

A Guide to the Harrisonburg City Parking Lot Photograph, 1939 March 15 SC 0359

Harrisonburg City Parking Lot photograph
1939 March 15



Title Statement

A Guide to the Harrisonburg City Parking Lot Photograph, 1939 March 15 SC 0359

Author: Tiffany Cole

Publication Statement

Publisher: James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

820 Madison Drive
MSC 1706
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807
Telephone: (540) 568-3612
library-special@jmu.edu
URL: <https://www.lib.jmu.edu/special/>



December 2023

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-10-08 07:07:43 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0359

Unit ID

/repositories/4/resources/733

Unit Date

1939 March 15

Language

English

Abstract

Black-and-white panoramic photograph of the City Parking Lot in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Creator

Dean's Studio

Creator

Harrisonburg (Va.). Planning Commission

source

Green Valley Auctions, Inc.

source

Bowman, Douglas, 1948-2023

Extent

0.19 cubic feet 1 flat file

Extent

28.25" x 10.5"

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk (library-special@jmu.edu).

Acquisition Information

Purchased at Green Valley Auctions December 5th, 2023 sale of the Doug Bowman Estate.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box #, folder #], Harrisonburg City Parking Lot Photograph, 1939 March 15, SC 0359, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Biographical / Historical

The site of the City Parking Lot, located along Liberty Street between W. Bruce Street and W. Water Street, was previously the location of the Houck Tanning Co. from about 1877 until it closed in 1926. Whitesel-Sinton Co., Inc. operated a farm equipment business on the property from 1929 to 1937. Many of the buildings on the site were torn down after the tannery closed. According to local memory, the site was also used for fairs and carnivals. The city of Harrisonburg purchased the site in 1939 to use as a parking lot. The Water Street Parking Deck opened in the same location in 1975.

Scope and Contents

The black-and-white mounted panoramic photograph features the City Parking Lot in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The photograph, dated March 15, 1939, documents a gravel surface parking lot at the location of what is now the Water Street Parking Deck located along Liberty Street between W. Water Street and W. Bruce Street. Businesses, churches, and personal residences both extant and not extant are featured. Water Street Livery/Hirsch Brothers; Whitesel-Sinton Co., Inc.; Merchants Grocery & Hardware Co., Inc.; Rockingham Milling Company, Inc.; Otterbein United Methodist Church; Harrisonburg First Church of the Brethren (now Community Mennonite Church); and others are shown in the photograph. Mole Hill and Blacks Run are visible in the photograph. Dozens of automobiles are parked in the parking lot.

The photograph is in three sections and mounted on board. It measures 28" x 10.25". A typed note is stapled to the second section with the description "City Parking Lot - 1939 Harrisonburg, Virginia." A faint stamp of "Harrisonburg Planning Commission" is located on the bottom center section. The Dean's Studio photographer's mark is located on the bottom right corner. The date - 3/15/39 - is penciled on the back of the photograph.

Keywords

Keywords

Photographs
Panoramic photographs
Historic buildings -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg
City planning -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg
City and town life -- Virginia -- Harrisonburg
Harrisonburg (Va.) -- History
Green Valley Auctions, Inc.
Bowman, Douglas, 1948-2023

Bibliography

Jeane Sword, "Tannery Lot Has History of Service to Community," *Daily News-Record*, November 24, 1975.

Provenance

From the estate of Doug Bowman, local collector of Harrisonburg memorabilia.

Description of Subordinate Components

Harrisonburg City Parking Lot photograph

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/29318

Unit Date 1939 March 15

Mixed Materials [1000897427] 1 (Flat File)