

Record Group: Fairchild Aerial Surveys, Inc.
Series: Aerial Negatives and Prints of New Jersey Sites, 1946-1949, 1951 & 1957
Accession #: 1995.047
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Content Note

The founder of Fairchild Aerial Surveys, Sherman Mills Fairchild (1896-1971), was a pioneer in the field of aerial photography. He was the son of a wealthy congressman from New York, George Winthrop Fairchild, whose time-clock and adding-machine business eventually became the International Business Machines Corporation (IBM). In 1916, the younger Fairchild established himself as a technological leader when he developed the first synchronized camera shutter and flash. During World War I, he became interested in aerial photography and, in March 1919, completed a specialized camera for this purpose with a large, between-the-lens shutter. Shortly afterward he established the Fairchild Aerial Camera Corporation with financing from his father. By 1924, he had formed Fairchild Aerial Surveys, Inc., and secured a \$7,000 contract to photo-map Newark, New Jersey. This was the first aerial mapping of a major city, but was completed at a cost to the Fairchild company of nearly \$30,000.

During the next few years, Fairchild's aerial survey company saw greater success mapping areas in Canada, New York City and other eastern cities. Originally purchasing airplanes for the business, Sherman Fairchild eventually began manufacturing his own planes. Unfortunately, little information is available in print with regard to the photo-mapping activities of Fairchild Aerial Surveys during the succeeding decades. A detailed history of the Fairchild aircraft, however, can be found in *Fairchild Aircraft, 1926-1987* by Kent A. Mitchell (Santa Ana, CA: Narkiewicz/Thompson, 1997).

This series includes nearly 1,400 low-altitude, *oblique* views of New Jersey sites produced by the New York Office of Fairchild Aerial Surveys during the years 1946-1949, 1951 and 1957. While this is essentially a negative collection, a considerable number of black and white prints are also included. The series was originally part of a larger collection of Fairchild negatives from the years noted above; negatives and prints showing sites not in New Jersey, however, were transferred to the state archives of the other states represented. A state-by-state record of the deaccessioned items is included in Box #14 and a listing of contact information is provided at the end of this guide. The surviving *vertical* views done by Fairchild's New York Office are held by the Map and Imagery Laboratory of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Following the **Box Contents** list below, the views are listed by county and thereunder by negative number (i.e., chronologically). The span of numbers shown for each site is followed by "/g" in cases where there is a gap in the number sequence. While most of the state is represented, the northeastern counties by far have the greatest number of images. The negatives (and prints) generally measure 8"x10", with a small number of negatives measuring 9"x9". Oversized items are contained in Boxes #12 and #13. Also included are references to prints that can be found in the series: Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company, Aerial Survey of the Morristown Main Line, Montclair Branch, Gladstone Branch and Greenwood Lake-Boonton Line, 1949 (DLW).

Hudson County

93563-93572	Dixon Plant, Jersey City, 10/3/1946 [10 images]
93627-93632	De Koven Plant, Jersey City, 10/13/1946 [6 images]
93693-93697	De Koven Plant, Jersey City, 11/6/1946 [5 images]
94510-94521	Stockyards, Jersey City, 3/12/1947 [12 images]
100408-100414	Industrial Area, Bayonne, 6/27/1946 [7 images]
102459-102476	Holland-America Piers, Hoboken, 10/15/1948 [18 images]
102636-102640	General Cable, Bayonne, 12/10/1948 [5 images]
102892-102899/g	Maxwell House Coffee, Hoboken, 2/17/1949 [4 images]
102922-102931/g	Waterfront, Jersey City, 2/23/1949 [8 images]
103164-103181/g	Central Railroad of New Jersey, Jersey City, 3/16/1949 [8 images]
103189	Jersey City, 3/16/1949 [1 image, see also DLW]
103363, 103364	Secaucus, 4/4/1949 [2 images, see also DLW]
103365-103420/g	Jersey City, 4/4/1949 [6 images, see also DLW]
103412, 103413	Harrison, 4/4/1949 [2 images, see also DLW]
103414-103416	Kearny, 4/4/1949 [3 images, see also DLW]
103443-103451/g	Jersey City, 4/10/1949 [6 images]
103445-103456/g	Kearny, 4/10/1949 [7 images]
51:1165	New Jersey State Expressway, Secaucus, 4/30/1951 [1 image]
51:1396C	Docks, Jersey City, 4/8/1928 [1 image; copy of #49484]
51:1478, 51:1479	Todd Shipyards, Hoboken, 6/1/1951 [2 images]
51:1488-51:1493	M. W. Kellog Co., Jersey City, 5/31/1951 [6 images]
51:1494	Waterfront, Jersey City, 5/31/1951 [1 image]
51:1496-51:1520/g	DuPont Plant, Arlington, 5/31/1951 [8 images]
51:1501, 51:1502	Congoleum-Nairn Plant, Kearny, 5/31/1951 [2 images]
51:1503	Clark Thread Co., Kearny, 5/31/1951 [1 image]
51:1505, 51:1506	New Jersey Expressway, Kearny, 5/31/1951 [2 images]
51:1826-51:1842	M.W. Kellog Co., Jersey City, 6/24/1951 [17 images]
51:2459	Congoleum-Nairn, Kearny, 7/7/1951 [1 image]
51:2536-51:2548	Standard Brands, Hoboken, 7/20/1951 [13 images]
51:3683-51:3691	Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, Jersey City, 9/5/1951 [10 images]
51:4559-51:4571	Harrison, 10/1951 [13 images]
51:4580-51:4585	Area in Harrison, 10/13/1951 [6 images; see oversized box]
51:4791	Jersey City, 10/20/1951 [1 image]
51:4792-51:4798/g	Bayonne, 10/20/1951 [5 images]
51:4850, 51:4851	New Jersey Expressway, Secaucus, 10/25/1951 [2 images]
51:4884-51:4887	New Jersey State Expressway, Secaucus, 10/29/1951 [4 images]
51:4888	New Jersey State Expressway, Kearny, 10/29/1951 [1 image]
51:5386-51:5395/g	United Africa Co., Guttenberg, 12/27/1951 [9 images; see oversized box]

Hudson County (cont'd)

51:5390-51:5397/g	Waterfront, Guttenberg, 12/27/1951 [3 images; see oversized box]
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Mercer County