Photographs: The Alvan S. Harper Collection

The photographs contained in this collection represent a cross-section of Alvan Harper's Tallahassee-based work from 1885 through the first decde of the twentieth century. They show Floridians in the capital city at work and play and record Tallahasseearea homes and turn-of-the-century fashions.

With the development of glass-plate photography in the nineteenth century, the camera began to assume an increasingly important role in recording for posterity not only studio-based subjects and landmark events, but also commonplace happenings, street scenes, and rural settings.

Photographers learned how to move out of their studios and into the surrounding countryside in order to capture and record on glass-plate negatives the essence of a now-vanished lifestyle. Unknown numbers of these fragile negatives have been destroyed or lost over the years, including many taken by Harper. By pure chance, several thousand of his negatives were discovered in a Tallahassee attic in 1946, and these became the Alvan S. Harper Collection, on which this exhibit is based.

General Description
45 framed photographs and 9 framed information panels, ranging from 12" x 15" x 17" each, and one freestanding pamphlet stand, 13" x 13" x 40"

Space Required: 70 linear feet

Shipping Crates: 1@ 50"x37"x28" and 1@ 50"x36"x19"

Shipping Weight: 464 lbs.

Security Requirements: Limited

Special Note: Exhibit must be hung on walls or on free-standing panels provided by the exhibitor. Photographs and panels are sent framed, with picture-hanging wire attached and must be hung by conventional picture-hanging techniques.

Exhibit Rental Fee: $300 / 3 months

This exhibit was prepared for the Museum of Florida History by the Florida State Archives.

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Division of Historical Resources
Florida Department of State

Suggested Layout

Illustration not to scale