



Untitled from the "County Fairs" series

Date

c. 1931-1937

Primary Maker

Silvia Saunders

Medium

Gelatin silver print

Description

Silvia Saunders left her commercial photography career in New York City after the stock market crash of 1929 and returned to her hometown of Clinton to wait out the nation's financial crisis for the

next few years. During this period, she traveled locally with her 5x7 Eastman camera equipment and tripod to capture "countryside impressions" of nature and aging architecture. County fairs were a tradition for the Saunders family, as the artist's mother, Dr. Louise Brownell Saunders, showed Scottish terriers at the Oneida County Fair as early as 1910. The County Fairs series is a social record of local people and their animals during the Great Depression. While the depicted fairs are unidentified, they likely occurred within a radius of Clinton on privately owned land, as the local government was unable to subsidize the Oneida County Fairgrounds in Rome after 1928 due to the impact of the recession.

Dimensions

Composition: 4 1/2 × 6 3/8 in. (11.4 × 16.2 cm) Sheet: 4 13/16 × 6 5/8 in. (12.2 × 16.8 cm)