

Rhode Island Folklife Project collection

AFC 1991/022

Guides to the Collections in the Archive of Folk Culture



**American Folklife Center, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
June 1984**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/folklife.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2010655341>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadafc.af016004>

Prepared by Sue Samuelson

Finding aid encoded by Valda Morris, February 2017
Revised February, 2020

Collection Summary

Title: Rhode Island Folklife Project collection

Inclusive Dates: 1979

Call No.: AFC 1991/022

Creator: Archive of Folk Culture (Library of Congress), collector.

Extent: 17,309 items.

Extent: manuscripts and photographs: 13 containers, linear feet.

Extent (still images): color slides: 38 containers.

Extent (sound recordings): 128 sound tape reels : analog, 7 1/2 ips ; 7 in.

Extent (sound recordings): 10 sound tape reels : analog, 3 3/4 ips; 7 in.

Extent (sound recordings): 60 sound cassettes : analog.

Extent (still images): approximately 7542 slides : color ; 35 mm

Extent (still images): approximately 24 transparencies : color ; 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 in.

Extent (still images): approximately 9289 photographs : film negatives, black and white ; 35 mm

Extent (still images): approximately 256 photographs : film negatives, black and white ; 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 in.

Language: Collection materials in English.

Location: Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2010655341>

Summary: American Folklife Center field project which documented ethnic, regional, and occupational traditions of Rhode Island, especially ethnic arts (African American, French-Canadian, Greek, Irish, Jamaican, Polish, Portuguese, Ukrainian, Italian, Lithuanian, Narragansett, and others), maritime activities, material culture, and local history.

Documentation was created by fieldworkers Peter Bartis, Michael E. Bell, Thomas A. Burns, Carl Fleischhauer, Henry Horenstein, Geraldine Niva Johnson, and Kenneth S. Goldstein, project director, from July 15 to December 31, 1979.

Sound recordings include interviews and documentation of a play, church services, music and dance, and other events.

Subjects of photographs include Rhode Island houses, barns, beaches, yards, gardens, orchards, churches, cemeteries, street scenes, landscapes, sea scapes; religious processions; recreation, including baseball, horseshoes, sailing; restaurants and foodways; picnics; textile mills, sawmills; businesses; markets; Jamaican migrant workers; woodworking; boatbuilding; fishing, clamming; gunsmithing; taxidermy; arts and crafts; sand sculptures; musicians and dancing; and other subjects.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Bartis, Peter, 1949-2017

Bell, Michael Edward, 1943-

Burns, Thomas A.

Fleischhauer, Carl

Glawson, Francis

Goldstein, Kenneth S., 1927-1995

Harley, Nancy.

Horenstein, Henry

Johnson, Geraldine Niva, 1940-2016

Organizations

American Folklife Center

Archive of Folk Culture (Library of Congress)

Rhode Island Folklife Project.

Subjects

African Americans--Rhode Island--Social life and customs.

Boatbuilding--Rhode Island.

Churches--Rhode Island.

Ethnic arts--Rhode Island.
Fishing--Rhode Island.
Folk art--Exhibitions--Rhode Island.
Folk music--Rhode Island.
Folklore--Rhode Island.
French-Canadians--Rhode Island--Social life and customs.
Greek Americans--Rhode Island--Social life and customs.
Gunsmithing--Rhode Island.
Irish Americans--Rhode Island--Social life and customs.
Italian Americans--Rhode Island--Social life and customs.
Jamaicans--Rhode Island--Social life and customs.
Lithuanian Americans--Rhode Island--Social life and customs.
Migrant labor--Rhode Island.
Narragansett Indians--Rhode Island--Social life and customs.
Occupations--Rhode Island.
Orchards--Rhode Island.
Polish Americans--Rhode Island--Social life and customs.
Portuguese Americans--Rhode Island--Social life and customs.
Powwows--Rhode Island--Lafayette.
Religious processions--1970-1980.
Sailing--Rhode Island.
Sand sculpture--Rhode Island.
Taxidermy--Rhode Island.
Theater--Rhode Island.
Ukrainian Americans--Rhode Island--Social life and customs.
Wood-carving--Rhode Island.

Places

Rhode Island--Social life and customs.

Form/Genre

Color slides.
Correspondence.
Ethnography.
Field notes.
Field recordings.
Folk music.
Interviews.
Manuscripts.
Maps.
Oral histories.
Photographs.
Songs.
Sound recordings.

Arrangement

Organized into the following series: I. Administration; II. Collected Publications and Ephemera; III. Documentation (fieldnotes, photographs, and sound recordings); IV. Final Products.

Acquisition

Accessioned; 1979.

Processing History

The collection was processed by Sue Samuelson in 1984.

Copyright Status

Duplication of the collection materials may be governed by copyright and other restrictions.

Access and Restrictions

Collection is open for research; access to some collection materials is restricted, some or all content is stored offsite. To request materials, please contact the Folklife Reading Room at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/folklife.contact>

Preferred Citation

Rhode Island Folklife Project collection (AFC 1991/022), Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Bibliography

Published report: Rhode Island folklife resources, prepared by Peter T. Bartis (Washington, D.C.: American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, 1983)

Biographical Note

A field survey project of the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, conducted in cooperation with the Rhode Island Heritage Commission, the Rhode Island Council on the Arts, and the Rhode Island Historical Society from July 15 - December 31, 1979.

Scope and Content

American Folklife Center field project which documented ethnic, regional, and occupational traditions of Rhode Island, especially ethnic arts (African American, French-Canadian, Greek, Irish, Jamaican, Polish, Portuguese, Ukrainian, Italian, Lithuanian, Narragansett, and others), maritime activities, material culture, and local history. Documentation was created by fieldworkers Peter Bartis, Michael E. Bell, Thomas A. Burns, Carl Fleischhauer, Henry Horenstein, Geraldine Niva Johnson, and Kenneth S. Goldstein, project director, from July 15 to December 31, 1979. Sound recordings include interviews and documentation of a play, church services, music and dance, and other events. Subjects of photographs include Rhode Island houses, barns, beaches, yards, gardens, orchards, churches, cemeteries, street scenes, landscapes, sea scapes; religious processions; recreation, including baseball, horseshoes, sailing; restaurants and foodways; picnics; textile mills, sawmills; businesses; markets; Jamaican migrant workers; woodworking; boatbuilding; fishing, clamming; gunsmithing; taxidermy; arts and crafts; sand sculptures; musicians and dancing; and other subjects.

See [PDF](#) inventory.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [Administration, 1978-1979](#)
- [Collected Publications and Ephemera, 1937-1984](#)
- [Documentation, 1918-2007](#)

- [Final Products, 1954-2006](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-2

Administration, 1978-1979

The Administration series contains materials pertaining to the planning and administration of the Rhode Island Folklife Project. It includes Peter Bartis' preliminary survey of folklife resources in the state, draft proposals for the project and for cooperative agreements with state agencies, budgets, financial records, film developing invoices, fieldworker resumes and contracts, local arrangements, correspondence, certificates of appreciation, and press releases and newspaper clippings.

See full document of this inventory [PDF](#)

Arranged into ten subseries.

BOX 3

Collected Publications and Ephemera, 1937-1984

The Collected Publications and Ephemera: Before, during, and after the field project, Center staff and fieldworkers collected various brochures, reports, articles, manuscripts, and pamphlets on Rhode Island, state agencies, and organizations. Such materials are listed in this section unless they relate directly to fieldwork, in which case they are listed either in "Supplemental Information" or by fieldworker's name in "Fieldnotes".

See full document of this inventory [PDF](#)

Arranged into three subseries.

BOX 3-7

Documentation, 1979-1980

The Documentation series consists of fieldnotes, photographs, and sound recordings created during fieldwork.

See full document of this inventory [PDF](#)

Arranged into five subseries.

BOX 4

Fieldnotes

The fieldnotes are the intellectual core of the project and record and interpret the researchers' daily activities, observations, and impressions. These journals, along with some ephemera, are listed in this section under the fieldworkers' name.

See full document of this inventory [PDF](#)

Arrangement of fieldnotes is alphabetically by fieldworker's name.

BOX 4

Supplemental Information

This section includes maps, lists of contacts, and interview report forms.

See full document of this inventory [PDF](#)

Arranged into three series.

BOX 4-7, 12-52

Photographic : Black & White

Black and white photographic documentation includes negatives, contact sheets, and logs.

The negatives are identified by a serial roll number (There are several sets of these: 01001-01268, 93193-93198, 93204-93205.) or by a number assigned by the laboratory when the film was processed. These latter numbers begin with a roll number, followed by a dash and then the batch number. Individual images are identified by the film's edge numbers. The inventory lists the negatives in numerical order and identifies the photographer for each roll and gives a brief description of the contents. Additional information about the photos may be acquired from related fieldnotes or sound recordings. Logs for the photos are listed by photographer and numerically. Contact

sheets are arranged numerically and by photographer. In the latter set logs are attached to each contact.

See full document of this inventory [PDF](#)

Arrangement of black & white photographs is by number.

BOX 6-7, 12-52

Photographic : Color

Color photographic documentation includes color transparencies, reference fiches, duplicate slides, color negatives and contact sheets, and color prints from the negatives. The transparencies have been filed in plastic storage racks, each of which has been assigned a separate number. Each image has a rack number and serial number within the rack. The holders have been grouped by photographer. In the rack inventory brief descriptions of subject and place have been provided, along with the number of slides in each rack. Reference fiches are color slides of entire racks. The duplicate slides are of selected transparencies only. There are 4 rolls of color negatives represented by contact sheets and selected prints. The logs for the transparencies identify the subjects, photographer, the photographer and fieldworker, and the date and location. Corresponding fieldnotes and sound recordings may provide additional information.

See full document of this inventory [PDF](#)

Arrangement of color photographs is by number and grouped by photographer.

BOX 7

Sound Recordings

The Sound Recordings include reel-to-reel and audio cassette field recordings and their logs. The concordance in this inventory provides a brief summary of the tape contents along with the various numbers assigned to each tape. Recordings are listed alphabetically by fieldworker and grouped as reels or cassettes. Each recording listed includes a brief description of its contents. Logs are inventoried by fieldworker and outline the contents of the recordings as well as providing information on the recording situation and equipment.

See full document of this inventory [PDF](#)

Arrangement of sound recordings is alphabetically by fieldworker and grouped as reels or cassettes.

BOX 8

Final Products

The Final Products series includes post-fieldwork essays by Michael Bell and Tom Burns, reports by Burns and by Peter Bartis, materials relating to a photo exhibit based on the project documentation, grant applications for a follow-up project, a list of presentation slides, and a list of participants in a post-fieldwork folklife workshop.

See full document of this inventory [PDF](#)

Arranged into three subseries.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	<p>Administration, 1978-1979</p> <p>The Administration series contains materials pertaining to the planning and administration of the Rhode Island Folklife Project. It includes Peter Bartis' preliminary survey of folklife resources in the state, draft proposals for the project and for cooperative agreements with state agencies, budgets, financial records, film developing invoices, fieldworker resumes and contracts, local arrangements, correspondence, certificates of appreciation, and press releases and newspaper clippings.</p> <p>See full document of this inventory PDF</p> <p>Arranged into ten subseries.</p>
BOX 3	<p>Collected Publications and Ephemera, 1937-1984</p> <p>The Collected Publications and Ephemera: Before, during, and after the field project, Center staff and fieldworkers collected various brochures, reports, articles, manuscripts, and pamphlets on Rhode Island, state agencies, and organizations. Such materials are listed in this section unless they relate directly to fieldwork, in which case they are listed either in "Supplemental Information" or by fieldworker's name in "Fieldnotes".</p> <p>See full document of this inventory PDF</p> <p>Arranged into three subseries.</p>
BOX 3-7	<p>Documentation, 1979-1980</p> <p>The Documentation series consists of fieldnotes, photographs, and sound recordings created during fieldwork.</p> <p>See full document of this inventory PDF</p> <p>Arranged into five subseries.</p>
BOX 4	<p>Fieldnotes</p> <p>The fieldnotes are the intellectual core of the project and record and interpret the researchers' daily activities, observations, and impressions. These journals, along with some ephemera, are listed in this section under the fieldworkers' name.</p> <p>See full document of this inventory PDF</p> <p>Arrangement of fieldnotes is alphabetically by fieldworker's name.</p>
BOX 4	<p>Supplemental Information</p> <p>This section includes maps, lists of contacts, and interview report forms.</p> <p>See full document of this inventory PDF</p> <p>Arranged into three series.</p>
BOX 4-7, 12-52	<p>Photographic : Black & White</p> <p>Black and white photographic documentation includes negatives, contact sheets, and logs. The negatives are identified by a serial roll number (There are several sets of these: 01001-01268, 93193-93198, 93204-93205.) or by a number assigned by the laboratory when the film was processed. These latter numbers begin with a roll number, followed by a dash and then the batch number. Individual images are identified by the film's edge numbers. The inventory lists the negatives in numerical order and identifies the photographer for each roll and gives a brief description of the contents. Additional information about the photos may be acquired from related fieldnotes or sound recordings. Logs for the photos are listed by photographer and numerically. Contact</p>

Documentation, 1979-1980

Container

Contents

sheets are arranged numerically and by photographer. In the latter set logs are attached to each contact.

See full document of this inventory [PDF](#)

Arrangement of black & white photographs is by number.

BOX 6-7, 12-52

Photographic : Color

Color photographic documentation includes color transparencies, reference fiches, duplicate slides, color negatives and contact sheets, and color prints from the negatives. The transparencies have been filed in plastic storage racks, each of which has been assigned a separate number. Each image has a rack number and serial number within the rack.

The holders have been grouped by photographer. In the rack inventory brief descriptions of subject and place have been provided, along with the number of slides in each rack.

Reference fiches are color slides of entire racks. The duplicate slides are of selected transparencies only. There are 4 rolls of color negatives represented by contact sheets and selected prints. The logs for the transparencies identify the subjects, photographer, the photographer and fieldworker, and the date and location. Corresponding fieldnotes and sound recordings may provide additional information.

See full document of this inventory [PDF](#)

Arrangement of color photographs is by number and grouped by photographer.

BOX 7

Sound Recordings

The Sound Recordings include reel-to-reel and audio cassette field recordings and their logs.

The concordance in this inventory provides a brief summary of the tape contents along with the various numbers assigned to each tape. Recordings are listed alphabetically by fieldworker and grouped as reels or cassettes. Each recording listed includes a brief description of its contents. Logs are inventoried by fieldworker and outline the contents of the recordings as well as providing information on the recording situation and equipment.

See full document of this inventory [PDF](#)

Arrangement of sound recordings is alphabetically by fieldworker and grouped as reels or cassettes.

BOX 8

Final Products

The Final Products series includes post-fieldwork essays by Michael Bell and Tom Burns, reports by Burns and by Peter Bartis, materials relating to a photo exhibit based on the project documentation, grant applications for a follow-up project, a list of presentation slides, and a list of participants in a post-fieldwork folklife workshop.

See full document of this inventory [PDF](#)

Arranged into three subseries.