ROBERT W. LAVELLE
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF INDIANAPOLIS, 1951–1967

Collection Information
Biographical Sketch
Scope and Content Note
Series Contents
Cataloging Information

Processed by
Stephen J. Fletcher
21 March 1996

Revised by Dorothy Nicholson
May 2, 2005

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder of photographs, 1 box of OVA photographs, 1 box of negatives

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1951–1967
PROVENANCE: Unknown; Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT: Copyright may be held by the photographer’s heirs.

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 0000.0209; 1984.1210

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Robert W. Lavelle was born 23 July 1912. His father, Bernard, was the second-generation owner of the Lavelle Gray foundry in Anderson when he died in 1947. According to the 1920 Census, the Lavelle family lived in Anderson when Robert was seven years old.

Lavelle was a photographer for the Anderson Bulletin before and after World War II. During the war he was stationed with an Army photography section in Calcutta, India, from February 1944 to October 1945. He became a photographer for the Indianapolis News ca. 1947, eventually becoming chief photographer. He was also employed by the Bass Photo Co. of Indianapolis. He left the Indianapolis News to become a free-lance aerial photographer in 1963. He retired in 1987, and died in Carmel on 8 February 1994.

Sources:

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is a compilation of two separate accessions. They are reflected in the two series.

Series 1: Aerial Photographs and Negatives, 1951–1964 contains 10 photographs, and 4 negatives. The photographs were taken over a thirteen year period and are arranged by the dates that the images were taken. Most of the images are identified by their negative numbers and correspond to the Bass records. From these numbers the dates were found in the Bass Photo Co. cards. Both dates and numbers are noted by the processor in square brackets. These photographs were originally made by Lavelle for the Bass Photo Co. The customer for these photographs was Klein & Kuhn of Indianapolis. The images concentrate on the west side of Indianapolis, specifically west 10th and 16th streets and the area around the White River and Fall Creek. Captions and some dates and negative numbers are on the verso of the prints.

Series 2: Aerial Photographs, 1967 contains fifteen oversized photographs. There are thirteen images of downtown Indianapolis, and two views showing construction of the Eli Lilly and Company corporate headquarters building. The
photographs are arranged by the negative numbers stamped on the verso of the prints. Also stamped on the verso of the photographs are the photographer’s name, address, and a date. The date stamped on the Eli Lilly and Company images is 11 April 1967; the remaining views are dated 1 April 1967.

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Series 2: Aerial Photographs, 1967

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OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 1

26292 [White River and vicinity near W. Washington Street bridge. Lockefield Gardens in Center of photograph.]
OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 2

26293 [Looking north from vicinity of W. Washington Street between the White River and N. Senate Avenue. Military Park is in the center of the photograph.]
OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 3

26294 [Looking north from intersection of Kentucky Avenue, W. Georgia Street, and S. Senate Avenue. View includes the Indiana State House and Monument Circle.]
OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 4

26295 [Looking north from E. Georgia Street between S. Meridian and S. Alabama streets. View includes Monument Circle and City-County Building.]
OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 5

26296 [Looking north from railroad tracks at S. Alabama Street and Virginia Avenue. City-County Building is in the left center of the view.]
OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 6

26297 [Looking north from vicinity of intersection of E. Washington Street and S. College Avenue.]
OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 7

26298 [Looking east along railroad tracks towards Union Station (center). Intersection of Kentucky Avenue and South Street in foreground.]
OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 8

26299 [Looking east from intersection of W. Washington and West streets. (State Office Building left center.)]
OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 9

26522 [Eli Lilly and Company corporate OVA Photographs,
headquarters building under construction.]

26523 [Eli Lilly and Company corporate headquarters building under construction.]

Box 1, Folder 10

OVA Photographs,

262910 [Looking east on Ohio Street from Military Park at West Street.]

Box 1, Folder 11

OVA Photographs,

262911 [Looking east from the intersection of West Street, North Street, and Indiana Avenue.]

Box 1, Folder 12

OVA Photographs,

262912 [Looking east from W. 10th Street and the Central Canal.]

Box 1, Folder 13

OVA Photographs,

262913 [Looking east from W. 14th Street and the Central Canal.]

Box 1, Folder 14

OVA Photographs,

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  http://opac.indianahistory.org/

2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.

4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0304).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.