

Bucks County Prison Photographs and Ephemera Collection ARC1998.1-119

Finding aid prepared by Jacqui Bowen

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

James A. Michener Art Museum Archives

July, 2013

<http://www.MichenerArtMuseum.org>

138 South Pine Street

Doylestown, PA, 18901

215-340-9800

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Summary Information

Repository	James A. Michener Art Museum Archives
Creator - Photographer	Brown, Ron
Creator - Photographer	Crawford, Jay
Creator - Photographer	Fuqua , Jerry W.
Creator - Photographer	Luiso , Giancarlo
Creator - Photographer	Pitrone, Jim
Creator - Photographer	Pronesti , Frank
Creator - Photographer	Rutherford, Milton
Creator - Photographer	Tinney, Jack
Title	Bucks County Prison Photograph and Ephemera Collection
Date	1880 - 1987
Extent	1.0 Linear feet 2 photo binders and 1 small box
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Bucks County prison was built in 1884 on Pine Street in Doylestown to relieve overcrowding at the county jail and used for over a century. This collection consists of historical prison photographs, including photographs of the Bucks County Jail constructed in 1880; prison views form 1907, aerial views of the prison complex prior to 1985; photographs of the abandoned prison ca. 1986; interior shots of the overcrowded jail</p>

in the early 1980s; photos of Warden John Case (1962 – 1967) and his family; 10 color photographs by photographer Milton Rutherford of the abandoned site, ca. 1986.

Preferred Citation note

[Title of item], [date of item if known], Bucks County Prison Photograph and Ephemera Collection, James A. Michener Art Museum Archives.

Biographical/Historical note

The Bucks County prison was built in 1884 on Pine Street in Doylestown to relieve overcrowding at the county jail and used for over a century. Philadelphia architect Addison Hutton designed an expanded facility that included a three-story warden's house and guardhouse control center using a combined Romanesque and Italianate style. The architecture was inspired by Quaker ideas of reflection and penitence that dominated the American prison system in the 19th century. The overall design concept of the prison was modeled after the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia. It closed in 1985. This was the town's second prison, the first one having been built in 1811. When the first prison was demolished, the stones were moved to aid in the construction of the second prison.

<http://www.davidhanauer.com/buckscounty/michener/> <http://www.michenermuseum.org/education/questions/question.php?q=20>

Scope and Contents note

The collection consists of historical prison photographs, including photographs of the Bucks County Jail constructed in 1880; prison views from 1907, aerial views of the prison complex prior to 1985; photographs of the abandoned prison ca. 1986; interior shots of the overcrowded jail in the early 1980s; photos of Warden John Case (1962 – 1967) and his family; 10 color photographs by photographer Milton Rutherford of the abandoned site, ca. 1986. Many of the photographs in this collection are undated and unidentified. Photographers include: Ron Brown, Jay Crawford and Jim Pitrone of The Courier Times; Giancarlo Luiso of The Doylestown Intelligencer; and Milton Rutherford of Doylestown.

Also included are photographs assembled by Lois R. Anderson for *The Pine Street Hotel: A History of the Old Bucks County Jail*, James A. Michener Art Museum, Doylestown, PA, 1993. Mrs. Anderson obtained photographs from The Spruance Library of the Bucks County Historical Society.

Additionally, there is 1 set of 3 iron keys on large iron circle used in the Bucks County Prison donated by Miriam Derstine, a volunteer in the Bucks County Prison; 6 black and white photographs of Sally Port transferred from Marketing Dpt; 6 black and white photographs of Bucks County Prison interior by Jim Pitrone; 3 photos taken by Jerry W. Fuqua (prison guard 1970s-1987); 1 color photograph by Jack Tinney; 1 black and white photo by Frank Pronesti of James A. Michener Arts Center, Pine St façade.

Arrangement note

Arrangement of the collection

- 1 [ref1](#)
- 2 [ref2](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James A. Michener Art Museum Archives July, 2013

Conditions Governing Access note

Collection is open to researchers at the James A. Michener Art Museum Archives. Advance appointments are required for the use of archival materials.

Conditions Governing Use note

Copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law. Manuscript collections and archival records may contain materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in this collection without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications for which the James A. Michener Art Museum Archives assumes no responsibility. Permission to publish must be obtained from the Director of the Archives at the James A. Michener Art Museum Archives.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Collection, ARC1998.1-119, was acquired through many sources: gifted to the James A. Michener Art Museum Archives by Miriam Derstine, Jerry W. Fuqua, Jack Tinney in 1998 and found in collection in 2013.

Processing Information note

This collection was processed by BHB on June 30, 2010 and revised by P. Sergey on March 14, 2013.

Controlled Access Headings

Function(s)

- Bucks County Jail

Geographic Name(s)

- Doylestown, PA

Personal Name(s)

- Case, Warden John

Collection Inventory

	Box
Photographs, 1880 – 1987	1-2
Bucks County Prison keys, 1880 – 1987	3