

Louis Baker Collection

Cambridge Historical Commission
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dates circa 1949

Extent 1 linear foot

Access Collection is available for research; CHC rules of use apply.

Processing and finding aid completed by Megan Schwenke, January 2013

Provenance and Collection Description

The Louis Baker collection was donated to the Commission in June of 2010 by Nancy Baker of Concord, New Hampshire via her niece, Susie Leiper. Ms. Baker is Louis Baker's widow.

This collection is comprised of photographs taken by Louis Baker, a photographer for the Harvard Crimson, circa 1949. Subjects include reconstruction of the steeple of the First Parish Church, Phillips Books store in two locations, and aerial views of Harvard University. The images are largely 8x10, but there are several 4x5 and 5x7 prints as well, and all bear Louis Baker's credit line. Duplicate images in each series have been foldered separately. An additional image of the Harvard River Houses has been removed from this collection and is on file at the Commission.

Biographical Note

Louis Willard Baker was born on January 5, 1924 in Indianola, Iowa. He was a member of the Harvard College Class of 1946, and received his AB from Harvard in 1950. While at Harvard, Baker served as a photographer on the Crimson staff, and won 1st and 4th prize in the Harvard Photography Society's Semi-Annual Photography contest in 1949. After graduating from Harvard, he worked for Eastman Kodak for 30 years until retiring in 1981. Baker died on November 28, 1998 in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire.

Related Resources

See also the Cambridge Historical Commission architectural inventory files for the addresses listed herein.

Scope and ContentSeries I: First Parish Church (1949)

Contains 47 images of the reconstruction of the steeple of the First Parish Church in Cambridge, 3 Church Street, 1949. There are 66 8x10 prints total in this series including duplicates.

Series II: Phillips Books, 1354 Massachusetts Avenue (1949)

Contains nine images documenting the opening of Phillips Books store at 1354 Massachusetts Avenue in 1949. Visible in some of the images are photographs taken by Baker of Harvard Yard and various Harvard buildings displayed on the walls of the store. There are 22 8x10 prints, two 4x5.5 prints, and three 5x7 prints total in this series including duplicates.

Series III: Phillips Books Store, 1288 Massachusetts Avenue (1949)

Contains three images depicting Phillips Books at 1288 Massachusetts Avenue before its relocation to 1354 Massachusetts Avenue in 1949. There are three 8x10 prints and one 5x7 print in this series including duplicates.

Series IV: Harvard Aerial Views (undated)

Contains four panoramic images of the Harvard campus. There are four 8x10 prints in this series, and no duplicates. Originals identical to these, as well as additional originals depicting aerial views of Harvard can be found in the Harvard Square Aerial Views folder in the Commission's architectural inventory files.

Series V: Harvard Coop (undated)

Contains one 5x7 print of the Harvard Coop's main selling floor, located at 1400 Massachusetts Avenue.

Series VI: Felix's Shoe Repair (undated)

Contains a photocopy of one 5x7 print of the front facade of Felix's Shoe Repair, located at 1304 Massachusetts Avenue. Original print on file at the Commission.

Folder List

Series I: First Parish Church (1949)

- 1-3. Images [3 folders]
4. Duplicates

Series II: Phillips Books Store, 1354 Massachusetts Avenue (1949)

5. Images
6. Duplicates

Series III: Phillips Books Store, 1288 Massachusetts Avenue (1949)

7. Images
8. Duplicates

Series IV: Harvard Aerial Views (undated)

9. Images

Series V: Harvard Coop (undated)

10. Images

Series VI: Felix's Shoe Repair (undated)

11. Images

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<http://www.cambridgema.gov/historic/researchaids/archivalcollections>