

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid [998.495]

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

William A. Gearon Photograph Collection

Abstract: Original photographs taken by photographer William A. Gearon of the damage done to St. Louis residences and other buildings after the September 29, 1927 tornado.

Extent: 33 Images

Physical Description: Glass plate negatives

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: JPG and TIFF

Access Restrictions: Originals restricted to staff only due to fragility; special permission required

Publication Restrictions: None

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [date]; *William A. Gearon Photograph Collection*, Record Group 998.495; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Deed of Gift; Accession #2019-0073

Processing Information: Processing completed by EW on 01/28/2019. Updated by EW on 01/06/2021.

BIOGRAPHICAL & HISTORICAL INFORMATION

On September 29, 1927, a violent tornado hit the City of St. Louis, Missouri. Over 70 lives were lost, hundreds others injured, and hundreds of properties damaged beyond repair. This photograph collection is made up of original images taken by photographer William Anthony Gearon (1882-1964) who at the time was living at 7743 Dale Avenue in Richmond Heights, a suburb of St. Louis.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Collections

MS264 Robert S. Wiley Collection

MS396 Big Piney Tornado Photograph Collection

MS468 Ozark National Scenic Riverways Photograph Collection

Additional External Resources

The State Historical Society of Missouri maintains digital copies of these images as well as five others in their Glennon J. Kullman Photograph Collection, #P0253.

The Archives' Missouri Disasters 1785-Present Collection on Missouri Digital Heritage:

https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/mdh_splash/default.asp?coll=disasters.

British Pathé film posted to YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZci73shofE&app=desktop#menu>.

St. Louis Public Library 1927 Tornado Collection: http://tornados.slpl.org/1927_tornado.html.

SERIES

Tornado photographs, 1927

Extent: 33 Glass Plates

Arrangement: Original order maintained

Scope and Content

Thirty-three 5.5"x3.25" glass plate negatives depicting damage to structures in St. Louis caused by the September 29, 1927 tornado. Photographs were taken by William A. Gearon. The photographs have been digitized and placed on the Z Drive as well as on Manuscript DVD #8 in Reference. Selected images are also on Flickr.

Container List

Location	Box	Image	Contents
	231	1	4300 block of Laclede Avenue
	231	2	3900 Page Boulevard
	231	3	Lindell Boulevard; Cathedral in background
	231	4	4000 block of West Belle Place
	231	5	Prairie Avenue Flats
	231	6	Auto Club of Missouri, (4130 Olive Street?)
	231	7	4036 West Belle Place
	231	8	4100 block of Olive Street
	231	9	4100 Cote Brilliante Avenue
	231	10	3967 West Belle Place
	231	11	Corner of Cook Avenue and Jones Street
	231	12	[address not provided]
	231	13	Corner of Maryland Avenue and Whittier Street
	231	14	4100 Westminster Place
	231	15	4042 Finney Avenue
	231	16	4000 block of Enright Avenue
	231	17	3900 Cook Avenue
	231	18	Columbia School, 2750 Garrison Avenue
	231	19	4000 block of Enright Avenue
	231	20	3941 Page Boulevard
	231	21	4200 block of McPherson Avenue
	231	22	Corner of Washington Boulevard and Whittier Street
	231	23	Presbyterian Church, corner of Washington Boulevard and Sarah Street
	231	24	4100 Cote Brilliante Avenue
	231	25	Public School Educational Museum, 3640 North Market Street
	231	26	[address not provided] A truck parked on the street is marked "T.J. Smith 4352 Clay[ton] St. Louis."
	231	27	Lucky Street
	231	28	Lucky Street, for sale sign
	231	29	4200 Washington Boulevard

	231	30	Baptist Church, 2500 N. Grand Boulevard
	231	31	Corner of Laclede Avenue and Boyle Avenue
	231	32	Corner of Grand Avenue and Montgomery Street
	231	33	3900 block of Evans Avenue