

Guide to the John D. Morrell Photograph Collection

ARC.005

Finding aid prepared by Julie I. May.

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Brooklyn Historical Society
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Summary Information

Repository	Brooklyn Historical Society
Creator - Creator	Morrell, John D.
Title	John D. Morrell Photograph Collection
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1958-1963
Date [inclusive]	1957-1974, bulk 1958-1963
Extent	15.0 Linear feet in one filing cabinet
Language	English
Abstract	John D. Morrell, assistant librarian at the Long Island Historical Society (now called the Brooklyn Historical Society) donated over 2,000 black and white and color negatives and prints to the Photography Collection. The images are indexed at the item level by address, street names, and/or neighborhood sometimes including proper names of businesses or institutions.

Biographical Note

John Morrell was a graduate of Pratt Institute and the assistant librarian at the Long Island Historical Society (now the Brooklyn Historical Society) under Head Librarian, Edna Huntington for many years. Little else is known about him.

Scope and Content

The photographs in this collection are documentary in subject matter of almost every Brooklyn neighborhood from 1957-1974 in color and black and white. The areas highly represented include Brooklyn Heights (New York, N.Y.), Bath Beach (New York, N.Y.), Flatbush (New York, N.Y.), Carroll Gardens (New York, N.Y.), and Downtown Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.). Though the subject focuses primarily on the buildings and street scenes of Brooklyn, some people are also photographed. The predominant years include 1958-1963 and are mostly black and white and were photographed using 120mm film and printed on 3.5" photographic paper by a processing lab.

System of Arrangement

The film and prints were numbered by a volunteer who indexed the collection by address and/or street coordinates and neighborhood. All prints and negatives are separate and stored numerically; negatives are described with an N following the unique identification number. Black and white photographs use the number v1974.4; color photographs use the number v1974.9. There is no apparent subject or date order to the collection, although blocks and neighborhoods are sometimes grouped together.

Item-level description is available through the image database.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Brooklyn Historical Society November 2009

Conditions Governing Access

Open to researchers without restriction.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright held by the Brooklyn Historical Society. All uses beyond fair use requires a licensing agreement as per Title 17 of the U.S. Copyright Law.

Immediate Source of Acquisition.

Donated by John D. Morrell.

Processing Information

Collection indexed by A.C. Stillwell at the time of donation. In 2008, a grant allowed for the digitization of the entire collection, at which time the records were standardized at the item level with contemporary neighborhood names and street names and proper names of businesses and institutions. Collection information entered into Archivists' Toolkit by Julie I. May in 2009.

Existence and Location of Copies

Digital surrogates of the photographs are available in the Brooklyn Historical Society Online Photography Collection.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Photographs

Geographic Name(s)

- Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.)
- Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.) |x Buildings, Structures, etc. |v Pictorial Works

Personal Name(s)

- Morrell, John D.

Subject(s)

- Documentary photography

Other Finding Aids

Item-level records for the collection are available for searching via the Image Database in the library and the Past Perfect online gallery.

Series 1 - Black and white photographs

Collection Inventory

Series 1 - Black and white photographs 1957-1963

Series 2 - Color photographs 1958-1974 (Bulk, 1958-1964)