Lois M. Bowen Collection

Cambridge Historical Commission
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Mass. 02139


Reference Code: LMB-MaCbHC-US

Collection ID: P001

Extent- Approximately 18 cubic feet- 40 boxes of different sizes including 15 inch archival boxes, 12 inch archival boxes, flat archival boxes, and bankers boxes among others.


Dates: approximately 1939-1995

Creator
Bowen, Lois M., 1914-2002

Description
The Lois M. Bowen collection of photographs. This Collection represents much of the life work of Lois M. Bowen, a Cambridge photographer and entrepreneur who owned a camera shop, Cambridge Camera and Marine, in Harvard Square from the 1940s to 1995. The collection was donated to the the Cambridge Historical Commission in June of 2002 by Grace Manoogian, a caretaker and longtime friend of Ms. Bowen, and by parole of Ms. Bowen’s family.

The collection consists of approximately 8,000 photographic images including prints, negatives, contact sheets, as well as film and glass slides. Many of these photographs are from Ms. Bowen’s work as a freelance photographer for architectural groups and publications in the greater Boston area. In addition to the photographic materials there are business papers, documents relating to Ms. Bowen’s service in the Army, as well as personal correspondence and ephemera.

Conditions governing Access and Use: Collection is open for research. CHC rules of use apply.

Biography
Lois Mary Bowen (September 7, 1914- February 8, 2002), daughter of Walter and Gertrude Bowen, grew up in Cranston, Rhode Island and graduated from Cranston High School in 1932. She worked as an insurance clerk for a number of years and then became one of the first women in Rhode Island to join the Women’s Army Corps (the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps at the time) after its creation in 1942. She served for four years and attained the rank of Major. Having been an amateur photographer, after her time in the service she and her partner Elizabeth Stearns (1913-1992) opened Marshall Portrait Studio in Harvard Square in 1947 and operated it until 1954 when they opened Cambridge Camera and Marine in Brattle Square, which was in business until 1995. Over the course of the 1960s and 1970s Ms. Bowen did freelance photography for a number of organizations and publications around Cambridge and Boston, including The Architects’ Collaborative, Architectural Forum Magazine, as well as advertising agencies and admissions publications for colleges and universities. In the course of this work she took many photographs of well-known buildings in Boston and Cambridge.
Processing and Arrangement Notes
The original order of the collection has mostly been lost. The collection has been arranged predominantly by subject and size, in a way that maintains the provenance of the materials wherever possible. Due to the size of the collection, various photographic materials are interfiled or housed together. Negatives and prints have been matched where possible, but many remain unmatched or unidentified. Some subjects may be found in multiple series or containers and are cross-referenced wherever possible. For example, materials relating to The Architects’ Collaborative can be found both in Series I and in the TAC folders of the Business Records series. Portions of this collection, especially in Series V, have been only minimally processed and remain largely unsorted. These areas are indicated in the container list.

Related Resources
- More of Lois Bowen’s photographs can be found at the Radcliffe College Archives and are available online through Harvard’s online catalog.
- The personal papers of Lois Bowen’s partner, Elizabeth Stearns are in the Harvard Theater collection.
- More materials by and about The Architects’ Collaborative are available in the Rotch Library at MIT, at Harvard in Loeb Design Library and in the Walter Gropius Papers at the Houghton Library, as well as the Harvard University Archives Visual Collections. There are also materials at the the Massachusetts State Library.
- Digitized images from this collection can be found on the Cambridge Historical Commission’s flickr account.

Scope and Content
The collection contains approximately 8,000 photographic images, including black and white and color prints, negatives, slides, and contact sheets. Many of these photographs were taken in the course of Ms. Bowen’s work as a freelance photographer for architectural publications, advertising firms, and college admissions publications. Additionally there are photographs which Bowen took in a non-professional capacity on vacations. The collection also contains business records, correspondence, and personal materials such as military records and vacation photographs.

Series I- TAC- (1960-1965)
Contains prints, negatives, slides and contact sheets relating to a number of buildings designed by The Architects’ Collaborative in and around Boston including a number of buildings at Brandeis, and other educational institutions in Massachusetts. The TAC was founded by Walter Gropius in 1945 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Gropius had previously founded the Bauhaus School. There are also TAC materials located in the “Business Records” series of the Lois Bowen Collection.
  Subseries 1 Brandeis (1961)
  Subseries 2 Educational Institutions (1960-1965)

Series II- Cambridge & Boston- (approximately 1950-1984)
Contains prints, negatives, slides and contact sheets of buildings in and around Cambridge including notable areas and historic structures including Harvard and Brattle Squares, MIT’s Cecil and Ida Green Building, the Design Research Building at 48 Brattle St., as well as Boston scenes and landmarks such as the Boston Public Gardens, & Government Center among others.
  Subseries 1 Cambridge (approximately 1950-1970)
Subseries 2 Charles River
Subseries 3 Boston (approximately 1960-1984)

Contains prints, negatives, slides, and contact sheets of Buildings on the Harvard University and Radcliffe Institute Campuses.

Contains correspondence and business records such as invoices and receipts etc. as well as prints, negatives, contact sheets, and slides relating to specific projects Lois Bowen was involved in, organized alphabetically by project or organization. Many of these are related to other areas of the collection, especially Series’ I, II, and III. Includes records and photographic materials relating to Bowen’s work for Harvard and Radcliffe, architectural firms and publications, as well as The Architects’ Collaborative.
   Subseries 1-Photo Researchers Inc. Submissions- This subseries is comprised of one box of photographs of Boston that Lois Bowen submitted to the Photo Researchers Inc. stock photo agency.
   Subseries 2- Publications featuring Bowen’s work. Subseries 3-Business Records

Series V- Nonprofessional Material (approximately 1940-1990)—This series contains much of Lois Bowen’s nonprofessional work and work outside of Boston and Cambridge. It contains a variety of materials, including photographic prints and negatives, as well as correspondence and other records. This series contains materials that span nearly the entirety of Bowen’s adult life with prints as early as the late 1940s all the way into the 1990s. It is broadly divided into topical subseries, but there may be some overlap.
   Subseries 1- Landscapes & Snapshots- This subseries contains an abundance of photographic prints, negatives and contact from vacations, predominantly around New England.
   Subseries 2- Personal/Biographical Materials- Materials relating to Bowen’s personal life, including correspondence, newspaper clippings and military records. Here are also found some of Bowen’s photography reference books and other publications.
   Subseries 3- Famous Photo School- Projects that Lois Bowen worked on for the Famous Photo school.

Added Entries
Stearns, Elizabeth, 1913-2002
Architects Collaborative, Inc.—Buildings—Photographs
Harvard University—Buildings, Structures, Etc.—Photographs
Radcliffe Institute—Buildings, Structures, Etc.—Photographs
Massachusetts Institute of Technology—Buildings, Structures Etc.—Photographs
Boston (Mass.)—Buildings, Structures, Etc.—Photographs
Cambridge (Mass.)—Buildings, Structures, Etc.—Photographs
New England—Photographs
Architecture, Modern—20th Century
Architectural Photography—Cambridge—Massachusetts
Architectural Photography—Boston—Massachusetts
Universities and Colleges—Buildings, Structures, Etc.—Photographs
Women Photographers—Cambridge—Massachusetts
**Container List**

This container list has been divided into three sections. In addition to the main section, which contains the bulk of the materials, there is also an oversized, and a small prints materials section. The series laid out in the above scope and content notes are maintained across all three sections. For instance, there are Series I materials located in both the standard container list, the oversize container list and the small materials container list.

**Series I**

1. **Box 1- TAC**
   Subseries 1- Brandeis University, 1961
   1. Golding Judaic Center
   2. Mendel and Leah Berlin Chapel
   3. Morris Brown Social Science Center
   4. Olin-Sang American Civilization Center
   5. Shiffman Humanities Center
   6. Social Science Center- (1 print in oversized box)
   7. Unidentified Buildings

2. **Box 2-TAC**
   Subseries 2- Educational Institutions
   1. Eaglebrook School, Deerfield, MA, 10/1965- (see Small Materials)
   2. Rivers Country Day School, 1961
   3. Glover School, Needham, MA. 1961 (Bundle)
   5. Wayland H.S. (1 print in oversized box)
   6. Tufts- (see Small Materials)

**Series II**

3. **Box 3**
   Subseries 1- Cambridge
   1. Harvard Square- undated
   3. Harvard Square & Brattle Square- 1984, undated
   5. Brattle Street Addresses- 1976
   6. 44 Brattle Street- Demolition- May 1970
   7. Cambridge- (Misc.)-mostly undated. (1 print in oversized)
   8. Cambridge Camera & Marine- undated
   9. Cambridge Slides
   10. Christ Church
   11. Longfellow House/Park Church

4. **Box 4-E.D.S./E.T.S. Washburn Hall**

5. **Box 5-E.D.S./E.T.S. Washburn Hall- Flat Box**
6. **Box 6**
   2. Design Research Building
   3. MIT- (1966)- (1 contact sheet located in “ETS/EDS” Folder; 3 prints in oversized)
   4. 1010 Memorial drive, 1966
   5. 14 Old Dee Road, n.d.

**Subseries 2- Charles River**
   6. Cambridge & The River

**Subseries 3- Boston**
   8. Boston (Misc.)- (7 prints in oversized; 5 prints in envelope marked “Harvard Square”)- ca.1975-1984
   9. Boston Public Garden

7. **Box 7**
   1. Beacon Hill- 1961
   2. Cityscapes- 8 in Oversized Box 3- n.d., ca. 1960s
   3. Copley Square- 1984- Also see Boston Public Library Folder Small & Oversized.
   5. Fenway Region, n.d. (1 in oversized)
   6. Government center- 8 in oversized
   7. Mass General Hospital
   8. Park Street (1 in oversized, also see Photo Researchers Submissions)
   9. Boston Public Library- 5 in oversized
   10. State House
   12. Boston Architectural Center
   13. Boston Harbor- (See small materials)

### Series III

8. **Box 8-Harvard**
   2. Harvard: Andover hall
   3. Harvard: Business School
   4. Harvard: Carpenter Center
   5. Harvard: Fogg Museum- (5 in oversize)
   6. Harvard: Harkness Commons
   7. Harvard: Holden Chapel- (1 in oversize)
   8. Harvard: Holyoke Center- (5 in oversize)
   9. Harvard: Larsen Hall
   10. Harvard: Law School
   11. Harvard: Loeb Drama Center
   12. “Stubbins” - Loeb Drama Center

9. **Box 9-Harvard**
1. Harvard: Lowell House
2. Harvard: Massachusetts Hall
3. Harvard Medical School
4. Harvard Memorial Church
5. Harvard: Pusey Library
6. Harvard: Quincy House
7. Harvard from the river
8. Harvard: Hilles Library
9. Harvard: Stadium
11. Harvard Yard
10. Box 10-Harvard & Radcliffe
   1. Harvard Business School- Extras- 36 prints
   2. Radcliffe

Series IV

11. Box 11-Submissions to Photo Researches Inc.- flat box.
   Subseries I- Photo Researches Inc.

12. Box 12-
   Subseries 2- Publications featuring Bowen’s work.
   2. Architecture Plus
   3. Esquire
   4. Fortune
   5. Holiday
   7. Providence Journal 1939
   8. Town of Barrington Rhode Island.
   10. Bound album with color photographs

13. Box 13-College Materials ft. Bowen’s work
   1. Episcopal Theological School (see also Series II)
   2. Harvard (see also Series III)
   3. Radcliffe (see also Series III)

Subseries 3- Business Records
17. Box 17-Business Records N-Y, Newbury Street- Radcliffe #2 No
18. Box 18-Business Records N-Y, Radcliffe #2 Extra (dorms)— TAC Miscellaneous Projects
Series V
Subseries 1- Landscapes & Snapshots
20. **Box 20-** Misc. Slides Not Yet Cataloged. Subjects: landscapes, seascapes, people, animals, flowers, fruit, etc. (Not Boston or Cambridge)

21. **Box 21-** Misc. Identified Photographic Prints. Subjects: Misc. (Not Boston or Cambridge)
   1. Bennington College- small envelope
   2. Pittsfield, MA 1968- 2 small envelopes
   4. Ogunquit, ME, Marblehead, MA, Rockport, MA slides
   5. Ogunquit, ME- Seascape- negatives
   6. Babson- Sir Isaac Newton Library- Also see Oversized Box 4
   7. Lexington/Concord, Dedham
   8. Lincoln, MA
   10. Louisa May Alcott house (Orleans House) Concord, MA; Little Red Schoolhouse, Sudbury MA- negatives
   11. loose negatives- unsorted
   12. New England Center, Hotel & Conference Center, Durham N.H.
   13. Rockport/ Crane’s Beach
   14. Strawberry Bank
   15. Turnpike Hotel, Newton Center
   16. Vermont- Also see Oversized box 4
   17. Wellesley College- Jewett Arts Center- Business records
   18. Williamsburg, 1963- smalls, also see oversized
   19. 1939 World’s Expo, Ny.

   1. not yet sorted- small prints, slides, negatives

23. **Box 23-** Misc. Snapshots- Not Sorted- snapshots, slides, negatives

24. **Box 24-** Misc. Snapshots- Not sorted- snapshots, slides, negatives

25. **Box 25-**
Subseries 2-Personal/Biographical Materials-Also see Box 26 and Oversized Box 4
   1. Unsorted
   2. Military Records
      1. Bowen
      2. Stearns- (also see Oversized Box 4 for Commission Certificate and portrait)
   4. Unidentified
   5. Lois M. Bowen
   6. Merker Family
   7. Elizabeth Stearns
   8. WAAC Materials
   9. Lois Bowen photocopies (correspondence, news clippings, military records)

26. **Box 26**
Subseries 2- Personal/Biographical Materials-
1. Photographs while in the service.
2. Lucas Family Crest on tracing paper.
3. “Oakley, 1958”
4. Carolyn, Easter 3/1959
5. “Gallery Go-Round” Sunday May 1, 1966

Subseries 3- Famous Photographers School
6. Famous Photographers School- Correspondence & Course Materials (see also Business Records boxes)
7. Famous Photographers school- Assignments

27. Box 27
   1. Personal Correspondence and Ephemera

28. Box 28


30. Box 30-Kodak Box- Miscellaneous Ephemera
   1. Contains 2 “Slid-in” Frames
   2. 3 boxes of Pegco Easymounts,
   3. 8 small handbooks about color processing.
   4. 2 CC Filter Dataguides
   5. Eastman Mask Charts, Chartist Mounting Cloth.

31. Box 31-Glass Slides- various subjects [May contain images falling into multiple series]

32. Box 32-Portraits- unsorted prints, negatives, contact sheets, note cards with negatives in kodak box-1950

33. Folders-
   1. Newspaper clippings [Series V]
   2. Bowen Photocopied documents- Newspaper clippings, military records etc. [Series V]
Oversized

Oversized Box 1
- TAC (series I)- 7 prints
- Harvard (series III)- ca. 30 or 40 prints?

Oversized Box 2- Harvard (Series III)

Oversized Box 3 Boston & Cambridge- (Series II)- views of Boston, unsorted.

Oversized Box 4- Oversized Photographic Prints and Documents- Misc. Subjects
- “Hilles Lib?” 2 prints
- Winhall VT, 11/59- 1 print
- Library, Tufts University (negatives in Business Records “Fortune 1965”) 
- Babson- Sir Isaac Newton Library
- Williamsburg, 1963
- M.I.T.- dome. N.D.
- Brattle Square-N.D.
- Christ Church, Cambridge, 1961- 2 prints
- Boston University, Charles River Campus- Submission to Photo Trends, N.D.
- Charles River looking towards Cambridge
- MIT dome- Color- N.D.
- Boston University, Charles River
- Elizabeth Stearns Commission/Portrait of Elizabeth Stearns

Oversized Box 5- Photographic Art Prints: Nature, still-life, landscapes, seascapes, etc.

Small Materials Box 1

Series 1- TAC
- Eaglebrook School, Deerfield MA- 10/1965
- Eaglebrook School, Deerfield MA- 10/17/1965
- Tufts University (unidentified bldg)- 5/1965

Series II- Cambridge/Boston

Subseries 1- Cambridge
- Studio Display- Marshall Studio?- Cambridge
- Harvard Square & Interior- Marshall Studio- 1940s
- MFA, Harvard Sq, Mt. Quburn St., Flowers- 1964
- Harvard Sq. 1968
- Harvard Sq. 1969
- Harvard Sq., Brattle St., Dunster St.- View of Broke Windows, Store Fronts 1970
- Harvard Sq.-1970s
- Construction Harvard Square
- Sq. & Atrium Rest.-1983
Ice Sculptures Harvard Sq. 1985
- Harvard Square- Some 1990
- Brattle Square
- Brattle Square
- Spring ’74, Brattle
- Brattle Square 3/91
- Cambridge- Nichols House 11/58
- Brattle Street Houses 10/59
- 122 Brattle Street (6 Brown St.)
5/1984 -“Elmwood” 5/67
- Cambridge- New School- Snow- 2 1/4 x 2
1/3 -22 Garden, 9/69
- Snow, 2/65- Fresh Pond
- Longfellow House Transparencies-
- Longfellow House/ Park Church
- Longfellow House- Ansochrome
Slides -MIT “old 10/58”
- MIT-Sailboats, Charles River-
10/59 -MIT 9/66
- MIT- 4x5 slides, Photo Research Slides
- MIT - Strobe-MIT- 2x2 slide strips; Dome 4x5 3 prints, negatives; Dome 7/59,
12/76 -MIT-12/76
- MIT -MIT-
12/56
- 1010 Memorial Drive
- 1010 Memorial Drive
- Unitarian Church-Harvard Square- Cambridge

Subseries 2- Charles River
- Charles River- Dock 10/59
- Charles River, Holyoke 1/63
- Charles River 10/63, “Dupree-Yes”
- Charles River 10/63, “Dupree Chas River- No”
- Charles River- Top of Mt. Auburn, “Dupree-No”
- River from 1010 Memorial Drive, 7/64
- Charles River- 1964
- Charles River Scenes-12/1965
- Charles River- 6/1966
- Boston from MIT- Charles River/Pru. 1967
- Charles River 9/1967
- Charles River- Crew Race & River Scenes 10/1968
- Charles River- 10/1974, 11/1975
- Charles River- 10/1974, 11/1975 -Charles River- 4x5 transparency -Charles River
- Charles River- Weeks Bridge
-Charles River- 4x5 Prints, Negatives, Slides
-Charles River- various small prints and negatives
-Charles River- 4x5 prints, slides, negatives
-Misc. Photos (B&W Negatives)- Info inside. 11 B&W Negatives- Charles river, exterior of a house, interior of studio, apartment building

Small Materials Box 2
Subseries 3- Boston
-Misc. Boston
-Boston- Commons, Statehouse, Public Garden, Hancock Building, also the Guggenheim Museum [New York]
-Boston- Christian Science Center
-Boston Common- State House, Fountain- 1963
-Boston Public Garden, 5/59, 5/67
-Boston Public Garden 5/59
-Boston- Beacon & Garden 10/59- “A-7 Ok”
-Boston Public Garden- Boston Arts Fest
7/1963 -Boston Public Garden- 1/1966
-Boston Public Garden 1960/64, 6/1966
-Boston Public Gardens- Transparencies
4x5 -Boston Public Garden 4/63
-Boston Arts Festival- 1963
-Boston Public Garden-“MBM”, 1/59; Boston Common, 6/60; Statue Boston Public Garden 11x14, 2/61. -Boston Public Garden 6/1961 Arts Festival ’61
-Boston Public Garden- Statue, Swan boat
-Boston Public Garden- photo researches inc.
slide -Beacon Hill, Snow 1961
-Boston Cityscapes
-Copley Complex- 9/1984
-Boston Public Library- 6/1968
-State House- 4/1963, 9/1964
-Boston Harbor, Custom House Tower
-Boston Harbor 7/76
-Quincy Market- 1977

Series III- Harvard
-Harvard 5/1974- 5 envelopes
-Harvard 8/1975- 2 envelopes
-Harvard 10/1976
-Harvard 2/1980
-Harvard 7/1981- 2 envelopes
-Harvard Gate
-Harvard- Bike-Gate
-Harvard Gate
(Snow) -Harvard
-Harvard Discards
-Adams Quincy 5/1973- 2 envelopes
-Andrews of Ellis & Andrews Real Estate -Harvard Architectural Building
-Brattle Walk 9/1971
-Harvard-Kirkland & Adams Houses 1969-1974- 7 envelopes
-Adams (inner?) 5/1974- 2 envelopes
-Adams 5/1973
-Adams Quincy 5/1973- 2 envelopes
-Harvard Business School- 12 envelopes
-Carpenter Center- Corbusier 8/1964- 3 envelopes
-River, Dunster, Peabody- 10/1964
-Dunster- 3 envelopes
-Eliot House, Gate, Tower, scull- 11 envelopes
-Harvard- Faculty & Others 11/1973- 2 envelopes
-Harvard Herbarium
-Hollis 5/1974
-Holworthy (snow) 12/1979
-Holyoke Center-3 envelopes
-Houghton Library 1960, 1964- 4 envelopes
-Kirkland, Winthrop 5/1973- 2 envelopes
-Larsen Center- 1 envelope
-Harvard Law- 4 envelopes
-Lehman 5/1974
-Lamont
-Harvard Law School- 12 envelopes -Leverett Tower
-Loeb- 1 envelope
-Longfellow 7/1978- 2 envelopes

Small Materials Box 3
-Memorial Church 1959-1977- 12 envelopes
-Memorial Hall-2 envelopes
-Harvard Med School
-Pusey 5/1977- 2 envelopes
-Harvard Photo-Research Slides
-President’s House Quincy St. 3/1960- 1/1960
- Quincy House - 3 envelopes
- Harvard University & Charles River - 7 envelopes - Harvard - Science Center
- Wigglesworth - Negatives
- Winthrop 6/1973
- Radcliffe Gate - Spring
- Radcliffe - 5 envelopes
- Harvard and Radcliffe Color Transparencies (Including 77 Brattle Street - Buckingham Hall, Radcliffe) - 7, 11/1959 - 1 envelope - various subjects
- Unsorted bundle of Harvard prints and negatives
- Unsorted bundle Harvard Photographs - Predominantly 1970s

Small Materials Box 4
Series V, Subseries 1 - Landscapes & Snapshots

Return to CHC Collections home:
http://www.cambridgema.gov/historic/researchaids/archivalcollections