

The Highway Revolution: Construction of the Interstate Highway System in North Dakota

The U.S. government approved funding for construction of a national highway system in 1956. North Dakota was the first state to complete construction of its Interstate Highway System. This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting the roads in North Dakota before and after construction of the Interstate Highway System.

Archival Collections

10070 Usher Lloyd Burdick Papers

Box 4, Folder 30, Item 00360

Burdick family correspondence, manuscript drafts and copies of articles written by Burdick and others, speeches, correspondence, articles "Your Congressman Comments," legal material, political records, copies of House bills introduced by Burdick, sources used by Burdick for his research, and rare and valuable publications relating to North Dakota, American history and topics of interest to Burdick.

10085 Orin Grant Libby Papers

Documentation of Libby's professional and personal activities as Secretary of the State Historical Society of North Dakota, Grand Historian of the North Dakota Masonic Grand Lodge, and Professor of History at the University of North Dakota.

10132 Bryant Family Papers

Box 4, Item 00022

Papers of George A. Bryant (1850-1923), businessman and treasurer of Foster School District No. 2, Logan County; his son O. Frank Bryant (1873-1940), attorney, businessman, secretary to Governor Shafer, and publisher of the Napoleon Homestead; and grandson Jay Bryant (1904-1985), Deputy Secretary of State. The collection primarily consists of O. F. Bryant's papers, and includes correspondence, printed material, invitations, ephemera, land records and legal papers relating to real estate business, the Homestead newspaper, F. O. Bryant's Ford Dealership and radio business, positions as Register of Deeds of Logan County and secretary to Governor Shafer. The Shafer material includes speeches, office layouts, correspondence, and material relating to the fire at the ND State Capitol.

10351 WDAY-TV Records

Collection consists of television news broadcast scripts, broadcast schedules, correspondence and approximately 1.5 million feet of WDAY-TV and WDAZ-TV news film, 1953-1978.

Useful Search Guidance

Subjects

- I-29
- I-94 (U.S. Highway 10) (Red Trail Highway)
- Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956
- Theodore Roosevelt International Highway
- National Parks Highway
- Yellowstone Trail (U.S. Highway 12)

People

- President Dwight D. Eisenhower,

Locations

- North Dakota

Journal Articles

*North Dakota Department of Transportation
North Dakota Blue Book 2021-2023*

*North Dakota Highway Department
North Dakota Blue Book 1961*

10477 Jamestown (N.D.) Chamber of Commerce Records

Minutes, subject files, committee files, memos, budgets, reports, audits, financial statements, photographs and negatives, scrapbooks, promotional material, by-laws, memorabilia, publications, records from the ND Goes Wild project (wildflower project), issues of the Credit Bulletin, 35 mm slides, posters, and programs. Records relate primarily to administration of the Chamber, promotional activities, tourism, community celebrations, area businesses, economic and industrial development, Garrison Dam, and the North Dakota Dairy Show.

10553 Frank E. Vyzralek Collection

The collection includes the research files, personal papers, photographs and audiovisual materials of lifelong researcher and former North Dakota State Archivist Frank Edward Vyzralek. The research files include original work and information compiled about agriculture, arts and entertainment, business and industry, city and town life, education, ethnicity, Indians of North America, history, military, people, places, politics and government, religion and transportation.

10554 North Dakota State Highway Employees Association Records

Records include a historian's album which contains the organization's constitution and bylaws, photographs, certificate of incorporation, conference materials, printed materials, and newspaper clippings.

31090 Transportation, Department of. Administration. Commissioner's Files.

Consists of federal, local government, and state agency correspondence, memoranda, and reports relating to administration and highway maintenance. Also includes minutes from in-house and out-of-house committee meetings, speeches prepared and presented by employees of the department, legislation dealing with issues such as outdoor advertising, highway funding, etc.

Books

Bismarck-Mandan Street and Highway Map

1965 – North Dakota

Shows major city streets in Bismarck and Mandan, and routes of Highways 10, 83, and Interstate 94 through the cities.

Call Number: 388.1 B6229

The North Dakota Highway System and Your Land

1963 – North Dakota State Highway Dept., Right of Way Division

Call Number: 333.11 N814yℓ

The Highway Manual for the Territory of Dakota: A Complete Guide for Overseers of Highways and County Road Supervisors in Their Various Duties Under the Road Law

1885 – Walter S. Booth

Call Number: 343.7840942 B7256h 1885

The Highway Manual for the State of North Dakota: A Complete Guide for Overseers of Highways and Civil Township Officers in Their Various Duties Under the New Road Law

1896 – Walter S. Booth

Call Number: 343.7840942 B7256h 1896

The Highway Manual for the State of North Dakota: A Complete Guide for Overseers of Highways and Civil Township Officers in Their Various Duties Under the New Road Law

1909 – Walter S. Booth

Call Number: 343.7840942 B7256h 1909

History of the North Dakota State Highway Department

1966—Robert W. Holte

Call Number: 351.864 H7586h 1966

A Brief History of the North Dakota State Highway Department

1939—compiled by the North Dakota State Wide Highway Planning Survey; in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads; and with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration

Call Number: 351.864 N814h 1939

Online Resources

Trunk Highway Map

State Historical Society of North Dakota website

SHSND Photobook

State Historical Society of North Dakota's Online Search Portal for all digitized photographs

Digital Horizons

Online consortium of historic photographs from the collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota

WorldCat

State Historical Society of North Dakota's publication search portal

External Resources

[History of the Interstate Highway System](#)

Website of the U.S. Department of Transportation; Federal Highway Administration

[Interstate Highway System](#)

Website of the National Archives; Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home

State Archives

For more information related to the collections and resources available at the North Dakota State Archives, please email archives@nd.gov or call (701) 328-2668.



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