  
a 1947 plane crash in Kent County, the U. S. Navy airships "Los Angeles"  
and "Akron" over Wilmington in the 1930's and photos of Zebley's own  
Buick, Dodge, Oldsmobile and Pontiac automobiles.  
This collection also documents Zebley's travels outside of Delaware, to  
Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington,  
D. C. His photos of Maryland include a section devoted to the churches  
of Eastern Shore.  
Finally, the collection features a large number of photographs of  
Zebley's family and friends. While many of the individuals in these  
photos have not been identified, the pictures do offer images of family  
life, leisure activities, and styles of dress in a variety of settings  
and time periods which researchers may find useful. Cemetery and

funeral flowers comprise a portion of these personal photos.

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WORK STATUS

needs sorting  
 needs unfolding  
 needs foldering/reboxing  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_

ARCHIVIST:

review for identification/  
further determination  
 processing  
 determine origin/purpose  
 other:

CONDITION:

totally disorganized  
 order not apparent  
 origin questionable  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_

FILM:

for security  
 destroy original  
 other:

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Film negative are divided into alphabetically arranged subject categories created by Zebley (see Category List).

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360 Fair condition, nitrate negatives

390 Category List and Description. This list provides a more detailed explanation of the contents of Zebley's subject categories. There are about 2900 items in this collection.

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August 12, 1998

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