

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Worcester Tornado
Photograph Collection

2003.01

Processed by Robyn Christensen
January 2003

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Collection Information

Abstract : Worcester tornado photograph collection is a series of photographs depicting the

aftermath and cleanup from the tornado that hit Worcester on June 9, 1953.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Gift of James Mason January 2003

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lsh, aat, tgm, gmgcp)

Natural disasters -- Massachusetts -- Worcester.

Tornados -- Massachusetts -- Worcester.

Photograph collections -- Massachusetts -- Worcester. lsh

Worcester tornado, June 9, 1953 -- Photographs. local

Richmond, Marvin -- Photographer.

Historical/Biographical Notes

On June 9, 1953 a tornado unexpectedly hit the city of Worcester. The devastation was considerable. Ninety four lives were lost, thousands were injured, 15,000 homeless and over 4,000 homes destroyed. Damage estimates were \$53 million dollars in 1953. Pictures in the

collection show the tornado's destruction at the Worcester Housing Authority projects in Great Brook Valley. 810 families with over 2500 children were left homeless.

Scope and Content

The Worcester Tornado photograph collection comprises over 150 8 x 10 prints depicting the aftermath and cleanup from the tornado that hit Worcester on June 9, 1953. Organized by topics that include day of tornado, day after tornado, two days later and cleanup.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Photographs

Sub-Series 1: Day of Tornado

Sub-Series 2: Morning after

Sub-Series 3: Two days after

Sub-Series 4: Cleanup begins

Sub-Series 5: Building

Worcester Tornado Photograph Collection
2003.01
Series 1, Photographs
Subseries 1, Day of Tornado

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
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1	1	2003.01.1.1.1	Family of six leaving tornado area : 8 x 10 in. / June 9, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond.
1	1	2003.01.1.1.2	Overtured car in tornado area : 8 x 10 in. / June 9, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond.
1	1	2003.01.1.1.3	Interior view of Worcester City Bus with victim inside: 8 x 10 in. / June 9, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond.
1	1	2003.01.1.1.4	Residents gathering and surveying disaster scene: 8 x 10 in. / June 9, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond.
1	1	2003.01.1.1.5	Hill top view of damaged apartment complex in Great Brook Valley: 8 x 10 in. / June 9, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond.
1	1	2003.01.1.1.6	Helping the injured from overturned Worcester City Bus: 8 x 10 in. / June 9, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond.
1	1	2003.01.1.1.7	Volunteers and firemen putting out fire in apartment building: 8 x 10 in. / June 9, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond.
1	1	2003.01.1.1.8	Policeman and volunteer helping injured over downed power lines: 8 x 10 in. / June 9, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond.
1	1	2003.01.1.1.9	Victim leaving tornado area with some belongings : 8 x 10 in. / June 9, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond.
1	1	2003.01.1.1.10	View of tornado's devastation : 8 x 10 in. / June 9, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond

Subseries 1, Continued

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2003.01.1.1.11	View of tornado's devastation at Great Brook Valley/Curtis Apartments: 8 x 10 in./ June 9, 1953 Photograph by Marvin Richmond.
1	1	2003.01.1.1.12	Cars at Curtis Apartments destroyed as a result of

the tornado: 8 x 10in./ June 9, 1953 Photograph by
Marvin Richmond.

1	1	2003.01.1.1.13	Injured woman rescued from overturned bus at Curtis Apartments: 8 x 10in./ June 9, 1953 Photograph by Marvin Richmond.
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Worcester Tornado Photograph Collection
2003.01
Series 1, Photographs
Subseries 2, Day after Tornado

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	2003.01.1.2.1	Photograph of destruction in Great Brook Valley: 8 x 10in./ June 10, 1953 Photograph by Marvin Richmond

1	2	2003.01.1.2.2	Photograph of devastation caused by tornado: 8 x 10in / June 10, 1953 Photograph by Marvin Richmond
1	2	2003.01.1.2.3	Aerial photograph of tornado's destruction: 8 x 10in./ June 10, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond
1	2	2003.01.1.2.4	Aerial photograph of tornado's destruction: 8 x 10in./ June 10, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond

Worcester Tornado Photograph Collection
2003.01
Series 1, Photographs
Subseries 3, 2 Days after Tornado

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	3	2003.01.1.3.1	Aerial view of Great Brook Valley and Curtis Apartments: 8 x 10in./ June 11, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond
1	3	2003.01.1.3.2	Aerial view of destruction at Curtis Apartments: 8 x 10in./ June 11, 1953 photograph by Marvin

Richmond.

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|---|---|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 3 | 2003.01.1.3.3 | Debris in an open field at Great Brook Valley: 8 x 10in./ June 11, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond |
| 1 | 3 | 2003.01.1.3.4 | Destruction at Curtis Apartments: 8 x 10in./ June 11, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond |
| 1 | 3 | 2003.01.1.3.5 | Debris at Curtis Apartments, including a building without a third floor wall: 8 x 10in/ June 11, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond |
| 1 | 3 | 2003.01.1.3.6 | Debris at Curtis Apartments, including an overturned truck and several damaged cars: 8 x 10in./ June 11, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond |
| 1 | 3 | 2003.01.1.3.7 | Damaged cars and buildings at Curtis Apartments photographed from the top of a knoll: 8 x 10in./ June 11, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond |
| 1 | 3 | 2003.01.1.3.8 | Damaged cars and buildings at Curtis Apartments: 8 x 10in./ June 11, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond |
| 1 | 3 | 2003.01.1.3.9 | Damaged bus overturned in the rubble at Curtis Apartments: 8 x 10in./ June 11, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond |

Subseries 3, continued

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|---|---|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 3 | 2003.01.1.3.10 | Building at Curtis Apartments with top floor destroyed/missing: 8 x 10in./ June 11, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond |
| 1 | 3 | 2003.01.1.3.11 | View of the back of a damaged apartment at the Curtis Apartments complex: 8 x 10in./ June 11, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond |
| 1 | 3 | 2003.01.1.3.12 | View of the interior of a destroyed apartment: 8 x 10in./ June 11, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond |
| 1 | 3 | 2003.01.1.3.13 | View of a destroyed section of a building at Curtis |

			Apartments: 8 x 10in./ June 11, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond
1	3	2003.01.1.3.14	View of street in Great Brook Valley: 8 x 10in./ June 11, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond
1	3	2003.01.1.3.15	View of several destroyed buildings and several ruined cars: 8 x 10in./ June 11, 1953 photograph by Marvin Richmond
1	3	2003.01.1.3.16	View of Curtis Apartment with third floor wall missing: 8 x 10in./ June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond
1	3	2003.01.1.3.17	View of destroyed building: 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	3	2003.01.1.3.18	View of buildings destroyed in Great Brook Valley: 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	4	2003.01.1.3.19	View of buildings destroyed in Great Brook Valley: 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	4	2003.01.1.3.20	View of destroyed complex of buildings : 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.

Subseries 3, continued

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	4	2003.01.1.3.21	View of destroyed houses and timber : 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	4	2003.01.1.3.22	Closeup view of window of damaged home : 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	4	2003.01.1.3.23	Closeup view of window of damaged home: 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	4	2003.01.1.3.24	View of destroyed building in Great Brook Valley: 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin

Richmond.

1	4	2003.01.1.3.25	Interior of damaged room: 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	4	2003.01.1.3.26	National Guardsman standing watch over damaged apartment complexes : 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	4	2003.01.1.3.27	Downed tree and damaged house : 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	4	2003.01.1.3.28	Damaged car and apartment building at Great Brook Valley : 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	4	2003.01.1.3.29	Hill top view of apartment complex with roof missing : 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	4	2003.01.1.3.30	View of damaged apartment complex : 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond
1	5	2003.01.1.3.31	View of damaged apartment : 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.

Subseries 3, continued

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	5	2003.01.1.3.32	Wide view of apartment complex with overturned and damaged cars : 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	5	2003.01.1.3.33	Interior view of shelter and aid station with victims registering for aid : 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	5	2003.01.1.3.34	Residents cleaning up damaged apartment : 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	5	2003.01.1.3.35	Interior view of damaged residence : 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.

1	5	2003.01.1.3.36	Interior view of damaged residence : 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	5	2003.01.1.3.37	Interior view of damaged residence : 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	5	2003.01.1.3.38	Interior view of damaged residence : 8 x 10 in. / June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	5	2003.01.1.3.39	Interior view of damaged residence : 8 x 10 in / June 11, 1953 Photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	5	2003.01.1.3.40	Family cleaning out debris from damaged home 8 x 10 in / June 11, 1953 Photographed by Marvin Richmond
1	5	2003.01.1.3.41	Interior of damaged residence 8 x 10 in June 11, 1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond
1	5	2003.01.1.3.42	Interior of damaged residence 8 x 10 June 11,1953 photographed by Marvin Richmond

Worcester Tornado Photograph Collection
2003.01
Series 1, Photographs
Subseries 4, Clean up begins

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	6	2003.01.1.4.1	2 men assisting in cleanup in DPW building 8 x 10 : / photographed by Marvin Richmond
1	6	2003.01.1.4.2	Publicity photo for victims of tornado 8 x10 : / Photographed by Marvin Richmond
1	6	2003.01.1.4.3	5 Men in office after tornado 8 x10 : / photographed by Marvin Richmond
1	6	2003.01.1.4.4	Side of building after tornado 8 x10 : / Photograph by Marvin Richmond

1	6	2003.01.1.4.5	2 men in front of Publicity sign after tornado 8 x 10: / Photographed by Marvin Richmond
1	6	2003.01.1.4.6	Side of building with supports after tornado 8 x 10 : / photographed by Marvin Richmond
1	6	2003.01.1.4.7	Shot of building with Mack dump truck out front after tornado 8 x10 : / photographed by Marvin Richmond
1	6	2003.01.1.4.8	Building with 2 damaged cars out front after tornado 8 x 10 : / Photographed by Marvin Richmond
1	6	2003.01.1..4.9	Building with Tennis court out front 8 x10 : / Photographed by Marvin Richmond
1	6	2003.01.1.4.10	Large building after tornado 8 x10 : / Photographed by Marvin Richmond
1	6	2003.01.1.4.11	Building with 2 cars and trailer out front after tornado 8 x10 : / Photographed by Marvin Richmond
1	6	2003.01.1.4.12	Building after tornado 8 x10 : / photographed by

Subseries 4, Continued

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	6	2003.01.1.4.13	Building after tornado : 8 x 10 in. / photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	6	2003.01.1.4.14	Building after tornado : 8 x 10 in. / photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	6	2003.01.1.4.15	Building after tornado : 8 x 10 in. / photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	6	2003.01.1.4.16	Building after tornado : 8 x 10 in. / photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	6	2003.01.1.4.17	Building after tornado : 8 x 10 in. / photographed by Marvin Richmond.
1	6	2003.01.1.4.18	Building after tornado : 8 x 10 in. / photographed by

Marvin Richmond.

Worcester Tornado Photograph Collection
2003.01
Series 1, Photographs
Subseries 5, Building

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	7	2003.01.1.5.1	Lakeside during construction : 6 ½ x 8 ½ in / July 8, 1949 unknown photographer.
1	7	2003.01.1.5.2	Lincolnwood : 8 x 10 in. / April 1, 1950 photographed by Paul W. Savage.
1	7	2003.01.1.5.3	Lincolnwood : 8 x 10 in. / August 1946 unknown photographer.
1	7	2003.01.1.5.4	Same as above.
1	7	2003.01.1.5.5	Lincolnwood : 8 x 10 in. / April 1, 1950 photographed by Paul W. Savage.

1	7	2003.01.1.5.6	Lincolnwood : 8 x 10 in. / August 1946 unknown photographer.
1	7	2003.01.1.5.7	Bedroom in apartment of Henry T. Bolduc, 3 Pacific Street, Lincolnwood : 8 x 10 in. / undated unknown photographer.
1	7	2003.01.1.5.8	Living room of above.
1	7	2003.01.1.5.9	Kitchen of above.
1	7	2003.01.1.5.10	Bedroom of above.
1	7	2003.01.1.5.11	Unknown construction site : 8 x 10 in. / May 23, 1946 unknown photographer.
1	7	2003.01.1.5.12	Same as above.
1	7	2003.01.1.5.13	Same as above.
1	7	2003.01.1.5.14	Same as above.

Subseries 5, continued

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	8	2003.01.1.5.15	Unknown construction site : 8 x 10 in. / May 23, 1946 unknown photographer.
1	8	2003.01.1.5.16-.18	Same as above.
1	8	2003.01.1.5.19-.22	Unknown construction site : 8 x 10 in. / unknown date and photographer.
1	8	2003.01.1.5.23-.24	Crane at unknown construction site : 8 x 10 in. / unknown date and photographer.
1	8	2003.01.1.5.25-.26	Crane at unknown construction site : 8 x 10 in. / June 4, 1946 unknown photographer.
1	8	2003.01.1.5.27-.28	Crane at unknown construction site : 8 x 10 in. / May 23, 1946 unknown photographer.
1	9	2003.01.1.5.29-.30	WTAG reporter interviewing group of men at

			unknown construction site : 8 x 10 in. / unknown date and photographer.
1	9	2003.01.1.5.31-.32	Unidentified group of man in City Hall : 8 x 10 in. / unknown date and photographer.
1	9	2003.01.1.5.33	Unknown construction site : 8 x 10 in. / unknown date and photographer.
1	9	2003.01.1.5.34	Unidentified group of men walking through new apartment complex : 8 x 10 in. / unknown date and photographer.
1	9	2003.01.1.5.35	Three woman standing by Santa Claus : 8 x 10 / unknown date photographed by Charles Cocaine.
1	9	2003.01.1.5.36	House farm site (Vets Temporary Housing) : 8 x 10 in. / May 14 19? photographed by Paul Savage.
1	9	2003.01.1.5.37	Unidentified group of men signing document : 8 x 10 / unknown date and photographer.