



Guide to the Will Grossman Photographs of Durham, North Carolina, 1969-1979, 2006

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	4
Administrative Information	5
Names and Subjects	6
Collection Inventory	6
Original Photographic Prints, 1970s	6
Buildings	7
Durham, N.C.	8
Durham County Fair	9
Eno River	10
Landscapes and the Natural World	11
Portraits	12
Exhibit Prints and Poster, 1970s (printed circa 2006)	14
Negatives, 1969-1976	15

Summary

Collection Title:

Will Grossman photographs of Durham, North Carolina, 1969-1979, 2006

Source:

Archive of Documentary Arts (Duke University)

Creator:

Grossman, Will; Grossman, Will

Abstract:

Will Grossman was a 20th century documentary photographer based in Durham, North Carolina. The 80 black-and-white images in the collection chiefly document Durham County and the city of Durham in the 1970s. There are also 488 negatives, as well as a set of 16 inkjet exhibition prints and an exhibit poster from 2006. Grossman's subjects include barns and rural landscapes; houses and churches; tobacco warehouses, a cigarette factory, and other industrial buildings; tobacco workers and other portraits of individuals, including many African Americans; scenes along the Eno River; and the Durham County Fair. A few images are from Orange County, N.C. Acquired as part of the Archive of Documentary Arts at Duke University.

Extent:

6 Linear Feet (8 boxes; 1 oversize folder; 585 items)
585 Items

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.00485

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m10w54>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Will Grossman photographs of Durham, North Carolina, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

The 80 black-and-white images in the collection chiefly document Durham County and the city of Durham in the 1970s. There are also 488 negatives, as well as a set of 16 inkjet exhibition prints and an exhibit poster from 2006. Grossman's subjects include barns and rural landscapes; houses and churches; tobacco warehouses, a cigarette factory, and other industrial buildings; tobacco workers and other portraits of individuals, including many African Americans; scenes along the Eno River; and the Durham County Fair. A few images are from Orange County, N.C. Included in the collection is one of Grossman's most important photographs, "Sunbeam," which features three men sitting in a shaft of sunlight near a warehouse door. Prints are arranged in image number order supplied by library staff.

The 80 gelatin silver prints range in size from 4x6 to 10 3/4 x 13 3/4 inches, and are organized in the following topical series: Buildings; Durham, N.C.; Durham County Fair; Eno River; Landscapes and the Natural World; and Portraits. These series titles were supplied by library staff, with a few exceptions. There is also an exhibit prints series housing 16 digitally printed inkjet photographs that range from 8x8 to 16 x 24 3/4 inches. The sizes of the mats range from 11x14 to 24x32 inches.

Some prints bear original captions; captions supplied by library staff are in brackets. Print numbers were supplied by library staff. Among the negatives in the collection are images that represent the photographic prints in the collection, but there are also many negatives for which prints do not exist, including images of locations in Durham city and county.

Acquired as part of the Archive of Documentary Arts at Duke University.

Biographical/Historical

Will Grossman (1945-2012) was born in the Ukraine and emigrated to Brooklyn, New York, where he received a B.A. in Arts from Brooklyn College. He migrated to the South and received further training and an M.Ed. from North Carolina State University. He was active in developing and promoting educational programs and materials on Jewish history, including a large traveling exhibit, "Down Home," exploring aspects of Jewish life in the South.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Portions of the collection are restricted: the negatives are closed to access.

Images may only be used for non-commercial, educational purposes; they may not be reproduced except by permission of donor.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. The library may require up to 48 hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Will Grossman photographs of Durham, North Carolina were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 2010 and 2012.

Processing Information

Processed by Joanne Fairhurst and Matthew Warren, December 2012.

Encoded by Joanne Fairhurst, Paula Jeannet, and Matthew Warren, December 2012. Description enhancements by Paula Jeannet, January 2017.

Accession(s) described in this finding aid: 2010-0195, 2012-0113.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Negatives (photographs)
- Inkjet prints
- Industrial buildings -- Durham County (N.C.) -- Photographs
- Farm buildings -- North Carolina -- Photographs
- Documentary Photography -- North Carolina
- Documentary photography -- North Carolina -- Durham County
- Country life -- North Carolina -- Photographs
- African Americans -- North Carolina -- Photographs
- Agricultural exhibitions -- North Carolina -- Durham County -- Pictorial works
- Gelatin silver prints
- Orange County (N.C.) -- Photographs
- North Carolina -- Photographs
- Durham (N.C.) -- Photographs
- Durham (N.C.) -- History
- Tobacco workers -- North Carolina -- Pictorial works
- Archive of Documentary Arts (Duke University)
- Grossman, Will

Collection Inventory

Original Photographic Prints, 1970s

Physical Description: 5 boxes

Scope and Contents note

Series contains 80 black-and-white gelatin silver prints focusing chiefly on Durham and Durham County landscapes, agricultural and industrial buildings, and individuals. Prints are matted, except where noted in the listings. The size of each print is given in inches, with dimensions ranging from 4x6 inches to 10 3/4 x 13 3/4 inches. Mats measure as follows: Box 1, 11x14 inches; Box 2, 11x14 inches (with one 8x10 and one 7x11); Box 3, 11x14 inches; Box 4, 14x19 inches (with two 14x14); Box 5, 16x20 inches (with two 11x14). Captions

supplied by library staff are in brackets. The photographs are arranged in the following topical series: Buildings; Durham, N.C.; Durham County Fair; Eno River; Landscapes and the Natural World; and Portraits. Series titles were supplied by library staff with a few exceptions.

Arranged in numerical order following print identifiers supplied by library staff.

Buildings

House, Orange County, 1973	Box 1 > Image [1]
Physical Description: 5.5x8.25 inches	
[White house on hill], 1970s	Box 1 > Image [2]
Physical Description: 6.5x7.25 inches	
[White barn with indented roof], 1970s	Box 1 > Image [3]
Physical Description: 9x13.25 inches	
Scope and Contents note	
Print unmounted.	
[Cart on farm, detail], 1970s	Box 1 > Image [4]
Physical Description: 5.5x7.75 inches	
[Barn with cart], 1970s	Box 1 > Image [5]
Physical Description: 5.5x8 inches	
Barn, N. Duke St., Durham County, 1973	Box 1 > Image [6]
Physical Description: 5.75x8.25 inches	
Barn, Durham County, 1970s	Box 1 > Image [7]
Physical Description: 5.5x8 inches	
Tobacco barn, Durham County, 1970s	Box 4 > Image [8]
Physical Description: 7.75x11 inches	
[Old store building with portico], 1970s	Box 1 > Image [9]
Physical Description: 5.5x7.25 inches	
[White church near Route 501 and Bahama, N.C.], 1973	Box 1 > Image [10]
Physical Description: 5.25x8 inches	

[Dilapidated house], 1970s Physical Description: 4.5x6.5 inches	Box 1 > Image [11]
[Dilapidated house, door frame], 1970s Physical Description: 4.5x6.5 inches	Box 1 > Image [12]
[Dilapidated house detail of siding], 1970s Physical Description: 6x9 inches	Box 1 > Image [13]
[Wood-plank siding], 1970s Physical Description: 5.25x7.25 inches	Box 1 > Image [14]
[Wood-plank siding], 1970s Physical Description: 5.25x7.25 inches	Box 1 > Image [15]
[White-washed door with lock], 1970s Physical Description: 5.5x8.25 inches	Box 1 > Image [16]
[Door frame in shadow and light], 1970s Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches Scope and Contents note Print unmounted.	Box 1 > Image [17]
[Door frame in shadow and light], 1970s Physical Description: 7.75x11 inches	Box 1 > Image [18]
[Window grate], 1970s Physical Description: 5.5x8 inches	Box 1 > Image [19]
[Open window with grate], 1970s Physical Description: 5.25x7.5 inches	Box 1 > Image [20]
Durham, N.C.	
Cigarette factory, 1971 Physical Description: 5.5x7.25 inches	Box 2 > Image [21]
[Brick cigarette factory facade], 1970s Physical Description: 5.5x7.25 inches	Box 2 > Image [22]
Geer St. looking west, 1974 November Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches	Box 2 > Image [23]

Hot dog stand, Geer and Foster St., 1974
November Box 2 > Image [24]

Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches

Hot dog stand, Sunday, 1974 November Box 2 > Image [25]

Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches

L&M Office Building, 1971 [Liggett & Myers] Box 2 > Image [26]

Physical Description: 5.25x7.25 inches

Hammond Street, 1972 Box 2 > Image [27]

Physical Description: 5.5x7.25 inches

Hutchins Automotives Supply Co. Inc., 1974
November Box 2 > Image [28]

Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches

[Snow on bicycle], 1974 Box 2 > Image [29]

Physical Description: 5.25x7.25 inches

Liberty Warehouse, 1974 [door with tobacco
seed advertisements] Box 4 > Image [30]

Physical Description: 7.5x7.5 inches

Liberty Warehouse, 1974 [close-up of window
with seed company advertisement] Box 4 > Image [31]

Physical Description: 7.5x7.5 inches

Sunbeam, 1974 [Three African American men
sitting in open door of warehouse] Box 5 > Image [32]

Physical Description: 10.75x13.75 inches

Durham County Fair

Durham County Fair, 1974 [man and woman in
front of food vendor] Box 2 > Image [33]

Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches

[Fair carney with large stuffed toys], 1970s Box 2 > Image [34]

Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches

[Fair carney with stuffed toys], 1970s
[enlargement of image 34] Box 2 > Image [35]

Physical Description: 7.75x11 inches

Scope and Contents note

Print unmounted.

[Prizes at fair], 1970s Box 2 > Image [36]

Physical Description: 7.75x11 inches

Scope and Contents note

Print unmounted.

Having fun, Durham County Fair, 1974
[fairgoers at target shoot] Box 4 > Image [37]

Physical Description: 7.75x11 inches

Durham County Fair, 1975 September [woman
jewelry vendor] Box 4 > Image [38]

Physical Description: 7.75x11 inches

Eno River

[White family playing by a river], 1975 Box 2 > Image [39]

Physical Description: 4x6 inches

Scope and Contents note

Prints 39-48 are unmounted.

[White family swimming in a river], 1975 Box 2 > Image [40]

Physical Description: 4x6 inches

[Searching by the river], 1975 Box 2 > Image [41]

Physical Description: 4x6 inches

[Boy by river], 1975 Box 2 > Image [42]

Physical Description: 4x6 inches

[Children by river], 1975 Box 2 > Image [43]

Physical Description: 4x6 inches

[Getting ready to jump into river], 1975 Box 2 > Image [44]

Physical Description: 4x6 inches

[Playing beside the river], 1975 Box 2 > Image [45]

Physical Description: 4x6 inches

[Jumping off the bank], 1975	Box 2 > Image [46]
Physical Description: 4x6 inches	
[Jumping off bank], 1975	Box 2 > Image [47]
Physical Description: 4x6 inches	
[Young man by the river], 1975	Box 2 > Image [48]
Physical Description: 4x6 inches	
Eno River, 1973	Box 4 > Image [49]
Physical Description: 8x9.75 inches	

Landscapes and the Natural World

[River rocks], 1973	Box 2 > Image [50]
Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches	
Reflections, Little River, Fall 1973	Box 5 > Image [51]
Physical Description: 10.25x10.25 inches	
Scope and Contents note	
[Mat has some staining from water damage.]	
[Snow in trees], 1974	Box 2 > Image [52]
Physical Description: 5.25x8 inches	
[Storm clouds over barns], 1970s	Box 2 > Image [53]
Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches	
[Sycamores], 1970s	Box 2 > Image [54]
Physical Description: 7.75x11 inches	
Scope and Contents note	
Print unmounted.	
[Distant shot of two dogs on road, church in background on hill], 1970s	Box 2 > Image [55]
Physical Description: 4.5x6.5 inches	
[Sycamore trees], 1970s	Box 2 > Image [56]
Physical Description: 8x5.5 inches	

[Waterfall], 1970s	Box 3 > Image [57]
Physical Description: 5.5x8 inches	
[Lily pads], 1970s	Box 3 > Image [58]
Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches	
[Lily pads], 1970s	Box 3 > Image [59]
Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches	
[Lily pads], 1970s	Box 3 > Image [60]
Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches	
[Field of daisies], 1970s	Box 3 > Image [61]
Physical Description: 5.25x7.5 inches	

Portraits

Eno River, 1973 [Two African American boys]	Box 3 > Image [62]
Physical Description: 6.75x7 inches	
Eno River, 1973 [Two African American boys]	Box 3 > Image [63]
Physical Description: 6.75x7 inches	
Eno River, 1973 [Two African American boys]	Box 5 > Image [64]
Physical Description: 6.75x7 inches	
Kids at Eno, 1973	Box 5 > Image [65]
Physical Description: 10.5x11 inches	
Scope and Contents note	
[Two African American boys. Enlarged duplicate of print 64; photo emulsion is slightly damaged.]	
Kids at the Eno, 1973	Box 5 > Image [66]
Physical Description: 10.5x10.75 inches	
Johnny Finch, 1973 [Young African American man]	Box 5 > Image [67]
Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches	
Johnny Finch, 1973 [Duplicate of print 67]	Box 5 > Image [68]
Physical Description: 8.5x13 inches	

[Two young African American men in front of store], 1970s	Box 3 > Image [69]
Physical Description: 8.25x10.25 inches	
Scope and Contents note	
Prints 69-72 are unmounted.	
[Two young African American men in warehouse], 1970s	Box 3 > Image [70]
Physical Description: 7.75x11 inches	
[African American man in braids], 1970s	Box 3 > Image [71]
Physical Description: 7.75x11 inches	
[Young white woman (at fair?)], 1970s	Box 3 > Image [72]
Physical Description: 7.75x11 inches	
[Young white woman, (carnival vendor?)], 1970s	Box 3 > Image [73]
Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches	
Rough hands, Durham County Fair, 1974 [Two young white men]	Box 3 > Image [74]
Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches	
[Hiker resting on rocks], 1970s	Box 3 > Image [75]
Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches	
Mr. Arthur Revis #1, 1974 November [Elderly African American man]	Box 3 > Image [76]
Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches	
Mr. Arthur Revis #2, 1974 November	Box 3 > Image [77]
Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches	
Mr. Arthur Revis #3, 1979 November	Box 3 > Image [78]
Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches	
Mr. Arthur Revis #4, 1979 November	Box 3 > Image [79]
Physical Description: 5.5x7.5 inches	
[Mr. Arthur Revis], November?	Box 3 > Image [80]
Physical Description: 4.5x6.5 inches	

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Exhibit Prints and Poster, 1970s (printed circa 2006)

Physical Description: 2 boxes

Scope and Contents note

These 16 matted inkjet prints were exhibited at Through This Lens gallery in Durham, N.C., in 2006. They are all duplicates of images from the original collection described in the Photographic Prints Series. The prints range in size from 8x8" to 16x24.75". Matted prints measure as follows--Box 6: 16x20"; Box 7: 24x32". Captions supplied by library staff are in brackets. The subjects include barns from Durham and Orange counties, tobacco warehouses, African American tobacco workers, and a game booth at the fair. Included in the series is one of Grossman's most important photographs, "Sunbeam." Also present in the series is the original exhibition poster from 2006.

Arranged in original order as received, with image identifiers supplied by library staff.

Tobacco barn, Durham County, 1970s Physical Description: 8x12.25 inches	Box 6 > Image [81]
Barn, N. Duke St., Durham County, 1973 Physical Description: 8x12.5 inches	Box 6 > Image [82]
[Barn with cart], 1970s Physical Description: 8x12.25 inches	Box 6 > Image [83]
[Cart on farm, detail], 1970s Physical Description: 8x12.25 inches	Box 6 > Image [84]
[Cigarette factory window detail], 1970s Physical Description: 8x12.5 inches	Box 6 > Image [85]
Liberty Warehouse [close-up of window with seed company advertisement], 1974 Physical Description: 8.75x8.75 inches	Box 6 > Image [86]
Liberty Warehouse [door with tobacco seed advertisements], 1974 Physical Description: 8x8 inches	Box 6 > Image [87]

Hot dog stand, Sunday, 1974 November Physical Description: 8x12.25 inches	Box 6 > Image [88]
Hot dog stand, 1974 November Physical Description: 8x12.25 inches	Box 6 > Image [89]
Sunbeam, 1974 Physical Description: 16x24.75 inches	Box 7 > Image [90]
Geer St. looking west, 1974 November Physical Description: 16x24.5 inches	Box 7 > Image [91]
Having fun, Durham County Fair, 1974 Physical Description: 8x12.25 inches	Box 6 > Image [92]
[Two African American men, (tobacco workers ?)], 1970s Physical Description: 8x12.25 inches	Box 6 > Image [93]
[Four young African American male tobacco workers], 1970s Physical Description: 8x12.25 inches	Box 6 > Image [94]
[Sitting man with cigarette], 1970s Physical Description: 16x16 inches	Box 7 > Image [95]
Break at tobacco auction, 1970s Physical Description: 16x24.5 inches	Box 7 > Image [96]
Exhibit poster for "Past / Present: Photographs of Durham by Will Grossman," 2006 Scope and Contents	Oversize-folder 1

The exhibit, a solo show, was held at Through This Lens Gallery, in Durham, North Carolina, from June 4-September 16, 2006. The color poster measures 24x17 inches; the black-and-white photograph used, "Sunbeam," is of three men inside a warehouse building.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Negatives, 1969-1976

Physical Description: 1 box)

Scope and Contents note

Series contains 488 negative images. The bulk are negative strips, but there are also larger single negatives cut by the photographer. Among the negatives are images that represent the photographic prints in the collection, but there are also many negative images for which prints do not exist, including images of locations in Durham city and county. Original titles supplied by photographer were taken from envelopes or sleeves; titles supplied by library staff are in brackets.

Access Restrictions:

Original negatives are generally closed to access. Please consult with a reference archivist for more information.

Eno River, 1973	Box 8
Physical Description: 22 images	
Eno River, 1974	Box 8
Physical Description: 20 images	
Eno River, 1974	Box 8
Physical Description: 16 images	
Eno River, 1975	Box 8
Physical Description: 21 images	
Eno River, 1975	Box 8
Physical Description: 20 images	
Eno River, 1976	Box 8
Physical Description: 35 images	
Orange Factory Rd, 1975	Box 8
Physical Description: 27 images	
Kids at Eno River, 1975	Box 8
Physical Description: 21 images	
Durham County, 1974	Box 8
Physical Description: 15 images	
Durham County, 1975	Box 8
Physical Description: 20 images	

15-501 around Durham, 1975 Physical Description: 15 images	Box 8
Northgate Mall, 1972 Physical Description: 20 images	Box 8
Patterson Mill, Durham, 1970s Physical Description: 22 images	Box 8
[Mostly images of individuals, some landscapes and individuals], 1969-1972 Physical Description: 28 images	Box 8
[Buildings and landscapes], 1973 Physical Description: 17 images	Box 8
[Mostly buildings, some landscapes, Hartman St?], 1974 Physical Description: 25 images	Box 8
Barn, 1975 Physical Description: 12 images	Box 8
Durham, 1971 Physical Description: 11 images	Box 8
Durham County, 1970 Physical Description: 12 images	Box 8
Eno River, 1973 Physical Description: 11 images	Box 8
Eno River, 1975 Physical Description: 16 images	Box 8
Northgate Mall, 1976 Physical Description: 12 images	Box 8
Mill on Eno River, 1971 Physical Description: 11 images	Box 8
[Landscapes], 1971 Physical Description: 8 images	Box 8

[Landscapes and one portrait], 1972	Box 8
Physical Description: 11 images	
[Landscapes and Catsburg store, northern Durham], 1972	Box 8
Physical Description: 12 images	
[Landscapes and buildings], 1973	Box 8
Physical Description: 12 images	
[Robert's Drink Stand, buildings and portraits], 1974	Box 8
Physical Description: 12 images	
Eno River, 1975	Box 8
Physical Description: 4 images	

[Return to Table of Contents](#)