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# GEN MS 06 Ben Shahn Photographs Finding Aid

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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

**BEN SHAHN PHOTOGRAPHS  
GEN MS 6**

**Total Boxes: 3  
Linear Feet: 4.5**

**By  
Siobain C. Monahan**

**Portland, Maine  
December, 2000**

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## **Administrative Information**

Provenance: In 1970, Juris Ubans, as Director of the Art Gallery was trying to create inexpensive exhibitions. While at the Library of Congress for a John Ford film festival, he stumbled across the Farm Security Administration Act photographs, and thus the Walker and Shahn photographs. With the 150th anniversary of USM in 1974, he decided to get copies of (or in Walker's case prints from the original negatives) photographs related mostly to Maine and New England.

In 1991, the exhibition created with the Ben Shahn photographs traveled to Leningrad in the then Soviet Union.

This information was provided by Juris Ubans to Susie R. Bock on April 5, 2018, at a meeting in Special Collections.

Ownership & Literary Rights: The Ben Shahn Photographs are the physical property of the University of Southern Maine Library. These images are reproductions from the Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Collection in Special Collections, Library of Congress. Please consult the National Archives and Records Administration (see website [http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/print/052\\_fsa.html](http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/print/052_fsa.html)).

Cite as: Ben Shahn Photographs, Special Collections, University of Southern Maine Library.

Restrictions on access: This collection is open for research

## **Description of the Papers**

These are reproductions from the Library of Congress. They are part of the Farm Security Administration – Office of War Information Photograph Collection, which is found in the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. These reproductions were probably obtained by the University of Southern Maine Art Gallery, who eventually donated them to Special Collections. The Art Gallery used the photographs in an exhibit from November 10 to December 15, 1976.

A detailed description can be found on the Library of Congress website (see [http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/print/052\\_fsa.html](http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/print/052_fsa.html)). These descriptions have been printed out as part of this finding aid.

The dates in the Box listing refer to when the original photograph was created, not to these reproductions.

In the Ben Shahn Photograph Collection, the final photograph, “New York, New York, 61<sup>st</sup> Street between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues, 1938” was included in the USM Art Gallery’s exhibit of his work. However, since this time, the Library of Congress has realized that the photograph was actually created by Walker Evans. As a result, USM Special Collections placed this photograph in the Walker Evans Collection.

Box	Photo #	Description	Date
1	1	Wife and child of sharecropper, Arkansas	1935 Oct
	2	Family of rehabilitation client, Boone County, Arkansas	1935 Oct
	3	Boone County, Arkansas. The family of a Resettlement Administration client in the doorway of their home	1935 Oct
	4	Children of Sam Nichols, Arkansas tenant farmer	1935 Oct
	5	Rehabilitation client, Arkansas	1935 Oct
	6	Destitute tenant farmer's family, Ozark Mountains, Arkansas	1935 Oct
	7	Wife of a destitute mountaineer, Ozark Mountains, Arkansas	1935 Oct
	8	Wife and child of destitute Ozark Mountain family, Arkansas	1935 Oct
	9	A destitute family, Ozark Mountains area	1935 Oct
	10	Circus poster, Smithland, Kentucky	1935 Sep
	11	Street scene, Natchez, Mississippi	1935 Oct
	12	A deputy with a gun on his hip during the September 1935 strike in Morgantown, West Virginia	1935 Sep
	13	Waiting for the relief check, Scotts Run, West Virginia	1935 Oct
	14	Murfreesboro, Tennessee	1935 Oct
	15	Murfreesboro, Tennessee	1935 Oct

Box	Photo #	Description	Date
1	16	Trische family, tenant farmers, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana	1935 Oct
	17	Medicine show, Huntington, Tennessee	1935 Oct
2	18	Watching medicine show, Huntington, Tennessee	1935 Oct
	19	Interior of strawberry grower's house, Hammond, Louisiana	1935 Oct
	20	Kentucky coal miners, Jenkins, Kentucky	1935 Oct
	21	Coal cars in railroad yard at Williamson, West Virginia	1935 Oct
	22	Omar, West Virginia	1935 Oct
	23	Young resident at Amite City, Louisiana	1935 Oct
	24	Signboard in Amite City, Louisiana	1935 Oct
	25	Woman in Crossville, Tennessee	1937
	26	Fiddlin' Bill Henseley, mountain fiddler, Asherville, North Carolina	1937
	27	Practicing for the Westmoreland Fair, Pennsylvania	1937
	28	Along main street, Lancaster, Ohio (2 c.)	1938 Aug
	29	Main street, Plain City, Ohio	1938 Aug
	30	The Thaxton family, near Mechanicsburg, Ohio (2 c.)	1938
	31	Filling stations and road signs in central Ohio (2 c.)	1938
	32	Post office, Sommerset, Ohio	1938

Box	Photo #	Description	Date
2	33	Street scene, Sommerset, Ohio	1938
	34	Sign on drugstore, Newark, Ohio	1938
3	35	Street scene, Sommerset, Ohio	1938
	36	Street scene in Columbus, Ohio	1938 Aug
	37	Workmen, road repair gang, Route 40, central Ohio	1938
	38	Relief clients, Urbana, Ohio	1938
	39	Secondhand clothing store, Columbus, Ohio	1938
	40	Citizen of Columbus, Ohio	1938 Aug
	41	Scene at Buckeye Lake Amusement Park, near Columbus, Ohio	1938
	42	Murals on Convention Hall at Buckeye Lake Amusement Park near Columbus, Ohio	1938
	43	Gasoline station, Marysville, Ohio	1938
	44	Waiting outside relief station, Urbana, Ohio	1938
	45	Wonder Bar, hot spot in Circleville, Ohio	1938
	46	Spectators at county fair, central Ohio	1938 Aug
	47	Bank in Worthington, Ohio	1938 Aug
	48	Sideshow attraction, county fair, central Ohio	1938 Aug
	49	Sideshow, county fair, central Ohio	1938 Aug