

**MAHONING VALLEY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Inspiration through Heritage since 1875

**Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board
Historical Records Grant 2011
Final Report**

Organization:

Name: Mahoning Valley Historical Society
Address: 648 Wick Avenue
City/Zip: Youngstown, OH 44502

Federal Employee Identification Number: 34-0872868

Title of Project: Digitization of City Planning Negatives

Project Director:

Name/Title: Pamela L. Speis, Archivist
Address: Mahoning Valley Historical Society
648 Wick Avenue
City/Zip: Youngstown, OH 44502
Phone: 330-743-2589 Fax: 330-743-7210
E-Mail: archives@mahoninghistory.org

Summary of Project Activities and Accomplishments:

This project set out to digitize a historically significant collection of negatives from the Youngstown City Planning Office, held and managed by the Mahoning Valley Historical Society. Digitization of the negatives and original contact prints has made the collection accessible to all patrons at our archival library, while preserving the originals. [See Figure 1]. Off-site users will be served by the addition of thumbnails and the collection's index to the Historical Society's website.



FIGURE 1: Top image is an early reproduction from the original negative. Bottom image is from the scan done of the same negative as part of this project. There is increased clarity and sharpness to the scan, which is also closer in tone to the original, Item B1F347.

Although the original estimate was for the project to be completed within 316 hours, it actually took 437.5 hours to complete the re-housing, indexing, embedding and scanning of the individual items. Actual count within the collection was 2,295 compared to the original estimated count of 1,900, which is approximately 2 linear feet. Additional negatives were found to be statically adhered to each other, resulting in the difference between the original count and the actual one. It took a total of 2,450 scans to complete the project. Four interns carried out the bulk of the work with the Historical Society's archivist also actively re-housing and scanning originals in an effort to make the grant deadline in a timely fashion. Work was completed in the first two weeks of January prior to the filing of this report.

Early on, project personnel learned how to embed information directly into the image through Adobe Photoshop Elements. Appropriate tags and copyright information was also included. Adding this element increased the amount of time spent with each negative but the long-term benefits justified the change in work flow.

Additional slow-downs in the work pattern were related directly to the sensitivity of the new scanner. The scanner picked up on the darker edges of the negatives, and in some cases the shadow of the airplane struts, visible in many of the aerial views within the collection. This changed the resulting contrast in the scan. As a result, most of the negatives in Box 1 have had to be scanned twice – once as a whole negative and then again in sections with the airplane struts and edges of the negative cropped out to get the best contrast for the image. [See Figure 2]. This resulted in a dramatic slowdown of the work flow. Another delay occurred when 48 scans were

found to have been made on the wrong settings during a quality control check. This is also the primary reason why the scan count differs so greatly from the actual file count.

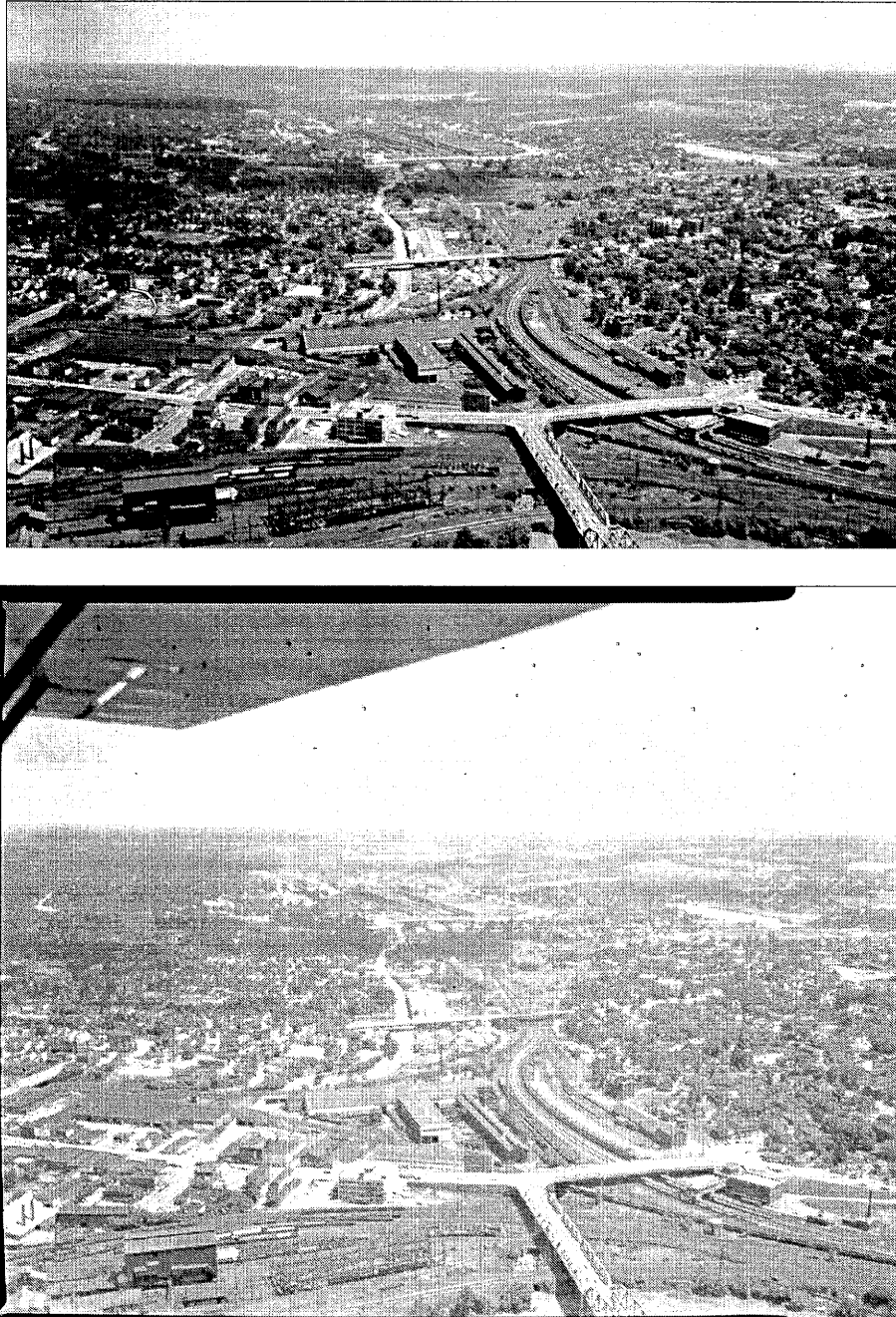


Figure 2: B1F53. Top view shows difference in contrast between cropped version of the negative vs. the bottom image which is of the entire negative.

This is the first project of this type for the Historical Society. With a limited budget we were unable to offer paid internships for this project. The grant monies were applied to the necessary equipment needed. This definitely had an impact on the project as a whole. The use of volunteer interns was an overall positive experience with one exception. A number of the volunteers used did not have set regular hours to devote to the work, primarily due to scheduling of their paid occupations. Scheduling of the interns took a direct hit particularly around the holiday season when most either took on an additional paying job, or had their outside work hours increased. This resulted in a decrease in their available volunteer hours with the Historical Society. When the Historical Society next broaches a like project, since we now have the equipment needed, we should be able to apply grant funds toward a stipend for interns, which will help to resolve the regular availability issue. Now that we have a better understanding of the work flow, and possible problems inherent within this type of project, estimates as to time needed to complete such a project in the future should be more on target.

The next phase is incorporation of the images into our website, with the ability to view the catalogue of the collection and each individual image, and order prints of same. There continue to be some technical issues related to our current server and hardware which must be resolved prior to the collection being added to the website with the level of accessibility we envision. Once this is completed, appropriate press releases will be issued.

Upon receipt of the grant, MVHS published an article about the project in our members' newsletter, and also provided a press release to the archives listserv and to local media outlets. Both local television Channels 33 and 27 included a story about the project in their broadcasts

and on-line resources on 23 March 2011. Copies are attached. Once the final phase is completed and the images are available on our website, there will be a follow-up press release to all local media, to our members via our newsletter, and to the archives listserv.

The re-housing supplies were on sale at the time they were ordered, resulting in expenditures coming in under budget by \$9.43. Of this amount \$9.35 was used to produce a small sample of test prints from the first digital files to more accurately determine if the settings being used were the correct ones for the project. The remaining \$.08 was applied to MVHS' collections supplies budget. A complete breakdown of the grant fund expenditures, with copies of the invoices is herewith attached.

In summary, all of the original objectives laid out under the grant application have been completed. All original negatives and photographic prints have been re-housed, indexed into an excel spreadsheet, scanned at the appropriate resolution levels, information embedded within each image, and saved as master TIFF files. The digital surrogates are currently available on-site at the Historical Society, along with the accompanying index system.

MVHS will follow up on the next phase by preparing thumbnails of the images for inclusion on our website. As soon as the technical hardware issues are resolved, this will be completed and the entire collection will become remotely available.

The scanner has already proven useful beyond this particular project. As reported in the Interim Report, the acquisition of the new scanning equipment has allowed the Mahoning Valley Historical Society to complete a loan project as well. MVHS had borrowed a large collection of glass plate negatives representing the work of Youngstown photographer John D. Megown who

was operating as a professional photographer from 1908-1920. With the new equipment MVHS was finally able to make high resolution scans of the original negatives and return the originals to the lender in a more timely fashion.

Another recent donation included badly damaged issues of the newspaper *Steel Valley News* which was published in 1964-1965 during a strike at the local Vindicator newspaper offices. Whereas normally the issues would have been turned away due to condition and inability to stabilize and neutralize their potential damaging effects on other artifacts, the scanner has allowed the Historical Society to digitize the issues. This allows the preservation of not only the information contained therein but also the original presentation of the issues through digital surrogates. These issues will also be made available on the Historical Society's website. This would not have been possible without the scanner purchased as part of this grant.

Addenda Attached:

1. Finding Aids
 - a. Sample Page from Index
2. Press Releases
 - a. *Historical Happenings*, Vol. 38 Issue 6 May-June 2011
 - b. WKBN Channel 27 Coverage – as appeared on www.wkbn.com
 - c. WYTV Channel 33 Coverage – as appeared on www.wytv.com
 - d. Press Release posted to Archives Listserv, March 23, 2011
3. Financial Summaries
 - a. Final Grand Budget Form
 - b. Invoice Acknowledgement – Amazon.com
 - c. Invoice – Gaylord Bros. Inc.
 - d. Invoice – Photo Place

OHRAB 2011 Grant Budget Form

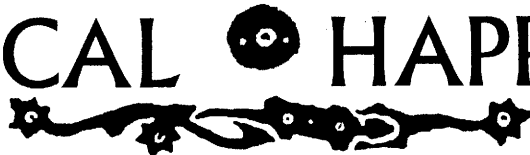
Salaries and Wages (list items)		Grant Funds	Cash Match	TOTAL	Actual	Notes
Archivist Pamela L. Speis - 10% time, supervisory, 8 months			\$2,537	\$2,537		
Manager of Collections - Jessica D. Trickett - 5% time, supervisory, 8 months						
Volunteer - 10 hours week, 316 hours total - 8 months			\$1,370	\$1,370		
Subtotals		\$0	\$3,907	\$3,907		
Supplies (list items)		Grant Funds	Cash Match	TOTAL		
Negative Storage Boxes 12 x 6 1/2 x 4 1/2, 7 boxes			\$83	\$83		
Unbuffered Negative Envelopes, 19 pkgs. 100/pkg.		\$197	\$115	\$312	\$ 177.36	cost
Shipping for supplies						
Subtotals		\$23	\$24		\$ 10.16	shipping
		\$220	\$222	\$395	\$ 187.52	total
Equipment (list items)		Grant Funds	Cash Match	TOTAL		
Epson Expression 10000XL Large Format Flatbed Photo Scanner (11		\$2,538		\$2,538	\$ 2,537.99	cost
Shipping for Scanner		\$48		\$48	\$ 48.06	shipping
Subtotals				\$0		
				\$0		
Subtotals		\$2,586	\$0	\$2,586	\$ 2,586.05	total
Contracted Services (list items)		Grant Funds	Cash Match	TOTAL		
Subtotals		\$0	\$0	\$0		
Other Eligible Expenses (list items)		Grant Funds	Cash Match	TOTAL		
Subtotals		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 9.35	test prints
Summary Budget		Grant Funds	Cash Match	TOTAL		
Salaries & Wages		\$0	\$3,907	\$3,907	\$ 2,782.92	leaving \$.08 shifted to collections supplies
Supplies		\$197	\$198	\$395		
Equipment		\$2,586	\$0	\$2,586		
Contracted Services		\$0	\$0	\$0		
Other Eligible Expenses		\$0	\$0	\$0		
Total Project Costs		\$2,783	\$4,105	\$6,888		

City_Planning_Collection

Accession Number	Original Number	Description	Date(s)	Provenance	Location	Size of Original	Print or Negative
89.119	II-A-012	View looking North West toward the North Side Hospital from Gypsy Lane at Goleta Avenue	February 2, 1965	Youngstown City Planning Office	B1F087	4" x 5"	Negative
89.119	II-A-013	View looking East toward the North Side Swimming Pool from Belmont Avenue north of Tod Lane	July 1965	Youngstown City Planning Office	B1F088	4" x 5"	Negative
89.119	II-A-014	View looking North West toward the Residence on North west corner of Fifth Avenue and Tod Lane, house built in 1946	July 1965	Youngstown City Planning Office	B1F089	4" x 5"	Negative
89.119	II-A-015	View looking North East toward the Temple Emanuel on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Fairgreen Avenue, now senior citizen's center	January 1965	Youngstown City Planning Office	B1F090	4" x 5"	Negative
89.119	II-A-016	View looking East toward the Temple Emanuel on the Corner of Fifth and Fairgreen Aves., later Temple El Emeth, now senior center	January 1965	Youngstown City Planning Office	B1F091	4" x 5"	Negative
89.119.31	II-A	WFMJ Transmission tower overlooking city of Youngstown, demolished in 1980s-or 1990s	March 31, 1965	Youngstown City Planning Office	B1F092	4" x 5"	Negative
89.119.31	II-A	WFMJ Transmission tower overlooking City of Youngstown	March 31, 1965	Youngstown City Planning Office	B1F093	4" x 5"	Print, Photographic
89.119.31	II-A	656 Wick Avenue apartments behind the home of Michael Holliday (former home of George Dennick Wick) Mahoning Valley Historical Society carriage house to left	March 31, 1965	Youngstown City Planning Office	B1F094	4" x 5"	Negative
89.119.31	II-A	656 Wick Avenue apartments behind the home of Michael Holliday (former home of George Dennick Wick) Mahoning Valley Historical Society carriage house to left	March 31, 1965	Youngstown City Planning Office	B1F095	4" x 5"	Print, Photographic
89.119	II-A-017	View looking North West toward the Library on Fifth Avenue North of Broadway Avenue, North Side Library	May 27, 1966	Youngstown City Planning Office	B1F096	4" x 5"	Negative
89.119	II-A-018	View looking West toward the North Side Library on Fifth Avenue North of Broadway Avenue	June 16, 1966	Youngstown City Planning Office	B1F097	4" x 5"	Negative
89.119	II-A-019	View looking North West toward the North Side Library on Fifth Avenue north of Broadway Avenue	June 16, 1966	Youngstown City Planning Office	B1F098	4" x 5"	Negative

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society Newsletter

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS



PRESERVING THE VALLEY'S HISTORY FOR 135 YEARS

Volume 38 Issue 6

May & June 2011

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Contact MVHS for
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Phone: 330-743-2589
Fax: 330-743-7210
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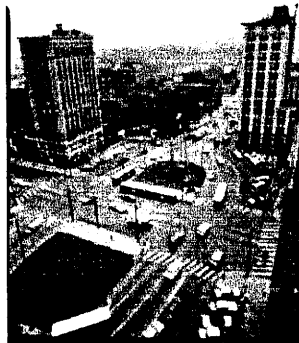
mahoninghistory.org
www.mahoninghistory.org

Business
& Media Archives
330-744-7621
business_media@
mahoninghistory.org



Historical Society Receives Grant Funding

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society has received a grant from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, who received funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), and the National Archives and Records Administration. Funding from this grant will allow the Historical Society to digitize a significant collection of negatives from the Youngstown City Planning Office.



The Youngstown City Planning collection provides documentation for the downtown's central business district; the campus of what is now Youngstown State University; neighborhoods impacted by urban renewal; and development in the Lake Milton area of Mahoning County. The negatives date from 1956-1964, and include identifications. Digitization of the 1,900 negatives will make the collection accessible to patrons at the Historical Society's Archival Library, while providing for increased preservation of the originals.

Save the Date!

History on Tap

**It's a
Mod Mod
World**

**Saturday, July 16, 2011
7:00 to 10:00 p.m.**

The Arms Family Museum

Volunteer Vitality

On April 22, 2010, the Mahoning Valley Historical Society said "thankyou" to our hard working volunteers.

The Dorothy J. Hon-ey Volunteer of the Year Award, established in 2003, went to Rosemarie Orsini. Rosemarie holds a B.A. in Photography from Youngstown State University and has helped with the research, fabrication, installation, and tear-down on the *Gifts of Christmas Past*, *Familiar Faces*, and *Battle Lines Drawn* exhibits.



Rosemarie Orsini with
Executive Director
Bill Lawson and Board
President David Sabine.

She has also helped with collections cataloging.

Special thanks to these dedicated volunteers that have also worked with MVHS over the past year: Marianne Anderson, Samantha Basile, Kay Constantino, Allen Cunningham, Nathan Dempsey, Ed Drennen, Silke Grothe, Dottie Gwatkin, Ester Hallaman, Matt Herrmann, Lynette Host, Patrick Knight, Mike McCleery, Caitlyn McKenna, Paula McKinney, Sue Miller, Joseph D. Palen, Cortney Parsons, Mary Ann Plunkett, Ethel Posivak, Regina Rees, Carolyn Sacks, Priscilla Sutton, Jon Tallman, and Patsy Anne & Don Zabel.

Mahoning Valley Historical Society's

136th Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

St. Patrick Church

1420 Oak Hill Avenue

\$30 for MVHS members

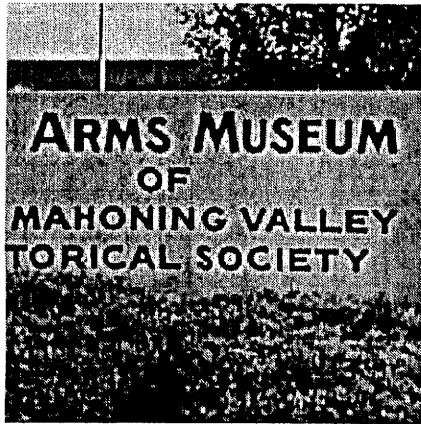
\$35 for Guests

The evening will include

- The Historic Preservation Awards Program
- Tours of the church sanctuary

Watch for your invitation!

Historical Society Gets Grant to Digitize Planning Records



The Arms Museum

Published: 3/23 5:54 pm

Updated: 3/23 6:02 pm

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society has received a grant supported in part by an award from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration.

Funding from this grant will allow the Historical Society to digitize a significant collection of negatives from the Youngstown City Planning Office.

The Youngstown City Planning collection provides documentation for the downtown's central business district, the campus of what is now Youngstown State University, neighborhoods impacted by urban renewal and development in the Lake Milton area of Mahoning County. Local businesses, structures no longer standing and developments within the infrastructure of the city are visually represented.

The negatives primarily date from 1956-1964, and include identifications. Digitization of the 1,900 negatives will make the collection accessible to patrons at the Historical Society's Archival Library, while providing for increased preservation of the originals. Thumbnails and a resulting index also will be made available on the Historical Society's website.

Historical Society staff and volunteer interns will have the project completed by Dec. 31. For more information on the MVHS, call 330-743-2589 or [click here](#).

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Like doing Youngstown at 90% off!
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Youngstown Dining Deals

Amazing Daily Deals! Get 50-90% Off
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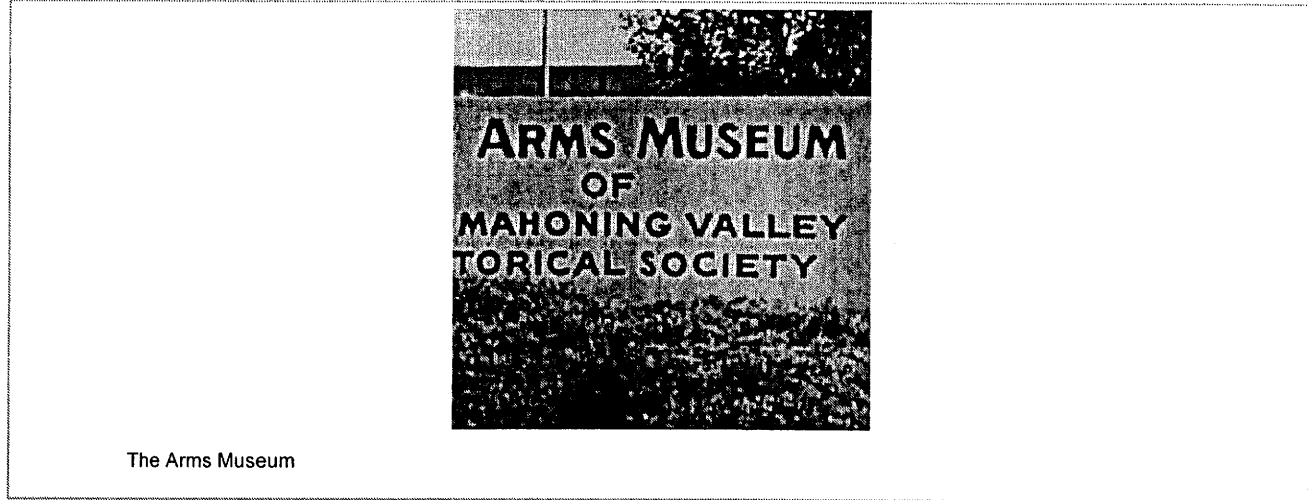
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Historical Society Gets Grant to Digitize Planning Records

Last Update: 3/23 6:02 pm

[Print Story](#) | [Share](#)



The Mahoning Valley Historical Society has received a grant supported in part by an award from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration.

Funding from this grant will allow the Historical Society to digitize a significant collection of negatives from the Youngstown City Planning Office.

The Youngstown City Planning collection provides documentation for the downtown's central business district, the campus of what is now Youngstown State University, neighborhoods impacted by urban renewal and development in the Lake Milton area of Mahoning County. Local businesses, structures no longer standing and developments within the infrastructure of the city are visually represented.

The negatives primarily date from 1956-1964, and include identifications. Digitization of the 1,900 negatives will make the collection accessible to patrons at the Historical Society's Archival Library, while providing for increased preservation of the originals. Thumbnails and a resulting index also will be made available on the Historical Society's website.

Historical Society staff and volunteer interns will have the project completed by Dec. 31. For more information on the MVHS, call 330-743-2589 or click [here](#).

PamelaSpeis

From: PamelaSpeis [archives@mahoninghistory.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 9:41 AM
To: Archives & Archivists (A&A) List
Subject: [archives] Preservation Project Announced - thanks to OHRAB's Regrant Program!

Dear List Members:

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society is pleased to announce that we have received funding for a preservation project. Through a grant supported in part by an award from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration, MVHS has been awarded the funds to digitize a historically significant collection of negatives from the Youngstown City Planning Office, held and managed by the Mahoning Valley Historical Society.

The Youngstown City Planning collection provides historically significant documentation for the downtown's central business district, the campus of what is now Youngstown State University, neighborhoods impacted by urban renewal, and development in the Lake Milton area of Mahoning County. Local businesses, structures no longer standing, and developments within the infrastructure of the city are visually represented. The negatives primarily date from 1956-1964, with their identifications provided on the original envelopes. The collection remains one of the most underused, but most critical collections within the holdings of the Historical Society. Numerous research requests and community-based projects have been assisted by the contents of this collection. While a few of the negatives are accompanied by original contact prints, the majority of the collection is presently accessible only through the use of a light table. This severely limits accessibility and places the original film negatives in jeopardy with increased handling.

The City Planning Collection is currently available to on-site researchers during our normally scheduled hours, other times by appointment. The Historical Society administers this collection as a permanent loan, under all statutes and regulations governing the accessibility of local government records.

Digitization of the 1,900 negatives will make the collection accessible to all patrons at our archival library, while providing for increased preservation of the original negatives. Thumbnails and the resulting index will also be made available on the Historical Society's website, making the collection available to off-site users as well.

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society would like to thank the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration for this opportunity to preserve and make available this historically significant and unique collection.

Sincerely,
Pamela L. Speis
Archivist
Mahoning Valley Historical Society
648 Wick Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44502
telephone: 330-743-2589