

Collection #
P 0304

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

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Processed by

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21 March 1996

Revised by Dorothy Nicholson
May 2, 2005

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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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:

Ancestry Plus: www.gale.ancestry.com , accessed June 2004.

Indianapolis Star, 10 February 1994, A10.

Indianapolis Suburban Directory. Taylor, Mich.; R.L. Polk & Co. General Collections: F534.I55A I82

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.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Aerial Photographs and Negatives, 1951–1964

| CONTENTS | CONTAINER |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| [June 1951, 280217 F6?] West 16 th St. looking southeast from White River. Lavelle photo 1951 | Photographs, Folder 1 |
| [June 1951, 280217 F7] Stadium Drive & Speedway Ave, northwest from West 10 th Street & Indiana | Photographs, Folder 1 |
| February 1956, 2 [Looking southeast across west 16 th Street] | 5 x 7 Acetate Negatives: Box 1 |
| February 1956, 4 [Looking southeast across west 16 th Street] | 5 x 7 Acetate Negatives: Box 1 |
| [27 March 1956], 148122 F1 Looking northwest from West 10 th St. January 1955 | Photographs, Folder 1 |
| [27 March 1956], 148122 F3 Looking southeast across West 16 th St., February 28, 1956 | Photographs, Folder 1 |
| [27 March 1956, 148122?] Looking northwest from West 10 th St., February 1956 | Photographs, Folder 1 |
| [5 Nov. 1957], 296329-3 Looking northwest from West 10 th St., November 1957 | Photographs, Folder 1 |
| [5 Nov. 1957], 296329-4 November 1, 1957, looking southeast across West 16 th Street. | Photographs, Folder 1 |
| November 1957, 1[a] [Looking northwest from west 10 th Street] | 5 x 7 Acetate Negatives: Box 1 |
| November 1957, 1[b] [Looking northwest from west 10 th Street] | 5 x 7 Acetate Negatives: Box 1 |

[12 Dec. 1958], 299522F
December 1958, looking southeast across West 16th
Street

Photographs,
Folder 1

January 1964, 173560F-1
Looking southeast across W. 16th St. January 28,
1964

Photographs,
Folder 1

January 1964, 173560F-2
Looking northwest from West 10th St. January 1964

Photographs,
Folder 1

Series 2: Aerial Photographs, 1967

CONTENTS

26291 [White River and vicinity near W. 10th, W.
Michigan, and W. New York streets bridges. W.
Washington Street in foreground.]

26292 [White River and vicinity near W.
Washington Street bridge. Lockefield Gardens in
Center of photograph.]

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.]

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

26295 [Looking north from E. Georgia Street
between S. Meridian and S. Alabama streets. View
includes Monument Circle and City-County
Building.]

26296 [Looking north from railroad tracks at S.
Alabama Street and Virginia Avenue. City-County
Building is in the left center of the view.]

26297 [Looking north from vicinity of intersection
of E. Washington Street and S. College Avenue.]

26298 [Looking east along railroad tracks towards
Union Station (center).] Intersection of Kentucky
Avenue and South Street in foreground.]

26299 [Looking east from intersection of W.
Washington and West streets. (State Office Building
left center.)]

26522 [Eli Lilly and Company corporate

CONTAINER

OVA Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 1

OVA Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 2

OVA Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 3

OVA Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 4

OVA Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 5

OVA Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 6

OVA Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 7

OVA Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 8

OVA Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 9

OVA Photographs,

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| headquarters building under construction.] | Box 1, Folder 10 |
| 26523 [Eli Lilly and Company corporate headquarters building under construction.] | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 11 |
| 262910 [Looking east on Ohio Street from Military Park at West Street.] | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 12 |
| 262911 [Looking east from the intersection of West Street, North Street, and Indiana Avenue.] | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 13 |
| 262912 [Looking east from W. 10th Street and the Central Canal.] | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 14 |
| 262913 [Looking east from W. 14th Street and the Central Canal.] | OVA Photographs, Box 1, Folder 15 |

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.