

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid [998.475]

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Wright Studio Photograph Collection

Abstract: Images of Jefferson City taken by Zeal Wright and Randall Wright of Wright Studio, Jefferson City. Topics are the 1954 Missouri State Penitentiary riot and the 1993 flood.

Extent: 45 images

Physical Description: Photographs; Negatives

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: TIFs of some images

Access Restrictions: None

Publication Restrictions: None

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [date]; *Wright Studio Photograph Collection*, Record Group 998.475; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Gift with deeds; Accession #1994-0040, #1994-0154 and #1995-0194.

Processing Information: Finding aid completed by EW on 06/15/2020. Updated by EW on 03/25/2021.

BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Zeal S. Wright (1928-2004) and his wife Betty (1928-2001) started Wright Studio and Camera Shop in the fall of 1954 in Jefferson City. Zeal Wright had previous experience as a photographer for the University of Missouri and for Hammond and Irwin Studio in Jefferson City. The Wrights' business was a success and was officially incorporated on June 3, 1958. Eleven years later the name was changed to Wright Studio, Inc.

Zeal was the primary photographer for the company and focused on portraits and shots of Jefferson City. He was hired many times to be the official portrait photographer for state employees, and those photographs would be published in the Official Manual for the State of Missouri, aka “Blue Book.”

The Wrights’ son Randall is also a photographer. He contributed about three dozen flood photographs to this collection. The Studio was dissolved in 2005.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Collections

RG107.02 MoDOT Flood Photograph Collection
RG133 Adjutant General
RG213 Missouri State Penitentiary
RG998 MS297 Mark Schreiber Collection

Additional External Resources

Unknown

MSP Riot Photographs, 1954

Accession: #1994-0154

Scope and Content

Inmates of the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) rioted and took guards hostage on the night of September 22-23, 1954. Fires in multiple buildings broke out as a result of the rioting, and four prisoners were killed. These images primarily document the damage done to the buildings of the MSP. The photographs are 4"x6" with corresponding 4"x5" copy negatives.

[NOTE: These images were originally donated by Dr. Joseph Summers and were part of his manuscript collection MS433. In early 2018, the images were transferred to MS475 Wright Studios Photograph Collection and permission was granted by the Wright family for reproduction.]

All images are available digitally on Manuscript DVD #7 in Reference and on the Z Drive. They have also been uploaded to a 1954 MSP Riot album on Flickr. See <https://www.flickr.com/photos/missouristatearchives/albums/72157706203995331>.

Container List

See the Excel spreadsheet for an item-by-item listing.

Location	Box	Folders	Description	Date
	203	161-170	Missouri State Penitentiary riot photographs by Zeal Wright	September 22-23, 1954

FLOOD PHOTOGRAPHS, 1993

Accession: #1994-0040 & #1995-0194

Scope and Content

In July 1993, the Missouri River crested at its highest-ever recorded level in Jefferson City: 38.6 feet. Anything above 23 feet is considered flood stage. Many structures were damaged by the floodwaters. This photograph series was taken by Randall Wright from the Capitol Building looking in every direction.

The 12"x8" photograph exists as a digital scan and is on Manuscript DVD #7 in Reference. It is also on the Z Drive. The 34 images in Box 203 are not digitized.

Container List

See the Excel spreadsheet for an item-by-item listing.

Location	Box	Folders	Description	Date
	212	28	12"x8" original, mounted color photograph	07/29/1993
	203	171-204	6"x4" original color photographs	07/29/1993

Box	Folder	Subject	Description	Date	Location	Format	Photographer	Image Name	Notes	Accession #
203	161	Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) Riot	Night view of a fire raging inside the Missouri State Penitentiary: the result of an inmate riot.	09/22-23/1954	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	4"x6" b&w print; 4"x5" copy neg.	Wright, Zeal	MS475_203_161.tif	Transferred from Summers_B4_F137_#9	#1994-0154
203	162	Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) Riot	Night view of a fire raging inside the Missouri State Penitentiary: the result of an inmate riot.	09/22-23/1954	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	4"x6" b&w print; 4"x5" copy neg.	Wright, Zeal	MS475_203_162.tif	Transferred from Summers_B4_F137_#10	#1994-0154
203	163	Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) Riot	Night view of a fire inside the Missouri State Penitentiary: the result of an inmate riot.	09/22-23/1954	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	4"x6" b&w print; 4"x5" copy neg.	Wright, Zeal	MS475_203_163.tif	Transferred from Summers_B4_F137_#12	#1994-0154
203	164	Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) Riot	Police officers and Highway Patrolmen stand guard inside the grounds of the Missouri State Penitentiary. The night before was a large inmate riot. Two of the buildings in the background show fire damage.	9/23/1954	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	4"x6" b&w print; 4"x5" copy neg.	Wright, Zeal	MS475_203_164.tif	Transferred from Summers_B4_F137_#18	#1994-0154
203	165	Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) Riot	Governor Phil Donnelly and two armed officers stand inside the grounds of the Missouri State Penitentiary the day following an inmate riot. A guard tower and burned-out building take up the bulk of this image.	9/23/1954	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	4"x6" b&w print; 4"x5" copy neg.	Wright, Zeal	MS475_203_165.tif	Transferred from Summers_B4_F137_#19	#1994-0154
203	166	Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) Riot	Two armed officers stand guard inside the grounds of the Missouri State Penitentiary the day following an inmate riot.	9/23/1954	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	4"x6" b&w print; 4"x5" copy neg.	Wright, Zeal	MS475_203_166.tif	Transferred from Summers_B4_F137_#20	#1994-0154
203	167	Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) Riot	View of one of the buildings the day after it burned in a large fire: the result of a prison inmate riot.	9/23/1954	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	4"x6" b&w print; 4"x5" copy neg.	Wright, Zeal	MS475_203_167.tif	Transferred from Summers_B4_F137_#22	#1994-0154
203	168	Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) Riot	Governor Phil Donnelly (left) speaks with another man inside the grounds of the Missouri State Penitentiary. The night before saw a large-scale inmate riot and the building behind the men shows significant fire damage.	9/23/1954	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	4"x6" b&w print; 4"x5" copy neg.	Wright, Zeal	MS475_203_168.tif	Transferred from Summers_B4_F137_#23	#1994-0154
203	169	Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) Riot	Some buildings have been reduced to rubble following a large-scale inmate riot that resulted in a fire the night before.	9/23/1954	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	4"x6" b&w print; 4"x5" copy neg.	Wright, Zeal	MS475_203_169.tif	Transferred from Summers_B4_F137_#24	#1994-0154
203	170	Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) Riot	Rubble is strewn on the grounds of the Missouri State Penitentiary following an inmate riot. A fire destroyed several buildings the night before.	9/23/1954	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	4"x6" b&w print; 4"x5" copy neg.	Wright, Zeal	MS475_203_170.tif	Transferred from Summers_B4_F137_#25	#1994-0154
203	171	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking west down Main Street. Railroad tracks, the Capitol Powerhouse, and state parking lots are flooded. In the distance, the entire town of Cedar City is under water.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)	See also Box 212 F. 28 for a similar image.	#1994-0040
203	172	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking west down Main Street. Close view of the Capitol Powerhouse, Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks, and the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center and its parking lot. A train is crossing Main Street.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	173	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking west/northwest. Image shows the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks and a train, the Capitol Powerhouse, and the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center and its parking lot. In the distance, the entire town of Cedar City is under water.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040

203	174	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking west/northwest. Image shows the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks and a train, the Capitol Powerhouse, and the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center and its parking lot. In the distance, the entire town of Cedar City is under water.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	175	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking west/northwest. Image shows the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks and a train, the Capitol Powerhouse, and the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center and its parking lot. In the distance, the entire town of Cedar City is under water.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	176	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking west over the top of the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center toward Cedar City, which is completely under water.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	177	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking west down to the Capitol Powerhouse.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	178	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking west down Main Street. Railroad tracks, the Capitol Powerhouse, and state parking lots are flooded. In the distance, the entire town of Cedar City is under water.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	179	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking west down Main Street. Close view of the Capitol Powerhouse, Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks, and the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center and its parking lot. A train is crossing Main Street in the direction of the MoDOT building.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	180	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking north/northwest toward Holts Summit. A portion of the Missouri River bridge is visible. Much of the land is flooded.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	181	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking northwest over the Missouri River bridge toward Renz Correctional Center, which is completely under water.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	182	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking down on the centaur fountain area and north. The Missouri River floodwaters have reached the bluffs at Holts Summit.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	183	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking down onto part of the Veterans' Memorial pool, which is marked "Missouri Veterans Guardians of Liberty." Two people stand at the Memorial's edge and gaze upon the Missouri River floodwaters.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	184	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking northeast across the top of a round parking garage out onto the Missouri River floodwaters.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	185	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking east/northeast across the Union Pacific Railroad tracks toward the Missouri River floodwaters. The Governor's Mansion is just visible on the far right.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040

203	186	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking northeast out onto the Missouri River floodwaters. The Lohman Building is visible at the bottom.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	187	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking northeast out onto the Missouri River floodwaters. A helicopter flies overhead.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	188	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking north toward the sand and gravel company, the Jefferson City airport, the ABB building, and Holts Summit.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	189	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking north toward the Jefferson City airport, the ABB building, and Holts Summit.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	190	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking north toward the Jefferson City airport, the ABB building, and Holts Summit.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	191	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking north/northwest across the Missouri River toward Holts Summit.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	192	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking north toward the sand and gravel company, the Jefferson City airport, and Holts Summit.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	193	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking north toward the sand and gravel company, the Jefferson City airport, the ABB building, and Holts Summit.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	194	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking north toward the sand and gravel company, the Jefferson City airport, and Holts Summit.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	195	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking north/northwest across the Missouri River toward Holts Summit.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	196	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking northeast out onto the Missouri River floodwaters.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole and Callaway Counties, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	197	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking southwest toward the Broadway Building and Truman Building.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	198	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking southwest toward the Truman Building and St. Peter's Church. The parking lots beyond the buildings are flooded.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	199	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking southwest toward the Truman Building and St. Peter's Church. The parking lots beyond the buildings are flooded.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040

203	200	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking southwest over the top of the Truman Building toward Highway 54.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	201	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking west/southwest toward Missouri Boulevard and Highway 54.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	202	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking south across the Supreme Court Building (bottom right) into Jefferson City.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	203	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking south across the top of the Supreme Court Building (left) and Broadway Building (right) toward Highway 50.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
203	204	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking southwest across the top of Broadway Building (left) and Truman Building (right) toward Jefferson City.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	6"x4" color original print	Wright, Randall	(not digitized)		#1994-0040
212	28	1993 Flood	View from the Capitol Building looking west down Main Street. Railroad tracks, the Capitol Powerhouse, and state parking lots are flooded. In the distance, the entire town of Cedar City is under water.	07/29/1993	Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri, United States	12"x8" color original print mounted on mat board	Wright, Randall	MS475_212_028.tif (Z Drive)	See also Box 203 F. 171 for a similar image.	#1995-0194