



CASE STUDY:

PHOTOGRAPH NEGATIVES



In 1947, we established the first microfiche imaging production facility in the United States, making the new imaging method widely available for the first time. Ever since, Northern Micrographics has specialized in developing new solutions for both preservation and access.

Applying our broad experience, we consult with clients and make thoughtful recommendations based on their priorities. We offer a wide range of preservation services and software including microfilming, digital archiving, metadata creation, search and distribution of images, text and audio.



Minnesota Historical Society

The Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) is the official caretaker of Minnesota history. In its vast collections, MHS archives books, maps, journals, letters, and photographs and photograph negatives.

Several years ago, MHS decided to digitize its photograph negatives and put them online, and MHS partnered with Northern Micrographics on this project.



Digitizing the Negatives

Photograph negatives present an interesting challenge for digitizing. The varied colors and tones, as well as scratches and dirt from prior handling, all contribute to the need to use a digitizing process that insures high quality output for all the negatives. Northern Micrographics, working with MHS, created a negative digitizing specification to insure consistent quality and output for the thousands of negatives in this project

Part of the specification included specific metadata for this project. MHS wanted to be able to locate each negative in the database by location and number. So Northern Micrographics created a file structure to include a number for each negative as well as the location number provided by MHS.



Visitors to this online resource can locate photos by searching or by entering a negative number or location, providing a user friendly search experience.

Putting the Images Online

The final output was delivered to MHS, ready to be put online. The images may be viewed at <http://www.mnhs.org/collections>.

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Northern Micrographics

What do you know worth saving?