



Finding Aid for

**JOHN MARGOLIES  
ROADSIDE AMERICA TRANSPARENCIES, 1973-2005**

**Accession 2013.150**

Finding Aid Published: May 2014



Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford  
20900 Oakwood Boulevard · Dearborn, MI 48124-5029 USA  
[research.center@thehenryford.org](mailto:research.center@thehenryford.org) · [www.thehenryford.org](http://www.thehenryford.org)

**OVERVIEW**

**REPOSITORY:** Benson Ford Research Center  
The Henry Ford  
20900 Oakwood Blvd  
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029  
www.thehenryford.org  
research.center@thehenryford.org

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2013.150

**CREATOR:** Margolies, John

**TITLE:** John Margolies Roadside America transparencies

**INCLUSIVE DATES:** 1973-2005

**QUANTITY:** 3 oversize boxes

**LANGUAGE:** The materials are in English

**ABSTRACT:** John Margolies traveled throughout the United States for more than thirty-five years taking photographs of American commercial architecture and design. The collection contains approximately 1500 color transparencies and includes images of theaters, gas stations, motels and restaurants among other subjects.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The transparencies are open for research.
- COPYRIGHT:** Copyright has been transferred to The Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).
- ACQUISITION:** Acquired, 2013
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford:  
- John Margolies Roadside America collection, Accession 2013.151
- Related collections beyond The Henry Ford:  
- Library of Congress:  
John Margolies Roadside America photograph archive,  
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2010650110/>  
and  
John Margolies Roadside America ephemera collection,  
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2010650111/>
- ALTERNATE FORMS:** Selected items from the collection have been digitized and are available at:  
<http://collections.thehenryford.org/Collection.aspx?keywords=%22John+Margolies+Roadside+America+transparencies%22>
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 2013.150, John Margolies Roadside America transparencies, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by JoAnn Dionne and Benson Ford Research Center staff, March 2014.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Finding aid written by JoAnn Dionne and Benson Ford Research Center staff, April 2014, and published in May 2014.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Margolies traveled throughout the United States for more than thirty-five years taking photographs of American commercial architecture and design. Some of the photographs were used in the publication of his many books on the signs, architecture, resorts, travel and tourist attractions in America. A complete list of his publications can be found on his website:

<http://www.johnmargolies.com/>

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains approximately 1500 35mm color transparencies and is organized into two series. **The General series, 1973-2004**, includes images of theaters, gas stations, motels, restaurants, hotels, the Atlantic coast, and tourist attractions. **The Main Street series, 1975-2005**, is comprised of civic buildings, banks, clubs, churches, barber shops and signs, and commercial buildings.

Researchers should note there is an item level inventory to the transparencies in Box 1. The inventory lists location and date the photograph was taken.

Selected items from the collection have been digitized and are available at:

<http://collections.thehenryford.org/Collection.aspx?keywords=%22John+Margolies+Roadside+America+transparencies%22>

## SUBJECT TERMS

### Names, Personal and Corporate

Margolies, John

### Subjects

Architecture and tourism

Barbershops

Church buildings

Commercial buildings

Drive-in theaters

Hotels

Motels

Restaurants

Roadside architecture

Service stations

Signs and signboards

Theaters

Travel

### Genre and Form

Color slides

Transparencies

## CONTAINER LIST

<b>Box no.</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>GENERAL, 1973-2004</b>	
<b>Box 1</b>	Inventory to transparencies Theaters and drive-in theaters, 1977-2003 Gas stations, pumps and signs, 1977-1994 Motels, 1977-2004 Restaurants, 1976-2004 (includes night clubs, bars, ice cream stands, diners and restaurant signs)
<b>Box 2</b>	Hotels, 1976-2004 Atlantic Coast, 1978-1990 Tourist attractions, 1973-2004
<b>MAIN STREET, 1975-2005</b>	
<b>Box 3</b>	Banks Civic buildings Clubs and churches General Commercial Barber shops Barber signs