

A Guide to the Jim Birchfield Photograph Collection, 1945-1983

Jim Birchfield Photograph Collection 1945-1983
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A Collection in the Thomas Balch Library VC 0041
Thomas Balch Library
2006
Author: Lisa Dezarn

History

Processed by: Lisa Dezarn

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A Guide to the Jim Birchfield Photograph Collection, 1945-1983

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Author: Lisa Dezarn

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2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

VC 0041

Language

English

Abstract

This photographic collection consists of twenty-five black and white photographs of sites within Loudoun County. The majority of the pictures taken are historic homes. However, a few other landmarks within the county were also captured including Waterford Mill, Thomas Balch Library, Loudoun County Courthouse, Paxton House, Springwood Ball Home Place, and St. James Episcopal Church. Also included are two farms. Most of the photographs have been identified although the identities of a few remain unknown. In the list below, photographs identified by Birchfield appear without brackets; those in brackets have been identified by library staff. The photographs appear to have been taken over the course of many years, and all likely date to 1945-1983, the years Birchfield lived near Leesburg. The photographs represent a wide variety of unique architectural styles.

Creator

Ann Braham, Leesburg, VA

Repository

Thomas Balch Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open for research.

Use Restrictions

Visual materials may require special handling.

Acquisition Information

Ann Braham, Leesburg, VA

Processing Information

Lisa Dezarn, 3 April 2012

Preferred Citation

Jim Birchfield Photograph Collection, 1945-1983 (VC 0041), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Accruals

2011.0259X

Alternative Form Available

None

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Separated Material

None

Related Material

None

Bibliography

Loudoun Times Mirror

Washington Post

New River Notes: Historical and Genealogical Resources

Northern Virginia Photographic Society

Places in Time: Abingdon, Virginia 1778-1880

"Places in Time by Nanci C. King. Photography by James Birchfield: Full Record." Virginia Historical Society,

Other Finding Aid

Past Perfect Catalogue records

Technical Requirements

None

Biographical Information

Jim (James Fenton) Birchfield (1908-1997) was born in Marion, Virginia and graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1929. In 1935, Birchfield began his career in journalism as editor of *The Washington County (Virginia) Forum*, a newly established weekly in Abingdon. He joined the *Richmond-Times Dispatch* editorial staff in 1939, where he remained until 1942. At this juncture, he obtained a position in Washington, D.C. on the editorial staff of the *Washington Star*. There he worked on the picture desk and in other editorial roles including serving as state, farm and real estate editor. As editor for the *Washington Star*, he wrote a column entitled "Life in the Country" focusing on the struggles and rewards of rural living. During this time, he resided on his family farm, "Forty Acres," near Leesburg. In 1974, he retired from the *Washington Star*. Birchfield then served briefly as an editor for *The Piedmont Virginian*, an environmental weekly based in The Plains, before accepting a position with the *Loudoun-Times Mirror*, where he worked from July 1975 until July 1978.

Throughout his career, Birchfield cultivated his photographic interests. In 1965, he became a founding member of the Northern Virginia Photographic Society whose aim was to serve as a camera club for the area. His photographic images of Loudoun County were used during several calendar years (1974, 1981) for the Peoples National Bank of Leesburg, Virginia. Photographs of Washington County, Virginia taken by Birchfield were also used for a monograph entitled *Places in Time: Abingdon, Virginia 1778-1880* (Volume 1.)

In 1983 after selling "Forty Acres," he and his wife moved back to Abingdon. He died at the age of 89 following complications from a stroke. He is best remembered for his editorial talent, polished writing abilities, and compelling photographic work.

Scope and Content

This photographic collection consists of twenty-five black and white photographs of sites within Loudoun County. The majority of the pictures taken are historic homes. However, a few other landmarks within the county were also captured including Waterford Mill, Thomas Balch Library, Loudoun County Courthouse, Paxton House, Springwood Ball Home Place, and St. James Episcopal Church. Also included are two farms. Most of the photographs have been identified although the identities of a few remain unknown. In the list below, photographs identified by Birchfield appear without brackets; those in brackets have been identified by library staff. The photographs appear to have been taken over the course of many years, and all likely date to 1945-1983, the years Birchfield lived near Leesburg. The photographs represent a wide variety of unique architectural styles.

Arrangement

Folder

Contents List

Box 1

vc_0041_001: [Samuel W George Mill House]

vc_0041_002: Grubbstake Farm

vc_0041_003: Tebbs House

vc_0041_004: [Unknown house]

vc_0041_005: William Baker House

vc_0041_006: Loudoun County Courthouse, Administrative Office

vc_0041_007: Thompson Hillsboro Farm

vc_0041_008: [Lincoln Quaker Meeting House]

vc_0041_009: Janney House

vc_0041_010: Waterford Mill

vc_0041_011: Thomas Balch Library

vc_0041_012: Springwood Ball Home Place

vc_0041_013: [Victorian Era Commercial Building]

vc_0041_014: Pagett Colonial Revival

vc_0041_015: [Unknown house]

vc_0041_016: [1936 Purcellville Home]

vc_0041_017: Colonial Revival with Palladian Window

vc_0041_018: Stoke in Aldie

vc_0041_019: [Queen Anne-Colonial Revival Leesburg Home]

vc_0041_020: [Norris Family House]

vc_0041_021: Paxton House

vc_0041_022: [Orchard Road, Philomont House]

vc_0041_023: Thomas Balch Library

vc_0041_024: Loudoun County Hospital

vc_0041_025: St James Episcopal Church