

# John Gable/MNDOT Collection

## COLLECTION SUMMARY

**Collection Number:** B605, Accession #: 2021.401.0001 - 2021.401.0002

**Collection Repository:** Hennepin History Museum  
2303 Third Ave.  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

**Collection Title:** John Gable/MNDOT Collection

**Dates:** 1952-1993

**Extent:** 2 boxes (2 record cartons)

**Creator:** John Gable

**Language of the material:** English

**Processed by:** Katherine Stotis

## ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

John Gable worked for MnDOT and was most notably the project manager for the Stone Arch Bridge project that began in the early 90s. He retired in 1993 and died at age 61 in 1994. His wife, Joy, sent the archive some of his pictures after her initial donation of records. Gable's interest in photography began in WWII, when he started saving Life magazines articles. The earliest slides were from 1952, when he was 19 years old. He took glamorous shots of downtown Minneapolis and was fascinated by the Foshay building. He took extension courses at the University of Minnesota. He worked at MNDOT and was involved with I-394 construction work. His pictures appeared in ads, pamphlets, newspaper articles, and newsletters.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains the creative, work and education of John Gable. The collection is separated into 5 series.

The first series is his class work from extension courses he took at the University of Minnesota about historic preservation and house research. For one assignment he had to use old mortgages and compile a spreadsheet. This mortgage is in box 1.

The second series is government documents taken from his involvement in I-394. The long title of the report is: Final environmental impact statement & final section 4(F) evaluation US-12/I-394: Between SR-101 & I-94 In Wayzata, Minnetonka, Saint Louis Park, Golden Valley & Minneapolis. This was published in 1982.

The third series is his MNDOT work. He was the Project manager for the Stone Arch Bridge. He was also involved in the I-394, and Third Avenue Bridge.

The fourth series is his published work. I included the Life Magazine articles that were his inspiration from the 1940s and 1964. His photos were in ads, pamphlets, newsletters, and newspapers. His trademark style is long, glamorous, film noir pictures of skyscrapers.

The final series was his oversized pictures, slides and negatives. Two groups of pictures were in the photo room prior to acquisition of the collection. Folder 26, contains number CPH 1.16 pictures of downtown Minneapolis and Gold Medal Park.

The second box contains a 1953-1954 photo album, 3 boxes of slides, 2 boxes of pictures in sleeves and one box containing a mortgage.

The series are:

1. 1980s classwork
2. Government documents
3. MNDOT files
4. Other files
5. Photos

## **ACCESS**

The collection is open for researchers and has no restrictions.

## **COPYRIGHT**

The researcher assumes the responsibility for ensuring copyright is followed. When and where possible the archive will provide information related to the copyright owners, but it will be the responsibility of the researcher to ensure copyright laws are followed. Any commercial use of the material is prohibited without permission from the John Gable Estate. Direct questions about publication to the Archivist.

## **RELATED COLLECTION**

There is a MNDOT collection at the Hennepin History Museum.

## **ACQUISITION**

Either Joy or John intended to donate the collection to the Hennepin History Museum.

## **COLLECTION INVENTORY**

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Box No.</u>	
1	A	Slides
1	B	Slides
1	C	Mortgage

1	D	1958-1992 slides
1	E	1950-1986 photos
1	F	1986-1993 photos

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
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2	1	Archivist Notes
2	2	Stone Arch Bridge lecture
2	3	Proposal & Slides

**Series: 1980s Classwork**

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
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2	4	Historic Building Research f.1
2	5	Historic Building Research f. 2
2	6	Historic Building Research f.3
2	7	Historic Sources
2	8	Historic Preservation Process f. 1
2	9	Historic Preservation process f.2

**Series: Government Documents**

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
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2	10	I-394 Environmental Report
2	11	I-394 Press folder

**Series: MNDOT Files**

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
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2	12	Stone Arch Bridge 1
2	13	Stone Arch Bridge Final report f.1
2	14	Stone Arch Bridge Final Report f.2
2	15	Third Ave. Bridge
2	16	Stone Arch Bridge 2
2	17	Miscellaneous

**Series: Other Files**

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
2	18	Life magazine inspiration
2	19	Published photos
2	20	Newsletters
2	21	Newspapers f.1
2	22	Newspapers f.2
2	23	Pamphlets

**Series: Photos**

2	24	1950s-1990s Negatives
2	25	1957 slides
2	26	Gold Medal Park CPH 1.16
2	27	Loose photos
2	28	1970s oversized pictures
2	29	1980s slides & loose pictures
2	30	1990s Slides