

# Philip M. Denman Photographs

## SOUTHEASTERN ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVE COLLECTION 17



Laurel Valley Plantation, Thibodaux, Louisiana. 1979. Philip M. Denman, photographer.

### **SCOPE and CONTENTS**

Photographic prints, typescripts, etc.

1969 – 2017

2 boxes

The collection consists primarily of photographic series taken by Philip M. Denman, dating from

1969 - 2017. Supplementary information (1978-2017) includes biographical and historical documentation relevant to the photographer and the sites he photographed.

One group pertains to the historic plantations Laurel Valley and Seven Oaks. The majority document Laurel Valley Plantation, located along Bayou Lafourche in Thibodaux, Louisiana. These photographs show the complex as it existed between 1978 and 1980. A smaller body of photographs record extant plantation structures as of 2005, and a group from 2017 show the plantation at its most recent. A smaller set of images chronicle Seven Oaks/Zeringue Plantation, located in Westwego, Louisiana, before its 1977 demolition. For both plantations, Denman also gathered historical information regarding building typologies and land ownership.

A second series highlights New Orleans, Louisiana. Dating from 1969-1973, these photographs record such historic landmarks as St. Louis Cathedral, the Beauregard-Keyes House, and Canal Street. Additional photographs reveal French Market produce, nocturnal activities on Bourbon Street, and local notables. Some of these images were reprinted for a 2011 New Orleans Photo Alliance exhibit held at 2600 Gravier Street.

Photographer Philip Marin Denman was born in New Orleans. He established a friendship with Clarence John Laughlin (1905-1985) following his graduation from Southeastern Louisiana College (B.A. 1969). This led to his participation in various Laughlin projects and his inclusion in the 1989 New Orleans Museum of Art exhibition, *Exchanges in Imagination*.

In 1978, Denman began photographing Laurel Valley Sugar Plantation, located along Bayou Lafourche in Thibodaux, Louisiana. For three consecutive summers, he took photographs of the extant plantation structures. Nicholls State University professor Paul Leslie provided a map and historical narratives regarding the complex. In 2005, Denman returned to Laurel Valley Plantation to photograph extant structures, and in 2017, he returned again to document the state of preservation and photographed the remaining family cottages and slave shotgun houses. Most remained, but were in decay.

## **PROVENANCE**

Records were given by Philip Denman in 2015. Additional prints were given in 2017, along with original negatives and scans.

## **ACCESS**

This collection is housed in Tulane University Libraries' Southeastern Architectural Archive (SEAA) and requires an advance appointment for use. For further information, call (504) 865-5699, or email [seaa@tulane.edu](mailto:seaa@tulane.edu). The unauthorized use, including, but not limited to,

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## **PREFERRED CITATION**

Philip M. Denman Photographs, Southeastern Architectural Archive, Special Collections Division, Tulane University Libraries.

## **INVENTORY**

### ***Box 1.***

Folder 1. Philip Denman biographical information.

### **Laurel Valley Plantation, 1978-1980; 2005; 2017.**

Folder 2. Laurel Valley plantation history.

Laurel Valley Plantation, building reference map for main complex and bayou settlement. Paul Leslie, creator.

Folder 3. Laurel Valley Plantation, 1979. 46 prints.

Folder 4. Laurel Valley Plantation, 2005. 11 prints.

Folder 5. Laurel Valley Plantation, 2005 (printed 2017). 12 prints.

Folder 6 - 7. Laurel Valley Plantation, 2017. 43 prints.

### ***Box 2.***

### **Seven Oaks Plantation.**

Folder 1. Seven Oaks Plantation. 4 prints. Before 1977.

### **French Quarter, New Orleans.**

Folder 2. French Quarter. 1969 – 1973. 47 prints. Some reprinted in 2011.

**Clarence John Laughlin.**

Folder 3. Clarence John Laughlin. Undated. 2 prints.

Convocation honoring Laughlin, Tulane University, 1976. 3 prints; invitation.

**Outside French Quarter, New Orleans.**

Folder 4. Outside French Quarter. Undated. 2 prints.

Folder 5. Laurel Valley Plantation. Negatives and contact prints.

Folder 6. Laurel Valley Plantation. Negatives, 2017.