

# Wallace W. Abbey Collection

Finding Aid to the Collection at the Center for Railroad Photography & Art

CRP&A | CENTER FOR RAILROAD  
PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

Last updated: 3/20//24

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Wallace W. Abbey Collection

**Span Dates:** 1938 – 1986

**Creator:** Abbey, Wallace W., 1927 – 2014

**Extent:** 9.3 linear feet

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Center for Railroad Photography & Art, Madison, WI

**Abstract:** Collection, 1938-1986, of 23,681 railroad photographs from the United States and Canada by Wallace W. Abbey. Contents include black-and-white negatives and color slides.

## Selected Search Terms

### Country:

Canada

United States

### State/Province:

Arizona

California

Colorado

Connecticut

Delaware

District of Columbia

Idaho

Illinois

Indiana

Iowa

Kansas

Maryland

Michigan

Minnesota

Missouri

Montana

Nebraska

New Jersey

New Mexico

New York

North Dakota

Ohio

Oklahoma

Pennsylvania

Quebec

South Dakota

Texas

Utah

Washington

West Virginia

Wisconsin

Wyoming

### Railroad Name:

Algiers, Winslow & Western Railway

AWW

American Car & Foundry Company

American Locomotive Company

American Refrigerator Transit Company

Amtrak (National Railroad Passenger

Corporation) AMTK

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway ATSF	Erie Railroad ERIE
Baltimore & Ohio Railroad BO	Fairbanks, Morse & Company FMIX
Black Hills Central Railroad BHCR	General American Refrigerator Express ART
Boston & Maine Railroad BM	General Electric Company GE
Burlington Northern Railroad BN	General Motors GM
Canadian Pacific Railway CP	Grand Trunk Western Railroad GTW
Central Railroad of New Jersey CNJ	Great Northern Railway GN
Chesapeake & Ohio Railway CO	Green Bay & Western Railroad GBW
Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad CEI	Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad GMO
Chicago & Illinois Midland Railroad CIM	Illinois Central Railroad IC
Chicago & North Western Railway CNW	Kansas City Southern Railway KCS
Chicago & Western Indiana Railroad CWI	Kansas City Terminal Railway KCT
Chicago Great Western Railway CGW	Kewaunee, Green Bay & Western Railroad KGBW
Chicago North Shore & Milwaukee Railroad CNSM	Lehigh & Hudson River Railroad LHR
Chicago South Shore & South Bend Railroad CSS	Litchfield & Madison Railway LM
Chicago Transit Authority CTA	Louisville & Nashville Railroad LN
Chicago Union Station Company CUST	Midland Continental Railroad MICO
Chicago, Aurora & Elgin Railroad CAE	Milwaukee Road MILW
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad CBQ	Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway MSTL
Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad CRIP	Minneapolis, Northfield & Southern Railway MNS
Cincinnati Union Terminal	Missouri Pacific Railroad MP
Conrail (Consolidated Rail Corporation) CR	Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad MKT
Copper Range Railroad CR	Monon Railroad MON
Delaware & Hudson Railway DH	New York Central Railroad NYC
Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad DRGW	New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad NH
Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range Railway DMIR	Nickel Plate Road NKP
Duluth, Winnipeg & Pacific Railway DWP	Norfolk & Western Railroad NW
Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway EJE	Northern Pacific Railway NP
	Penn Central PC
	Pennsylvania Railroad PRR
	Peoria & Eastern Railway PAE
	Reserve Mining Company
	Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey Circus CNW
	San Francisco Municipal Railway (SFMTA)

Soo Line Railroad SOO  
Southern Pacific Railroad SP  
Sperry Rail Service SRSX  
St. Louis-San Francisco Railway SLSF  
The Milwaukee Electric Railway &  
Light Company  
Transportation Test Center

Union Electric Railway UE  
Union Pacific Railroad UP  
Wabash Railroad WAB  
Western Pacific Railroad WP  
Westinghouse Electric Corporation  
White Pass & Yukon Route WPY

## Biographical Note

Wallace W. Abbey (1927-2014) was born on October 30, 1927, in Evanston, Illinois, to Wallace William Abbey II and Margaret Peal Squier Abbey. He developed a passion for trains in his youth and took his first railroad photograph in 1940, at age 13.

Abbey graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1949. Also in 1949, Abbey married Martha Jewett, a fellow journalism student.

After graduation, Abbey worked for the *Chanute Daily Tribune* and as associate editor at *Trains* magazine. In 1953, after leaving *Trains*, Abbey moved into the railroad industry. He worked as associate director of public relations for the Association of Western Railroads, as editor of the *Railroad Age* trade magazine, and, from 1959 to 1970, as director of public relations for the Soo Line Railroad. In 1970, Abbey started an independent public relations firm based in Minneapolis, consulting primarily for railroads. In 1975, Abbey served as director of corporate communications and as an advisor to the bankruptcy trustees of the Milwaukee Road. After leaving the Milwaukee Road in 1980, Abbey worked as communications director for the Trailer Train Company. In 1982, he worked for the Association of American Railroads' Transportation Technology Center in Pueblo, Colorado. In retirement, Abbey remained in Pueblo.

Abbey was an avid railroad photographer and historian of railroading. The *Trains* index credits Abbey with 63 articles, including fifteen in a series, "Notable Feats of Railroad Engineering." Abbey also authored several books about railroad history, including *The Little Jewel: Soo Line Railroad Company and the Locomotives that Make it Go* (1984). He received the award for lifetime achievement in photography from the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society in 2003.

Abbey passed away on January 3, 2014, at age 86. His life and photography are discussed in *Wallace W. Abbey: A Life in Railroad Photography*, edited by Kevin P. Keefe and Scott Lothes (Indiana University Press: 2018), and articles by John Gruber in *Classic Trains*, Summer 2010, pages 36-45, and Scott Lothes in *Trains*, August 2012, pages 42-47.

## Scope and Content Note

The Wallace W. Abbey collection, 1938-1986, consists of 23,681 railroad photographs from the United States and Canada, shot by Wallace W. Abbey. Contents include black-and-white negatives and color slides. Abbey's images span at least 30 U.S. states and one Canadian province (Quebec).

## Arrangement of the Collection

The arrangement has been fixed in a chronological order. Over time, Abbey used three different numbering schemes; we have renumbered the images using a single scheme.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The Abbey collection came to the Center in 2010 as a gift from Abbey and his family.

### Additional Notes

A \$10,000 preservation grant from *Trains* magazine facilitated the processing of the Abbey collection.

### Copyright Status

© 2014, Center for Railroad Photography & Art.

### Access and Restrictions

For educational use only, please contact the Center for other usage requests.

## Container List

<i>Binder</i>	<i>Contents</i>
Binder 1	Abbey-01-001-01 – Abbey-01-155-12 1492 black-and-white negatives 1940-1971 Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Quebec, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming American Locomotive Company; American Refrigerator Transit Company; Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad; Baltimore & Ohio Railroad; Boston & Maine Railroad; Chesapeake & Ohio Railway; Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad; Chicago & Illinois Midland Railroad; Chicago & North Western Railroad; Chicago & Western Indiana Railroad; Chicago South Shore & South Bend Railroad; Chicago Union Station Company; Chicago, Aurora &

Elgin Railroad; Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad; Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad; Cincinnati Union Terminal; Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway; Erie Railroad; General American Refrigerator Express; General Electric; Grand Trunk Western Railroad; Great Northern Railway; Green Bay & Western Railroad; Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad; Kewaunee, Green Bay & Western Railroad; Lehigh & Hudson River Railroad; Litchfield & Madison Railway; Louisville & Nashville Railroad; Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad; Missouri Pacific Railroad; Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad; Monon Railroad; New York Central Railroad; New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad; New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad; Northern Pacific Railway; Pennsylvania Railroad; Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey Circus; Soo Line Railroad; St. Louis-San Francisco Railway; The Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company; Union Electric Railway; Union Pacific Railroad; Wabash Railroad; Westinghouse Electric Corporation

Binder 2

Abbey-02-001-01 – Abbey-02-161-08

1364 black-and-white negatives

1940-1969

California; Colorado; Illinois; Indiana; Iowa; Kansas; Maryland; Minnesota; Missouri; Nebraska; New York; Ohio; Pennsylvania; Quebec; Utah; Wisconsin; Wyoming  
Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad; Baltimore & Ohio Railroad; Boston & Maine Railroad; Canadian Pacific Railway; Central Railroad of New Jersey; Chesapeake & Ohio Railway; Chicago & North Western Railroad; Chicago Great Western Railway; Chicago North Shore & Milwaukee Railroad; Chicago Union Station Company; Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad; Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad; Delaware & Hudson Railway; Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad; Electro-Motive Division, General Motors Corporation; Erie Railroad; Fairbanks, Morse & Company; Grand Trunk Western Railroad; Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad; Louisville & Nashville Railroad; Monon Railroad; New York Central Railroad; New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad; Norfolk & Western Railroad; Pennsylvania Railroad; Peoria & Eastern Railway; San Francisco Municipal Railway; Soo Line Railroad; Union Pacific Railroad; Wabash Railroad

Binder 3

Abbey-03-001-01 – Abbey-03-158-12

1558 black-and-white negatives

1946-1962

Colorado; Illinois; Indiana; Iowa; Kansas; Minnesota; Missouri; Nebraska; Oklahoma; Pennsylvania; Quebec; Texas; Utah; West Virginia; Wisconsin; Wyoming  
American Locomotive Company; Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad; Baltimore & Ohio Railroad; Canadian Pacific Railroad; Chesapeake & Ohio Railway; Chicago & North Western Railroad; Chicago Great Western Railroad; Chicago North Shore & Milwaukee Railroad; Chicago South Shore & South Bend Railroad; Chicago Transit Authority; Chicago Union Station Company; Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad; Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad; Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad; General Electric Company; Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad; Illinois Central Railroad; Kansas City Southern Railway; Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway; Missouri Pacific Railroad; Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad; Monon Railroad; New York Central Railroad; New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad; Pennsylvania Railroad; San Francisco Municipal Railway; Soo Line Railroad; Southern Pacific Railroad; Sperry Rail Service; St. Louis-San Francisco Railway; St. Paul Union Depot Company; Union Pacific Railroad; Wabash Railroad; Western Pacific Railroad; Western Railroad Supply Company; White Pass & Yukon Route

Binder 4

Abbey-04-001-01 – Abbey-04-155-11  
2072 black-and-white negatives  
1953-1980

Arizona; California; Colorado; Illinois; Indiana; Iowa; Kansas; Michigan; Minnesota; Missouri; Montana; North Dakota; Pennsylvania; Utah; Wisconsin; Wyoming  
American Car & Foundry Company; Association of Western Railways; Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe; Baltimore & Ohio; Burlington Northern; Chicago & North Western; Chicago Great Western; Chicago Union Station Company; Chicago, Burlington & Quincy; Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific; Denver & Rio Grande Western; Grand Central Terminal; Great Northern; Illinois Central; Kansas City Terminal; Minneapolis & St. Louis; Minneapolis, Northfield & Southern; Missouri Pacific; New York Central; New York, Chicago & St. Louis; Northern Pacific; Ottawa Junction Yard; Pennsylvania; Soo Line; St. Paul Union Depot Company; Transportation Test Center; Union Pacific; Unit Load Company; Wabash

Binder 5

Abbey-05-001-01 – Abbey-05-128-14  
2816 black-and-white negatives  
1961-1964

Illinois; Indiana; Iowa; Kansas; Minnesota; North Dakota;  
Wisconsin  
Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe; Chicago & North Western;  
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy; Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul &  
Pacific; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific; New York Central;  
Northern Pacific; Soo Line

Binder 6

Abbey-06-001-01 – Abbey-06-128-03  
3965 black-and-white negatives  
1962-1969  
Delaware; Illinois; Indiana; Kansas; Minnesota; Nebraska; North  
Dakota; Quebec; South Dakota; West Virginia; Wisconsin  
Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe; Black Hills Central; Chicago &  
North Western; Chicago Great Western; Chicago, Burlington &  
Quincy; Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific; Duluth, Missabe  
& Iron Range Railway; Erman Corporation; Great Northern;  
Indianapolis Union Station; Northern Pacific Railroad; Penn  
Central; Reserve Mining Co. Cars; Soo Line; Union Pacific;  
Zephyr

Binder 7

Abbey-07-001-01 – Abbey-07-162-16  
4898 black-and-white negatives  
1969-1971  
California; Colorado; District of Columbia; Illinois; Iowa; Kansas;  
Minnesota; Missouri; Montana; New Mexico; New York; North  
Dakota; Pennsylvania; South Dakota; Texas; Utah; Washington;  
Wisconsin  
Amtrak; Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway; Burlington  
Northern; Canadian Pacific Railway; Chicago, Burlington and  
Quincy Railroad; Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific  
Railroad; Circus Train; General Motors; Great Northern Railway;  
Manchester Liners; Metroliner; Midland Continental; Minneapolis  
Northfield and Southern Railway; New York Central; Norfolk and  
Western; Northern Pacific Railway; Penn Central; Soo Line;  
Southern Pacific; Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway; Super  
Snooper Detector Car; The Milwaukee Road; Union Pacific  
Railroad

Binder 8

Abbey-08-001-01 – Abbey-08-099-03  
2472 black-and-white negatives  
1972-1980  
Illinois; Indiana; Kansas; Maryland; Michigan; Minnesota; North  
Dakota; Wisconsin  
Algers, Winslow and Western; Amtrak; Atchison, Topeka & Santa  
Fe Railroad; Baltimore and Ohio; Burlington Northern;  
Chesapeake and Ohio; Chicago and North Western Railroad;



Chicago South Shore Line; Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad; Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad; Conrail; Copper Range Railroad; Gulf, Mobile and Ohio; Illinois Central Railroad; Kansas City Southern Railway; Soo Line; The Milwaukee Road

Binder 9

Abbey-09-001-01 – Abbey-09-115-08

3043 black-and-white negatives

1981-1988

Arizona; Colorado; District of Columbia; Idaho; Illinois; Iowa; Kansas; Minnesota; Missouri; Nebraska; New Mexico; Ohio; South Dakota; Wisconsin

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad; Baltimore and Ohio; Burlington Northern; Chicago and North Western; Cincinnati Union Terminal; Cole Bros. Circus Train; General Motors; Great Lakes Coals Dock Co.; Minneapolis Northfield and Southern Railway; Norfolk and Western Railway; Rio Grande; Soo Line; Sperry Rail Service; St. Louis–San Francisco Railway; The Milwaukee Road; Transportation Test Center; Union Pacific